Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

Strategy 2025-2028

Version 0.3

Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

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Foreword

I am delighted to present the updated Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy for 2025-2028. This describes how the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership has a lead role in identifying community safety priorities in Lincolnshire and how we ensure that all key partners come together to tackle these issues of most concern.

In Lincolnshire, we are privileged to live in a beautiful county filled with vibrant communities and unique heritage. However, as with any region, ensuring safety and security for all residents remains a key priority. The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy embodies our commitment to creating safer communities, fostering collaboration, and addressing the challenges we face collectively.

Through strong partnerships with local organisations, police and fire, councils, and community groups, we aim to work together to prevent crime, protect vulnerable individuals, and improve overall well-being. This strategy is not about responding to incidents; it is about creating a proactive, inclusive approach to public safety and building an environment where everyone feels protected and supported.

The strength of Lincolnshire lies in its people and their shared determination to make the county safer for all. The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy reflects our shared vision and invites every resident, partner, and stakeholder to contribute to this important goal. Together, we can foster a future where Lincolnshire thrives as a safe and welcoming place for generations to come.

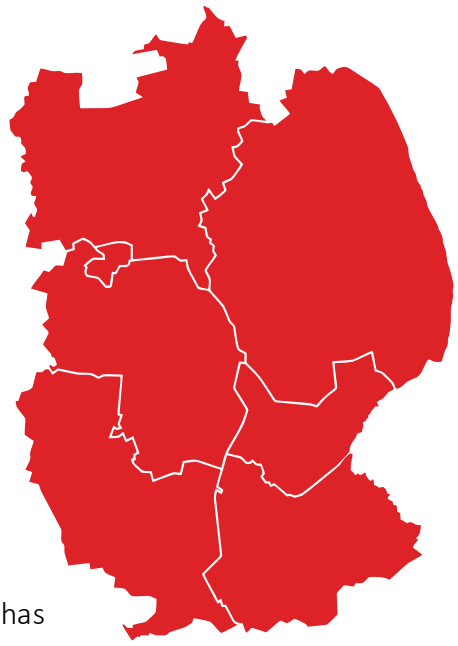
Martyn Parker

Martyn Parker
Chair of Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

Version Control

Version	Date	Amendments

Introduction to Lincolnshire



Lincolnshire is in the East Midlands region. Lincolnshire is the fourth largest county in England, covering 5,921 square kilometres. The county is classified as one of the most rural in England by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). It is a two-tier authority area comprised of Lincolnshire County Council and seven districts: Boston Borough, City of Lincoln, East Lindsey, North Kesteven, South Holland, South Kesteven and West Lindsey.

Lincolnshire's population has most recently been estimated to be 769,474 (mid-2023 population estimate). It is projected to grow by 10% by 2041. Most of Lincolnshire's residents live in rural villages or small towns. The largest town is Lincoln which has a population of around 98,000 people.

There is a significant fluctuation in the population, with over 15 million visitors to the county annually, including a student population in Lincoln of around 20,000 during term time, and 4.4 million seasonally to the East Coast alone. Lincolnshire is home to a significant number of acting service personnel and armed forces veterans; as of the 2021 Census, over 45,000 armed forces veterans resided in the County.

Lincolnshire has a higher proportion of residents aged 65 and over than the national average. In 2021, the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over was recorded as 23.4%, with 30% expected to be over 65 by 2041. Nationally, the proportion of the population in the age group of 15 – 64 years is 64.1%. For Lincolnshire, this is lower at 61.0%. The remaining age group, those aged 14 and under, make up 17.4% of the population nationally. For Lincolnshire, this is again lower at 15.6%. The 2021 Census estimates Lincolnshire as having a 6.8% proportion of non-British population, compared with a national proportion of 10%. The proportion of non-British nationals in Boston Borough higher at 20.9%.

Legislative Framework

Community safety is an aspect of the quality of life of people, individually and collectively, describing how they are protected as far as possible from hazards or threats from the criminal or anti-social behaviour of others, and are equipped or helped to cope with those they do experience.

The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) made it a requirement for all local authorities to have in place a **Community Safety Partnership**. Changes to this legislation were brought in by the Police and Justice Act 2006 and subsequent regulations came in to 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.

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP), as the informally merged community safety partnership for Lincolnshire, has the following statutory duties:

- To prepare and implement a partnership plan that sets out a strategy for the reduction of reoffending, crime and disorder, combating substance misuse, address antisocial behaviour, understanding serious violence, community engagement and addressing the priorities identified in the strategic assessment which must be undertaken annually
- To set up protocols and systems for information sharing
- To regularly engage and consult with the public about their community safety priorities and issues
- To hold one or more public meetings during each year
- To commission Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDR's) following notification from the Police of a domestic homicide

The Serious Violence Duty was introduced in 2022. In addition to incorporating the Crime & Disorder Act (1998), the Serious Violence Duty (2022) calls on authorities within specified geographic boundaries to work collaboratively to "prevent people from becoming involved in serious violence, both as victims and perpetrators, and reduce instances of serious violence in the area", Home Office (2022). The Serious Violence Duty guidance mandates that Lincolnshire's Serious Violence Prevention Strategy must be refreshed on an annual basis to reflect any changes in the local serious violence profile. The refreshed strategy for Lincolnshire is available via Serious Violence Prevention Strategy 2025-2028**.** The Serious Violence Duty also mandates that responsible authorities must convene meetings to oversee and monitor delivery of the Serious Violence duty. SLP's Strategy Board functions as this formal meeting.

The **Victim and Prisoners Act received Royal Assent** on 24 May 2024 (Victims and Prisoners Act 2024: Implementation of the duty to collaborate) , but individual measures within the Act will not come into force until the Government specifically commences them. However, noting the duty could commence from Spring 2026. The duty to collaborate under the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 will require local policing bodies, local authorities and ICBs to collaborate in the commissioning of community support services in England for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence.

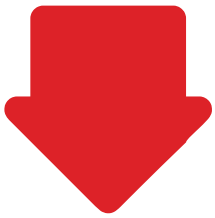
The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Section 19) places a duty on specified authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. It has been agreed locally that **PREVENT** will fall under the governance of the SLP to provide county wide assurance and escalation mechanisms. PREVENT is part of the UK Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy and its aim is to stop people being drawn towards terrorism or supporting terrorism. This involves supporting individuals who may be susceptible to extreme ideologies and re-directing them as opposed to criminalising them. PREVENT training aims to give frontline staff, community workers and key people in the community an understanding of PREVENT, how it works and crucially, how important their role is within the strategy.

Vision

To create a safer 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.

Aims

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership is the single multi-agency forum for addressing community safety issues across Lincolnshire. The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership aims to:

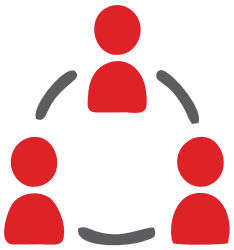


Reduce crime and disorder and increase the safety of individuals and communities across Lincolnshire

Ensure those living, working or visiting Lincolnshire feel safe and are equipped to cope with any hazards or threats they may encounter

Improve communication, coordination and cooperation between agencies allowing them to work together more efficiently and effectively

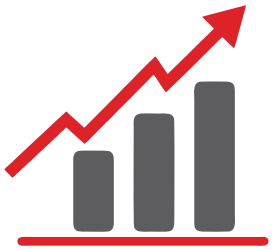
Underpinning Principles of Working



We will utilise a collaborative approach to achieve our shared vision, including the statutory and voluntary sector

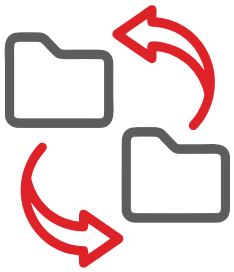
We will focus on prevention and early intervention

We will use a robust evidence base to ensure that we are making effective and efficient use of our shared resources



We will actively make use of data and analysis to inform a whole system approach

We will robustly manage and monitor our performance



We are committed to the consistent use of a shared case management system

We are committed to continued learning and development

We will seek and respond to the voices of members of our community and actively involve them in projects

Membership

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership is constituted of a large number of organisations and experts across the county including the following key agencies:

- Boston Borough Council
- City of Lincoln Council
- Crown Prosecution Service
- East Lindsey District Council
- Future4Me/Youth Justice Service
- HM Courts Services
- HM/YOI Prison Lincoln
- HM Prison North Sea Camp
- Lincoln University
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue
- Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board
- Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Lincolnshire Police
- Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner
- Lincolnshire Public Health
- Lincolnshire Probation Service
- North Kesteven District Council
- South Holland District Council
- South Kesteven District Council
- West Lindsey District Council

Lincolnshire's Police and Crime Commissioner is not a statutory member of SLP but does provide funding to help the partnership achieve its objectives and those in the Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan. It is required that the SLP and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have due regard to the priorities in each of their plans. The Police and Crime Commissioner can also meet with the SLP and request reports on significant crime and disorder issues. More information about the working relationship between Community Safety Partnerships and the Police Crime Commissioner can be found here.

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership engages with a variety of other specialist organisations to meet its statutory duties. For example, service providers and specialists within the health and the voluntary sector. One of the SLP's principles is to actively engage and collaborate with the community and voluntary sector.

The key component to the success of the SLP is through working in partnership with all agencies and communities within Lincolnshire. Every partner has a vital role in driving the strategy forward and making a real difference to the community of Lincolnshire, in relation to crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour.

Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis

An extensive strategic needs assessment (SNA) has been undertaken to inform the Community Safety Strategy for Lincolnshire; including analysis of demand, prevalence and performance data. It also incorporates findings from stakeholder engagement with partners in the county and community engagement through questionnaires and surveys. Furthermore, the needs assessment provided an overview of current trends in relation to crime and disorder in Lincolnshire and contextual information to assist with understanding possible drivers for changes in trends and themes. The findings of the strategic assessment underpin this strategy and form the basis for action over the next 3 years.

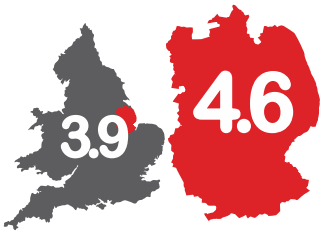
On the whole Lincolnshire is a relatively safe county to live and work in. The Crime rates overall are below the national average at 70.7 crimes per 1,000 population compared to 87.9 crimes per 1,000 population nationally. Out of 42 police force areas, Lincolnshire has the 12th lowest crime rate in England and Wales. Source Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables- Office for National Statistics.

In 2023/2024 Lincolnshire saw falls in acquisitive crimes including burglary and vehicle theft. There has been a general decline in the number of crimes involving young adults as both victims and as suspects/offenders.

This is the local needs profile “as at” December 2024.

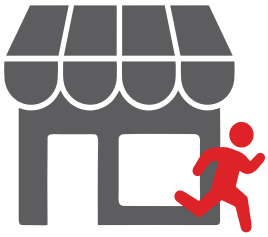
Overarching rates of crime, disorder and reoffending

Reoffending rates are beginning to rise again after falling over the pandemic. More than 1 in 4 proven offenders commit at least one reoffence within a year (26%)



When offenders reoffend in Lincolnshire, they do so more prolifically when compared to the national average (4.6 reoffences in 12 months compared to 3.9 reoffences nationally)

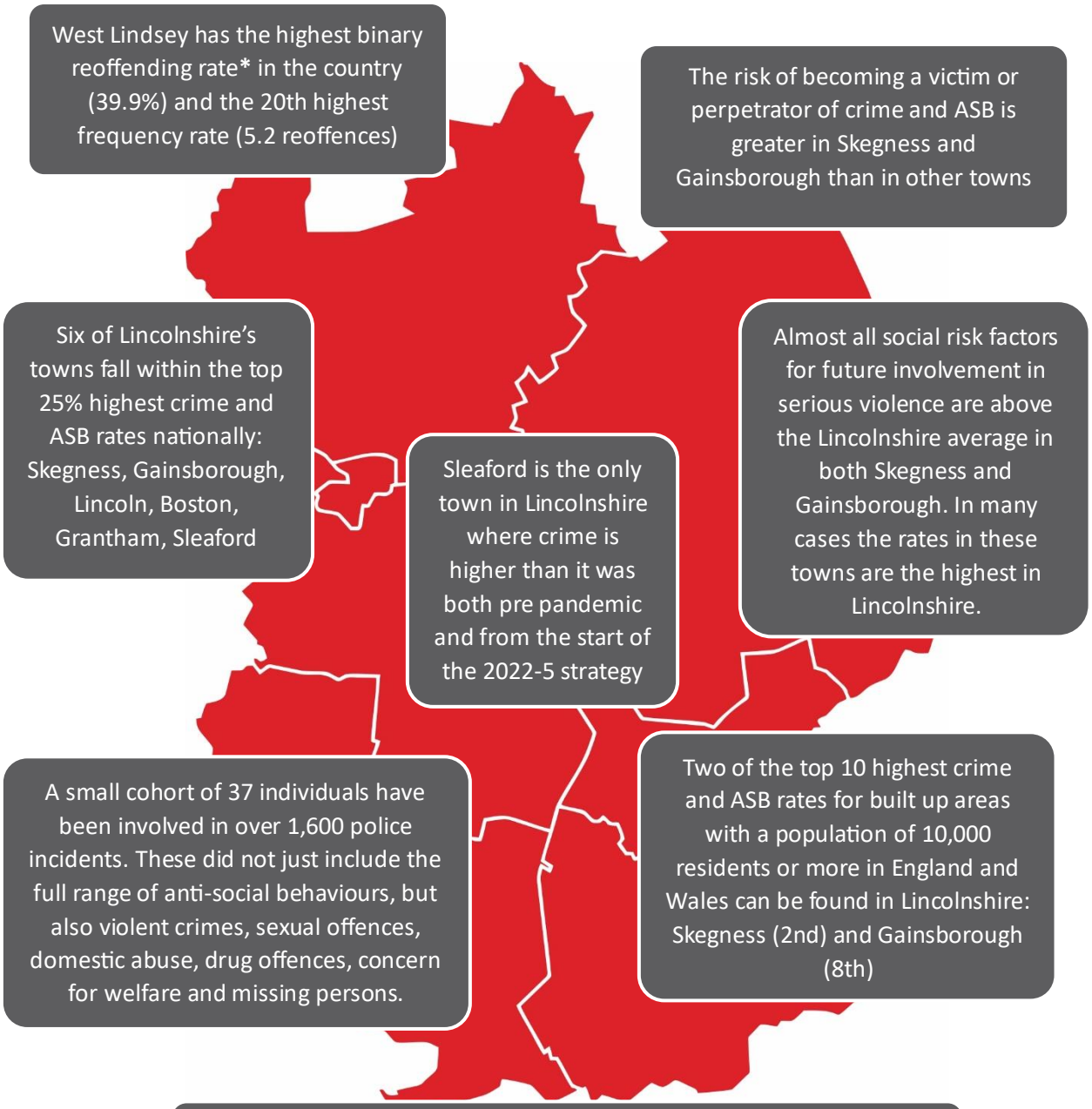
Shop theft, hate crime, non-domestic harassment and sexual offences have all risen since the pandemic



Since the pandemic shop theft has increased by 61.7%

Anti-social Behaviour data has identified the high and varied demands on services from the most vulnerable Anti-social Behaviour victims

Localities and cohorts of concern



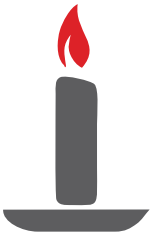
* A "binary offending rate" refers to a reoffending statistic that focuses on whether an individual reoffends at all, rather than the frequency or severity of reoffences

Contextual findings

There is a very strong positive correlation between unemployment claimant levels and crime levels in Lincolnshire among the 16–64-year-old resident population.

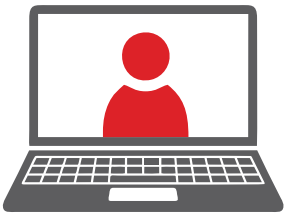
The cost of living has increased by 20%. This appears to have had an impact on the level of shop theft

Following the national trend, the proportion of residents reporting a long-term mental health condition in Lincolnshire is rising (from 1 in 10 in 2018 to 1 in 8 in 2023). The rise since 2018 is statistically significant.



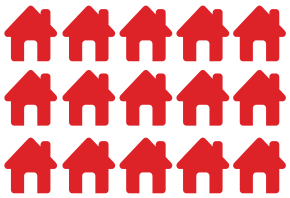
The suicide rate in Lincolnshire is high and ranks second highest among all local authorities in England and Wales.

The combined deaths from alcohol, drug misuse and suicide in Lincolnshire have increased by 40% in Lincolnshire between 2019 and 2022. This is higher than the national trend, where a 16% increase has been observed over the same time.



Nearly 1 in 4 secondary school age children reported at least one online contact from a stranger that made them feel uncomfortable in the last year

Approximately 40% of secondary school age children reported viewing or being sent harmful content in the last year. Those who viewed such content were likely to have done so multiple times



The number of households owed a homeless prevention or relief duty in Lincolnshire has now risen above pre-pandemic levels. The rate of households owed a duty is particularly high in Lincoln, where it is 12th highest in England out of 296 authorities (25.4 households per 1,000 compared with 13.4 per 1,000 nationally).

Public Concerns and Perception

The fear of crime in Lincolnshire has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

However, fear of crime in Lincolnshire is still relatively low. On a score of 1-10 where 10 is most fearful, the average score in 2023 is 4.31.

Public confidence in a range of public services is deteriorating, while tax rates increase, raising increasing legitimacy concerns

It is clear to see that the SNA has highlighted specific localities and cohorts of individuals within the county that will benefit from a targeted and bespoke approach to address community safety concerns with a focus on prevention.

The SNA provided contextual information to assist with understanding possible drivers for changes in trends and potential underpinning causative factors related to crime and disorder in Lincolnshire. Thematic areas identified included emotional well-being, unemployment, substance misuse, deprivation and the cost of living, and online harms. When developing our approach for 2025-2028 the deliverables must take account of these contextual findings in relation to complexity, need and vulnerability.

Considering findings noted in the SNA we need to ensure that we are engaging and communicating effectively with Lincolnshire communities. This will be essential to ensure that we are working with the public to not only respond to their concerns but also to signpost communities to reporting mechanisms and highlight positive activity that is taking place across the county. Stakeholder engagement and communication will be essential to inform our model of delivery and approach for 2025-2028.

Following extensive and robust strategic consideration of the findings from the SNA and subsequent gap analysis, the SLP has decided to take a different approach to better respond to the concerns identified.

Our Approach 2025-2028

During 2025-2028 the SLP will move to a project-based approach to meet our statutory duties. This is to ensure that activity undertaken is targeted where it is most needed, aligns to our statutory duties and ensures the effective and efficient use of our shared resources. The projects will be grounded in an evidence base, time limited, specific and based on the needs of our communities. Each project will have specific deliverables and focus on prevention, early intervention and community and voluntary collaboration. This approach allows us to be fluid and agile.

All projects will be underpinned by routine data scanning and analytical insight. The strategic group will regularly evaluate and analyse emerging trends to then divert resources into appropriate projects. Projects will always focus on the statutory duties of the SLP (as outlined in the legislative framework on page 4) as well as the shared underpinning principles of working. Projects will be informed by findings from the SNA and wider fundamental principles, such but not limited to, tackling reoffending pathways, utilising incremental approaches to tackling Anti-social Behaviour and the responding to specific needs of women and girls at risk of entering the criminal Justice system.

Projects which fall under the governance of SLP will fall into one of three categories:

SLP universal offer:
Prevent, preventative education, Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews[1], data analysis, shared case management system

County wide projects:
can be focused on cohorts of people, systems, processes or issue based but cut across the County

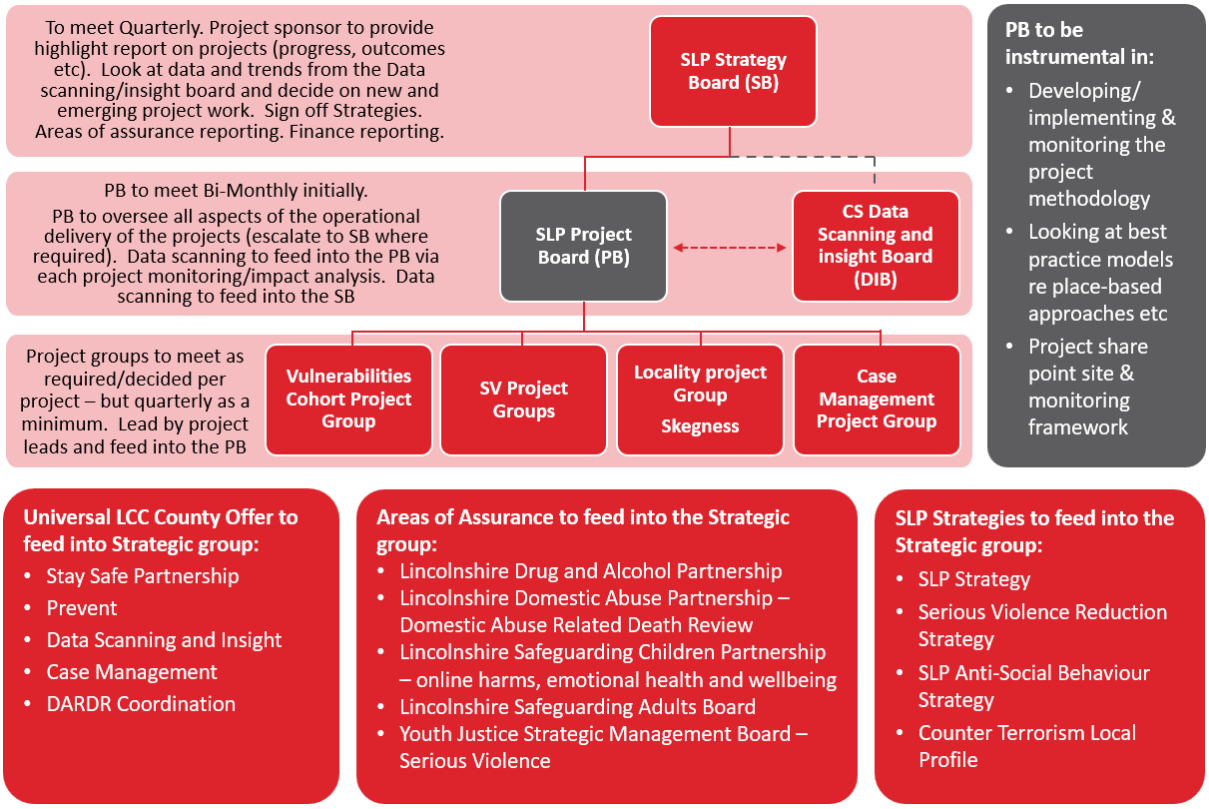
Local projects:
place based, cohorts, systems, process or issue based

[1] Statutory duty delegated to the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership

Structure

During 2025-2026 we will exit manage from our existing operating structure and commence the initial mobilisation of our revised structure and operational delivery model.

SLP Structure



Performance

Any activity delivered by the SLP will ensure that it is evidence based, involves stakeholders, tackles the underpinning causes of community safety concerns and utilises whole system approach.

All activity delivered requires collaboration and action at both a strategic and operational level with robust performance indicators in place to evidence success, impact and return on investment. The development of routine analytical scanning of data sets is essential to assist the partnership to respond effectively to emerging themes and trends.

In 2025-2026 we will introduce a new approach to enhance the data that is fed into the SLP, with a timelier injection of targeted data sets to assist with horizon scanning, including the identification of new or emerging trends. During this financial year the SLP will develop performance reporting mechanisms to actively monitor the project delivery.

Cross Cutting Relationships and Delivery

Within the context of this strategy assurance covers the provision of timely and accurate information of how wider boards, partnerships and partners are delivering their duties, functions and outcomes. Assurance incorporates arrangements for checks and balances, which are essential for proactive risk management, addressing factors identified in our strategic need assessment and enabling sustained performance. It also assists to manage delivery needs that are cross cutting and managed via a number of governance arrangements in Lincolnshire.

Assurance will be sought where findings from the SNA that would merit action fall outside of the governance of the SLP. Mechanisms for assurance will be established and mobilised during 2025-2026.

The nature of the findings will determine who we seek assurance from and are likely to include:

- The **Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership** (LSCP),
- the **Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board** (LSAB),
- the **Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership** (LDAP),
- the Lincolnshire **Youth Justice Strategic Management Board** (JYSMB).

Assurance will routinely be sought from the **Lincolnshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership,** due to our cross cutting statutory duties. This will be with particular reference to their strategic priorities of prevention, treatment and support, and enforcement and managing offending behaviour.

Existing routine assurance is provided to the SLP from the LDAP regarding the commissioning and completion of **Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DADRs)** in Lincolnshire. DARDRs were established on a statutory basis under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. A key part of prevention and early intervention, their main purpose is to prevent domestic violence and homicide. Furthermore, they seek to improve service responses for victims by developing a coordinated multi-agency approach to ensure that abuse is identified and responded to effectively at the earliest opportunity. The overall responsibility for establishing a review rest with the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP). In Lincolnshire, following the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, this duty is discharged from Safer Lincolnshire Partnership (SLP), the informally merged CSP's, to the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (LDAP).

The Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership (SSP) provides a single point of access to education programmes that are designed to help keep children and young people safe. This is delivered to early years through to college aged children and young people. The preventative education delivered is informed by data and analytical products, such as the SLP Strategic Needs Assessment, to ensure that it is adapting to new and emerging community safety concerns. It

has been agreed locally that the SLP will provide oversight and governance of the SSP. The is a key component of the prevention and early intervention principle of working under the SLP.

The SLP will continue to ensure that we have excellent links into other boards such as the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP), the Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB), the Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (LDAP). We will have a **cross-cutting themes delivery plan** that will be monitored on quarterly basis. Our approach will support each other's objectives and priorities, establishing cross cutting themes and joint initiatives that are delivered through close engagement and working relationships.

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 is comprised statutory agencies and representatives from supporting organisations from each of these local authority areas. The SELCSP utilises data from the SLP's Strategic Needs Assessment, Lincolnshire Police and local health profiles to identify specific crime and disorder areas of focus within their locality. To avoid duplication these priority focus areas, fall outside of the county wide strategic priorities of SLP. The SELCSP is committed to supporting the SLP with this approach, working in partnership on shared objectives. The SLP routinely provides representation at the SELCSP quarterly meeting.

Communication and Engagement

A communication and engagement strategy for the SLP will be developed during 2025-2026, initially communication and engagement activity will be via the following mechanisms:

- Strategic communication with the public will be delivered via the Lincolnshire Q Collaboration Communication Group. This group brings together a range of agencies to develop and share public facing communication campaigns. This approach ensures that messages received by the public in relation to community safety are consistent and evidence based. Based on findings from the SNA, the initial focus of the SLP's campaigns will be to focus on addressing the fear and perception of crime, signposting to reporting mechanisms and striving to increase confidence in local public services through sharing positive news stories.
- As part of the scoping activities for place-based projects we will liaise and engage with local communities and wider stakeholders. This will provide a platform to actively respond to our communities, share timely and relevant information and facilitate the development of longer-term community-based solutions.

Oversight and Scrutiny

Oversight and scrutiny of the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership is via the following mechanisms:

- Reporting annually to Lincolnshire County Councils Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Provide regular reports to Lincolnshire County Council's Chief Executive and portfolio holders'
- District Council Strategic Leaders provide regular reports to their committee meetings and portfolio holders to provide assurance that they are meeting their statutory duties.
- Annual Prevent Audit, led by the Home Office.
- Reporting back to central government as part of the statutory duty in relation to the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty.

Conclusion

The lawful basis for convening a Community Safety Partnership is established under Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This legislation mandates that responsible authorities in a local government area must work together to discharge their statutory duties through developing and implementing strategies to tackle crime and disorder.

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy embodies our commitment to creating safer communities, fostering collaboration, and addressing the challenges we face collectively. The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy reflects our shared vision and invites every resident, partner, and stakeholder to contribute to this important goal. Together, we can foster a future where Lincolnshire thrives as a safe and welcoming place for generations to come.

During 2025-2028 we will move to project-based approach to meet our statutory duties, following the completion of our strategic needs assessment and subsequent strategic review and gap analysis. This is to ensure that activity undertaken is targeted where it is most needed, aligns to our statutory duties and ensures the effective and efficient use of our shared resources. The projects will be grounded in an evidence base, time limited, specific and based on the needs of our communities. This approach allows us to be fluid and agile.

As partnership we will further develop our performance management framework and our communication and engagement strategy. These will be key deliverables during 2025-2026 to ensure that mobilisation of our updated approach is benchmarked, can evidence return on investment, impact on our communities whilst retaining a consultative and collaborative methodology. Our excellent links with wider governance structures will be maintained and further advanced through clear lines of assurance and the development of a cross-cutting themes delivery plan.

The strength of Lincolnshire lies in its people and their shared determination to make the county safer for all. The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy reflects our shared vision and invites every resident, partner, and stakeholder to contribute to this important goal.