



**Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER**
SAFER TOGETHER

PUBLIC ASSURANCE MEETING

Wednesday 8th March 2023

13:30 to 14:30

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 8 March 2023 - 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

- Deputy Chief Constable - Julia Debenham

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
- Assistant Chief Constable - Diane Coulson
- Chief Constable – Chris Haward

Police and Crime Commissioner’s Update (Time 00:59)

- The PCC acknowledges that work is being done nationally around public trust and vetting that is influencing Lincolnshire police. There is also ongoing work around culture, so the force not only reflects the community they serve, but also that the highest standard of conduct is upheld.
- The PCC acknowledges that officers and staff are engaging in the work around culture and the public should be seeing a high-quality service across the county.

Public Questions (Time 03:00)

There were no public questions submitted for this meeting.

Crime Performance and Exceptions Report (Time 03:15)

(Please refer to full report provided on the OPCC website: [Public Assurance Meetings \(lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk))

This report was presented by DCC Julia Debenham

- The performance pack gives an overview of force performance over the past 12 months. It includes a number of good practice stories to focus on the positive aspects of policing in Lincolnshire, as well as the improvements required.
- Crime has increased and in the last 12 months is up by around 14%. However, Lincolnshire remains in the bottom of the first quartile with regards to the amount of crimes being committed.
- While crime has increased in Lincolnshire, the force still perform comparatively well to other forces across the country. The Force is ranked 12th out of 43 forces for total recorded crime.
- The Force are starting to see a reduction in crime, particularly looking at violent crime, and although the crime reduction target is not being met overall, the total volume of recorded crime is starting to decrease.
- One of the Force’s priorities is to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour and they have seen a significant reduction in reported ASB. Work is ongoing to see if this is due to better problem solving or changes in incident recording.

- The Force are looking to improve on outcomes in the coming months, including the use of Out of Court Disposals. Although the number of outcomes have increased year on year, the percentage of crimes receiving a positive outcome is below where the Force want it to be. A significant amount of that is due to Out of Court Disposals.
- There is a national delay on a new regime for Out of Court Disposals, therefore some of the disposal will not be available to the force yet. The plan is to make local arrangements to use Out of Court Disposals to the maximum as soon as possible.
- The PCC acknowledges that there are national changes to crime recording that will be implemented in April 2023 and the following April to streamline data recording. This should also help to free up officer time as this is currently being constrained by the way crime recording is happening.
- The PCC highlights the need to demonstrate to the public that the Force are spending money to focus on tackling crime. The challenge has been to focus on crime figures that are going the wrong way. E.g. Violent crime, sexual crime, theft offences.
- The PCC recognises that, because of the large area but small population of Lincolnshire, crime statistics as a percentage can increase significantly for low numbers of actual crime.
- Overall crime is heavily influenced by violent crime, which is the driving force for Lincolnshire's overall crime performance being down. There has been a significant reduction in violent crime increases. This was previously recorded as a 25% increase at the last PAM and it's now at a 15% increase.
- The vast majority of violent crime recorded by the Force is not at the serious level of violent crime. Violent crime resulting in serious injury is a very small proportion of it.
 - A third of violent crime is domesticated and the main challenge now is to continue to reduce increases further.
 - The Force are forecasting where increases may occur and have already highlighted the coast in the summer as an issue, due to the fluctuating population.
- Vehicle crime experienced a significant peak last year which has now returned to a much lower increase, dropping lower than the pre-covid levels.
- Shoplifting is the worst performing area for the Force, who are now ranked 35th, where in the previous meeting this was 33rd. It is unlikely to become a priority due to the risk threat and harm that it brings but the Force are still looking to record patterns of locations and offenders.
- The PCC highlights shop theft can be linked to other crime types and that it may be a symptom to another underlying issue.
- The Force recognise that the cost-of-living crisis is going to be influencing shoplifting and that it may be symptomatic.
 - Partners are likely to be in a similar position to the force to help communities.
 - There has not been a link identified between shoplifting and any drug related issues.
- There is a link between the force and the Community Safety Partnership, however shop lifting is also not a key priority or concern for the partnership.
 - There are pieces of work that the Community Safety Partnership are focusing on. For example domestic abuse, Violence Against Women and Girls and serious sexual offences as these have significant risk, threat, and harm.
 - Shoplifting may fall under locally based policing to monitor.

- The PCC highlights the links between shoplifting and force priorities, as women and girls may be pushed to shoplift if money is withheld by their partner. A peak that puts Lincolnshire 35th in the ranking is unusual.
- The Deputy PCC highlights how the momentum with Out of Court Disposals has lessened and questioned if there was a plan to refocus the Force in this area.
- The newly appointed Head of Crime has been tasked with developing Out of Court Disposals as much as possible.
- It is a key priority for this coming year to make the best use of Out of Court Disposals, but there are Disposals (E.g. Domestic Abuse) that will come in the national framework.
- The PCC recognises that policing is judged not only on whether interactions with the police were satisfactory but also whether the outcome was satisfactory, which is often outside the police's control.
- The PCC highlights that decision making has led to investment targeting certain areas for the Force, for example the Force Control Room, and not investing in other areas.
- The Force's strategic decisions are helping to deliver the Chief's vision. Some areas within community engagement have been identified as requiring more attention, but this work is ongoing.
- Being accessible is a key priority for the public and the investment into the Force Control Room and improving the 101 call times is in the public's interest. The 999 service is really strong in Lincolnshire, in terms of answering calls and the deployment of officers, particularly considering challenges with the area's geography.
- Investment will also be continual in the Single Online Home to make sure there is an alternative route for crime reporting that is accessible, but this still requires development.
- Public confidence is a priority area for the force, and this is delivered in a number of ways. For example, the introduction of and investment in the Rural Crime Action Team and the Roads Policing Team.
- The PCC recognises investing in additional Community Beat managers will support the existing Neighbourhood Policing Teams, while also acknowledging a re-model involving PCSO numbers may cause strain for NPTs.
- The remodel for the NPT is likely to be developed by May and the Force are looking at the most efficient way to deploy the 50 PCSOs. The commitment to Neighbourhood Policing has not changed, it's the delivery of the NPT model that has.

Topics for Discussion – Force PEEL Inspection Report (Time 41.18)

- The PCC highlights that originally the HMICFRS PEEL Inspection Report for Lincolnshire police was going to be discussed in this meeting but has not yet been published.
- This agenda item will be carried over into the following PAM.

AOB (Time 42:19)

- Next Meeting: Wednesday 12th June 2023