



**Lincolnshire  
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**  
SAFER TOGETHER

**PUBLIC ASSURANCE MEETING**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**09:40 to 11:40**

Video Conference

**Summary of Key Discussion Points**

**Note**

*The timings noted in this document for each discussion point is an approximate position. The recording of the meeting can be found on the Police and Crime Commissioners YouTube channel, via the link copied below.*

[Public Assurance Meeting - 5 December 2022 - YouTube](#)

*This document represents a summary of key points discussed in the meeting, for a detailed understanding of the items discussed please view the full recording of the meeting.*

**Welcome and Introductions (Time 0:00)**

*Attendees at this meeting were from Lincolnshire Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire.*

**Lincolnshire Police**

- Chief Constable – Chris Haward
- Deputy Chief Constable - Julia Debenham
- Assistant Chief Constable - Diane Coulson

**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

- Police and Crime Commissioner – Marc Jones
- Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner - Phil Clark
- Chief Executive – Malcolm Burch
- Research and Performance Officer – Aubrey Williams

## *Apologies*

### Lincolnshire Police

- Assistant Chief Constable – Chris Davison

### **Police and Crime Commissioner's Update (Time 01:35)**

- The PCC acknowledges that budget setting is taking place for 2023, drawing from data collected in the annual crime and policing survey. This will include the public's experience of crime, fear of crime, and views on increasing Council Tax.
- The PCC acknowledges that the cost-of-living challenges may impact on the public's willingness to increase council tax to support policing needs and will be led by how the majority feel.

### **Public Questions (Time 05:23)**

There were no public questions submitted for this meeting.

### **Exceptions Report (Time 05:35)**

This report was presented by CC Chris Haward and DCC Julia Debenham

- The 2023/24 budget looks to be a tight and difficult one due to the anticipated impact of inflation.
- A couple of incidents happened last week in Skegness including a murder and an attempted murder, which the neighbourhood team and the area command team dealt with very quickly.
- Lincolnshire is in line with the national trend to show an expected increase in crime in comparison to lockdown and covid times. A large proportion of this increase is driven by low level crime.
  - Compliance with recording standards may have also influenced this increase.
- People of Lincolnshire can be reassured that despite the increase in reporting of crime, the Force are working with partners to tackle and investigate low level offences.
- Police recorded figures are higher than figures recorded by the Crime Survey of England and Wales which highlights work needed to simplify CDI (Crime Data Integrity).
- Committing funding to focusing solely on compliance takes away resources from frontline officers in an already tight budget. Having better trust in police officer's abilities to make the right decisions around which crimes are investigated should reduce the need to commit more resources to compliance teams.
- Performance around 999 calls has remained strong despite an increase in calls. This should be reassuring for the public that emergency calls are likely to be answered within 10 seconds.

- Non-emergency calls coming through 101 are not answered as quickly as the Force would like. There has also been an increase in the public using alternative means to contact the police. E.g. Through the website.
- Anticipation of taking in Home Office prisoners means the Force have been put on standby to deal with a potential backflow into police custody.
- After over 1000 applicants, Lincolnshire Police came 36<sup>th</sup> in the top 50 most inclusive employers.
  - This reflects a cultural push for a happy and productive workforce. This sentiment was further echoed by HMICFRS which found officers and staff to be polite and friendly.

### **Key Areas for Improvement Reports (KAFI) (Time 45:07)**

These reports were presented by DCC Julia Debenham.

### **Crime Reduction - Crime Data Integrity (Time 45:48)**

- There has been a re-focus across all areas of policing to look more closely at prevention from the point of view of perpetrators and victims.
- The Commissioners Safer Together Team work across many different communities, has and they have highlighted a lack of standardisation among Neighbourhood Policing Teams regarding the resources they bring to community events

### **Public Contact Management – Confidence and Satisfaction (Time 50:13)**

- HMICFRS have recently cited good work is being done with the referral of victims and the quality of service offered by the Force and OPCC.
- The increase in crime means that the number of positive outcomes has reduced. This has been highlighted as an area requiring more focus. The Head of Crime will be making a plan to ensure appropriate outcomes are being achieved across all cases to maintain public confidence.

### **PCC Priority Updates (Time 57:53)**

(Please refer to full reports provided on the OPCC website:

<https://lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/public-assurance-meetings/public-assurance-meeting-archive/> )

- The PCC Priority Updates cover a number of reports which were presented to the meeting by CC Chris Haward and ACC Di Coulson.

### **PCC Priority Update – Partnership Working (Time 58:26)**

- This report focused on the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership work and the priorities agreed by this group. These include
  - Reducing fraud victimisation

- Targeted prevention work around longer-term Neighbourhood and Anti-Social Behaviour issues
- Providing alternatives to criminal justice outcomes for people in the transition years (18 – 25-year-olds)
- Services available for drug and alcohol abuse
- Focused work on drug related deaths and how to reduce them
- The Stay Safe Partnership (The Force alongside Lincolnshire County Council, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue and We Are With You) have developed packages to deliver to Key Stage 1 & 2 pupils which focus on prevention.
  - This is also delivered to children with additional needs, those in behavioural units, home education groups and children who have been excluded.
- Integrated Offender Management Team have been working on reducing reoffending by looking at interventions and alternatives for repeat offenders.
- Over the next 12 months, the Stay Safe team are going to be collecting feedback regarding which issues young people are highlighting in their communities from these sessions.
- An education coordinator has been appointed to deliver inputs on Violence Against Women and Girls and specific prevention messaging.
- There have been difficulties in recruiting Force Control Room mental health practitioners and staff for a mental health triage car.
- Due to a very busy overall system, the high level of demand on mental health services causes an overspill of people who are struggling, and therefore require help from the Force.

**PCC Priority Update – Economic Crime (PoCA and recovered assets etc) (Time 1:02:27)**

- Section 5 of the Proceeds of Crime Act (PoCA) is about the identification and seizure of cash and valuable items through the use of search warrants (£1000 or more in value).
- Account Freezing Orders allow the Force to freeze bank accounts where it can show the funds are the proceeds or criminal activities.
- Funds are normally collected by HMCTS, and the proceeds are then paid back out to the victims. Remaining funds are divided between the Home Office, Law Enforcement and the Crown Prosecution Service using the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS)
  - The share of this made available to policing is 18.7%.
- While the Force recognises that denying assets to criminals is a significant tactic, through ARIS, this money will be reinvested into the OPCC and victim services.
- From November 2021 to the end of October 2022:
  - Confiscation orders of £809,000 have been collected
  - PoCA orders under part 5 collected nearly £85,000
  - ARIS claimed £460,000
- Fast tracking financial sanctions such as those used against Russian Oligarchs has caused the Economic Crime Act 2022 and the Economic Crime Bill to deliver further financial reforms.
- There will be a second bill that brings in new powers to seize crypto assets and to enhance the anti-money laundering process.

- Cash remains the preferred means of doing business for many involved in criminal activity. This offers good opportunities for the Force to seize both assets purchased with it and the cash itself as this money would often end up in financial institutions to be laundered.

### **PCC Priority Update – Criminal Justice (Time 1:33:17)**

- There are 4 central teams to Criminal Justice:
  - Prosecutions
  - Traffic
  - Witness care
  - Evidence management
- Up until August 2022, CJS was part of the East Midlands Criminal Justice Service collaboration. This has now been broken down and the focus has shifted to building a partnership with Leicestershire.
- The Bail Act is likely to reduce the number of defendants released under investigation.
- The Force's position re CJS performance has improved from being one of the lowest performing forces nationally, to being 8<sup>th</sup> with compliance rates showing just under 67%, where the national average is 52%.
- The Criminal Justice System is still in recovery from Covid. The magistrates court and the crown court still have significant backlogs and the barrister strikes have further impacted on the availability of the judiciary and the courts.
- HMICFRS inspected custody suites in Lincolnshire in the summer, and presented 2 recommendations to the Force. The main focus was around the rationale for the use of force and risk assessments. A remedial action plan has been put in place.
- Over the coming months, the main changes coming in include:
  - The pre-charge legislation
  - A victim's bill being passed through parliament in 2023 to keep victims at the centre of decision making in the justice system.
  - The two-tier process for out of court disposals comes in, in April 2023.
  - Digital case files are coming in nationally, which is currently in testing.
- This has been a significant change for the Criminal Justice teams, not just because of the G4S transition, but also the changes with East Midlands CJS and new collaboration with Leicestershire.

### **PCC Priority Update – Fraud and Scams (Time 1:48:31)**

- The Force has a Trading Standards Fraud Protect Intervention Officer which creates an opportunity for the Force to work with people who struggle to believe they have been a victim of a scam and may continue to send funds to perpetrators.
- Operation REVIVE is the volunteer fraud protect team, which has centred its focus on fraud prevention, instead of any other criminal prevention, to hone their skills to this area in particular.

- Since January 2022, the Force received over 4000 action fraud reports. However, this crime type is under-reported, so the true figure of fraud crimes is likely to be higher.
  - The report showed that just under 500 of the 4000 were high-risk victims.
  - Just under 600 medium risk victims were identified. These victims have received a number of resources on understanding fraud and preventing any future issues.
- The Force have provided several call blocker devices to people to prevent scam calls.
  - Currently, there are only 34 deployed at victim's properties. This resulted in nearly 500 scam calls being blocked.
  - Some of the challenges associated with this includes getting the devices out to the people that need them and making sure the training is good enough for Neighbourhood police officers and PCSOs.
  - There is a misconception about the call blocker that it will prevent friends and family getting in contact and increases isolation for individuals, but this is not the case.
- The Force now has a Fraud Protect Engagement Officer to raise awareness around different fraud types affecting different groups. Focus is placed on the highest harm fraud crimes where the most monetary loss is suffered.
- The Force is working with the University to ensure the language in the campaigns portrays the right message and targets demographics appropriately.
- The cost-of-living crisis may increase people's vulnerability to fall for scams that promote crypto currencies or pyramid schemes and so there is a focus on raising awareness around this.

**AOB (Time 02:04:03)**

- Next Meeting: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023