



Report To:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	2 nd October 2025
Subject:	Crime and Disorder Report
Purpose:	To provide Members with an update on Community Safety Partnership work at a local and county level
Key Decision:	N/A
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Dale Broughton, Leader of the Council
Report Of:	Emily Spicer, Assistant Director – Communities & Housing Services
Report Author:	Sarah Cocker, Safer Communities Officer
Ward(s) Affected:	All
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

This report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership at a local level and the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership at County level. It includes information on Anti-Social Behaviour enforcement activity in Boston Borough. The report recommends that the contents are noted, and additional areas of focus are considered for inclusion in future reports.

Recommendations

1. That the content of the report is noted; and
2. That members consider areas of focus to be included in future reports.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The content of the report is noted to ensure that members are up to date on the work undertaken over the last financial year.
2. The focus of future updates provides members with an opportunity to advise of areas of work they require more detail on.

Other Options Considered

Do nothing

1. Background

- 1.1 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. A CSP is required for each local government area, bringing the police, local authorities, fire and rescue, health, and probation together to formulate strategies for the reduction of crime.
- 1.2 Locally, the South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (SELCSP) is an informally merged partnership administered through the South and East Lincolnshire Council's Partnership (SELCP), it covers Boston Borough, East Lindsey, and South Holland. At the county level, there is an informally merged countywide partnership known as the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP), administered by Lincolnshire County Council. Boston Borough Council currently discharges its statutory duties for reducing crime and disorder at a strategic level through the abovementioned partnerships and at an operational level by delivering services such as CCTV and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) investigation and enforcement work.
- 1.3 The statutory duties of a CSP are below, these are fulfilled by the SLP:
 - 1.3.1 Undertake a Strategic Assessment to review crime and disorder in the area.
 - 1.3.2 Prepare and implement a strategy to tackle crime and disorder, the misuse of drugs, reduce reoffending and serious violence.
 - 1.3.3 Set up protocols and systems for information sharing.
 - 1.3.4 Regularly engage and consult with the public about their community safety priorities and issues.
 - 1.3.5 Commission Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) following notification from the police of a domestic homicide.
 - 1.3.6 Hold one or more public meeting during the year.
- 1.4 This report will provide an overview of the work of the local SELCSP and the county SLP. The report also provides summary data in relation to enforcement action to address ASB including the alcohol-related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and the Noxious Odours procedure.

2. South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership

2.1 The SELCSP aims to combine knowledge, powers and expertise to reduce, crime, ASB and the fear of crime in South and East Lincolnshire, to ensure it remains one of the safest places to live, work and visit.

2.2 SELCSP is a partnership made up of the following organisations:

- Boston Borough, East Lindsey and South Holland District Councils (officers and Elected Members)
- Lincolnshire County Council (Community Safety Team, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, and Public Health)
- Lincolnshire Police
- Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue
- Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- The Probation Service
- Lincolnshire's Police and Crime Commissioner

2.3 Non-statutory agencies also contribute to the work of the partnership including housing associations, Lincolnshire Recovery Partnership (treatment provider for substance misuse), HMP North Sea Camp and the voluntary sector (e.g., Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service). The SELCSP works closely with the county SLP and supports its areas of work.

2.4 The SELCSP produces a Community Safety Strategy every three years with an action plan that underpins it. Following a strategic review, a new strategy for 2025-2028 sets out the areas of focus identified by partners at the sub-regional level. A copy of this is included in Appendix 1.

2.5 This report focuses on the final year of the previous strategy and the associated action plan which covers the work completed in 2024-25. A copy of the completed action plan is included in Appendix 2. A summary of the key actions undertaken in Boston during the last financial year are presented below.

2.6 Operation Plotting – Boston Town Centre

2.6.1 Under the umbrella of 'Op Plotting,' several projects secured funding through a grant provided by the Home Office to support delivery of the Serious Violence Duty. The duty makes councils and local services work together to share information and target interventions to prevent and reduce serious violence. Specific areas of Boston Town Centre were identified as hot spot locations which included West Street, Market Place, Red Lion Street, and Central Park.

2.6.2 The **Community Rangers** project was launched in April 2024. It aimed to tackle crime, ASB and reduce fear of crime through a visible presence in key areas of Boston town centre. Over the year the two rangers engaged in over 965 actions including enforcing the PSPO (alcohol restrictions), supporting police with intelligence, preventing incidents from escalating, and assisting with shoplifting and CCTV operations. They also participated in community events and educational

campaigns, such as raising awareness about a new PSPO covering wild bird feeding restrictions. In March 2025, the Boston Town Board committed to funding a continuation of the scheme for a further year through two Community Safety Officers who are directly employed by Boston Borough Council on a fixed one-year contract, they commenced the role in summer 2025.

2.6.3 The **Community Engagement Officer** project focuses on strengthening community cohesion and integration to address safety concerns and improve trust in authorities, particularly in the identified hot-spot areas in Boston. Working with colleagues at Boston Borough Council and Lincolnshire Police, the officer has engaged with diverse residents and communities and led initiatives such as sessions with ESOL students (English for Speakers of Other Languages) at Boston College, market stall engagement sessions on crime reporting and safety, and collaborations with community advocates. Highlights include the “We Thrive Together” event for diverse communities and successful outreach to the Romanian community. A further funding bid to the Serious Violence Fund has extended the role through to March 2026.

2.6.4 **Environmental improvements** were made in Boston town centre including planters, park planting and hanging baskets in a bid to improve the scene, the feeling of safety and decrease ASB and crime. This was undertaken in partnership with local groups and North Sea Camp prison and has boosted community pride, with positive feedback from residents and stakeholders. This scheme was repeated in summer 2025.

2.6.5 To improve information sharing and advice to the community, two **interactive digital screens** were installed in Central Park and Boston Market Place. The boards are being used to communicate crime prevention advice and community safety messages to the community.

2.6.6 **CCTV** has also been improved with new cameras to cover gaps in Central Park, Wormgate, Strait Bargate and Wide Bargate. Further improvements will be made with funding from Boston Town Board to support safety and security following consultation with local people. This includes committed investment of around £150,000 to fund the installation of new and additional CCTV in Strait Bargate, Wide Bargate, and Pescod Square. The locations for the new cameras will be chosen following an independent survey and will increase the council’s existing CCTV coverage in the town centre.

2.7 Hot Spot Policing

2.8 In 2024-25 government provided Police and Crime Commissioners with £1m funding to deliver additional patrols in different areas of Lincolnshire which are disproportionately affected by serious violence. Boston Town Centre was one of the identified areas. The premise behind hot spot patrolling is the visibility and intention to improve feelings of safety. However, there have been a number of outputs from the scheme in Lincolnshire including 6000 additional patrolling hours, 169 stop & searches, ASB powers used 72 times and 116 arrests. The patrols have been well

received by local communities with positive comments on social media about their presence. A further £1m has been provided to continue the patrols in 2025-26.

2.9 Annual and ad-hoc Community Safety Campaigns

2.9.1 The partnership has supported a number of annual awareness campaigns including Anti-Social Behaviour, Hate Crime and Scam Awareness weeks and the White Ribbon Day; an annual day to end violence against women which marks the start of the 16 days of action against domestic violence. Several other campaigns have been shared via social media channels throughout the year including Friends Against Scams, Crimestoppers, Action Fraud and TV Licencing scams.

2.10 Domestic Abuse Officers

2.10.1 Three Domestic Abuse officers have continued to provide extensive support to staff across the SELCP through training and awareness raising. Training was delivered by the Lincolnshire Specialist Domestic Abuse Service (LDASS) covering access to support for victims/survivors, training for professionals to become DA Champions, and engagement with Eastern European communities. Haven Domestic Abuse Service (previously Boston Women's Aid/SoLDAS) shared updates on their impactful work in Boston and South Holland. Several awareness updates have been shared with staff including:

- **Controlling & Coercive Behaviour:** Highlighting non-physical abuse, sharing resources and legal context (criminalised under the Serious Crime Act 2015).
- **Male Victims Awareness Day (7 Nov 2024):** Promoted support resources.
- **Older Victims of DA:** To raise awareness of the unique challenges faced by older women, including prolonged abuse and differing responses from agencies. An article was shared on the hidden issue of older women killed by male relatives and available support services.

3. Anti-Social Behaviour, Public Spaces Protection Order & Noxious Odours

3.1. Information on enforcement action taken to tackle ASB in Boston Borough, including that taken in relation to the PSPO (restricting alcohol consumption) and Noxious Odours is included in Appendix 3.

3.2. Of particular note is the much higher number of enforcement actions taken in relation to the PSPO area restricting alcohol consumption. This is attributable to the Community Rangers who were patrolling the area and enforcing the restrictions in place between April 2024 and March 2025.

4. CCTV Report 2024-2025

4.1. This is an examination of data collected by the CCTV department for the areas of Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council. North Kesteven data is included for the area of Sleaford. This data is collected and studied to better understand the performance and achievements of

the CCTV control room in Boston. The full report is included in Appendix 4. There have been some minor amendments to the CCTV policy which is also included in Appendix 5 (the revised aspects are in blue).

5. Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP)

- 5.1. The SLP is the single multi-agency forum for addressing community safety issues across Lincolnshire. The SLP's vision is to create a safer Lincolnshire by preventing and tackling crime, and the factors that drive it. By working together, the SLP will develop effective, sustainable solutions to local concerns, improve confidence and build stronger communities to be safe and feel safe.
- 5.2. Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council are all statutory members of the SLP. The SELCP is represented at the SLP Strategy Board and is committed to the delivery of the SLP Strategic Priorities through participation in relevant meetings and project groups.
- 5.3. The SLP Strategy for 2025-2028 is included in Appendix 6. This summarises the local context in relation to crime, disorder and ASB, it sets out the vision and approach that the SLP intends to take in delivery of the statutory duties and identifies how they will ensure that all key partners come together to address the identified issues. The SLP's approach has changed and is now project-based rather than delivered through Core Priority Groups. All projects will be underpinned by regular data analysis. The aim of this approach is to ensure that the activity is targeted to where it is needed most.
- 5.4. The SLP held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 11th July 2025, this annual event provides an opportunity for partners and the public to hear about the work that the SLP has delivered over the last year.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. This report has outlined the community safety partnership arrangements at both a county and local level. It provides an update on the activity undertaken by the SELCSP during 2024-2025 including enforcement data in respect of ASB, the PSPO (alcohol restrictions) and the Noxious Odours Procedure. The current local and county strategies are provided which outline the areas of focus and ways of working for 2025 to 2028.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

None

Corporate Priorities

The area of work detailed in this report supports the following corporate priorities:
Safe and Resilient Communities - work with partners to help reduce domestic abuse and the fear of crime; ensure licensing policies support crime reduction; work with the local

community to support community cohesion. More specifically for Boston the priority to ensure local resources are targeted towards community safety.

Staffing

Current staffing resource across the partnership will support the delivery of community safety activity. Some roles that support community safety work are funded through external grants and exit management arrangements will need to be put in place towards the end of the funding period.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None

Constitutional and Legal Implications

The statutory duties required of CSPs, as set out in the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, are met through working with the county Safer Lincolnshire Partnership which works as a combined area for Lincolnshire. We also meet these through our own local South and East Lincolnshire CSP membership.

Data Protection

Data Protection will be dealt with under the partnership's information sharing agreements and arrangements.

Financial

None

Risk Management

All risks will be managed as part of the strategy and action plan development as appropriate. At a county level the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy Board maintains a risk register.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

Consultation has been undertaken with the Community Safety Portfolio Holder for Boston Borough Council and with key officers across the S&ELCP (Corporate Management and Service Managers).

Reputation

It is important that the councils demonstrate their commitment to dealing with community safety issues and respond to local concerns. 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.

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

The Councils have a duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to take steps to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in the district. Changes to this legislation were brought in through the Police and Justice Act 2006, with subsequent regulations coming into force in 2007. The regulations set out the minimum requirements for partnership working to ensure effective practice and that all partnerships deliver to a common standard. This report provides evidence of compliance with the Acts and the regulations.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

There are no direct implications from this report. It should be noted that CCTV surveillance techniques and investigations need to consider Article 8 of the Human Rights Act, which covers right to privacy. This is also subject to regulation under RIPA and CCTV Codes of Practice.

Health and Wellbeing

Work carried out to reduce crime and disorder within the borough and to support those that are affected helps to improve the health and wellbeing of those residents.

Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment

None

Acronyms

AGM – Annual General Meeting
ASB - Anti-Social Behaviour
CCTV - Closed Circuit Television
CSP - Community Safety Partnership
DA – Domestic Abuse
DARDRs – Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews
ESOL - English for Speakers of Other Languages
LDASS - Lincolnshire Specialist Domestic Abuse Service
PSPO – Public Spaces Protection Order
RIPA – Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act
SELCSP - South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership
S&ELCP - South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
SLP - Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

Appendices

Appendix 1	South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Strategy 2025-28
Appendix 2	Community Safety Strategy Action Plan 2024-25
Appendix 3	Enforcement action taken by Boston Borough Council to address Anti-Social Behaviour
Appendix 4	CCTV Service – Annual Statistical Report 2024-25
Appendix 5	Boston Borough Council CCTV Policy
Appendix 6	Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy 2025-28

Background Papers

None

Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

Report Approval

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