

Police and Crime Strategic Board

Date: 13th July 2021

Chief Constable's Report



1. Performance by exception

1.1 Operation Unlock – Response

- 1.1.1 Due to the sustained low level of infections, and the lack of COVID related demand for service from the public, the decision was taken to disband Op Talla, our response to COVID.
- 1.1.2 The next stage in the National plan to ease restrictions is scheduled to occur on the 19th July, however due to the current Delta variant of the virus, it is uncertain whether this will occur in full or whether some restrictions will remain in place.
- 1.1.3 Since the easing of some measures in May, particularly with the re-opening of some hospitality sectors, we have seen a significant increase in demand for the Force. We expect an increase due to the summer months but numbers of incidents are over and above pre-COVID levels.
- 1.1.4 Planning for additional staffing for the final lockdown release on 19th July and the weekends thereafter is in place. This is having to be done by Officers working longer shifts and cancelling of rest days, when combined with peak leave period and school holidays, is adding to the strain on our staff.
- 1.1.5 In addition, but linked to the unlock plans, we have put additional staffing in place for the Euro Football tournament specifically for the England Matches, who at the time of writing are still in the competition. Sadly, we see an increase in calls for service following England's matches, particularly domestic abuse and alcohol fuelled violence. We continue to review our plans and increase resourcing where necessary.
- 1.1.6 We also supported the G7 summit with Armed Officers, Public Order Officers, Search Officers and General Policing Officers and we are continuing to work on the staffing requirements for the COP26 conference in Scotland in the Autumn, which at the moment is a request for just under 80 Officers from various specialisms.

2. Strategic Delivery

2.1 Strategy Development

- 2.1.1 Chief Constable Haward's vision & strategy commenced on 1st April to ensure we '*Work together to make Lincolnshire the safest place to live, work and visit*' with 3 clear goals to '*Stop Crime and ASB*', '*Protect from harm*' and '*Help those in need*'. These are supported by five stands: People, Partners, Communities, Culture and Capability.

- 2.1.2 Work continues to develop the supporting delivery plans and performance framework with the first Executive Board taking place on 21st July, which will assess progress against the delivery of the strategy.

3. National & Regional

3.1 Criminal Justice

- 3.1.1 In our Magistrate Courts the number of pending crime cases continues to fall with regular reviews of trial availability. There is a planned trial blitz in October with an additional District Judge. The routine traffic process remains a challenge due to the volume of offences from the temporary restrictions at the A1 roadworks but there is extra court space to accommodate this.
- 3.1.2 Reducing the number of pending Crown Court cases remains a challenge and the region are providing more court space out of county to assist with hearings and reducing the number of Lincolnshire cases. It is not possible to influence the work of the Crown Court in the same way as the Magistrates due to the nature and position of trials. Trials are regularly prioritised particularly those where lives are lost or victims are particularly vulnerable which causes change and delay to other cases.
- 3.1.3 These changes and delays increase anxiety for victims and witnesses and may impact on their willingness to continue to support a prosecution. The Witness Care Unit continues to support victims and witnesses by providing contact and guidance and has had an uplift in staff as a result of the high increase in victims and witnesses being supported whilst we experience and manage the court backlogs. The government has also just announced some additional funding for witness care and we await further details.
- 3.1.4 Lincolnshire is performing well in this area with significantly lower cases lost for witness reasons than the national average. That said we continue to look at the individual impact on people and this is being reported to Criminal Justice agencies including Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service (HMCTS) at the Criminal Justice board.

4. Good news and Other Points of Interest

4.1 Operation Vigilance

- 4.1.1 11th June saw our second Operation Vigilance day in a bid to stamp out child sexual and criminal exploitation in Lincoln. Through Operation Vigilance, we aim to raise awareness in our communities, so they can help us by recognising the signs and reporting to us.
- 4.1.2 This engagement goes hand in hand with enforcement action which we undertake with our key partners; Lincolnshire County Council, City of Lincoln Council, local housing providers, Barnardo's and the Children's Society.
- 4.1.3 The day focused on community engagement, with a particular focus on taxi companies, hotels and guest houses, working with landlords to recognise the signs of exploitation and ensuring a joint approach to preventing crime in the area.

4.2 Rape Scrutiny Panel

- 4.2.1 Work is being undertaken to establish a rape scrutiny panel which will scrutinise cases to improve investigations, establish areas of good working practice and to improve the services offered by police and partners to victims of rape.
- 4.2.2 Once established the panel will meet three or four times a year and feed learning into the Lincolnshire Sexual Violence Commissioning Partnership to enable partner agencies to review their practices and seek areas of improvement.

4.3 Rural Crime

Harecoursing

- 4.3.1 Lincs has the National Policing Lead for Hare Coursing, and our long-term work has focussed on Legislation change, which is starting to make real progress – On 12th May the Government announced the Animal Welfare Action Plan, which includes “*introducing new laws to crack down on illegal hare coursing*”. This is a direct result of the work we have been involved in with partners for the past 2 years, and a key step forward.
- 4.3.2 On 17th June we join a roundtable meeting with Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) colleagues, chaired by Rebecca Pow MP (Under-Secretary DEFRA) to progress Legislation changes linked to Hare Coursing. The three changes being progressed are:
- Increase in penalties available to Courts under the Game Act 1831 – Unlimited fine and up to 6 months imprisonment
 - A new offence of Going Equipped to hunt Hare with Dogs (Hare Coursing)
 - Powers for Courts to require offenders to pay the Kennelling Costs incurred by Police, on conviction
- 4.3.3 On 19th July we are hosting a meeting of the 20 Operation Galileo forces at Grantham to coordinate action against the key offenders across the country for the 2021/22 Season.

4.4 E-Scooters

- 4.4.1 We have seen a significant rise in the use of e-scooters being used on our roads, pavements and public areas. They are illegal to use in Lincolnshire, unless they are being used on private land, with the permission of the landowner. There are trials ongoing, with rental schemes, in some areas, but this does not include Lincolnshire.
- 4.4.2 We’ve found when we speak to users of them, there is a lack of understanding in relation to the use of the scooters. It is clear they are being ridden on the roads and streets of the county and we will be engaging with riders of e-scooters to educate anyone who is using one illegally.
- 4.4.3 Where e-scooters are being used illegally, we have the power to seize them and deal with any offences. When we seize an e-scooter the owner will need to provide proof of ownership (by way of receipt), produce photo ID and make payment for the recovery charges and storage.

4.5 Publication of Force Management Statement (FMS)

- 4.5.1 We have published our third FMS which comprehensively understands the demand that we are likely to face, and our ability to meet that demand, both in terms of the resources required to do so, but also their condition and capability.
- 4.5.2 The completed FMS is a critical document to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies, Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) as it forms part of their evidence of Lincolnshire Police's understanding of demand as part of the Police Effectiveness Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) assessment.
- 4.5.3 For the Force, it is an essential document in corporate planning; providing important information that the organisation needs to incorporate into its future delivery plans and change programme. A copy can be found here <https://www.lincs.police.uk/media/255783/lincolnshire-police-force-management-statement-2020-v33.pdf>

4.6 Official opening of Joint Police, Fire & Ambulance Station

- 4.6.1 Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal officially opened the Blue Light campus on South Park, Lincoln on 29th June.
- 4.6.2 The campus opened in autumn 2019 and is home to the West division of Lincolnshire Police, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue and the East Midlands Ambulance Service. Joint funded by Lincolnshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and £7.5m of government funding, the £21m tri-service emergency centre is a ground-breaking example of exceptional collaborative working.

5. Forward Look

5.1 Officer Uplift

- 5.1.1 Recruitment continues in order to increase our officer numbers as part of the National uplift programme. The latest recruitment window opened on the 27th May 2021 and is due to come to a close on 8 July at which point the applications received will progress through the required processes for assessment. Two cohorts of 30 student officers will commence their training in September and October respectively, with a further 60 students starting in March 2022 as planned.
- 5.1.2 Recruitment of Detective Fast Track students has continued with 9 further students due to join the scheme this year.

5.2 Operating Model

- 5.2.1 The force has agreed where it will prioritise the additional posts achieved from the national uplift, there will be an increase to our frontline Response teams which will be phased over the next 12 to 18 months providing additional support to local policing, creating capability for more pro-active policing and provide greater resilience to support our existing frontline officers.

- 5.2.2 Additional growth will be seen in local Neighbourhood policing teams and we will be increasing our capability to protect our communities with the creation of a Rural Crime Action team, a new multi-disciplinary team to providing problem solving, proactive capability and investigative support to tackle and reduce community and rural crime. The team will be linked to and support our existing Neighbourhood Teams and provide a greater and more flexible capability to support local problems, with capacity to investigate the wider criminality of travelling criminals as well as providing reassurance and confidence to our rural communities.
- 5.2.3 We will re-establish a dedicated Roads Policing Team who will provide pro-active capacity to help reduce fatal/seriously injured incidents, deter criminal use of the roads and support local policing response. With over 50 deaths and 360 serious injuries on our roads each year this is an area of priority.
- 5.2.4 In addition we will be increasing officer numbers to tackle Digital and On-line crime, with more officers joining our Digital Forensic Unit where we have seen an inexorable rise in the demand placed upon policing by the advance in digital technology and finally, growth in the team who dedicate themselves to the investigation of offences occurring online which involve the abuse of children which is an ever increasing high risk area of policing.

5.3 Future Services Programme

- 5.3.1 The Future Services Programme was initiated following the decision in 2020 not to extend the Service Delivery Agreement with G4S. The key outcome for the Programme is *“to ensure a positive and smooth transition from the Strategic Partnership with G4S to a new, sustainable operating model for Lincolnshire Police”*
- 5.3.2 The Programme board have recognised the opportunity presented by the completion of the Service Delivery Agreement, and therefore the scope of the programme extends beyond the transfer of services currently operated by G4S and the vision for the programme is to achieve the following:
- Creation of a unified 'one family' culture within the organisation, partners and community, supported by improvements to morale and performance for all aspects of wellbeing.
 - quality of service, within the provision of the Medium Term Financial Plan.
 - The support of improved operational capability, capacity and outcomes
 - The capability to anticipate and effectively respond to dynamic policing challenges and mandated requirements.
- 5.3.3 The programme scope includes a total of sixteen service areas that are currently provided by G4S. Decisions in principle have been made to insource these service areas apart from two, namely custody & cleaning. These services are subject to further exploration for options for delivery e.g. outsourcing.
- 5.3.4 The Programme will ensure that options are developed for each service area, and that this is aligned to an overarching plan for future organisation design & development. The initial activity for the programme will focus on the most time critical activity that is aligned to the termination of the Service Delivery Agreement and a smooth transition of services for the benefit of all.
- 5.3.5 The welfare and wellbeing of all staff will be carefully managed throughout this period of change and the programme team are working closely with G4S and Unison in this area.