UNIVERSITY OF LINCOLN

University of Lincoln Police Liaison Officer
Update and Review - January 2023

Background

This report follows a joint proposal made to further develop the positive working relationship between the University of Lincoln (UoL) and Lincolnshire Police. The proposal was for UoL to fund a dedicated University Police Liaison Officer on campus to support the work undertaken by Student Services teams and Security in relation to safety and wellbeing of students, to provide a visible and accessible policing presence for students and working with the student community and the community in Lincoln. To provide a comparator of the welcome presence and impact of the University in Lincoln, the establishment sees approximately 18,000 students attending various courses across it estate and accommodation, which is similar in size to the town of Sleaford, Lincolnshire.

This proposal also linked into the work being completed across the University in relation to the impact of Covid-19 on the community and how the University can contribute to the reduction of the consequences associated with large numbers of students moving to the city and living in the local area.

The Office for Students is the regulatory body for Higher Education Institutions (HEIS) in England and has set out clear expectations and consistent recommendations to support HEIS to develop and implement effective systems, policies and processes to prevent and respond to incidents of harassment and sexual misconduct. Therefore, the intention of the role was to play a significant part in ensuring these expectations are met through collaborative work across the University supporting the work of the University as part of the Safer Streets Funding initiative, which has a particular focus on areas of potential concern in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls.

The development of this role was also intended to complement other initiative such as the introduction of an NHS commissioned post within Student Wellbeing which operates out of hours to support students who may be in crisis and requiring support. The University Police Liaison Officer acts in a supportive capacity to this role which contributes to an in-house collaborative hub including colleagues in Secretariat who work on Student Conduct and Disciplinary matters, providing advice and guidance on misconduct cases where appropriate and providing additional support to students both in terms of investigating reports quickly and empathetically, helping liaison with the Police and working on the Respect values outlined in the University's One Community values, as well as areas such as consent awareness.

UoL has a dedicated 24/7 Security Team who respond to on-campus incidents and link in with the Police as and when appropriate. In addition, The Student Services team already had a good working relationship with the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) allowing them to seek advice in relation to incidents which require support from colleagues within Lincolnshire Police. The intention of the role was not to increase a security presence, but to provide generic support within the University which works towards providing a safe and inclusive environment for the whole student and staff community.

The Police Officer role was agreed and approved in early 2022 and an appointment was made in May 2022. The successful candidate, PC Mark Wrigley, was already familiar with the University and in particular the support services. PC Wrigley is now based permanently in the Student Wellbeing Centre alongside the Student Wellbeing Team, but operates across the campus with a focus on supporting the whole university community.

On appointment the following objectives were discussed and agreed for PC Wrigley.

To integrate with students/staff to build trust in reporting to the Police and provide a visible presence at the University. Key Priorities areas were identified as:

- **International Students**
- **Community**
- **Sexual Violence**

Sexual Violence support
One of PC Wrigley's key priorities is to improve confidence in reporting to the police, within Lincolnshire 16% of women report sexual violence to the police. With the informal and formal support provided by PC Wrigley the University have seen internal reporting increase from 22% to 25%

Since September PC Wrigley has been involved in 6 informal discussions.

PC Wrigley has also been able to provide students with a point of contact for their Officer In Charge, but more importantly he has been able to update students on their cases more regularly.

Recently PC Wrigley has completed the Sexual Offences training which will be fundamental to ensure the team are providing the necessary level of support to students who have been victims of sexual violence, including the ability to now undertake Early Evidence Kits within the centre

Domestic Violence support
Student Wellbeing has been successful in obtaining OPCC Grant Funding to support the Violence Against Women's and Girls strategy. Since September 22, the team has received 58 reports of Domestic Violence, 8 of which have successfully been encouraged to report to the police.
From the 1st February 2023 Student Wellbeing, with the support of PC Wrigley, will be undertaking DASH Risk Assessments for students who are/have been victims of domestic violence and are considered high risk from others.

For incidents of a non-recent nature or incidents which have occurred outside of Lincolnshire, for both Sexual and Domestic Violence, PC Wrigley has been able to provide faster and more appropriate liaison between Police Forces. This is rapidly becoming more prominent as this area of work increases.

Online Abuse
For the academic year 22/23 Student Wellbeing has started to provide detailed support around online abuse, which includes sexual exploitation, revenge porn, online dating issues, sharing images without consent. PC Wrigley has been providing both formal and informal support to students with this.

Drugs/Alcohol
The University of Lincoln has a clear policy around the misuse of alcohol and illegal drugs and implements a significant amount of educational work in relation to this. PC Wrigley supports campaigns and work around drugs and alcohol relating to education and prevention but also provides response to drug or alcohol related incidents offering advice and support. This support is particularly helpful in University accommodation. Close liaison with the Students' Union (SU) enables PC Wrigley to provide support and advice to on campus venues managed by the SU where concerns about illegal drug use/sale have been identified.

PC Wrigley monitors two Drugs Amnesty boxes across the campus, and each month is responsible for the removal and logging of substances.

PC Wrigley has provided useful and timely information regarding County Lines, and has enabled working with his response colleagues and accommodation staff with a more tailored approach which has been sensitive to the needs of our students.

The use of the itemiser working in partnership with Police licencing and licenced premises made an impact in demonstrating a positive outlook to students and academics to the use of drugs. This in turn helped to promote the positive deterrent on spiking within premises.

Bullying, Harassment, Hate Crime and Prevent related incidents
PC Wrigley responds to incidents where appropriate and support educational events on campus including mediation. He also provides support with Prevent training for key areas such as Security and act as SPOC where Prevent related concerns are identified.

Concern for Welfare cases
For the academic year, UoL dealt with circa 224 concern for welfare (CFW) cases, which combined a response both on campus and off campus. These are dealt with by following a process within the Student Wellbeing using text messaging and telephone to make contact with students where a report has been made in relation to their welfare. Students are supported to access appropriate support either via the University or externally e.g., NHS

In some cases, these CFWs can escalate into situations where a rapid response by Police is required. This may involve suicide attempts, violent incidents or altercations or situations where a student has been deemed as a missing person. The presence of PC Wrigley provides immediate support on campus enabling both support teams and security teams to facilitate a rapid response which have a focus on the wellbeing of the student(s) involved, as well as providing a direct link for University staff to Lincolnshire Police teams.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Personal Safety (including Safeguarding)
Support is already provided by Lincolnshire Police both on campus and off campus and within the local area in relation to ASB. PC Wrigley's role responds to noise complaints and ASB involving students in line with the PPASB protocol. He also attends meetings with students, responds to local residents to keep updated on progress and supports educational work with students moving into the community and plays a part in neighbourhood mediation if required. He also develops educational work around crime and personal safety, as well as responding to incidents involving students both on and off campus. PC Wrigley has attended a total of 16 community-based complaints.

More recently the University has seen a large increase in the number of international students enrolling and PC Wrigley has a particular focus on this cohort of students helping with incidents in relation to culture and hate crime.

The University has clear and robust processes around Safeguarding, and PC Wrigley is closely linked in with the team to ensure that any safeguarding concerns are escalated appropriately.

Recruitment - Home and International
Family members and applicants to the University are, understandably, very keen to ensure that the University environment is safe and welcoming for all students. The presence and availability of an on-campus police officer is reassuring for students and their parents, reflect positively at Open days, enrolment etc

Security & Residential Wardens & Out of hours support
PC Wrigley offers support for the University's Security team, offering advice and mentoring on dealing with difficult or challenging situations. Support is also be provided for the UoL ResLife team (live- in wardens) who undertake supportive and educational work with students, particularly out of normal working hours. The first term of the academic year from September to December is potential a time when out of hours support benefits students and PC Wrigley's rota is adjusted accordingly.

PC Wrigley assists with any information sharing requests between UoL and Lincolnshire Police ensuring that GDPR policies are followed at all times. Having a police presence on campus has enabled information to be exchanged, following appropriate protocols, in a much timelier manner, including when people are at risk verbally. This has now been incorporated into the Information Sharing Agreement between UoL and Lincolnshire Police for 2023

The University's Security team are equipped with bodycams and PC Wrigley supports and guides Security colleagues in terms of the use of bodycams and guidance around the legal aspects of their use.

Welcome Week Liaison Activities

PC Wrigley and 2 PSCO's attended the move in weekend activities, which received positive comments particularly from parents.

Key events PC Wrigley has contributed to are listed below: -

Drugs and Alcohol awareness
Sexual and Domestic Misconduct
Keeping safe on a night out
SU Feel Good Fair
Gaming and Gambling.

Identifying potential Security Risks

PC Wrigley presence on campus has enabled him to identify potential security an safeguarding risks on campus which are further enhanced with the support of the University's Safeguarding and Security teams. Some of these areas are listed below:

- International students bringing their children onto campus and leaving their children unattended
- International students leaving their bags unattended which has highlighted a security risk.
- CCTV systems not working in Cygnet Wharf.
- 16 incidents of alleged fraud against Nigerian students.
- Bike thefts

- Prevent advice being sought
- County Lines in student accommodations
- Best practice support for security involving scene management and safety awareness for students.

Feedback from the Students' Union

The Students' Union is an independent organisation with its own governance and infrastructure. The organisation represents students and ensure that the student voice is heard in relation to any developments which the University implements. The following feedback has been received from James Brooks the CEO of the SU.

'The addition of PC Wrigley to the team on-site has been a very welcome addition. PC Wrigley has integrated into the campus community primarily because he has made an effort to visit teams to explain his role and purpose and reassure them, he was there to support them. The ability of students and staff within the University and the wider community to have a face that they can trust has been a huge asset to the University. We have noticed that there does appear to be an increasing trust from students towards the Police; whilst this cannot be qualified, we have certainly noticed that Students are happier to meet with PC Wrigley to report a crime or an incident or at least get advice because it is in person and on campus. I know I can speak on behalf of the SU team when I say that we hope the role of a dedicated campus PC is here to stay, as it would be a huge loss for the community should it be removed.'

Jacqueline Mayer – Head of Student Services/Deputy Academic Registrar

Julie Spencer – Head of Student Wellbeing

PC Mark Wrigley – University Campus Liaison Officer.

January 2023