South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Strategy

April 2025 to March 2028

SOUTH & EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which places a statutory duty on responsible authorities to work together to reduce crime and disorder.

The South and East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (SELCSP) is an informally merged partnership covering the Lincolnshire districts of Boston Borough, East Lindsey, and South Holland. The SELCSP comprises statutory agencies and representatives from supporting organisations.

At a county level, the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP) is the informally merged partnership for Lincolnshire. It is responsible with the SELCSP for meeting the statutory duties required of CSPs. This includes the preparation and implementation of a strategy to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in local communities.

This strategy sets out the areas of focus for the SELCSP over next three years. However, it will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains current and achievable.

The South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership's vision:

"We will combine our knowledge, powers and expertise to reduce anti-social behaviour, crime, and the fear of crime in South and East Lincolnshire, to ensure that the area remains one of the safest places to live, work and visit"

Delivering a safer South & East Lincolnshire

All partners of the SELCSP are actively working to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour as part of their core business. We use the technology, resources, tools and powers available to us to keep our communities safe.

CCTV

- Monitoring of public spaces.
- Operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- 955 incidents witnessed by CCTV operators in 2023-2024.
- 383 live arrests that CCTV operators contributed to in 2023-2024.

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)

- Ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).
- In specific areas across the partnership to address issues such as alcohol-related ASB, control of dogs, littering and spitting.
- Incremental approach used to tackle persistent offenders.

Prevent

- Identifying and supporting people who may be at risk of radicalisation.
- Helping communities to identify and challenge violent extremism appropriately.

Communication and Engagement

- Quarterly police priority setting incorporating the views of the public.
- Routine crime prevention and safety messages throughout the year.

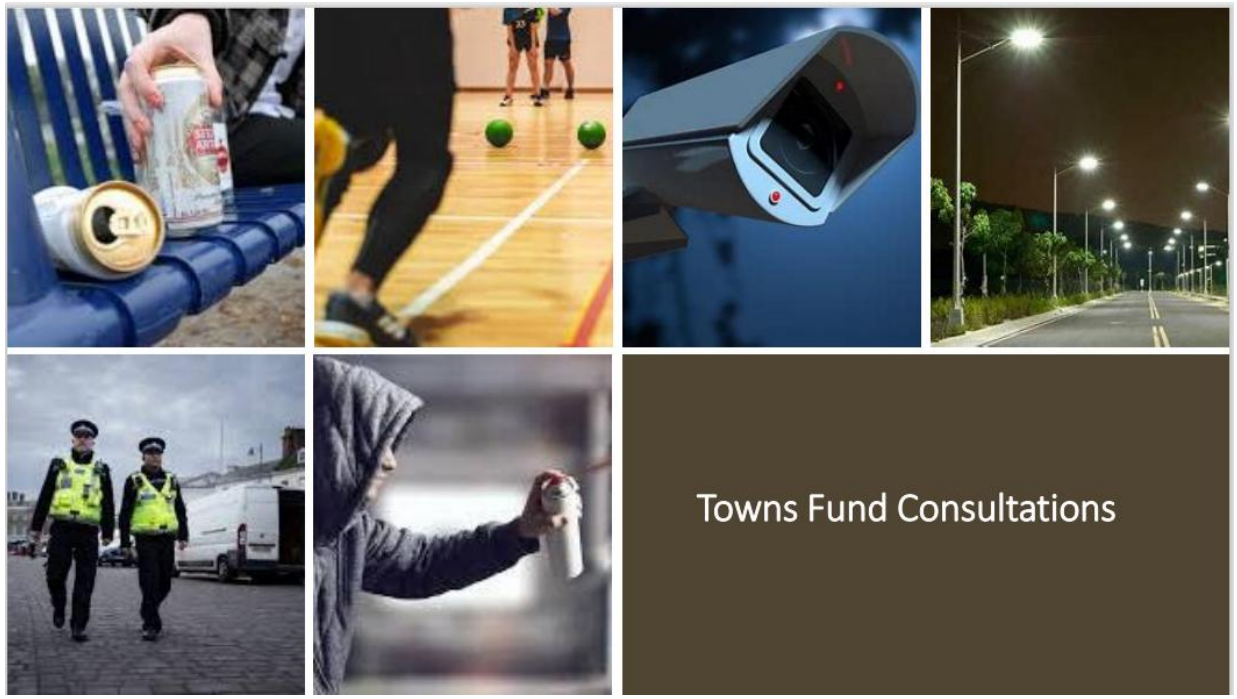
Public Consultation

Each year the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire engages and consults with residents on crime and policing. Below are some of the findings from the 2024 survey.

- At least half of participating residents in Boston (62%) South Holland (60%) and East Lindsey (50%) said that their quality life is affected by fear of crime, giving a score of 5 or more on a scale of 1 to 10 (with 1 being not at all affected and 10 being severely affected).
- Respondents with a disability, who are 'non-white', and/or unemployed are much more likely than average to be fearful.
- Half of respondents in Boston indicated that they had experienced a crime or incident in the previous 12 months, this was closely followed by respondents in South Holland (47%) and East Lindsey (43%).
- The crimes which respondents were 'very worried' about are being a victim of are identify theft, online/cyber crime and having their home broken into and something stolen.
- From a list of options, 'drug use and dealing' was selected as the top priority that respondents would like to see prioritised for attention in their local area.

Source: Lincolnshire Crime & Policing Survey 2024

What You Said



Consultations in Boston, Skegness and Spalding identified similar themes that people want to see or are concerned about in these towns:

- Residents would like more police presence and better law enforcement.
- Residents are concerned about Anti-Social Behaviour and excessive use of alcohol and/or drug taking.
- Residents want more CCTV and more activities for young people to relieve boredom and encourage healthier behaviours.

Source: Town Board consultations prepared by The Engaging People Company

Areas of focus

Using the outcome of the consultations along with data from various sources including Lincolnshire Police, local health profiles and the county Strategic Needs Assessment, the SELCSP were able to identify specific areas of focus for the three-year period April 2025 to March 2028. These will be reviewed annually to ensure they remain appropriate.

1. Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in our communities with a focus on neighbour disputes.
2. Develop our understanding about fear of crime and perceptions to identify underlying causes.
3. Work with the SLP to support a place-based approach to project delivery.
4. Encourage people to report issues that they see within local communities to build intelligence.

The CSP also aims to improve links with the Town Boards across the partnership area and keep a watching brief on priorities identified through the quarterly Neighbourhood Policing priority setting process.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Tackling ASB is a core role for the partnership. Dedicated Council Community Safety Teams and Neighbourhood Policing Teams work together with other agencies such as Registered Social Landlords to address issues.

Over 5,400 incidents of ASB were reported to Lincolnshire Police alone across the partnership area in 2023-24.

We are part of the Lincolnshire ASB Partnership, working with agencies to tackle ASB through countywide policies and procedures and sharing best practice.

ASB is consistently identified by our communities as a priority area at quarterly policing priority setting.

We address high risk and complex ASB cases through multi-agency meetings called Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences (ASBRACs).

The district councils coordinate the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review, which gives victims the right to request a formal review of their ASB case where the local threshold is met.

Inconsiderate Behaviour and nuisance neighbours are the two biggest categories of ASB across the partnership.

We will examine the processes and tools currently used for dealing with neighbour disputes alongside best practice to assess whether there are areas of improvement to prevent situations from escalating and to effectively manage people's expectations.

Fear of Crime & Perceptions

Feeling unsafe is a common theme in recent surveys and consultations, particularly in town centres where there is a ‘no go’ feeling reported by some residents.

The impact of fear of crime on people’s quality of life has increased across the partnership area over the last year.

This is concerning, particularly as there has been increased visible patrolling in specific hot-spot areas across the partnership area during the same period. In addition, recorded crime and ASB is lower than pre-pandemic levels.

The SELCSP is keen to develop its understanding of negative perceptions about crime and the associated fear, to identify if there are any actions that can be taken to provide reassurance and increase feeling of safety within our local communities.

Placed-based approach

The SLP undertook a Strategic Needs Assessment in 2024 to feed into their priority setting process in early 2025. As a result, the SLP will be moving to a **project-based approach** with these projects being distributed across the county. Projects will be:

- Aligned to the statutory duties
- Aligned to the SLP's principles of working
- Based on findings from the Strategic Needs Assessment
- Time limited and changeable to allow responsiveness to emerging trends

The SELCSP is committed to supporting the SLP with this approach, working in partnership on shared objectives.

The SLP's Vision

To create a safe Lincolnshire by preventing and tackling crime, and the factors that drive it. By working together, we will develop effective, sustainable solutions to local concerns, improve confidence and build stronger communities to be safe and feel safe.

Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

Encouraging reporting of crime & ASB

Crime and ASB incidents can have a huge impact on individuals in varying ways. People do not have to be a direct victim to be affected, for example witnessing ASB associated with drinking in public, or seeing an act of vandalism take place can affect feelings of safety.

You may be tempted to turn a blind eye or wonder what reporting these issues will achieve. You may turn to social media to report it on community groups instead, which are not a formal reporting mechanism.

However, we need to know what is happening in our local communities and encourage you to report all incidents that you are a victim of, or a witness to. See page 11 for details of how to report.

Reasons why we encourage reporting

- To understand where and when issues are happening.
- To assess whether an immediate response is required.
- To help build up intelligence to plan a suitable response.
- To support the planning of policing patrols.
- To provide an evidence base to request additional resources.
- To be able to share information with partner agencies to assist in signposting people who may need additional help or support.

Whilst not all incidents need a direct response there is a need to build an evidence base for us to effectively address issues in our communities.

How you can help us

Residents play a vital role in supporting us to keep our communities safe. We need your help in meeting our vision to keep our area one of the safest places to live, work and visit. Small contributions from the public can make a huge difference overall. Please follow our suggestions below to play your part in helping us to help you.

Report crime and hate crime

- Report a crime | Lincolnshire Police (lincs.police.uk)
- Report a hate crime - True Vision (report-it.org.uk)

Report unsafe locations

- StreetSafe | Police.uk (www.police.uk)
- Download the StreetSafe app to your smartphone via the relevant app store for your device.

Contact Crimestoppers

- Contact Crimestoppers to remain anonymous on 0800 555 111 or visit Crimestoppers (crimestoppers-uk.org)

Report anti-social behaviour

- To Lincs Police
- Boston BC
  - 01205 314318
  - Email
- East Lindsey DC
  - 01507 603095
  - Email
- South Holland DC
  - 01775 761161
  - Email

Follow Crime Prevention Advice

- Improve security on your property.
- Crime prevention advice | Lincolnshire Police (lincs.police.uk)

Volunteer

- Police support volunteer vacancies
- Join or set up a Neighbourhood Watch Group in your local area.

Have Your Say

- Contribute to the Police & Crime Commissioner's police and crime survey.
- Contribute to your local Neighbourhood Policing Team's priority setting.

List of Acronyms

ASB - Anti-Social Behaviour

ASBRAC - Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference

CCTV - Closed Circuit Television

CSP - Community Safety Partnership

PSPO - Public Spaces Protection Order

SELCSP - South & East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership

SLP - Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

Useful Websites

Amplius | (Amplius.co.uk)

Boston Borough Council (Boston.gov.uk)

Boston College UK (boston.ac.uk)

East Lindsey District Council (e-lindsey.gov.uk)

Just Lincolnshire | www.justlincolnshire.org.uk

Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service (lincolnshirecvs.org.uk)

Lincolnshire County Council (Lincolnshire.gov.uk)

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (Lincolnshire.gov.uk/Lincolnshire-fire-rescue)

Lincolnshire Housing Partnership (lincolnshirehp.com)

Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (Lincolnshire.icb.nhs.uk)

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust (lpft.nhs.uk)

Lincolnshire Police (lincs.police.uk)

Lincolnshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk)

Lincolnshire Recovery Partnership (turning-point.co.uk)

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (lincolnshire.gov.uk)

North Sea Camp Prison - GOV.UK

Platform Housing Group (platformhg.com)

Probation Service - GOV.UK

Public Health – Lincolnshire County Council

Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (Lincolnshire.gov.uk/saferlincolnshirepartnership)

South Holland District Council (sholland.gov.uk)

Youth offending service – Lincolnshire County Council