All people in North East Lincolnshire feel safe and are safe

The outcome statement for ‘all people in North East Lincolnshire feel safe and are safe’ is:

- Every child will be brought up by supportive and nurturing families. All families live in good quality housing which is designed to meet a range of different needs, supporting people to be as independent as possible. Living within low crime communities, people will feel safe in their home and are able to access opportunities for work, socialising and leisure. Communities where there is zero tolerance of violence. Communities are supportive to and value children, vulnerable people and the elderly. Where possible people are encouraged to make a contribution to the communities in which they live or work.

- People can access services, when needed, that are safe and individuals and their families are confident in the quality and safety of care provided.

Prevention and early help is essential to realise this outcome and is a key focus for children’s services. Locally, substance and alcohol abuse, mental health, and domestic abuse, are known as the toxic trio, and these create an unprecedented demand for many partner agencies. The 0-19 Commissioning programme phase one across North East Lincolnshire is now complete and operates in 4 locality areas, offering specialist services through young & safe, strengthening families, and children’s health, across the area. Early help provision is cross cutting involving the police, family hubs, health visiting, school nursing, schools, education services, and voluntary sector agencies etc. North East Lincolnshire place board has committed to delivering inclusive growth, ensuring that physical and social regeneration
are undertaken so that opportunities are available to all members of our community. Work continues with the voluntary and community sector to increase participation and build inclusive cohesive communities. Locally there are several thousand neighbourhood watch members.

Nationally and locally crime is rising but North East Lincolnshire is seeing a lower rate of increase than the national average and also lower than its Humberside neighbours. North East Lincolnshire is in a peer group comprised of 15 local authorities which are considered to be similar. In 2017/18 North East Lincolnshire improved its position within this most similar group moving from 15th (worst) to 11th position, reinforcing that the rate of increase in crime is lower than for some of our benchmarking peers.

Overall crime rose by 8.3% in North East Lincolnshire during 2017/18 compared to 2016/17. The number of crimes of criminal damage, hate crime, robbery, shop theft, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of a motor vehicle, violence with injury, and violence without injury, all increased during 2017/18. During the year the number of burglaries and incidences of anti-social behaviour decreased.

Violent crime continues to be a cause for concern and remains stubbornly high. Although showing an increase, the number of reported violence with injury incidents has slowed down considerably during 2017/18. Violence either with or without injury can be influenced by many factors ranging from family arguments including domestic abuse, friends or neighbours having a dispute, to drug or alcohol related aggression. Thus it is particularly difficult to predict when and where independent violent crime will occur as opposed to an emerging pattern of behaviour within the night time economy.

While anti-social behaviour (ASB) is high in volume, it continues on a downward trajectory. The partnerships positive focus on ASB over previous years resulted in a year on year reduction. ASB continues to remain the public’s biggest area of concern and has a considerable adverse effect on a community. If left unchecked ASB can contribute to the decline of a neighbourhood, and leaves the perpetrators particularly young people to progress to more serious offending. The effect of ASB can have a devastating effect on the victim and it is often the vulnerable that are targeted. There are considerable geographic inequalities with North East Lincolnshire with 60% of all ASB being reported in 5 of our 15 local wards.

Substance and alcohol misuse can be linked to many aspects of crime committed in North East Lincolnshire. 7% of all people arrested for a crime tested positive for cocaine, and 4.9% for opiates. 5.6% of all individuals arrested during 2017/18 were under the influence of either drugs or alcohol. 19% of violent incidents were committed by individuals under the influence of either alcohol or drugs. Substance misuse linked to mental health is becoming an increasing public health challenge. Intelligence regarding North East Lincolnshire shows a reducing but aging cohort of opiate users but an increasing cohort of crack cocaine users. Both user rates remain higher than the national figure as does the number of individuals accessing treatment. Novel Psychoactive Substances predominantly ‘Spice’ has become a concern.
The North East Lincolnshire rate of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents is more than twice the England rate and the second-highest in the country. Boys are more at risk than girls, accounting for two-thirds of all child KSIs locally between 2007 and 2016, and children from the poorest backgrounds are estimated to be more than twice as likely to be killed or seriously injured as other children.

Numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time have continued to fall with North East Lincolnshire now the best performing member of our most similar family group.

Child Criminal Exploitation remains a significant threat linked to organised crime groups in North East Lincolnshire and will require significant partnership focus moving forward. This partnership approach is still developing and has received national recognition and support via Home Office funding.

Regarding our older population, falls are the largest cause of emergency hospital admissions for older people, and significantly impact on long term outcomes e.g. being a major precipitant of people moving from their own home to long-term nursing or residential care. Figures show the North East Lincolnshire rate of emergency hospital admissions due to falls, to be the lowest (best) out of all the local authorities in the Yorkshire and the Humber, and also significantly lower than the England rate.