



REPORT TO:	COUNCIL
DATE:	21 ST NOVEMBER 2022
SUBJECT:	SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY
PURPOSE:	TO RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF THE SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2022-25
KEY DECISION:	N/A
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR PAUL SKINNER (LEADER & PORTFOLIO HOLDER)
REPORT OF:	EMILY SPICER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – WELLBEING AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
REPORT AUTHOR:	PETER HUNN, COMMUNITY SAFETY MANAGER / SARAH COCKER, COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER / DEE BEDFORD, COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT MANAGER
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL
EXEMPT REPORT?	NO

SUMMARY

This report sets out the duties placed on local authorities and other named statutory agencies in relation to crime and disorder (Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998). It outlines the current Community Safety Partnership (CSP) arrangements across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (S&ELCP), and in Lincolnshire as a whole.

A Community Safety Strategy has been produced to demonstrate the work of the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (SELCSPP) which is working collaboratively with the County Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP), as they seek to address crime and disorder at a local, sub-regional and County level. Cabinet is asked to support the recommendation to adopt the strategy for the period April 2022 to March 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Community Safety Strategy and identified priorities for the SELCSP for the period 2022-25 be adopted.
2. That delegated authority be granted for the Deputy Chief Executive (Communities) to finalise with the relevant Portfolio Holders a programme for the development of a Community Safety Action Plan.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To demonstrate and confirm the commitment of the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership in working with the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) to meet the statutory duties set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and address crime and disorder at a local level.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Continue to operate the SELCSP without producing a formal plan, at the expense of recognising the work undertaken locally to address crime and disorder across the S&ELCP.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. CSPs (formerly known as Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships) were formed under Sections 5-7 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. CSPs are made up of representatives from the police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, health and probation services (the 'responsible authorities'). The responsible authorities have a duty to work in co-operation with other 'co-operating bodies' for example Registered Social Landlords and Parish Councils.
- 1.2. This report outlines the community safety landscape across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils (S&ELCP) geographical area and Lincolnshire as a whole, setting out the statutory duties placed on responsible authorities and the arrangements for how these are met in Lincolnshire.

2. REPORT

- 2.1. The 2007 Crime and Disorder Regulations (revised in 2011) set out the way in which the responsible authorities should carry out their functions as a CSP under Section 6 of the Act, and require the preparation of:
 - 1) A partnership plan for the local government area,

- 2) A county level community safety agreement, setting out the ways the responsible authorities in the county might work more effectively to implement the identified priorities by joint working.

2.2. The responsible authorities for a local government area are required to formulate and implement a strategy for:

- 1) the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment),
- 2) combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances in the area,
- 3) the reduction of re-offending in the area,
- 4) a new duty to formulate and implement a strategy for preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence and reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

2.3. CSPs have other statutory duties that must be fulfilled: -

- 1) to set up protocols and systems for information sharing,
- 2) to regularly engage and consult with the public about their community safety priorities and issues,
- 3) to commission Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) following notification from the Police of a domestic homicide,
- 4) to hold one or more public meeting during each year.

2.4. In addition to the above, Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on all employees of responsible authorities to take into consideration crime and disorder in everything they do.

2.5. Working in partnership at a sub-region (SELCSP) and at a county level (SLP) enables the District Councils in the SELCSP to discharge their statutory duties. Examples include:

- 1) *Regularly engage and consult with the public* – this had been discharged by the SLP to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) who has a duty to consult the community before making recommendations on precept levels to the Police and Crime Panel.
- 2) *Commission DHR reviews* - The DHR duty will be delegated to the recently formed Domestic Abuse Partnership.

3. SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

3.1. The SELCSP covers the municipal areas of South Holland District Council, Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council (collectively known as the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership). Each local authority offers a range of community safety services to support a joined-up approach with partners. For example, provision of CCTV, addressing Anti-Social Behaviour (including coordination of the Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences and Community Trigger), Public Places Protection Orders, emergency planning, Vulnerable Adults Panels (South Holland) and a safe at home scheme for victims of domestic abuse (East Lindsey).

- 3.2. Up to the end of March 2019, the SELCSP (formerly the East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership) routinely produced a partnership plan for reducing crime and disorder across the area.
- 3.3. Over the last three years, the SELCSP has operated in a less formal way, acting as a conduit for cascading information from the SLP to the district level, whilst maintaining local links between the responsible authorities to facilitate multi-agency working when required. It is now felt with the development of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership a return to more formal arrangements is required. Linked to this is the need to develop a Community Safety Plan for the sub-region.
- 3.4. The newly formed S&ELCP, between the three sovereign councils in the SELCSP area, provides a good grounding to support local community safety work, working with all relevant partners and complimenting (not duplicating) the work of the county level SLP.
- 3.5. The SLP is the multi-agency forum for addressing community safety issues at a Lincolnshire County level and aims (working alongside others such as the SELCSP) to:
1. Reduce crime and disorder and increase the safety of individuals and communities,
 2. Ensure those living, working, or visiting Lincolnshire feel safe and are equipped to cope with any hazards or threats they may encounter.
 3. Improve communication between agencies so they can work effectively.
- 3.6. The SLP consists of a Strategy Board and several Core Priority Groups, which coordinate and deliver activity against the priority areas. Lincolnshire County Council primarily funds the Safer Communities Team, which provides Business Management, Co-ordination, Analysis and Business Support for the SLP.

4. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

- 4.1. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced elected Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) for each police force, responsible for developing a Police & Crime Plan (PCP) for their local area and for commissioning community safety and criminal justice services.
- 4.2. PCCs must have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs in the police area, and the responsible authorities must have regard to the objectives set out in the PCP, and to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions. Oversight of the PCC lies with the Police and Crime Panel, a joint committee that includes County and district council representatives.
- 4.3. In July 2020, the Minister of State for Crime and Policing announced a two-part review of the PCC model. The first stage of the review made recommendations to the Home Secretary on how to improve the accountability, scrutiny, and transparency of the current PCC model. It also served to map out longer-term reform ambitions in relation to fire and rescue services and mayoral devolution in England.

4.4. Part two of the PCC review aimed to examine further ways to strengthen and expand the PCC role, with a focus on the tools and levers that PCCs need to enhance efforts to cut crime. Recommendations from the review have been set out by government and include clarifying the local crime prevention landscape through an in-depth review of Community Safety Partnerships in England and Wales.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

- 5.1. A strategy has been prepared using the format of the last partnership plan (2016-2019). An action plan for the year ahead (2022-2023) will support the strategy and will sit with the SELCSP. Information from the county strategic assessment has been reviewed along with routine data on crime and ASB from Lincolnshire Police, information from the pilot initiative StreetSafe (which allows people to anonymously report areas they feel unsafe), and perception data from the Lincolnshire Crime and Policing Survey. This has been considered alongside the county priorities identified for the SLP. Five priority areas have been identified which are detailed in the plan:
- 5.2. **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)** - Tackling ASB is a core role for the partnership with dedicated ASB Officers and Police Coordinators working together and with other agencies daily. We address high risk and complex ASB cases through multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences (ASBRACs). The district councils coordinate the Community Trigger (also known as the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review) which gives victims the right to demand a formal case review where the local threshold is met.
- 5.3. **Hate Crime** – Through working more closely with Just Lincolnshire (the single equality organisation in the county) it has been identified that reporting of Hate Crime in Lincolnshire has *decreased* by 12.5% in 2020-21 compared to 2019-20, a reversal of year on year increases over the last decade and against a 9% *increase* nationally. This is concerning, particularly as Hate Crime is widely acknowledged to be underreported. The SELCSP seeks to work to raise awareness of hate crime, targeting individuals and groups who are more likely to be victims, and ensure there are a variety of methods for people to report Hate Crimes and incidents with confidence.
- 5.4. **Safer Streets & Night-Time Economy** – Community safety work to support the Night-Time Economy and the safety of our streets within urban centres and local neighbourhoods provides greater opportunities for local businesses and communities to thrive with a reduced risk of crime and disorder. Government's Beating Crime Plan gives focus to early intervention, prevention, and practical measures to make communities safer, and to tackle serious violence and neighbourhood crimes. The Safer Streets Fund has enabled improvements to be made to CCTV and ANPR capacity in East Lindsey, amongst other measures, to bring focus to safety at the neighbourhood level. Multi-agency working between police and ELDC licensing officers, utilising the drugs itemiser provides a real opportunity to increase safety during the evening hours and gives scope for widening this work across the partnership area, facilitated by the SELCSP.

- 5.5. **The Safety of Women & Girls** – Using local data and information, a bid was submitted to round four of the Safer Streets fund and was successful in bringing nearly £400k to the partnership area. This will support work on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) in public places and aims to increase feelings of safety. CCTV was cited as something that would increase feelings of safety amongst local college students in Skegness and this is central to the bid. A Sexual Violence Needs Assessment, commissioned by the PCC in 2020, showed that densely populated areas have the highest volume of offences. Public engagement undertaken by the PCC's Office also identifies that people worrying about being raped or sexually assaulted has risen year on year. Using police crime data and information from StreetSafe it has been possible to identify hot spot locations where harassment is the most frequently reported issue in Boston, Skegness, and Spalding. These areas are the focus of the bid, incorporating key night-time economy areas and pedestrian routes which have been identified as being disproportionately affected by VAWG. This compliments other work streams including the Women's Concordat, which aims to improve outcomes for women and girls at risk of entering or who have already entered the criminal justice sector, and ensures it is embedded within local work streams to keep our sub-region a safe area to live, work and visit.
- 5.6. **Vulnerability & Safeguarding** – Information from the Index of Multiple Deprivation shows that people living in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in Lincolnshire are three times more likely to have an adult safeguarding enquiry than those living in the least deprived areas, nearly four times likely to be a victim of crime, and nearly six times more likely to be in children's social care. The second and third most deprived areas in the county can be found within our sub-region - Skegness and Chapel St Leonards. Frontline officers, including police, council and health workers, encounter children and vulnerable adults on a regular basis, it is imperative that they are invested in safeguarding and adequately trained to carry out their duties competently. Recent cases of modern-day slavery and exploitation in Boston and South Holland demonstrate the need for officers and the public to report any suspicions. The SELCSP can drive work locally to ensure that officers can identify signs of issues such as sexual exploitation, county lines, modern slavery, and serious and organised crime, as well as understanding more recent approaches such as Contextual Safeguarding.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Sections 5-7 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 set out the way in which the responsible authorities should carry out their functions as a CSP.
- 6.2 In Lincolnshire the responsible authorities work as a combined area to fulfil the statutory duties through the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership and the County SLP. The SELCSP is an informally merged CSP covering the S&ELCP area. For the last three years the SELCSP has not produced a strategy, however, it is recognised that the work undertaken locally should be recognised and communicated to our partners and the public. A strategy has therefore been produced to promote the dedication and commitment of partners working across the S&ELCP in tackling crime and ASB and aims to provide a focus for actions to be developed to address the priority community safety issues that impact on communities within the sub-region.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

The Community Safety Strategy has been developed as a cross-partnership strategy aiming to communicate our priorities and aspirations for keeping our communities safe. It highlights the strength of local partnership arrangements; and provides reputational benefits to the S&ELCP as a driver of local action to tackle crime and disorder. The proposed Community Safety Strategy will support our delivery against our statutory community safety responsibilities working alongside key partners.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

The Community Safety Strategy demonstrates the commitment of the S&ELCP in keeping our communities safe and outlines how this can be achieved by working with external partners. It establishes the ambition of the SELCSP to maintain autonomy within the CSP structures in Lincolnshire.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The Community Safety Strategy supports the following corporate priorities:

- Boston Borough Council – ‘Priority 1 - People Focused’ (main priority)
- East Lindsey District Council – ‘Improve equality of opportunity across the district and in target areas’
- South Holland District Council – ‘Your Place’ and ‘Your Health and Wellbeing’

The production of a Community Safety Strategy is a strategic activity within the S&ELCP Annual Delivery Plan 2022-23.

STAFFING

Current staffing resource across the partnership will support the delivery of the strategy with additional resources identified through further funding as necessary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The statutory duties required of CSPs, as set out in the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, which are met through working with the County SLP which works as a combined area for Lincolnshire.

DATA PROTECTION

Data Protection will be dealt with under the partnership’s information sharing agreements.

FINANCIAL

External funding has been granted through the government Safer Streets Fund which will support the Safer Streets and Safety Against Women and Girls priorities. Further funding opportunities will be sought wherever possible to support delivery of the plan. That aside, delivery will be managed from existing partner commitments and resources.

RISK MANAGEMENT

All risks will be managed as part of the strategy and action plan development as appropriate.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Consultation has been undertaken with the Portfolio Holders of each sovereign council, members of the South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership and with key officers across the S&ELCP (Corporate Management and Service Managers). Feedback has been positive and constructive; the version presented incorporates suggested additions and amendments to an initial draft.

The delivery timeframe for the Community Safety Strategy (as set out in the Annual Delivery Plan) is Quarter 2, 2022.

REPUTATION

The Community Safety Strategy will have a positive impact on the reputation of the S&ELCP as it shows our dedication to improving the safety and wellbeing of our local communities.

CRIME AND DISORDER

The Community Safety Strategy supports delivery of duties placed on responsible authorities in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

The priorities within the strategy seek to address discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, and promote safeguarding of vulnerable people within our communities.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The Community Safety Strategy aims to address ASB and crime, which can have a detrimental impact on people's health and wellbeing. Victim engagement and referral to additional support services is an integral part of its delivery.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government's Levelling Up White paper.	
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.

ACRONYMS

CSP – Community Safety Partnership

S&ELCP – South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

SELCSPP – South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership

SLP - Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

DHR – Domestic Homicide Review

PCC- Police and Crime Commissioner

ASB – Anti-Social Behaviour

ASBRAC - Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences

VAWG – Violence Against Women and Girls

APPENDICES

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -

APPENDIX A	South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Strategy April 2022 to March 2025
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Crime & Disorder Act 1998	Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (legislation.gov.uk)
Beating Crime Plan	Beating crime plan - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Annual Delivery Plan 2022/2023.	S&ELCP Annual Delivery Plan 2022-23

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

Cabinet – 7 September 2022

Corporate and Community Committee – 6 October 2022

Cabinet – 9 November 2022

REPORT APPROVAL

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