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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

27 September 2021

Chairman: Councillor Robert Waltham
MBE

Venue: Conference Room,
Church Square House,
Scunthorpe

Time: 4.00 pm

E-Mail Address:
richard.mell@northlincs.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Personal or Personal and Prejudicial interests.
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 July 2021. (Pages 1 - 10)
3. To receive and where necessary approve and adopt the minutes of the meeting of the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee held on 25 June 2021. (Pages 11 - 18)
4. 2021/2022 Quarter 1 Financial Management and Medium Term Financial Plan Update (Pages 19 - 30)

Report of the Director: Governance and Partnerships

5. COVID-19 Mid Term Recovery Plan Update (Pages 31 - 44)

Report of the Director: Governance and Partnerships

6. Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/2024 (Pages 45 - 84)

Report of the Interim Director: Children and Community Resilience

7. Any other items which the Chairman decides are urgent by reason of special circumstances which must be specified.

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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

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12 July 2021

PRESENT: - Councillor Waltham MBE in the Chair.

Councillors Hannigan (vice-chair), J Davison, Marper, Ogg, Reed and Rose.

Denise Hyde, Simon Green, Mick Gibbs, Becky McIntyre, Helen Manderson, Karen Pavey, Peter Thorpe and Richard Mell attended the meeting.

The meeting was held at Church Square House, Scunthorpe.

- 1421 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS** – Councillor R Waltham MBE declared a personal interest that he was chair of the Humber Leadership Board (minute 1423 refers).
- 1422 **MINUTES - Resolved** - That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 22 March 2021 having been circulated amongst the members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the chair.
- 1423 **HUMBER LEADESHIP BOARD – Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 25 March 2021 be received, noted and where necessary approved and adopted.
- 1424 **GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE – Resolved** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 March 2021 be received, noted and where necessary approved and adopted.
- 1425 **COVID-19 EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATE** – The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director: Commercial on behalf of the Director of Public Health gave an oral presentation updating the cabinet on –
- UK level metrics/picture to date
 - North Lincolnshire cases and rates and neighbouring councils
 - Cases by demographics
 - Vaccination data
 - Hospital activity and deaths
 - National headline summary data and roadmap
 - Learning to live with the virus
 - Retaining proportionate test, trace and isolate plans
 - Managing risk at the national border and supporting a global response
 - Retaining contingency plans, monitoring data and reviewing measures
 - Summarising the role of local government

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Resolved – That the update report be noted and the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director: Commercial be thanked for the presentation.

1426 **HUMBER FREEPORT** – The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director: Commercial submitted a report updating Cabinet on progress with the Humber Freeport.

The report explained that on 16 November 2020, the Government launched a competitive bidding process for Freeports in England and sought proposals from bidding coalitions. A bidding coalition, reporting to the Humber Leadership Board chaired by North Lincolnshire Council’s Leader, including the four Humber local authorities along with private sector interest was formed to shape the Freeport bid. A bid was submitted in February 2021 that included Customs, Tax and Seed Capital sites across all four local authority areas. The Humber Freeport was announced as successful (subject to business case) in the Chancellor’s Budget (March 2021).

The outline business case was expected to be submitted to Government in the summer and the final business case in the Autumn with the first Freeports expected to be launched in November 2021. It was proposed that a Humber Freeport Company would be established and would be responsible for the delivery of the Freeport. The company board was expected to comprise the Leaders from the four Humber Unitary Authorities along with Associated British Ports (ABP) as the Statutory Harbour Authority, the two Local Enterprise Partnerships covering the area and private businesses.

For the purposes of the Humber Freeport CLG, the Accountable Body had been nominated by the Humber Leadership Board to be North East Lincolnshire Council. To move forward both the governance arrangements and the business cases, several agreements were required to be negotiated and agreed. These included, but were not limited to, Articles of Association for the CLG; Local Authority Services Agreements; Memorandum of Understanding and Site-specific agreements.

The Deputy Chief Executive in his report also summarised the Government’s ‘Build Back Better: Our Plan for Growth’ flagship programme for development of Freeports, the content and elements of the associated bidding prospectus, outlined the Humber Freeport bid and arrangements for the Humber Freeport Company as referred to above.

Resolved – (a) That the development of the Humber Freeport be supported and approved; (b) that Cabinet commits to the Freeport Memorandum of Understanding; (c) that the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, be authorised to develop and agree detailed documentation to enable the next stage of the Freeport to take place, and (d) that the recommendation of the Humber Leadership Board that North East Lincolnshire Council be appointed as the Accountable Body for the Humber Freeport be approved.

1427 **PROPOSED MERGER OF THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE AND GRIMSBY CORONER SERVICE AREA** – The Director: Governance and Partnerships submitted a report providing background and supporting information to enable a decision to be taken on whether to support the submission of an agreed joint business case from Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council to the Chief Coroner and Lord Chancellor to merge the two existing coroner areas to create a new, single Greater Lincolnshire coroner area, which would be coterminous with the three authorities. The business case was attached at appendix A. Other options were available to the including a shared Humberside coronial area, which were also considered in this report.

The Director in her report explained that North East Lincolnshire Council was the lead authority for providing the coroner service for the coroner area of North Lincolnshire and Grimsby. The Senior Coroner was appointed by the local authority but worked to the Chief Coroner under the Ministry of Justice. To support the Senior Coroner, the local authority had a duty to provide coroners officers, administrative support and suitable accommodation for the Senior Coroner to undertake his/her duties to the area. There were currently 88 coroner areas in England and Wales. In 2016 updated guidance was issued by the Chief Coroner on the merger of coroner areas, which followed the recommendations in the Luke Review of 2003 that recommended: “the number of coroner areas, should be reduced in order to create sensibly sized coroner areas, taking into account the number of reported deaths, geographical size and types of coroner work in the area”. The Chief Coroner and Ministry of Justice had recently reiterated their long-term plan to reduce the number of coroner areas to 75 and to explore the opportunity of merger of coroner areas when the opportunity arose.

Consequently, in December 2018 the Senior Coroner for North Lincolnshire and Grimsby retired and the Chief Coroner and Ministry of Justice confirmed that the current coroner area was too small to be maintained and that a merger with neighbouring coroner areas should be explored. Since that time the Chief Coroner and Ministry of Justice had only agreed to the appointment of an acting Senior Coroner for the area but not a permanent replacement pending exploration of options for merger. Furthermore, following the departure of the Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire in September 2020 a similar embargo had been placed on the Lincolnshire Coroners Service by the Chief Coroner and Ministry of Justice in recruiting a permanent Senior Coroner.

Discussions had been held with both the Hull and East Riding Coroner Service (for which Hull City Council is the lead authority) to create a new ‘Humberside’ coroner area and latterly and more substantively, under the auspices of an officer project group, with the Lincolnshire Coroners Service (for which Lincolnshire County Council is the administering authority) to create a new ‘Greater Lincolnshire’ coroner area. At its Cabinet meeting on 23 November 2020, Hull City Council resolved to make an application to the Chief Coroner for the merger of the two current coroner areas that covered the area for the Humber, namely the East Riding and Hull area and the North Lincolnshire and Grimsby area to create a new integrated Humberside coroner area. A copy of the supporting business case was included as Appendix B.

At its meeting on 25 June 2021, the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee resolved that a merger of the current coroner areas for North Lincolnshire

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and Grimsby and Lincolnshire be pursued to develop a new coroner area for Greater Lincolnshire, with Lincolnshire County Council as the lead authority for the new Coroner Service.

The Directors report outlined and examined the following three options for the Cabinet to consider –

- Option 1 – maintain the current North Lincolnshire and Grimsby coroner area.
- Option 2 – agree to proceed with the Greater Lincolnshire business case and work with partners to develop a merged service plan for a new Greater Lincolnshire coroner area.
- Option 3 - agree to proceed with the Humberside business case and work with partners to develop a merged service plan for a new Humberside coroner area.

Resolved – (a) That Option 2 above be approved, with the making of an application to the Chief Coroner and Lord Chancellor for the merger of the two current coroner areas for North Lincolnshire and Grimsby, and Lincolnshire to create a new Greater Lincolnshire coroner area, with Lincolnshire County Council acting as the lead authority for the new coroner service thereunder, and (b) that further reports be submitted to Cabinet on progress of this proposal, as appropriate.

1428 **FINANCIAL POSITION UPDATE 2020/2021** – The Director: Governance and Partnerships submitted a report which informed Cabinet of the Council’s financial performance in 2020/21 highlighting that the revenue investment plan of £152.0m, was 5% spend below budget, capital investment of £28.1m, was 64% delivery against plan, and there was enhanced financial resilience through £25.4m contribution to reserves.

The report explained that the Council had set a revenue and capital budget for 2020/21 at its meeting in February 2020. The total revenue investment for delivery of its functions and strategic priorities was set at £152.0m and the capital investment limit for 2020/21 at £47.3m, although the net effect of additional investment and rephasing reduced this to £43.9m. The table in Appendix 1 provided a summary of the actual use of revenue and capital funding against the planned use in 2020/21. The council had also been able to strengthen its financial resilience and contributed £25.4m to reserves in 2020/21. Appendix 2 provides the reserves account in detail.

The Medium-Term Financial plan approved in February 2021 included the capital programme 2020/24 totalling £127.2m, this was updated to reflect actual investment in 2020/21 as set out at Appendix 3. By law, the annual accounts must be published in draft by the end of May each year and a final audited version published by the end of July. The Government had recognised the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID 19 pandemic and had again amended this timetable to end of July 2021 for draft accounts and end of September 2021 for publication of the final audited accounts.

An overview of the Council’s financial position for 20220/21 and the main implications for future revenue budgets were summarised by the Director in her report under the following headings –

- Outturn Overview 2020/21, and
- Outturn Impact on Future Financial Years

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Resolved – (a) That the final revenue investment of the council for 2020/21 be noted; (b) that the final capital investment of the council for 2020/21 be noted; (c) that the council’s reserves position for 2020/21 be noted; (d) that the changes to the accounts timetable for 2020/21 be noted, and (e) that the restatement of the capital programme at Appendix 3 of the report which includes the allocation of £3.3m from the Capital Investment Allocation as match funding to support the Future High Street Fund thereby securing £10.7m grant investment for North Lincolnshire, be approved.

1429 **COUNCIL PLAN 2018-21 AND COVID-19 MID-TERM RECOVERY PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW** – The Director Governance and Partnerships submitted a report presenting a review against the Council Plan 2018-21 in the context of the COVID-19 response and mid-term recovery plan. The operating environment during 2020-21 had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the report outlined how the council had responded and adjusted our responsibilities in the implementation of government guidelines whilst continuing to deliver its core business and improve outcomes for people and place. The council’s priorities in the Council Plan 2018-21 described the actions the council would take and these were extended to incorporate its COVID-19 Mid-term recovery plan:

Keeping people safe and well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work hard to keep people safe • Lead partnership working across North Lincolnshire to promote wellbeing and improve health outcomes for everyone • Prioritise the most vulnerable • Provide cleaner and greener space for people to enjoy and use • Reduce the spread of COVID-19 • Protect the most vulnerable in our communities from the impact of COVID-19
Enabling resilient and flourishing communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people in their wellbeing through trusted sources of information, advice and guidance • Enable our residents to become more involved in community life • Engage in new conversations about the things that matter most to you • Work in partnership with voluntary and community groups and organisations in COVID-19 recovery • Enable communities to shape the recovery landscape
Enabling economic growth and renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market North Lincolnshire as a place to live, work, visit and invest, • Enable partnership working with businesses to attract high skilled jobs • Invest in town centres including securing external funding • Provide space for businesses and population to grow through new commercial and housing developments • Strive for higher education standards and skills • Protect the local economy through strengthened business support • Stimulate growth through capital investment and infrastructure
Well led council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the focus on workforce wellbeing • Ensure financial resilience and sustainability

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure effective business continuity through prioritisation of key services and functions
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The Director in her report explained that as well as responding to the implications of national restrictions, the council continued to keep services running and adapting to the changing environment, led the prevention and management of local outbreaks and worked with businesses and partners to drive economic recovery and growth and in partnership with NHS to enable the successful commencement of the vaccination programme. Appendix 1 of the report provided an executive summary of how the council responded and adjusted its responsibilities in the implementation of government guidelines whilst continuing to deliver core business and improving outcomes for people and place.

The Council continued to contribute at sub-regional level as part of the Humber Local Resilience Forum (LRF) where emergency response planning was required at scale across multiple agencies. The Humber LRF stepped down the emergency response arrangements in June 2021 and the recovery phase continued through the Humber Recovery Group. The emergency response arrangements would be stepped up again if required.

The Council had also worked closely with the regional health protection team, Public Health England, including the Department of Health and Social Care, Department of Education, Ministry for Communities Housing and Local Government and Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy in respect of the local response and arrangements. Local partnership arrangements had been further strengthened working collaboratively to reduce the spread of the virus and minimize the impact to our residents. Progress on the North Lincolnshire Local Outbreak Management Plan was reported regularly to the Health and Wellbeing Board whose role was extended to be public facing outbreak oversight group.

The report also provided a summary of the council's related financial position and resilience of its workforce over the 2020/21 year.

Resolved – (a) That the contents of the report be noted and the continued delivery of priority actions as reset and prepare for renewal be supported; (b) that a more detailed review of the Council Plan be presented to the Autumn meeting of Cabinet, when national performance data has been validated, and (c) that the publication of a review report highlighting the achievements against the council plan and response to the COVID-19 pandemic be supported.

DIRECTOR'S POSITION STATEMENTS 2021 – Reports were submitted to Cabinet providing members with an annual review of their responsible service areas against the Council Plan 2018-21 in the context of the COVID-19 response and mid-term recovery plan. The reports provided an overview of performance for the year and achievement against the ambitions, goals and priorities of the council plan. They also informed cabinet of the work undertaken across services to support the response to the pandemic and contribution to the COVID-19 mid-term recovery plan priorities. As part of the next phase of strategic planning the reports highlighted areas of focus for 2021-22 and beyond.

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Key headlines contributing to the Council Plan and COVID-19 priorities were addressed by all Directors under the following or similar headings –

- Well Led: Business Continuity
- Well Led: Transformation
- Well Led: Financial Resilience and Sustainability
- Well Led: Governance and Assurance
- Keeping People Safe and Well
- Keeping the Workforce Safe and Well
- Enabling Resilient and Flourishing Communities
- Enabling Economic Growth and Renewal
- COVID Recovery Plan
- Future Developments

The following Director's Position Statements were considered by the Cabinet -

- 1430 (i) Director's Position Statement: Operations – Report submitted by the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director: Commercial.

Resolved – That the contribution made to the Council Plan strategic ambitions and response made to date to the COVID-19 pandemic and mid-term recovery as outlined in the report be noted.

- 1431 (ii) Director's Position Statement: Adults and Community Wellbeing – Report submitted by the Director: Adults and Community Wellbeing.

Resolved – That the contribution made to the Council Plan strategic ambitions, outcomes and priorities including the response made to date to the COVID-19 pandemic and mid-term recovery as outlined in the report be noted.

- 1432 (iii) Director's Position Statement: Business Development – Report of the Director: Business Development.

Resolved - That the content of the report and the contribution that the Business Development Service has made to the Councils Strategic Plan and the response to the pandemic be noted.

- 1433 (iv) Director's Position Statement: Children and Community Resilience – Report of the Director: Community Resilience.

Resolved – That the contribution made to the Council Plan ambitions, goals, priorities and outcomes, including the response made to the COVID-19 pandemic and the mid-term recovery be noted.

- 1434 (v) Director's Position Statement: Learning, Skills and Culture – Report of the Director: Learning, Skills and Culture.

Resolved - That the contribution made to the Council Plan strategic ambitions and response made to date to the covid-19 pandemic and mid-term recovery as outlined in the report be noted.

- 1435 (vi) Director's Position Statement: Governance and Partnerships – Report of the Director: Governance and Partnerships.

The Chief Executive also commented on the success of the fantastic work carried out by officers led by the leadership team under the direction of the cabinet and wished to thank everyone for all their hard work over the last year and continuing into the future recovery phase from the pandemic.

Resolved – (a) That the contribution made to the Council Plan strategic ambitions, outcomes and priorities including the response made to date to the COVID-19 pandemic and mid-term recovery as outlined in the report be noted, and (b) that all officers and their teams across the council be thanked for their dedicated, hard work throughout the previous challenging year during the pandemic.

- 1436 **LEVELLING UP FUND** – The Director: Business Development submitted a report providing Cabinet with an update on the council's Levelling Up submission made to Government.

The report explained that the Levelling Up Fund was announced by the Government at the 2020 Spending Review to support communities in realising their vision. The Fund would focus on capital investment in local infrastructure thereby building on and consolidating prior programmes such as the Local Growth Fund and Towns Fund. Government had recognised that levelling up required a multi-faceted approach, from supercharging our city regions, to supporting our struggling towns, to catalysing industrial clusters in the sectors that would drive the future economy – the Fund would deliver as part of a broad package of complementary UK-wide interventions, including:

- The UK Community Renewal Fund,
- The UK Community Ownership Fund,
- The Plan for Jobs,
- The Freeports programme,
- The UK Infrastructure Bank, and
- The Towns Fund.

The report stated that councils can submit one bid for every MP whose constituency lies wholly within their boundary. Every local authority can submit at least one bid. In North Lincolnshire where an MP's constituency crosses multiple local authorities, one local authority should take responsibility as the lead bidder and local areas should work together to designate that lead bidder. The Fund would focus investment in, individual projects or a programme of projects that required up to £20m of funding. However, there was also scope for investing in larger high value transport projects, by exception.

The first round of the Fund would focus on three themes: smaller transport projects that make a genuine difference to local areas; town centre and high street regeneration; and

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support for maintaining and expanding the portfolio of cultural and heritage assets, in particular:

- Transport investments,
- Regeneration and town centre investment and
- Cultural investment.

North Lincolnshire Council as a priority one area had submitted three package bids, which were set out in the report. The bids were aligned with the council's Economic Growth Plan, emerging Local Plan and Towns Fund Programme. Support was in place from the areas three constituent MPs and there was also an opportunity to submit a joint bid with North East Lincolnshire Council in the priority two round. North Lincolnshire Council was acting as lead bidder with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the first package.

Resolved – (a) That the submission of the council's Levelling Up bids to Government as set out in the report be noted, and (b) that a further report outlining the details of the three packages of work as the full business cases are completed be submitted to a future meeting.

- 1437 **THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE IMAGINATION LIBRARY REPORT 2021 –**
The Director: Learning, Skills and Culture submitted a report seeking approval of and to publish the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library Report 2021, which was attached as an appendix. The report was a celebration of the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library and the many achievements that have been enabled for children and families. It also sets out our plans for the future ensuring that children's early literacy continued to be a priority within North Lincolnshire.

The report stated that the North Lincolnshire Imagination Library continued to go from strength to strength and was promoted as a model of international excellence. North Lincolnshire's Imagination Library was the highest achieving UK programme since its launch in 2013.

By working in partnership and taking a 'One Family Approach' the council had created a pathway of expertise and resources that were easily accessible, creative, and simple which enabled families to build and extend their children's home learning environment. Almost 2,000 residents access the North Lincolnshire Imagination Monthly newsletter for ideas and inspiration. Sharing books in the home supported so much more than a love of reading. Time together enjoying books promoted secure attachments that support the development of confidence, self-esteem, health, and well-being.

Resolved - That the Imagination Library Report for 2021 be received, approved and published.

- 1438 **MR M GIBBS – DIRECTOR: CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY RESLIENCE –**
The Leader informed the Cabinet that this would be Mick Gibbs's last meeting as he was retiring at the end of July 2021. He thanked Mick for his hard work and commitment to the council from its beginning in 1996 and for changing and improving the lives of many children and families over the years especially during his outstanding

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leadership. He emphasised that Mick would be incredibly missed and always be held in the highest regard by members and officers.

Mick thanked the Leader for his comments and stated that he had been proud to work for North Lincolnshire Council and had thoroughly enjoyed his time, especially the support of members, senior leaders and all staff. He confirmed that if he hadn't decided to retire, he would only choose to work for North Lincolnshire Council whose council plan and ambitions for people and place are the right ones going forward. He also thanked all children and families for their resilience during the ongoing pandemic.

Resolved – That Mr M Gibbs be thanked for his hard work and commitment to North Lincolnshire Council over the years and that he enjoys a long, healthy and happy retirement.

**LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE JOINT STRATEGIC
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

25 June 2021

PRESENT: -

Members –

Councillor M Hill (Lincolnshire County Council) in the Chair.

Councillor P Bradwell (Lincolnshire County Council),
Councillors R Waltham and R Hannigan (North Lincolnshire Council),
Councillors P Jackson and C Proctor (North East Lincolnshire Council), and
Pat Doody (Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership).

Officers –

Debbie Barnes, Lee Sirdifield Sara Barry and Diane Coulson (Lincolnshire County Council,
Denise Hyde and Simon Green (North Lincolnshire Council),
Rob Walsh (North East Lincolnshire Council) and
Ruth Carver (Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership).

Richard Mell (Secretariat – North Lincolnshire Council).

The meeting was held at the Town Hall, Grimsby.

9. **SUBSTITUTIONS** – Councillor C Proctor substituted for Councillor S Shreeve.
10. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – No declarations of interest were declared by members.
11. **MINUTES – Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee held on 19 March 2021 be approved as a correct record and authorise the chair to sign.
12. **STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE** – The Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council submitted a report which informed the Joint Committee of and confirmed proposed joint principles and definitions of strategic infrastructure across Greater Lincolnshire, and based upon these principles identified, confirmed and prioritised the joint strategic infrastructure needs that needed to be addressed on a Joint Lincolnshire basis.

The report explained that recently local authorities across greater Lincolnshire and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had collaborated to create a single pipeline of schemes which arose from the Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the LEP Plan for Growth. The pipeline was debated at the LEP board on 23rd April

2021 and there were plans to have a similar debate with local authorities following the recent elections. This pipeline provided the best overview of project ambitions, but it was not comprehensive, and its delivery would require significant leadership. The single pipeline included a number of transport and of flood management/water management schemes. These were large scale schemes which would require a strategic dialogue with the Department for Transport, Midlands Connect, Transport for the North, the Environment Agency, and other bodies in order for them to progress.

To build upon direction and momentum it was proposed that the Joint Committee identified core principles of how to define a true cross cutting infrastructure project or programme that benefitted the whole of the Greater Lincolnshire sub-region, demonstrated issues of joint interest for the Joint Committee's members, and from that identified key infrastructure programmes where a unified greater Lincolnshire approach could add real value. On this basis the role of the Joint Committee was one of "lifting" such programmes and projects from these plans, spotting key strategic gaps and commissioning where a unified Greater Lincolnshire approach would be more beneficial and adding clear strategic oversight and support.

The Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council in his report proposed guiding principles of strategic Greater Lincolnshire infrastructure programmes or projects with:

- Clear intra-boundary evidence led need and resulting economic, environmental or social benefit for Greater Lincolnshire.
- Strategic fit within existing Greater Lincolnshire supporting documentation and where active awareness of each other's key infrastructure projects will enable better strategic planning and deployment.
- Where a Greater Lincolnshire collaborative approach would enhance a programme / projects success of successful bidding for funds.

Based upon these principles it was proposed that the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee agrees to take on board the strategic oversight of the following infrastructure programmes and projects which were set out and described in the report under the following headings –

- Programme: strategic road transport corridors –
Trans Midlands Trade Corridor
A1 capacity improvements between Peterborough and Blyth
- Programme: strategic rail links –
East – West South Humber Rail Link
Cleethorpes to London direct rail link
- Programme: water and flood management -
Development and implementation of the Humber and East Coast Flood Strategies
Fluvial and surface water strategies
- Programme: digital infrastructure -
Acceleration of roll-out of gigabit technology to all parts of greater Lincolnshire
Pilot schemes

- Programme: active travel -
Cycling and walking strategies
Passenger transport
- Programme: energy and utilities -
Local Area Energy Framework
- Programme: carbon management -
Infrastructure for carbon management

In addition, the report proposed that due their potential size of investment and bidding nature at present was an oversight of the strategic highway infrastructure programmes being submitted by the three member authorities as part of the Government's 'Levelling Up' ambition.

- NLC = Brigg Link Road, Barton By-Pass, South Humber Freight Strategy.
- NELC = West Grimsby Relief Road
- LCC = Spalding western relief road, Lincoln to Skegness coastal highway, improved traffic flows in Boston and Skegness

It was also proposed that as part of the programme management approach previously agreed that a coordinated update report be presented to the Joint Committee on a quarterly basis through the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Intelligence Strategy Unit to ensure members have clear sight of progress and synergy through such an approach. This would allow the Joint Committee to have strategic capacity and oversight whilst also be aware of the performance of each of the strands of activity. The Joint Committee's role was to take action on exception reporting and to agree strategic direction.

Members also discussed the need for consideration of (i) an associated 'Infrastructure Plan' aligned with a strategic marketing strategy and clear narrative and position statement for Greater Lincolnshire, and (ii) coordination of communicating/negotiating with regional partners and government across boundaries.

Resolved – (a) That the proposed principles of strategic infrastructure be agreed; (b) that the proposed infrastructure themes identified and associated key funding bids be approved; (c) that the need for collaborative working and an outcome based approach on strategic infrastructure be reinforced and where it can the Joint Committee add value to the need to speak to Government with one voice; (d) that the anticipated need for enhanced resources be noted, but that any subsequent decision regarding resource allocation be subject to a future further report containing details and implications, and (e) that a report(s) on (i) proposals for an associated 'Infrastructure Plan' aligned with a strategic marketing strategy and clear narrative and position statement for Greater Lincolnshire and (ii) coordination of communicating/negotiating with regional partners and government across boundaries, be submitted to a future meeting.

13. **INDUSTRIAL DE-CARBONISATION** – The Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council submitted a report informing the Joint Committee of progress within the Industrial De-Carbonisation agenda and highlighted key existing work strands within the De-Carbonisation approach and which organisation would lead on them.

The report explained that to ensure that existing industrial sectors within Greater Lincolnshire remained competitive and that re-investment occurs, in addition to the public policy agenda of reducing the carbon footprint of business to meet Government targets, the De-Carbonisation agenda had gathered some considerable momentum over the last few years. This had been reflected in the decision by the Joint Committee to select De-Carbonisation as one of its key sectors of oversight. Also due to the scale of the issue and by its very nature its explicit reliance on all organisations undertaking complementary activity it was agreed that the Greater Lincolnshire activity should align and complement with that already underway through the auspices of the Humber Leadership Board. To ensure that a strategic fit and complementarity occurs a joint oversight group had been established, chaired by North Lincolnshire Council.

The Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council in his report explained that the 'De-Carbonisation Joint Oversight Group had met twice with representation from: North Lincolnshire Council, Greater Lincolnshire LEP, Humber and East Yorkshire LEP, CATCH, Orsted and Marketing Humber. Guiding principles of the group were:

- To ensure that De-Carbonisation projects and programmes are aligned in their strategic direction and positioning and that economies of scope can be achieved.
- That through this approach any unnecessary duplication of resource is removed.
- That common platforms and data can be shared
- Where a Greater Lincolnshire / Humber collaborative approach would enhance a programme / projects success of successful bidding for funds.
- Increasingly national strategies are framed within a decarbonisation agenda and the group therefore can ensure a Greater Lincolnshire context for national engagement and programme delivery

Discussions had centred around coherent messaging, brand development and further research into activity. Existing large-scale projects included:

- Humber Industrial Cluster Plan (CATCH / HER LEP)
- Waterline (Marketing Humber)
- Greater Lincolnshire Energy Council – Energy Investment Proposition (GL LEP)
- Humber Zero (P66 + private sector + Innovate UK Govt)
- Renewables Cluster Initiative (Orsted)
- East Coast Hydrogen (Centrica)
- Green Growth Plan (GL LEP)

Future activity was to research and audit the full extent of activity within the Humber and Greater Lincolnshire region, the relevant targets set (to seek a standardisation where possible) and from this develop a coherent narrative and associated target audience mapping.

The report proposed that as part of the programme management approach previously agreed that a coordinated update report be presented to the Joint Committee on a quarterly basis through the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Intelligence Strategy Unit to ensure members have clear sight of progress and synergy through such an approach. This would allow the Joint Committee to have strategic capacity and oversight whilst also be aware of the performance of each of the strands of activity. The Joint Committee's role was to take action on exception reporting and to agree strategic direction.

Resolved – (a) That the information and progress made be noted; (b) that the future direction as outlined in the report be supported; (c) that the need for collaborative working and an outcome based approach on the subject of De-Carbonisation be reinforced, and where it can the Joint Committee add value to the need to speak to Government with one voice, and (d) that the anticipated need for enhanced resources be noted, but that any subsequent decision regarding resource allocation be subject to a future further report containing details and implications.

14. **UK FOOD VALLEY** – The Chief Executive, Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) provided a verbal update report providing the Joint Committee with progress since the last meeting in held in March 2021.

Her report confirmed that the principles of the UK Food Valley Business Plan considered by the Joint Committee at its last meeting had now been approved by the GLLEP Board at its meeting in April 2021. Following this a logo and a microsite had been developed and an interim UK Food Valley Director appointed until September 2021 using LEP funding.

The Chief Executive GLLEP summarised work under the following headings –

- **Inward Investment Trade Mission**, November 2021 – working with the Department for International Trade involving interested investors meeting 'the market' in relation to those financial organisations providing funding for the sector.
- **Investors Conference for Greater Lincolnshire and the UK Food Valley** – November 2021 working with all partners and Department for International Trade.
- **Funding Bids Submitted** – (i) £1m bid submitted with partners to the 'Community Renewal Fund' for the UK Food Valley which would test the principles of the Business Plan through the Business Support Programme, including De-Carbonisation in the food sector especially 'Cold Storage' and 'Transportation' and also innovation and to amplify the 'inward investment' message. (ii) A bid to national government through the comprehensive spending review to make the bigger the UK Food Valley Programme.
- **Current Inward Investment Activity** – Out of 35 current inward investment enquiries in Greater Lincolnshire, 20 are in the food sector, which included private sector organisations working with the public sector.

- **Next Steps** – (i) A proposal to operate a small team in the future to amplify messages nationally and a longer-term programme to support the growth of the sector. Guidance is being provided by the GLLEP Food Board whose membership includes representatives 25 of the largest food companies.

Members also discussed the need to consider as part of this ongoing project work the inclusion of (i) minimising and reducing food packaging (ii) reducing food waste during manufacturing and by consumers, and (iii) new trading patterns, positioning and opportunities post membership of the European Union.

Resolved – That the Chief Executive, GLLEP be thanked for her informative progress report, the position be noted, and further reports be submitted to future meetings.

15. **LINCOLNSHIRE DAY** – The Executive Director: Place, Lincolnshire County Council submitted a report which set out proposals for maximising the impact of Lincolnshire Day and sought continued support from each partner authority on a programme of activities, and recommended approval of a proposed programme of activity to promote and celebrate Lincolnshire Day.

The report stated that since the last meeting of the joint committee discussions had been held with BBC local radio across the region to garner their support for proposed Lincolnshire Day activities this year, and representatives from partner councils had met to develop proposals providing opportunities for partner councils, communities and schools to celebrate Lincolnshire Day and promote local businesses and the visitor economy across Greater Lincolnshire.

The Executive Director: Place, Lincolnshire County Council in his report requested that the Joint Committee consider three key elements of this year's Lincolnshire Day celebrations the details of which were set out under the following headings –

- (i) Civic Celebration
- (ii) Great Lincolnshire Menu
- (iii) Schools

He also stated that to further promote the day within our communities, contact would also be made with town and parish councils and other local organisations and businesses encouraging them to decorate for Lincolnshire Day. An amount of flags or bunting could be bought to distribute to interested towns and parishes on a first-come-first-served basis and a suite of digital resources would to be produced for each authority to use on their website and social media channels in the run up to, and on Lincolnshire Day.

Members of the joint Committee emphasised the importance of promotion and publicity across all three key elements, and requested that officers give consideration to (i) including other community groups (ii) consult the Lincolnshire Association on their involvement in promoting the day (iii) involving tree and shrub planting with schools as a green element of celebrations (iv) involving known Greater Lincolnshire

chefs to promote locally produced and cooked food (v) involve café, pubs and restaurants and (vi) reconnect and involve the Federation of Small Businesses across Greater Lincolnshire.

Resolved – That the content of the report and the development of the initiatives through engagement with key stakeholders be agreed and supported, with the addition of suggestions presented and discussed by members highlighted (i) to (vi) in the last paragraph above.

16. **PROPOSED MERGER OF THE GRIMSBY AND NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS AREA WITH THE LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS AREA TO CREATE A GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE CORONERS AREA** – The Executive Director:

Resources, Lincolnshire County Council submitted a report providing the background and supporting information to enable a recommendation on whether to support the submission of an agreed joint business case from Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council to the Her Majesty's Chief Coroner. The business case proposed the merger of the two existing coronial areas to create a single area, to be named Greater Lincolnshire which would be coterminous with the three authorities. The business case proposed a model on how the service would be structured, financed and governed by the three authorities.

The Executive Director: Resources in his report explained that there were currently 88 coroner areas in England and Wales. The Chief Coroner and the Ministry of Justice have had a joint long-term plan to reduce this to around 75. On the retirement of the Senior Coroner for Grimsby and North Lincolnshire in December 2018, North and North East Lincolnshire Councils were informed their area was too small to be maintained as a separate area and they should seek to merge with another area. Discussions have been on-going since this date, delays have occurred due to the Coronavirus pandemic. An alternative business case was submitted to the Chief Coroner by Hull and East Riding to create a Humberside Coroners Area in 2019.

The Chief Coroner has been informed of the collaborative approach to developing a Greater Lincolnshire option and therefore had currently stayed the decision process, prior to receiving the proposal attached, in summer 2021. Mergers were made by Statutory Instrument; the process was outlined in appendix 1 of the report.

The Greater Lincolnshire proposal had been developed with these underpinning principles –

- (i) No increase in cost to any of the three authorities.
- (ii) Phased approach to cost sharing to ensure (i)
- (iv) Staff and service delivery (inquests) retained in current localities to ensure communities are served appropriately.
- (v) Shared governance through committee and operational board. Including decisions on moving to next phase, and
- (vi) Adoption of relevant IT and technological solutions to improve service to the public and drive efficiencies.

The report stated that a business case proforma has been provided by the Ministry of Justice which was currently a working document. Key areas were outlined in the report under the headings – ‘Operational Structure and Governance’ which proposed as option C that Lincolnshire County Council becomes the lead authority with North East Lincolnshire Council staff transferred across to Lincolnshire CC and a phased approach to cost sharing be adopted, especially around contracts. The revised service would adopt a single operating process supported by a single software program. Governance of the merger would sit with the Joint Committee with a possible operational board with officers from all three authorities reporting to it, and ‘Finance’ which gave a detailed breakdown of current and future financing phases and any associated future savings. Consultation on the agreed proposal would be carried out with key stakeholders.

Resolved – (a) That Option C identified above and as described in the Executive Director’s report be recommended as the preferred model for a merged coronial service for Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council; (b) that it be recommended to member councils to submit jointly the merger business case to Her Majesty’s Chief Coroner for England and Wales on basis described in the report including the model and phasing of shared financial arrangements,(c) that it be recommended that the Joint Committee oversees the governance of this merger supported by an operational board, and (d) that member councils give consideration to options for future ‘Employment Models’ to sustain and develop collaborative working of services and they be reported to a future meeting.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

2021/22 Q1 Financial Management and Medium-Term Financial Plan Update

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1. To provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's in-year financial position.
- 1.2. To note the latest revenue budget and approve the revised capital programme
- 1.3. To set out the Council's updated medium term financial planning position.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1. On 25th February 2021, the Council approved a Financial Strategy which set the framework for its revenue and capital investment plans in 2021/22 and over the medium term. The financial strategy is designed to support successful delivery of the Council Plan and the Local Plan, maximising outcomes for the people and place of North Lincolnshire. It also made a series of adjustments in respect of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.2. The medium-term financial plan represents an amalgamation of financial and non-financial assumptions which form the basis of how much resource the Council expects to have available to invest in its priorities and to ensure it continues to fulfil its duties effectively.
- 2.3. Despite a challenging operating environment in 2020/21 brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council was able to manage risk effectively and contain cost within available resources. This resulted in a successful outturn, which provides a sound platform for 2021/22. Whilst restrictions are now significantly lessened, the pandemic continues to provide uncertainty and requires the Council to be ready to adapt to changes at short notice. It is within this context that Council is operating, and as such financial forecasts contained in this report could vary if national and local circumstances change, particularly at short notice. As has been the case since March 2020, the Council's forecasts continue to be based on the best information held at that point in time.
- 2.4. This report informs Cabinet on how the approved budget is progressing based on the first three months of the financial year. Cabinet will receive further updates in November (quarter two), January/February (quarter

three) and March (indication of outturn). The final outturn will then be brought before Cabinet in summer 2022.

- 2.5. The Council continues to manage its resources to deliver the Council Plan, responding to the pandemic and ensuring business continuity through the recovery and renewal phase of the pandemic. Financial management and planning processes support our resource management and facilitate the journey to long-term financial sustainability.
- 2.6. The purpose of this report is to take stock of the in-year financial position and provide an update on the financial planning process.

Revenue 2021/22

- 2.7. The current approved revenue and capital budget and potential expenditure at outturn for 2021/22 can be seen in Appendix 1. Based upon financial management information at Q1 a balanced position is projected with net operating costs of £163m. This position has been enabled by application of the COVID-19 funding allocated for use in 2021/22.
- 2.8. In total, the Council has received £113.2m in Covid-19 direct and indirect funding since the start of the pandemic. By Q1 in 2021/22, £95.4m had been utilised to support the Council response, enable communities and through allocation of grants to businesses. During the remainder of 2021/22, Covid-19 grants will continue to be utilised in line with the grant conditions to support recovery and renewal.

Capital 2021/22

- 2.9. There are a series of capital adjustments necessary to ensure the programme remains aligned with delivery timescales and the Council Plan.
- 2.10. The in-year position can be seen in Appendix 1, with anticipated rephasing and a revised programme showing amendments to externally funded schemes summarised in Appendix 4.

Reserves

- 2.11. The Council approved a reserve strategy which governs the deployment of reserve balances, and links to identified risk which reserves exist to cover. The reserve strategy will be updated as part of the financial planning process, in recognition of the changing balance of risks and opportunities both in the Local Government operating environment and to ensure achievement of the council's objectives.

Budget Adjustments

- 2.12. Several adjustments to the revenue budget have been made, as the Council continually seeks to align budgets with delivery of the Council Plan. The adjustments have all been made under delegated powers and are summarised in Appendix 3.

Treasury Management

- 2.13. The Council is continuing to manage cash balances and debt in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy. Capital financing costs are expected to be lower than budget at outturn, reflecting the rephasing of the capital programme as the pandemic continues to impact delivery timelines, and a better cash flow position due to the difference in timing between grants being received and spent. As a result, the cost of capital financing ratio in 2021/22 is expected to be marginally lower than the forecast in the budget papers to Full Council.
- 2.14. The Council's borrowing at the end of June 2021 was £158.2m and is expected to remain lower than had been forecast throughout the course of the year due to a change in the profile and timing of expenditure and income cash flows.
- 2.15. Appendix 5 sets out the prudential indicators for 2021/22 approved by Full Council on 25th February 2021, and the current estimate.

Medium Term Financial Plan

- 2.16. The Council's financial planning process, which will culminate in the 2022/25 medium term financial plan being taken to Full Council in February 2022, is currently being developed. Appendix 2 provides an update to Cabinet on progress, changes to the approved position brought about by external factors, and the journey between now and budget setting.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1. To receive an update on the financial position of the organisation.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1. The analysis is outlined in the background information in section 2 and in the supporting appendices.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1. The financial model under which Local Government operates means that risk management is fundamental to everything the Council does. The Council is constrained in its ability to significantly increase resources and is statutorily determined on large areas of need-led spending which can be volatile. Financial plans and the actions taken by the Council therefore must be adaptive to ensure the Council remains financially sustainable over the short, medium and long-term.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

- 6.1. Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1. Not applicable.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1. Not applicable.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1. To note the revenue and capital budget monitoring position for 2021/22 which is set out at Appendix 1.

9.2. To note the revenue budget adjustments approved under delegated powers and the revised budget position for 2021/22, summarised at Appendix 3.

9.3. To approve the revised capital investment programme 2021/24, set out in Appendix 4.

9.4. To note the progress against the approved Treasury Management Strategy in Appendix 5.

9.5. To note the medium-term financial plan update in Appendix 2.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Date: Wednesday 15th September 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

Financial Strategy, Budget 2021/22 and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2021/24

Capital Investment Strategy and Capital Programme 2020/2024

Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2021/22

Financial Position 2020/21 (Cabinet July 2021)

Q1 revenue and capital budget adjustments

Q1 Director reports and Outturn reports (Cabinet July 2021)

REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING POSITION 2021/22
Appendix 1

REVENUE	Budget £000's	Potential Spend £000's	Potential Budget Adjustment £000's
EXPENDITURE			
Keeping People Safe and Well	73,515	74,144	629
Enabling Resilient and Flourishing Communities	26,885	28,712	1,827
Enabling Economic Growth and Renewal	7,771	9,100	1,329
Organisational Enablers	32,309	33,130	821
Running the Business Well	22,173	18,267	(3,906)
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	162,653	163,353	700
FUNDING			
Council Tax and Business Rates	(125,266)	(125,266)	-
Government Grants	(29,178)	(29,362)	(184)
Covid-19 Resources	(7,070)	(6,231)	839
Use of Reserves	(1,139)	(2,494)	(1,355)
TOTAL FUNDING	(162,653)	(163,353)	(700)
POTENTIAL VARIANCE	-	-	-

CAPITAL – outturn forecast at Q1; budget reflects £3.3m rephased to 2022/23 included in Appendix 4	Budget £000's	Potential Spend £000's	Proposed Re- phasing £000's
EXPENDITURE			
Keeping People Safe and Well	5,010	4,001	(1,009)
Enabling Resilient and Flourishing Communities	19,531	12,383	(7,147)
Enabling Economic Growth and Renewal	30,310	29,993	(317)
Running the Business Well	13,226	10,197	(3,029)
Additional Investment Allocation	240	240	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	68,317	56,814	(11,503)
FINANCING			
External & Grant Funding	(34,543)	(27,681)	(6,862)
Council Resources	(33,774)	(29,133)	(4,641)
TOTAL FINANCING	(68,317)	(56,814)	(11,503)

Analysis of Revenue 2021/22

1. The Council's Net Operating Expenditure represents the day-to-day costs of council service delivery. For 2021/22, a cash limit of £162.7m was set by Full Council and reflected the expected spending power for the year. This limit contained £4.5m of Covid-19 un-ringfenced resource to be allocated to emerging Covid-19 pressures during the year.
2. The Financial Strategy and subsequent reports to Cabinet have provided information about financial risks facing local government in respect of Covid-19. Nationally, the issues facing Adult Social Care in the context of the Health and Care system are well documented. Although the financial impacts locally are not as severe as in some areas, a greater level of spend is predicted. However, for 2021/22, the revised budget presented enables the costs to be met from the financial envelope set aside.
3. Additionally, like many Councils we are adapting our Active Lifestyles offer to operating with Covid-19 and through facilitating Covid-19 safe leisure facilities and promoting the range of activities, activity levels and membership is gradually increasing. Whilst business builds back to pre-Covid-19 levels the income can be complemented through the Covid-19 emergency grant allocation which was made available for 2021/22. At the start of the financial year, as these risks were not fully quantified, the budget was set-aside in a Covid-19 contingency. The table above sets out the revised budget to acknowledge the current position. Grant balances and further grant received during 2021/22, in recognition of restrictions continuing into the financial year, will be utilised in line with grant conditions supporting recovery and renewal.
4. To support businesses through the pandemic grant funding has been passed through Councils although the majority of grant schemes have now ended, reflecting the easing of restrictions nationally. Since the first grant payments were made at the start of April 2020, the Council has distributed approximately £60m to local businesses across seven schemes benefitting more than 3,000 businesses with more than 12,000 payments in total. There is further business rate relief available during 2021/22 for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses. Relief unwinds as the year progresses, matching the unwinding of restrictions impacting business trading conditions.
5. The Council undertakes a robust monitoring process throughout the year which seeks to identify progress of spend against budget and reviews the assumptions approved in the 2021/22 budget. A Council wide position is reported to Cabinet on a regular basis. An assessment will be made during the financial planning process around the medium-term prospects, which may require further adjustments beyond 2021/22.
6. There is a short-term expenditure risk which is expected to materialise which is not yet reflected in financial forecasts relating to pay costs as the latest national pay offer is higher than initially forecast. National pay negotiations are under consultation and the pay settlement is expected to amount to £1.5m in 2021/22 which can be met from ongoing cost management and will be built into the medium term financial as part of resilience work.

7. The Council has a strong track record of managing expenditure and income risk, with continuous improvement and implementation of efficient delivery models that achieve the best outcomes. Controlling costs and collaborative working are an ongoing feature of financial management and support the organisation to deliver the Council Plan within the resources available.
8. The Council has a reserves strategy which governs deployment of reserves. This forms part of the wider approach to risk management. Current financial plans aim to minimise use in 2021/22, anticipating that greater usage will be required over the next medium term financial plan as longer-term impacts of the pandemic are evidenced and plans developed and implemented. The level of reserves held will be reviewed against identified risks during the financial planning process to ensure that the council remains financially resilient.
9. Officers are conducting a comprehensive Assessment of Financial Resilience, which combines a range of financial and non-financial data in reaching a self-assessment on how financially resilient the Council is against a wide range of metrics. This is considered further in Appendix 2.

Analysis of Capital 2021/22

10. The Council plans to invest over £116m of capital resource by 2023/24 to support delivery of the Council plan. Approval is sought for the latest capital investment plan set out in appendix 4 (table 1), with adjustments to the current approved programme reported to Cabinet in July 2021 contained in tables 2 and 3. These set out rephasing of investment and additional external funding of £0.6m bringing the total to £116.3m from the previously reported £115.7m.
11. The Council undertakes regular monitoring of its capital investment programme, to ensure the programme remains realistic and invests in Council priorities. Covid-19 has slowed delivery of the capital programme, which was evident during 2020/21 and remains so, which necessitates some re-phasing.
12. The Council finances capital investment through a combination of its own resources (capital receipts and borrowing) and external funding. The balance of funding expected to be applied is also regularly reviewed, to ensure the right type and size of funding is deployed. The Covid-19 pandemic has altered the balance of risks and opportunities attached to each funding type, and as such revisions will need to be made to the financing side in the next medium term financial plan. This is not expected to directly impact the capital investment programme.
13. The outturn variance forecast at Q1 primarily reflects re-phasing and external funding adjustments, for which amendments have been proposed as discussed above. There are likely to be further adjustments needed in the second half of the financial year to ensure investment resource remains aligned to latest delivery timescales. These will be brought to Cabinet in future updates.

1. Full Council will meet on 24th February 2022 to consider setting an updated medium term financial plan comprising revenue and capital investment. The purpose of this appendix is to outline the preparatory work that has been completed to date, together with the process that will guide the medium-term financial planning exercise.
2. Local Government received a one-year financial settlement for 2021/22, meaning that the Council’s medium-term financial plans contain levels of funding uncertainty that are reflected within the reserves strategy.
3. In February 2021, the Council approved a three-year medium term financial plan as summarised below:

2021/22 Approved Budget £000's	MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN	2022/23 Current Plan £000's	2023/24 Current Plan £000's
	PRIORITY AND OTHER INVESTMENT		
135,281	Investment in Priorities	135,862	136,446
20,882	Running the Business Well	22,484	23,201
1,946	Inflationary Provisions*	5,446	8,946
4,544	Covid-19 Resource	-	-
162,653	NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	163,792	168,593
	SPENDING POWER		
(125,266)	Council Tax and Business Rates	(125,650)	(130,305)
(29,178)	Government Grants	(28,866)	(28,720)
(7,070)	Covid-19 Resources	-	-
(1,139)	Use of Reserves	-	-
(162,653)	TOTAL SPENDING POWER	(154,516)	(159,025)
-	Cost Reductions in Development	9,276	9,568

* pay and contract inflation are distributed to service budgets during the financial year

4. As work continues on the financial resilience assessment and financial planning preparation for 2022 and beyond, the emerging national policy drivers will need to be considered and reflected accordingly in our assumptions.
5. Health and social care levy – HM Revenue and Customs published the Health and Social Care Levy policy paper. The policy objective is to raise funds to enable permanent increase in spending in health and social care. Implementation of the policy will have a direct impact on the Council’s national insurance contributions by up to £1m. The impact of the levy on the cost of goods and services will need to be factored into the medium-term financial planning assumptions.
6. The government Spending Review 2021 will set UK government departments’ resource and capital budgets for 2022/23 to 2024/25. This will conclude on 27th October 2021 announced as the date of the Autumn Budget Statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

7. The Autumn Budget Statement sets the total resource envelope for the Local Government Finance Settlement, which is normally published in December. This clarifies the amount of maximum funding available for each Council and the upper limits for council tax increases. The outcome of the Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021, including potential impact to North Lincolnshire, will be brought to the November meeting of Cabinet.

Investment in Priorities

8. The financial planning process brings spending power and investment aspiration into balance, maximising outcomes for the people and place. To achieve this, a three-stage process has been established which is guided by principles and areas of intent that include:
 - A process shaped by principles, outcomes and values (Integrity, Excellence, Self-Responsibility, and Equality of Opportunity)
 - Activity/areas continuously reviewed with a focus on Intent, Implementation and Impact
 - Ensuring a process which best identifies, manages and mitigates service and organisational risk enabling the organisation to take the best decisions supported by the best financial and non-financial information
 - Being progressive and outward looking
9. The Council's financial strategy for 2022/23 and beyond will continue to be linked to the Council's recovery and renewal aspirations and the Council Plan. The three phases to the financial planning process are:
 - Assessment of Financial Resilience
Stress testing the financial plans through an assessment of financial resilience supported by the embedding of the requirements of the Financial Management code. This considers the ongoing impact of Covid-19, spending power projections, areas with cost opportunities all supported by extensive trend analysis. This exercise is currently being reviewed; a summary will be brought to the next meeting of Cabinet.
 - Strategic Planning
Identifying opportunities through organisational commissioning, addressing historical variances, focus on achieving economy, efficiency and effectiveness, supported by continuously improving supporting information (e.g. activity data integration, contract spend, service integration).
 - Budget Setting
The two previous stages will culminate in budget proposals which support the financial sustainability aspirations of the Council and set out how the Council plans using resources to achieve its outcomes, the actions it needs to implement, with line-of-sight arrangements, and how the investment supports delivery of the Council Plan.
10. The cycle then repeats annually, strengthening financial management to support the Council as an agile organisation which continues to adapt to ensure it best meets the needs of the people and place of North Lincolnshire.

Table 1 – Revenue Investment (Accountability Structure)

2021/22 REVENUE INVESTMENT: BY SERVICE	Original Approved Budget £000's	Policy Changes £000's	Technical Budget Transfers £000's	Revised Approved Budget £000's
Business Development	393	-	110	503
Governance & Partnerships	18,262	-	(49)	18,213
Operations	33,368	-	227	33,595
Public Health	7,239	-	(34)	7,205
Learning, Skills & Culture	12,527	-	(47)	12,480
Children & Community Resilience	22,880	-	(8)	22,872
Adults & Community Wellbeing	42,556	-	(49)	42,507
SERVICE TOTAL	137,225	-	150	137,375
Central & Technical Budgets	25,428	-	(150)	25,278
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	162,653	-	-	162,653

Table 2 – Revenue Investment (Council Plan Priority)

2021/22 REVENUE INVESTMENT: BY PRIORITY	Original Approved Budget £000's	Policy Changes £000's	Technical Budget Transfers £000's	Revised Budget £000's
Keeping People Safe and Well	73,455	-	60	73,515
Enabling Resilient and Flourishing Communities	26,956	-	(71)	26,885
Enabling Economic Growth and Renewal	7,747	-	24	7,771
Running the Business Well (organisation)	32,172	-	137	32,309
Running the Business Well (technical)	22,323	-	(150)	22,173
PRIORITY TOTAL	162,653	-	-	162,653
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	162,653	-	-	162,653

Table 1 – Programme Summary 2021/24 (reflects rephasing in tables 2 and 3)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's	Total £000's
Investment in Priority				
Keeping People Safe and Well	4,147	572	369	5,088
Enabling Resilient and Flourishing Communities	12,377	16,442	3,346	32,165
Enabling Economic Growth and Renewal	29,608	14,630	10,812	55,050
Running the Business Well	11,942	4,081	2,797	18,820
Total	58,074	35,725	17,324	111,123
Additional Capital Investment Allocation	240	925	3,977	5,142
Capital Investment Limit	58,314	36,650	21,301	116,265
Funding Analysis				
External & Grant Funding	27,681	26,476	12,261	66,418
Revenue Funding	32	-	-	32
Borrowing	18,887	10,174	9,040	38,101
Capital Receipts	11,714	-	-	11,714
Total	58,314	36,650	21,301	116,265

Table 2 – Externally Funded Schemes rephasing and net additional investment of £0.6m

Capital Investment Scheme	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's	Total £000's
Flooding & Drainage	(98)	333	480	715
Schools Investment Programme	(6,394)	6,394	-	-
Telecare Investment	(254)	-	-	(254)
North Lincolnshire Northern Forest	(363)	200	163	-
Formula Capital Devolved to Schools	(200)	200	-	-
Community Equipment	80	(80)	-	-
Home Assistance/RHHA Loan	144	-	-	144
Disabled Facilities Grants	(3,133)	3,133	-	-
Total	(10,218)	10,180	643	605

Table 3 – Internally Funded Schemes rephasing

Capital Investment Scheme	2021/22 £000's	2022/23 £000's	2023/24 £000's	Total £000's
Defibrillators	(45)	45	-	-
Property Resilience Grants	(56)	56	-	-
Safe & Sound Grant	(83)	43	40	-
Community Capital Grants	(500)	500	-	-
Enhanced & Prosperous Communities Fund	(542)	542	-	-
Parks and Play Areas	(100)	100	-	-
Property Trading Account Developments	(244)	244	-	-
Flood and Drainage	(225)	225	-	-
North Lincolnshire Northern Forest	(62)	62	-	-
Comm. Buildings Investment - Community Hubs	(1,118)	1,118	-	-
Replacement HR/Payroll/Finance System	(166)	166	-	-
Total	(3,141)	3,101	40	-

	2021/22	
	Budget (Feb 2021)	Forecast (Q1)
Estimates of capital expenditure	£M 49.3	£M 68.3
General Fund ratio of financing costs to the net revenue stream % (Based on Prudential Code 2013)	% 8.00	% 7.86
An estimate of the capital financing requirement	£M 264.6	£M 261.6
The authorised limit for external debt: borrowing other long-term liabilities total	£M 304.6 5.0 309.6	£M no change
The operational boundary for external debt: borrowing other long-term liabilities total	£M 269.6 2.0 271.6	£M no change
maturity structure of fixed/variable interest rate borrowing 2021/22 under 12 months 12 months to 2 years 2 years to 5 years 5 years to 10 years 10 years to 20 years 20 years to 30 years 30 years and above	% 60.0 30.0 50.0 50.0 75.0 75.0 100.0	% no change
Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days	£M 0	£M no change

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

COVID-19: MID-TERM RECOVERY UPDATE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the Council's progress responding to COVID-19 as set out in the mid-term recovery plan.
- 1.2 Provide an overview of the national COVID-19 Response – Autumn 2021 and Road Map which will inform actions within our Mid-term recovery.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In March 2020, the council was required to establish business continuity arrangements in order to respond to the COVID-19 global pandemic. As COVID-19 continues to be a significant issue the council continues its focus and operating environment on this, while concurrently planning for and implementing actions related to recovery and renewal.
- 2.2 In June 2020, the North Lincolnshire COVID-19 recovery and renewal framework was presented to Cabinet. Subsequent to this a mid-term recovery plan was approved by Cabinet in December 2020. Both of these have been framed around the priorities set out in the North Lincolnshire Council Plan and provide a framework for minimising and mitigating impact from COVID-19 across North Lincolnshire.
- 2.3 Our priorities for mid-term recovery are:
 - Keep people safe and well,
 - Protect vulnerable people,
 - Enable communities to be resilient,
 - Protect and enable the local economy,
 - Well led council.
- 2.4 Appendix 1 provides an update against the mid-term recovery plan. Since the last report to Cabinet key highlights include:

- The facilitation of greater access to workspaces within Church Square House and Hewson House for the purposes of connectivity.
- Administration of applications for financial support from over 2,600 individuals who have had to self-isolate.
- A range of targeted work to provide on-going support for the most vulnerable groups including rough sleepers, vulnerable children and adults.
- Six units of accommodation and associated support secured to support individuals into settled accommodation; six empty homes brought back into use for step down accommodation, with a further four units of accommodation in development.
- In the region of 200 volunteers have come forward to provide targeted support for vulnerable residents.
- The DfE funded FUELLED Holiday Activity and Food programme for Summer 2021 was successfully delivered with 1,667 children registered on the programme.
- Financial support provided for over 3,000 businesses across North Lincolnshire to enable continued operations, diversification and start-ups.
- Thirty-seven businesses assigned to the Kick Start Scheme, with 26 young people currently in a placement.
- Through strong partnership working with the DWP, 18-24 Youth Hub recruitment and outcomes have exceeded half yearly target - 81 young people into paid employment, four young people into an apprenticeship and one young person self-employed. A bid for Year Two DWP funds has been submitted.
- Support for the visitor economy across North Lincolnshire over the summer holidays, using council run attractions as a catalyst.

2.5 The local response to COVID-19 has been set within a range of legislative regulations that have been introduced. The two key ones being the Coronavirus Act 2020 (much of which has since been repealed) and Health Protection (England) Regulations 2020 (extended to 27th September 2021). Government guidance and new regulations continue to be issued which are applied to council operational and strategic response as relevant.

2.6 The Coronavirus (COVID-19) national action plan launched in March 2020, confirmed that we need to continue to work with health protection at the heart of the organisation. As place leader the Council has maintained attention on living with and mitigating the risk of COVID-19. After two periods of lockdown, in February 2021 the government signalled a move towards the lifting of restrictions (COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021) based on a roadmap and set out key tests that would determine each stage of the roadmap:

- Test 1: The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully.

- Test 2: Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated.
- Test 3: Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS.
- Test 4: The assessment of the risks is not fundamentally changed by new Variants of Concern.

2.7 Since the previous update report to Cabinet on this subject matter in March 2021, progress has been made against the national plan. Key milestones include the move to Level 3 easements from 17th May 2021, which saw the reopening of the majority of the indoor and remaining outdoor economy and gathering limits increased indoors and outdoors. Guidance for close contact between friends and family was updated, with people asked to exercise their own personal judgement in line with the risks. Additionally, the Stay in the UK restriction was lifted with people able to travel to green list countries, if they permit inbound travel.

2.8 Further progress was signalled via The Cabinet Office publishing on 19th July 2021 the COVID-19 Response – Summer 2021, which set out the roadmap for the further easing of restrictions in England to level four. While this heralded the lifting of almost all remaining restrictions, continued emphasis has been placed on social distancing, the wearing of face coverings in crowded/enclosed spaces and the process of Test, Trace and Isolate. From 16th August 2021, a system of testing rather than isolation for those who are double vaccinated came into force. In moving away from stringent restrictions to everyone’s day-to-day lives and towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others, alongside targeted interventions to reduce risk, the government undertook to:

- Reinforce the country’s vaccine wall of defence through booster jabs and driving take up
- Enable the public to make informed decisions through guidance, rather than laws
- Retain proportionate test, trace and isolate plans in line with international comparators
- Manage risks at the border and support a global response to reduce the risk of variants emerging globally and entering the UK
- Retain contingency measures to respond to unexpected events, while accepting that further cases, hospitalisations and deaths will occur as the country learns to live with COVID-19

2.9 As Autumn/Winter 2021 approaches, the government aims to sustain the progress made, while ensuring the NHS does not come under unsustainable pressure. The recently announced (14th September 2021) COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan, sets out that success will be achieved by:

- Building our defences through pharmaceutical interventions

- Identifying and isolating positive cases to limit transmission
- Supporting the NHS and social care
- Advising people on how to protect themselves and others
- Pursuing an international approach

2.10 New measures announced to support the autumn and winter plan include renewed calls for the unvaccinated to become so; the vaccination of 12-15 year-olds (one dose); booster vaccinations for the over 50's and vulnerable groups and a concerted flu jab campaign covering a wider population than previously. Additionally, many more of the remaining measures contained within the Coronavirus Act 2020 have been repealed.

2.11 Contingency plans have also been announced in the event of the continued spread of the virus leading to unsustainable pressure on the NHS. These include the re-introduction of mandatory face coverings; return to home working arrangements and possibly vaccine passports required for certain settings.

2.12 Local authorities continue to play a key role in achieving the successful easing of national restrictions and the steps outlined in the roadmap have provided a frame for the Council's emergence from the pandemic and reopening and return to some level of normality. These are consistent with our priorities and actions within the mid-term recovery plan which continues to be revised in line with the roadmap. The national COVID-19 response document remains relevant, providing a framework for all actions and focusing on the things that need to continue to be in place and prioritised at both national and regional level:

- Healthcare response (Supporting NHS, Vaccines and Therapeutics)
- Keeping people safe and responding to threats (Behaviours, Test, Trace & Isolate and Responding to variants of concern)
- Economic and social support (Economic support, Support for vulnerable people and communities and Support for care homes)
- Long Term (Transition from pandemic to epidemic, Living with COVID and Resilience for future pandemics)

2.13 As well as continuing to meet council priorities and responsibilities, the council will continually ensure that there is capacity to respond to the above requirements and emerging national policy changes, in the context of the pandemic.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Cabinet is invited to note the contents of this report and support the continued delivery of priority actions.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 A continued focus on the priorities and actions set out in the mid-term recovery plan enables the council to provide an effective local response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - 4.2 The national COVID-19 Response and associated roadmap have provided specific milestones for the local re-open planning for council activity and functions. As in our previous response to easing of restrictions, all information about the safe operation of facilities has and will continue to be communicated with relevant stakeholders and updates provided through the council's website and media channels.
 - 4.3 The COVID-19 Response will be used to inform the strategic plans for the Council with updates provided at the next Cabinet meeting.
5. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**
- 5.1 Resources associated with the council's response to the COVID-19 and the delivery of the mid-term recovery plan continue to be monitored and managed.
6. **OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**
- 6.1 A council-wide approach to assessing and monitoring the implications and risks associated with COVID-19 has been adopted with mitigations being implemented as necessary in accordance with the legislative framework.
7. **OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**
- 7.1 Not applicable.
8. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**
- 8.1 Ongoing consultation and collaboration with a range of national, regional, place partners and other key stakeholders is integral to our local response: recovery and renewal.
 - 8.2 There are no conflicts of interests associated with this report.
9. **RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 9.1 That cabinet note the content of the report and support the continued delivery of priority actions.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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Author: James O'Shaughnessy
Date: 14th September 2021

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COVID-19 MID-TERM RECOVERY PLAN

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS (September 2021)

Page 38
Enhance digital technologies in order to deliver our council priorities

Keep people safe and well

- Reduce the spread of COVID-19 through whole system preventative approach

Protect vulnerable people

- Protect the most vulnerable in our communities from the impact of COVID-19

Enable communities to be resilient

- Enable communities to shape the recovery landscape

Protect & enable the local economy

- Protect the economy through strengthened business support
- Enable jobs protection and creation
- Stimulate growth through capital investment and infrastructure

Well led Council

- Maintain a focus on workforce wellbeing
- Ensure financial resilience and sustainability
- Ensure effective business continuity through prioritisation of key services and functions

Value added through partnerships

- Following positive assessments against the four key tests the government set to underpin each step of the COVID recovery roadmap, progress has been made against the government’s approach to lifting restrictions. Consequently, level four was reached in August 2021, resulting in the lifting of almost all remaining restrictions, but with key messaging continuing in respect of social distancing, face coverings, vaccination take-up and Test, Trace, Isolate. In response to the current position, the council continues to reflect and promote key advice, guidance and legislation and this approach is rooted in the values, principles and ambitions of the council plan. Our response focuses on key priorities to ensure the Council remains resilient throughout the crisis and sustained through the period of recovery and renewal.
- As well as responding to the implications of national restrictions, the council continued to keep services running and adapting to the changing environment, led the prevention and management of local outbreaks and work with businesses to drive economic recovery and growth and worked in partnership with NHS to enable the successful commencement of the vaccination programme to the priority groups.

Priority	Overview of progress
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Keeping People Safe and Well: **Reduce the spread**

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Safe working practices

- Working from home arrangements continue but with greater access to workspaces within Church Square House and Hewson House for the purposes of connectivity. This remains under review by the ORR group and a ‘Living with COVID-19’ framework is currently being developed to support this. Risk assessments kept under review and updated according to any change in operational procedures or in use of buildings, including use of PPE for those working in the community and in peoples’ homes.
- Preparing for the new legislative requirement from 11 November 2021 that only those who are fully vaccinated or exempt for clinical reasons can work in Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulated care homes (vaccination as a condition of deployment). This includes policy & FAQs, review of recruitment process and collation/recording of vaccination records for existing and new staff working within CQC registered establishments.
- Enacting easement plan including the recommencement of group work for children, young people and families where appropriate and utilising consultation opportunities to strengthen the children and family support offer.
- Wellbeing and risk assessments for our workforce are regularly reviewed.

Outbreak management

- Management and prevention outbreaks continue to be a priority focus area, using robust data and progress is reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board on a regular basis. Schools, care homes and high risk business have responded well to identification, control and mitigation of outbreaks across the settings.
- Throughout each phase of national restrictions, community facilities were assessed for Covid security, so that functionality could be resumed in a safe and timely way for residents and staff.

Safe places and enforcement

- Covid prevention assistants continue to undertake proactive work on an intelligence led basis to ensure communities are safe and they are working with businesses to promote good practice.
- Public protection continue to undertake assessments and enforce regulations as appropriate, in partnership with Humberside Police.

Test, Trace, Self-Isolate

- We have provided information advice and guidance for all citizens and workers to access the national schemes for lateral flow testing, including

providing community testing facilities. Community assisted testing sites are open to all residents and workers of North Lincolnshire.

- The local testing site for residents with symptoms continues to operate from Centenary Way. LFT test kits are available for collection at Community Hubs throughout North Lincs and at various additional facilities for NLC staff and are distributed throughout identified areas of concern where there is low testing uptake and/or the population has additionally been identified as higher risk (due to occupation/health issue prevalence/low vaccine uptake).
- Local contact tracing arrangements are in place and are operating well with a contact rate of circa 96%
- Financial support to help eligible people to self-isolate continues to be paid with over 2600 applications received. The scheme has been extended to the end of September 2021.

Priority	Overview of progress
<p>Protect vulnerable people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work in partnership with health colleagues on the successful roll-out of the national vaccination programme. • The council is strongly promoting the Evergreen Vaccination Offer, targeting those individuals who have yet to be vaccinated. • All 12-15 year olds who suffer from underlying health problems have been identified and are offered vaccination as a priority group. • Where possible rough sleepers continue to be offered temporary accommodation alongside the continuing targeted work with partners around specific vulnerable groups and the development of pathways to support individuals into settled accommodation more directly. Partnership work with Ongo has resulted in six accommodation units with support now occupied. Funding was secured in partnership with Framework for six empty homes to be brought back into use for step down accommodation which are now occupied and funding for a further four units of accommodation has been secured through the MHCLG. These are currently in development, with completion due by the end of the calendar year. • During the summer holidays, extended the use of the COVID-19 Local Support Grant to support over 7000 children and young people in families experiencing financial hardship. As well as providing food support for children in receipt of free school meals, the scheme was extended to care leavers and families in low-income households with pre-school children, and 16-18 year olds in full-time education • Continue to have a strong position within the ‘front door’ of children’s social care services in order to respond to any potential increases in demand for service, and a focus across the partnership to enable families to receive the right help and support at the earliest stage and at the lowest level • Children in care and care leavers continue to be supported and we have responded to their voice and experiences • Procured MIFI devices for all care leavers in the community to enable them to access the internet. This helped to reduce social isolation for our young people and enabled them to remain connected to their support networks and their wider community, leading to more positive emotional wellbeing • Corporate parents remain committed to children in care and care leavers and through the recommencement of face-to-face visits to children’s homes, there are further opportunities for increased connectivity • Provision of home testing kits for secondary and college students to support twice-weekly testing guidance • Continue to maximise capacity and sufficiency across children and community resilience to provide support through the Security Control Centre to vulnerable people and delivering effective outcomes
<p>Enable resilient communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships within neighbourhoods and between the council, individual volunteers and voluntary and community groups continues to be strong. Working together is both highly localised and place-based, as well as formal and informal. • Community volunteering has been further strengthened through place-based brokerage and the ‘TeamNL’ volunteer hub. There are currently around 200 volunteers who are deployed to local vaccination centres, to existing community organisations, providing targeted support for vulnerable residents. • The leadership, development and administration functions of the volunteer hub are now established with posts recruited to which are enabling continued active recruitment and deployment of volunteers to meet current demand as well as continuing to build the

infrastructure to support a ‘future-fit’ model to meet the anticipated increase in demand for Autumn 2021.

- Support for those individuals required to self-isolate who need support to access essential food and medicines as well as other practical and wellbeing support, such as befriending and emotional support is also being provided by community resources.
- Community Champions continue to be recruited as the credible and informed local voice, providing localised feedback and helping to shape targeted responses to Covid, e.g. faith and community leaders worked with the council to increase the reach of the vaccination programme.
- Community facilities and functions have been brought back as national restrictions, staff deployment and local priorities have permitted, with the focus on ensuring a health and wellbeing offer for residents. Currently at stage 4 of the national roadmap, all council run facilities are open with covid secure arrangements in place.
- Preparation for the delivery of the identified Community Renewal Funded projects which support and prepare for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- Successful delivery of the DfE funded FUELLED Holiday Activity and Food programme for Summer 2021. As of 17th August 2021, 1,667 children were registered on the programme. Of these: 64% are eligible for free school meals; 15% have an Education Health and Care plan and a further 125 children are recorded as SEND.
- Pop-up vaccination centres established, targeted to case rates and lower than average vaccination take-up
- Community collect scheme initiated across six community-based venues to enable the collection of home testing kits

Priority	Overview of progress
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Protect the economy

- To support businesses through the pandemic, the council has distributed over £60m in grant funding to over 3,000 businesses and made over 12,000 payments. This encompasses small business and retail grants in phase one, and local restrictions support grants, closed business lockdown payments, a scheme for wet led pubs, restart grants and additional restrictions grant in the second phase.
- The majority of business support grant schemes have now been concluded, with focus shifting to post payment assurance. The Council continues to utilise additional restriction grant funding to invest in areas enabling forward growth (e.g. start-up grants, diversification and renew grants). These grants include:
 - Business Growth Scheme: 18 businesses supported, £72,998 worth of grants issued, contributing to an overall project cost of £182,495
 - Start Up grants: 28 businesses supported, £27,790.43 worth of grants issued.
 - Covid-19 Renew Grant: Six businesses have been recommended to the panel for approval with NLC funding of £268,450 and total project costs of £7,070,886
 - Business Diversification Scheme: Seven businesses have been recommended to the panel for approval funding £208,947 with total costs of £646,607
- A number of care leavers have secured employment in a range of different sectors, including making use of the Kick Start

Programme, the apprenticeship scheme within the council and securing full time, permanent employment within Children and Community Resilience.

- The Kickstart scheme supports young people aged 16-24 who are claiming Universal Credit with a six-month work placement. North Lincolnshire Council have 37 businesses who have been accepted onto scheme and 26 young people are currently in a placement.
- To support people to find work, we have been participating in monthly virtual jobs fairs organising by the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) since November 2020. We also participated in a virtual apprenticeship event in February 2021.
- We support businesses in certain sectors that are struggling to recruit via a variety of means including working closely with partners externally (e.g. DWP) and internally (e.g. working closely with Adult Services to promote the Proud to Care campaign to increase the number of people working in the care sector in North Lincolnshire).
- 18-24 Youth Hub recruitment and outcomes have exceeded half yearly target - 81 young people into paid employment, 4 young people into an apprenticeship, 1 young person self-employed. A bid for Year 2 DWP funds has been submitted.
- We are currently organising a North Lincolnshire jobs fair to employers to advertise their vacant posts and people to attend to gain employment. The fair will include practical support for people to help them gain employment e.g. C.V. writing and interview practice.
- The number of people claiming unemployment related benefit support continues to decrease in North Lincolnshire and for August 2021 stands at 4.7% (some 4,900 people), compared to 6.1% (some 6,345 people) at the same time last year. The claimant count rate remains lower than the regional and national rates of 5.5% and 5.3% respectively.
- To further support our businesses, a business renew event will be taking place within the next month to update and inform businesses about the projects taking place in North Lincolnshire, our progress on delivering the Economic Growth Plan and informing them of our plans to continue to support recovery set out in the new Economic Renew Plan (currently draft).
- Specific focus has been placed on the visitor economy across North Lincolnshire. The Council took part in English Tourism Week in May 2021, the refurbished tourist information centre in Brigg was opened in July and NLC-run attractions such as Normanby Hall held a full programme of activities during the school summer holidays.

Well led council

- The council continues to prioritise business as usual of its operations and responds and adapts flexibly to overcome any pressures and issues as they arise. The vast majority of council services and functions continue to be provided with limited disruption.
- In response to the national roadmap, the re-opening of facilities and activities has been completed. Priority messaging continues to be focused on aspects that contribute towards public health and wellbeing. On-going assessments of workforce capacity are made.
- Regular updates continue to be provided to the workforce in respect of COVID-19 through bulletins and webinars.
- The council has maintained robust governance arrangements. Following the expiry of legislation that permitted the holding of virtual meetings, decision making has reverted to face to face council and committee meetings, with alternative accommodation sourced where required to accommodate social distancing requirements.
- Regular messages are issued to staff to warn against the issues of cyber/malware attack, dressed in the context of COVID related communications.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2021/24

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- present the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 within the context of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and a new duty placed on Tier One Local Authorities in England
- to seek approval for the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 to be published in line with the statutory requirement to publish this first Strategy under section 57 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 on or before 31 October 2021 as set out in regulations.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 referred to hereafter as the Act was signed into law on 29 April 2021. The Act is underpinned by the Domestic Abuse (Local Authority Strategies) Regulations 2021 and the Domestic Abuse Support (Relevant Accommodation) Regulations 2021. The feedback on the Government consultation on the Delivery of Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse, including Children, in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services: Statutory guidance for local authorities across England Draft for consultation is being analysed. A Government consultation on the underpinning Domestic Abuse Draft Statutory Guidance Framework is in place until 14 September 2021.

2.2 Part 4 of the Act introduces a new statutory duty on Local Authorities, placing clearer accountability on local areas to ensure the needs of victims within refuges, and other forms of domestic abuse safe accommodation, are met in a consistent way across England. The Act places a new duty on Local Authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and children in safe accommodation. Under this duty relevant Local Authorities are required to appoint a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to support them in undertaking local needs assessments and developing and monitoring local strategies.

- 2.3 Local Authorities are also required to effectively provide or commission support services for victims and children in safe accommodation, based on a local strategy informed by a robust needs assessment, and report back annually to Government. The annual reporting requirement will help the Government and others to monitor how the new duties on Local Authorities are working, understand where there may be challenges and how the new burdens funding, granted to Local Authorities by Government, is being used, also help to identify and disseminate good practice.
- 2.4 The council established a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board consisting of key partners in July 2021 which must be consulted in relation to certain aspects of the new duty. A local Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment has been compiled to assess the needs for support to victims and children in safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of North Lincolnshire, alongside the need for wider domestic abuse services and this wider approach is encouraged by Government.
- 2.5 Underpinned by the Needs Assessment, the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 is predicated on the need to tackle domestic abuse as a priority and to prevent and reduce domestic abuse if we are to make progress on the priorities identified with the Council Plan (to keep people safe and well, enable resilient and flourishing communities and enable economic growth and renewal). Specifically, the Strategy aims to achieve our priority for **individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities** and within the context of the council's values, it prioritises those who have additional need and aims to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes, taking account of those with relevant protected characteristics and multiple complex needs.
- 2.6 The Strategy articulates three areas of focus on which we will 'shine a light' on for partnership action and system change to contribute to victims, children and perpetrators being safe, well, prosperous and connected and for individuals to be **safe and well in their homes and in their communities**. These are early identification and early help; safety and support; and working together. Under each of these 'shine a light' areas of focus, the Strategy details the intents and clarifies the specific partnership action and system change that we intend to achieve. A high level implementation timeline is included for monitoring and oversight by the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 Option 1: To receive and approve the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 for publication.
- 3.2 Option 2: To decline the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 in its current form for publication.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 Option 1: Approving and publishing the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 will meet the Local Authority's statutory duty under the Act.

4.1 Option 2: Declining the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 in its current form for publication will not meet the Local Authority's statutory duty under the Act.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government have allocated new funding to Local Authorities for the implementation and delivery of the new duty to provide or commission support services for victims and children in safe accommodation and the individual allocation of funding for North Lincolnshire is £342,616 for 2021/22. This funding will serve to enhance current local provision of such services. It is proposed that this funding will be paid annually for a period of three years in the form of an un-ringfenced grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. Funding arrangements may become part of the Local Government Finance Settlement at a future Spending Review.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 The Strategy takes into account the responsibilities of the Public Sector Equality Duty included in the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those from different groups.

6.2 The Strategy is set within the context of the North Lincolnshire Council Plan, other council plans and strategies, our One Family Approach and wider partners' plans. The Strategy has regard to other Local Authority functions relating to violence against women and girls, modern slavery, community safety, victims of crime, housing and homelessness reduction, safeguarding and supporting families.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 An integrated impact assessment has been undertaken. No negative impacts were identified.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 8.1 Local Authorities must consult with the local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and such other persons as they consider appropriate before publishing their strategy. In line with this statutory requirement, the local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board has been consulted in relation to the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment and Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 through a board meeting and over a four week consultation period that ended on 23 August 2021.
- 8.2 Likewise, there has been widespread consultation over the same four week period through members of the North Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership Board, Safeguarding Adults Board, Children's Multi Agency and Resilience Board, Domestic Abuse Strategy Group and the North Lincolnshire Council Safe Organisation Group. Earlier consultation took place through a Domestic Abuse Strategy Group Development Session in February 2021 and through a subsequent electronic survey distributed to members.
- 8.3 In developing the strategy, specific consultation was also undertaken drawing on the direct experiences of victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. Feedback has also been considered from domestic abuse support services providers and their representations of the voice of service users.
- 8.4 All consultation responses have been taken into consideration as appropriate and the Strategy has been revised accordingly.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 is approved for publication.

INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

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Author: Nikki Alcock
Date: August 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- North Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021
- The Domestic Abuse (Local Authority Strategies) Regulations 2021
- The Domestic Abuse Support (Relevant Accommodation) Regulations 2021
- Domestic Abuse Draft Statutory Guidance Framework July 2021

- Delivery of Support to Victims of Domestic Abuse, including Children, in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Services: Statutory guidance for local authorities across England Draft for consultation June 2021

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the North Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24.

Tackling domestic abuse is a priority for North Lincolnshire and preventing and reducing domestic abuse is essential if we are to make progress on our priorities of keeping people safe and well, enabling resilient and flourishing communities and enabling economic growth and renewal.

The past year has been challenging for everyone, but doubly so for victims* of domestic abuse. The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions created more opportunities for perpetrators to exhibit abusive behaviour and impacted on some of our best efforts at prevention and early intervention. However, as ever, partners have risen to the challenges and have continued to innovate and provide quality support to victims and children and continued to deliver a non-convicted perpetrator programme during these most difficult of times.

The government roadmap moving forward and the enactment of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which places new duties on local authorities (the most significant being the requirement to make support available for all victims of domestic abuse and children within safe accommodation), provides us with a solid foundation on which to build and implement our strategy leading to better outcomes for victims, children and perpetrators. This will be underpinned by our Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment, which enables us to have a better understanding of our local position. Building on our robust partnership working and our commitment to the One Family Approach, we aim to create a system that works for all children and families. Through our Supporting Families Programme, which aligns with our One Family Approach, and our focus on keeping adults with care and support needs safe from abuse and neglect, we will further focus on building resilience of individuals and families and improving outcomes. This will help us achieve our ambition for North Lincolnshire to be the best place to work, visit, invest and to achieve our priority for **individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities.**

Our One Family Approach is articulated within the [North Lincolnshire Children's Commissioning Strategy 2020/24](#) which also clarifies our commissioning intent in relation to health, social care and education for children, young people and families. This is underpinned by the Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire 2020/24 document, which sets out how services support children, young people and families to participate, find help online and in their networks and communities, to be resilient and stay independent.

We will work together to integrate our services and commissioning functions where these improve outcomes. Our strategy takes account of those with protected characteristics, intersectionality and specific additional vulnerabilities, including victims coming into our area. It considers the wider contexts of violence against women and girls, modern slavery, community safety, victims of crime, also housing and homelessness reduction. We are person centred and we will listen to the views and experiences of victims, children and perpetrators, work to build on their strengths, and help them find solutions leading to better outcomes (safe, well, prosperous and connected).

'We want victims, children and perpetrators to be supported by a workforce that is resilient and with the authorisation to do what they think is the right thing to prevent further escalation. Underpinned by our values of equality of opportunity, excellence, self-responsibility and integrity, this strategy will prioritise those who have additional need in order to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes.' **Councillor Julie Reed, Cabinet Member for Children and Families**

Chair of the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

Councillor Julie Reed, Cabinet Member for Children and Families

** we acknowledge that victims and survivors are interchangeable terms and within this strategy we will refer to people who have experienced domestic abuse as victims*

INTRODUCTION

Domestic Abuse touches the lives of people across North Lincolnshire. It causes immense harm to victims and children and impacts on the fabric of people’s lives and our communities.

This strategy adopts the statutory definition of domestic abuse as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to ensure that domestic abuse is properly understood, considered unacceptable and actively challenged across agencies and organisations and public attitudes.

‘Any single incident or a course of conduct of physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, psychological, emotional or other abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been personally connected to each other’.

A fuller overview of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 can be found in appendix 1.

North Lincolnshire has a strong history of partnership working in addressing domestic abuse. Despite this, there is now evidence that domestic abuse, as elsewhere, is increasing and more people are known to be at risk. We need to find new ways to keep our population safe, well, prosperous and connected, and to enable our communities to thrive. We know that if domestic abuse is left unchecked, it gets worse over time which means the case for identifying victims and intervening earlier to reduce harm is clear. Our priority is **for individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities**. We must therefore take all practicable steps to eliminate domestic abuse, reducing harm and demand for services along the way. To achieve this every agency must understand the fundamental nature of domestic abuse and respond effectively, as a result everyone should expect equality and respect in their relationships.

The North Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board is a partnership between the local authority, other agencies and organisations, the private and voluntary independent sector and other stakeholders including victims. Partners work together to achieve our areas of focus, defined through this strategy, on preventing and responding to domestic abuse.

Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment

This strategy is accompanied by a needs assessment which brings our data relating to domestic abuse together in one place and helps us understand what is working well in North Lincolnshire and what needs to be improved. A summary overview of key aspects of the needs assessment can be found in appendix 2.

Bringing together information from across our partnership is vital as it enables us to see the ‘whole picture’ in relation to provision of services and to identify any gaps.

The assessment will be used to inform our commissioning and planning.

An underpinning delivery plan will help us achieve our priority which will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board who have the responsibility of ensuring progress.

SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY

Our ambition is for North Lincolnshire to be the best place to work, visit and invest and our priority is **for individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities**. The local authority and its partners, including (but not limited to) specialist domestic abuse providers, the police and crime commissioner, housing and health bodies, will work collaboratively to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse, and ensure that where domestic abuse takes place, all those affected get the right service, at the right time, to achieve the right outcome. This strategy sets out our priority, 'shine a light' areas of focus, intents and partnership actions for system change.

This strategy responds to:

- Adults and young people (16 and 17 years old) who are experiencing domestic abuse
- Children who see, hear or experience domestic abuse
- Those who are perpetrating domestic abuse

It responds to domestic abuse in the context of:

- Abuse between people personally connected to each other
- Abuse which continues after a relationship has ended which is known to be a time of heightened risk for victims and children, and a time when children are often used by a perpetrator to continue the abuse
- Forced marriage, so-called 'honour-based abuse' and other forms of violence against victims that are intrinsically linked to domestic abuse such as female genital mutilation

Forms of Domestic Abuse

Intimate Partner Abuse

- Domestic abuse most commonly takes place in intimate partner relationships including same sex relationships.

Abuse by Family Members

- This can involve abuse by any relative or multiple relatives.

Teenage Relationship Abuse

- Relationship abuse happens at all ages, not just in adult relationships. Young people can experience domestic abuse in their relationships irrespective of whether they live together.
- Victims under 16 will be treated as victims of child abuse and age-appropriate consequences will be considered for young people under 16 who harm.

Child/Adolescent to Parent Abuse

- This can involve children of all ages and does not exclusively involve physical violence and can involve those with parental responsibility, siblings or extended families. For children over 16 it is considered domestic abuse in line with the statutory definition, yet children should be offered support based on their individual needs, avoiding unnecessary criminalisation.

CURRENT PROVISION

Across North Lincolnshire, agencies responding to domestic abuse take a multi-agency approach to identifying, supporting and protecting victims and children and to tackling perpetrators.

Criminal Justice System

- Humberside Police respond to calls to their service and investigate domestic abuse related crimes such as stalking and harassment, assault, criminal damage, rape and coercive control.
- Working collaboratively with adult and children’s social care and a wide range of other local services, victims and children are supported and protected, and perpetrators are managed through the criminal justice system including through the courts and Probation Services.
- Humberside Police facilitate a Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) approach to tackling serial perpetrators of domestic abuse together with partner agencies.

One Family Approach

- We know that many victims of domestic abuse do not come into contact with the criminal justice system and that domestic abuse can often be hidden.
- Across North Lincolnshire, through our One Family Approach, there is effective early identification and intervention by a range of agencies, including the voluntary sector, early years providers, schools, colleges, health services, housing services and providers alongside statutory agencies working together who help and protect adults and children from further harm, as well as preventing escalation and recurrence of abuse

North Lincolnshire Council

- The Council provides adult and children’s social care services as well as housing advice services including for victims of domestic abuse and children also services for perpetrators.
- The Council provides services to victims at high risk from domestic abuse under specific conditions to enhance the physical security of their properties through ‘target hardening’ also through the provision of safety equipment. Such sanctuary schemes are designed to make it possible for victims to remain in their own homes if that is what they want and if it is safe to do so.

CURRENT PROVISION – COMMISSIONED SERVICES AND FUNDING

The Blue Door

- The Blue Door Support Service, a Community Interest Company, provides specialist domestic abuse support services to adults and children/young people aged 13 and above across all levels of risk, including those in safe accommodation.
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisors and other specialist workers provide evidenced based risk management, safety planning and a range of interventions to improve safety, reduce domestic abuse related harm, increase resilience and empowerment and improve outcomes for victims and children.
- The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) provision for victims at high risk from domestic abuse is co-ordinated and facilitated through The Blue Door. This service is commissioned by the Council
- The Blue Door provide specialist sexual violence services to those who have experienced this. The Blue Door provide two domestic abuse intervention schemes, Re:Form for non-convicted perpetrators and Who's In Charge? for parents whose children are presenting with harmful abusive or violent behaviour towards them. These are commissioned or funded through grants from bodies other than the Council.

Housing Association

- A housing association provides intensive housing management services in the local Refuge for women and children who have fled domestic abuse, including those from outside our area.
- In addition, they provide needs assessments for women prior to their accommodation within the Refuge and this is commissioned by the Council.
- The Blue Door provide domestic abuse support services to women in the Refuge.

Future Commissioning

The Council will undertake future commissioning exercises for the provision of specialist domestic abuse services as appropriate.

Government Funding

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have allocated new funding to local authorities for the implementation and delivery of the new duty to provide specialist domestic abuse support services for victims of domestic abuse and children in safe accommodation.

The individual allocation of funding for North Lincolnshire is £342,616 for 2021/22. Future funding will be considered as part of the Government's next Spending Review.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESSES

More people affected by domestic abuse received help and support last year

Services remained open, accessible for victims, children and perpetrators during the COVID-19 pandemic

Continued provision of safe accommodation and support services during the pandemic

Rapid response to high risk victims' children referred to children's services 'front door'

Strong management oversight of domestic abuse triage for low/medium risk victims' children

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Provided MIFI units which ensured digital connectivity for women in the local Refuge and victims in dispersed accommodation

Increased staff confidence to intervene where perpetrators have remained in families, to provide early help or targeted/specialist support where required

Continued to provide domestic abuse training and produced a domestic abuse toolkit and other connected resources

Continued online group work support e.g. Freedom Programme for victims and Re:Form for non convicted perpetrators

Data development underpinned by analysis and evaluation to shape and influence partnership action

Focused on communications across the partnership to raise awareness and orientate people to local information and support

Improved partnership connectivity (we've talked more than we've ever talked)

Outcomes of engagement confirmed that we have demonstrated our core values in providing support to victims, children and perpetrators

Secured additional grant funding to develop local capacity and interventions to meet the needs of victims, children and perpetrators

Direct feedback from victims and perpetrators has been central to shaping strategic, service and practice development

NATIONAL AND WIDER STATUTORY CONTEXT

In the year up to March 2020, an estimated 2.3 million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse, around two thirds of whom were women (1.6 million women and 757,000 men) and more than one in ten of all offences recorded by the police are domestic abuse related.

The **Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021** conveys the Government's refreshed approach and ambition to provide a 'once in a generation' opportunity to reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls and improve the support and response for victims and survivors. This strategy will go with their forthcoming complementary strategy on domestic abuse. In recognition that men and boys are affected by violence, the Government intend to publish a new position paper on male victims later in 2021.

The **Adoption and Children Act 2002** extended the definition of harm to include 'impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another' which required children who witness domestic abuse at home to be considered in need of help and protection from the Local Authority, as well as those that are directly injured or abused.

The **Care Act 2014** specifies that freedom from abuse and neglect is a key aspect of a person's wellbeing – this includes domestic abuse. These provisions apply to an adult who appears to have needs for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting those needs), is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from the risk of or the experience of that abuse or neglect.

The response to domestic abuse is a complex one that spans a number of statutory and non-statutory agencies, including but not limited to local authorities, community-based agencies, children's services, housing, health (including mental health), drug and alcohol services, specialist domestic abuse agencies, the police and the criminal justice system. Schools and other education bodies also have a central role. In order to support victims, including children, and respond to perpetrators, each agency has a responsibility to work effectively together.

ENSURING EQUALITY IN OUR APPROACH

We know that domestic abuse can happen to anyone, from any background, in any relationship.

Individuals can be the victims of multiple and different abusive behaviours because of the way different characteristics, such as immigration status, sex, race, ethnicity, age, religion or belief, socio-economic position, gender identity and sexual orientation intersect and overlap, particularly in relation to accessing services and support if they are not adequately designed to meet their needs.

This strategy supports agencies, service providers and commissioners to consider this intersectionality when developing their responses to both adult and child victims, in order to fully identify the lived experiences of all victims in relation to the abusive behaviour they experience and ensure that services are provided to victims without discrimination.

The strategy takes into account the responsibilities of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the **Equality Act 2010** to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share protected characteristics and those from different groups.

As such, this strategy also takes account and responds to the needs of population groups sharing the following protected characteristics:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

AMBITION, PRIORITY AND OUTCOMES

Our ambition is for North Lincolnshire to be the best place to work, visit and invest and our priority is **for individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities** and through implementing this strategy, we have articulated what successful outcomes will look like:

SAFE	WELL	PROSPEROUS	CONNECTED
<p>Where victims and children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have increased trust and confidence to report domestic abuse and access flexible specialist support services • Have access to dispersed 'safe accommodation' in varied locations • Have a sense of belonging and feel safe/are safe in their home and in their communities • Feel able to withstand adverse impacts and keep themselves and children safe • Are empowered and supported to identify their strengths and aspirations • Are able to live the life they want after harm occurs • Are enabled to access support so they get safe, stay safe and become independent of services 	<p>Where victims and children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy positive physical and emotional wellbeing and mental health • Receive the health, care and support they need • Have increased resilience and self esteem • Have access to the care and support services they need which is person-centred and driven by their needs 	<p>Where victims and children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve economic wellbeing and benefit from family prosperity • Live safely in suitable accommodation which reflects their needs and circumstances, close to their support networks • Are enabled to have social mobility and equal access to resources 	<p>Where victims and children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have access to effective informed flexible support leading to increased levels of safety and wellbeing at the earliest opportunity • Have their holistic needs considered through whole family working • Are able to access information, support and services which meets their needs at the earliest point
<p>Where perpetrators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are enabled to change their behaviours at the earliest point • Are empowered and supported to identify their strengths and aspirations • Are enabled to access support so they get safe, stay safe and become independent of services 	<p>Where perpetrators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn resilience and self regulation through effective provision • Have increased resilience and self esteem 	<p>Where perpetrators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve economic wellbeing and benefit from family prosperity • Are enabled to have social mobility and equal access to resources 	<p>Where perpetrators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have access to effective informed flexible support leading to sustained non-abusive behaviours • Are able to access information, support and services which meets their needs at the earliest point

SHINE A LIGHT AREAS OF FOCUS

We have articulated the areas of focus on which we will **'shine a light'** on for partnership action and system change to contribute to victims, children and perpetrators being safe, well, prosperous and connected and **for individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities**

For these areas in which we want to **'shine a light'**, there are established partnership arrangements and identified lead officers to drive forward partnership action and system change.

As part of this lead partnerships/lead officers will be responsible for identifying, monitoring and progress reporting through relevant partnership and governance arrangements, underpinned by relevant performance data and analysis, practice wisdom, voice and engagement.

Under our three **'shine a light'** areas of focus, we show how our intents and partnership actions and system change reflect the needs identified in our needs assessment and how we intend to address them.

Shine a Light Area of Focus		Lead Partnership
1	To develop our early identification and early help offer to ensure victims, children and perpetrators have equality of access to help and support at the earliest point	Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (reporting to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board)
2	To be transformational in our approach to safety and support for victims, children and perpetrators	
3	To create a culture and infrastructure to achieve our priority through working in partnership	

1 - SHINE A LIGHT AREA OF FOCUS: **EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND EARLY HELP**

INTENTS		PARTNERSHIP ACTION AND SYSTEM CHANGE
1	Raising awareness and prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raise awareness of the diverse characteristics of domestic abuse victims, including those with a caring role within families, and the barriers to accessing help and support that they have to overcome ➤ Address the stigma associated with reporting and the fear of involving services ➤ Develop awareness of how coercive and controlling behaviours may inhibit individuals disclosing or revealing the extent of domestic abuse ➤ Develop people's awareness, understanding, confidence and competence relating to domestic abuse including stalking and harassment, violence against women and girls, supporting families and trauma informed working ➤ Raise awareness of the impact of harmful family conflict and equip practitioners and families themselves to recognise and resolve this at the earliest stage
2	Safe Places and Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review, refine and develop the range of initiatives and schemes to support and contribute to the local community response i.e. Ask for ANI, Safe Spaces and Safer Places J9 initiative etc
3	Access to support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review and develop the sufficiency of flexible support and services within urban and rural areas to ensure equality of access
4	Early help provision in relation to domestic abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure information advice and support is available through virtual and community mechanisms ➤ Further develop and embed routine professional enquiry by agencies (where appropriate) to enhance early identification of victims of domestic abuse and ensure appropriate assessments, plans and interventions for victims and children ➤ Ensure that mental capacity is effectively considered and advocacy offered where appropriate ➤ Develop early help interventions to address perpetrator behaviours and child/adolescent abuse towards parents/carers and teenage relationship abuse

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2- SHINE A LIGHT AREA OF FOCUS: SAFETY AND SUPPORT

INTENTS		PARTNERSHIP ACTION AND SYSTEM CHANGE
1	Safe Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To work with social landlords/housing associations to further develop and provide varied options for safe accommodation taking into consideration the range of protected characteristics ➤ To review and refresh the local Sanctuary Scheme and target hardening to enable victims and children to live in their own homes ➤ To understand the prevalence of victims fleeing into and fleeing from North Lincolnshire and ensure their needs are met through multi agency working and cross border collaboration
2	Specialist domestic abuse support services for victims and children in safe accommodation and wider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop additional capacity to support the implementation of the safe accommodation duty through the creation of Council posts and/or commissioning such provision ➤ Scope, develop and implement a refreshed flexible specialist domestic abuse support services offer for victims and children in safe accommodation, including clarity regarding the links between services ➤ Scope and develop an enhanced children's advocacy offer for the children of victims of domestic abuse living in safe accommodation ➤ Further develop integrated working to address whole family working and take into account holistic needs i.e., in relation to emotional wellbeing and mental health, substance misuse, deaf and disabled victims ➤ Consider and address the availability of support for all victims, including those with protected characteristics ☐ Develop preventative approaches to minimise repeat victimisation, where victims are supported to recognise signs of abusive relationships, including online
3	Support perpetrators to get help and support to change behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop and implement a range of approved perpetrator programmes and interventions for those who have not entered the criminal justice system

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3 - SHINE A LIGHT AREA OF FOCUS: **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

INTENTS		PARTNERSHIP ACTION AND SYSTEM CHANGE
1	Data development	➤ Make best use of resources across the partnership to further develop and embed the domestic abuse profile and reporting arrangements
2	Workforce Development	➤ Review, refine and further develop the training and education programme in relation to domestic abuse
3	Work with victims, children and perpetrator voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Scope, develop and implement an Experts by Experience Framework as part of our co-production approach to working with people as experts in their own lives ➤ Refresh / develop the Stakeholder Engagement Statement to best reflect our commitment to engaging with victims, children and perpetrators at an individual, service and strategic level to ensure that the views of people with lived experiences shape and influence partnership action
4	White Ribbon Action Plan	➤ Develop and implement the council's refreshed White Ribbon Action Plan in partnership with key stakeholders
5	Learning from local and national processes and reviews	➤ Share good practice and continue to learn from Domestic Homicide Reviews and other reviews where domestic abuse is a feature, research and evidence based approaches to enhance services, support and practice through establishing a learning and improvement framework
6	Enhance our Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference system	➤ Implement the recommendations from the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Review Report 2020/21

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We want victims, children and perpetrators to be supported by a workforce that is resilient and with the authorisation to do what they think is the right thing to prevent further escalation.

Our shared goal

- A workforce who are enabled to help victims, children and perpetrators to achieve our priority for individuals **to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities**

Our values

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- Equality of opportunity
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Self responsibility

Workforce

- Resilient, well and highly motivated
- Enabled and innovative
- Connected and high performing
- Safe to be ourselves

A workforce who:

- Work together to provide and commission integrated services
- Are diverse and can recognise and work with the diverse population of North Lincolnshire
- Are strengths based and solution focused
- Do the right thing at the earliest point to meet need
- Streamline processes, reduce and overcome barriers and avoid duplication
- Address issues in inequality and demonstrates anti oppressive and anti racist practice
- Are resilient and confident
- Are skilled and competent
- Are supported and receive appropriate supervision
- Work to 'level up' life chances and prioritise services to victims, children and perpetrators

Workforce Engagement Strategy

Will be achieved by:	Being agile in thinking and working practices	Enabling flexible, agile leadership at all levels	Involving the workforce at all levels in decision making	Valuing and recognising achievement	Behaving true to our values – valuing each other
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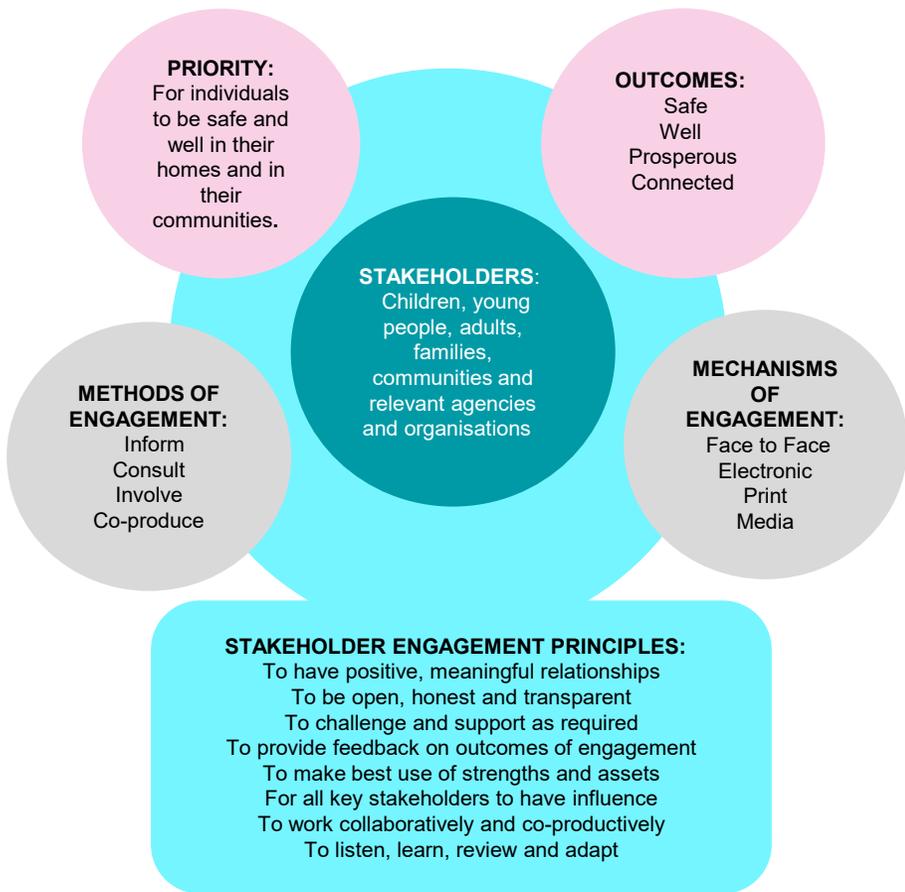
VOICE AND ENGAGEMENT

We will listen to the views and experiences of victims, children and perpetrators, work to build on their strengths and help them find solutions leading to better outcomes (safe, well, prosperous and connected).

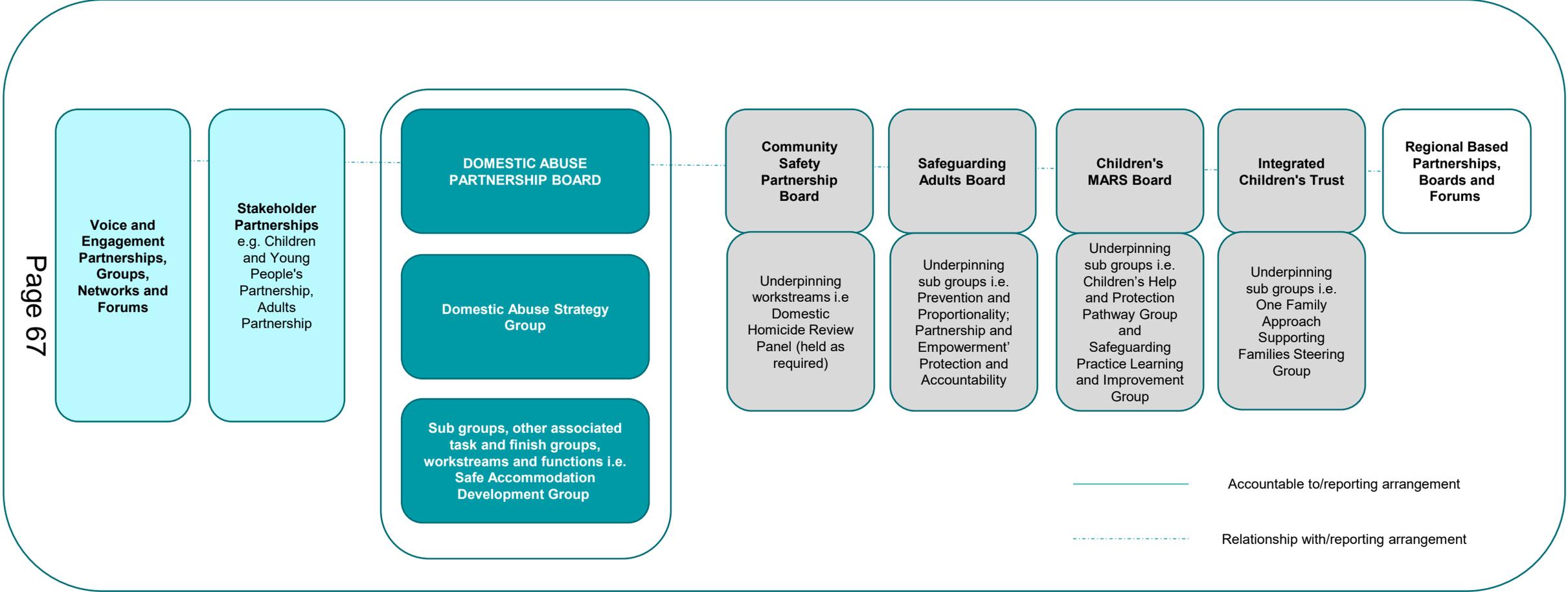
Children, families and communities are at the heart of all we do. By making use of their strengths, assets, views and experiences and by engaging with and working together as partners and with other key stakeholders across the partnership (including the voluntary and community sector), we will co-produce local services and support which meet needs and helps to achieve our priority, leading to better outcomes.

This will be underpinned in our stakeholder engagement statement which clarifies our commitment and mechanisms for engagement at an individual, service and strategic level.

We will do this along with children, young people, adults, families and communities themselves, key partners and stakeholders including the Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group, education providers, health providers, police and the voluntary and community sector.



GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS



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MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT

SHINE A LIGHT AREAS OF FOCUS		LEAD PARTNERSHIP	IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE		
			2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Page 68	1 To develop our early identification and early help offer to ensure victims, children and perpetrators have equality of access to help and support at the earliest point	Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (reporting to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clarity of local offer in relation to community safe places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Equitable access to domestic abuse support and services from an urban and rural perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A range of early help programme(s) in place
	2 To be transformational in our approach to safety and support for victims, children and perpetrators		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Made use of the available funding to create capacity and develop specialist domestic abuse support services for victims and children in safe accommodation ➤ Increased availability of safe accommodation in place ➤ Evidence of whole family working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implemented specialist domestic abuse support services for victims and children in safe accommodation ➤ Increased availability of safe accommodation is in place that meets the needs of all those that need it and their protected characteristics ➤ Evidence of approved perpetrator programmes and interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sufficient safe accommodation and specialist domestic abuse support is in place that meets the needs of all those that need it and their protected characteristics
	3 To create a culture and infrastructure to achieve our priority through working in partnership		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Experts by Experience function in place ➤ Report to Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government regarding implementation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy (annually) ➤ Implement the recommendations from the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference Review 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommissioning of wider domestic abuse support services complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Formally review and evaluate implementation of strategy and develop the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024/27

MONITORING AND REVIEW

We have a commitment to listen, learn, review and adapt and we will demonstrate our success in improving outcomes for victims, children and perpetrators through **performance data and analysis, practice wisdom, voice and engagement and research, reviews and reports.**

Progress relating to our 'shine a light' areas of focus, will be presented on a quarterly basis to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and through other relevant partnership and governance arrangements via identified leads, as appropriate.

An annual progress review of this strategy will be developed and presented to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and through other relevant partnership and governance arrangements as appropriate, including the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government as part of our statutory duty.

The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will also have a 'line of sight' on other relevant individual agency and/or partnership strategies and workstreams associated with domestic abuse and progress reports will be presented on an exceptions basis at the request of or agreement from the chair and/or lead officer(s).

If any organisations and/or individuals wish to make any representations regarding the scope and implementation of this strategy, they can do this through the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board or via associated workstreams.

GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
<p>Ask for ANI, Safe Spaces and Safer Places J9 initiative</p>	<p>Ask for ANI - The Government has developed the Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately) codeword scheme to allow victims of domestic abuse to access support from the safety of their local pharmacy. Promotional materials for participating pharmacies will be displayed to show that they are taking part. UK SAYS NO MORE have also developed Safe Spaces in pharmacy consultation rooms for people experiencing domestic abuse.</p> <p>Safe Spaces - are also available in certain participating pharmacies and some banks across the UK. Specialist domestic abuse support information will be available and many Safe Spaces are also prepared to respond to the 'Ask for ANI' codeword, to provide victims with a discreet way to access help calling the police on 999 or specialist support services.</p> <p>Safer Places are the provider of the J9 Initiative which aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse and assist survivors to access support safely by training professionals and members of the community to recognise domestic abuse and respond to survivors. The J9 logo is displayed letting survivors know that they have a safe place to access information and use a telephone to contact support services.</p>
<p><u>Care Act 2014</u></p>	<p>Sets out a clear legal framework for how the health and social care system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.</p>
<p>Children’s Help and Protection Pathway (CHaPP) Group</p>	<p>The CHaPP Group reports directly to the Children’s MARS Board and oversees and seeks assurance in relation to multi-agency working across the ‘Early Help and Safeguarding Pathway’ including early help services and statutory safeguarding processes.</p>
<p><u>Children’s Challenge 2020/24</u></p>	<p>Through surveys and feedback, young people and families have identified some areas of focus to challenge local partners to work together to take action. They have also identified challenges for themselves. These challenges are articulated in the Children’s Challenge.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Pandemic</p>	<p>COVID-19 is a Coronavirus disease named in 2019, primarily transmitted between people by respiratory and contact routes. Transmission is extensive hence precautions to prevent human-to-human transmission are appropriate. The disease is prevalent across the world and is categorised as a pandemic.</p>
<p><u>Domestic Abuse Act 2021</u></p>	<p>A landmark Act to make provision in relation to domestic abuse.</p>

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GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs)	The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduces DAPNs and DAPOs and the latter bring together the strongest elements of the existing protective order regime of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs) and Domestic Violence Protections Orders (DVPOs) into a single comprehensive, flexible order which will afford more effective and longer-term protection to victims of domestic abuse and children. DVPNs are issued by the police and prohibit perpetrators variously from contacting, threatening, intimidating or harassing their victims. DVPNs are followed up with applications for DVPOs in a magistrates court. The new DAPNs and DAPOs will be piloted before being rolled out nationally and the DVPNs/DVPOs will continue to apply until this point with the police being issued with guidance.
Domestic Abuse Triage	This Domestic Abuse Triage is a specific early help function in relation to children living with domestic abuse cited in Children’s Services which co-locates key partner agencies including the police, health, education, social care and The Blue Door representatives to enable multi-agency information sharing and decision making on cases assessed by the police decision maker as medium or low/standard level (not requiring a contact/referral regarding safeguarding concerns).
Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)	A DHR is a multi-agency review of the circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person to whom they were related or with whom they were, or had been, in an intimate personal relationship, or a member of the same household as themselves. They are held to identify the lessons to be learned. DHRs came into effect in April 2011 and were established on a statutory basis under the Domestic Violence , Crime and Victims Act 2004.
Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare’s Law)	This scheme gives any member of the public the right to ask the police if their partner may pose a risk to them. It is often called Clare’s Law after the landmark case that led to it.
Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment	An assessment of need that accompanies the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24 which brings our data relating to domestic abuse together in one place and helps us understand what is working well in North Lincolnshire and what needs to be improved.
<u>Equality Act 2010</u>	Public Sector Duty (section 149) included in the Equality Act 2010 ensure there is due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people from different groups.
Experts by Experience Framework	A local framework is being developed to make sure that our services and policies are coproduced, shaped and influenced by the people best placed to know what works: people with lived experience of children’s social care in North Lincolnshire. This will complement and expand on the Adults by Experience approach already in place.

GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
Freedom Programme	A domestic abuse programme designed primarily for women as adult victims of domestic abuse.
Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire 2020/24 document	<p>Sets out our local definitions of levels of need, in line with our organisational model.</p> <p>Sets out guidance to professionals about providing early help and making decisions about levels of need.</p> <p>Introduces our One Family Approach practice model, provides the framework for how the provision of help and protection should be undertaken across the partnership.</p> <p>Sets out the principles which underpin multi agency practice in North Lincolnshire.</p>
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor/Advocate
LGBTQ+	The acronym to denote Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Questioning (or Queer) and + to denote other ways of identifying as an individual.
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)	A MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on high risk domestic abuse victims between multi agency representatives of local police, health, children’s service, housing practitioners, IDVAs, probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. The primary focus of the meeting is to safeguard the victim and make links to safeguarding children and to the management of the perpetrator’s behaviour.
Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC)	The MATAC meetings allow statutory and voluntary agencies to give a consistent and structured response to managing the risk posed by serial perpetrators of domestic abuse. The relevant agencies share information and decide upon the most appropriate way to reduce or manage the identified risks around domestic abuse.
North Lincolnshire Children’s Commissioning Strategy 2020/24	This document clarifies our integrated One Family Approach and commissioning intent in relation to health, social care and education for children, young people and families.
North Lincolnshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	A partnership between the local authority, other agencies and organisations, including the private and voluntary independent sector and other stakeholders including victims that work together to achieve the areas of focus defined through the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021/24, on preventing and responding to domestic abuse..

GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
One Family Approach (OFA)	<p>The One Family Approach is how we respond to the needs of children and families in North Lincolnshire in the context of an integrated services for children.</p> <p>It provides a vision for a system that places children and families at the centre – a One Family Approach to strategy, commissioning, planning, and practice.</p> <p>It is founded upon our North Lincolnshire culture, values and beliefs, capturing our intent to keep children in their families, their schools and their communities and based upon anti-oppressive working across the partnership.</p> <p>It provides a model for innovative, integrated working which builds upon strengths, find solutions in families and communities, builds resilience and confidence, and enables independence. This practice model is outlined in the Helping Children and Families in North Lincolnshire 2020/24 document.</p>
Perpetrator (Domestic Abuse)	A person who has shown abusive behaviour towards another person as per the statutory definition under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
Polygraph testing	A polygraph, popularly referred to as a lie detector test, is a test that measures psychological changes in the body when a person is asked and answers a series of questions.
Re:Form	A domestic abuse non convicted perpetrator programme that aims to help people who have been abusive to their partner or ex-partner to change their behaviour and develop respectful, non-abusive relationships.
Safe Accommodation	Under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 the statutory definition of safe accommodation includes the following; refuge accommodation, specialist safe accommodation, dispersed safe self contained accommodation, sanctuary schemes, move-on or second stage accommodation and other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation.
Sanctuary Scheme and target hardening	A Sanctuary Scheme is a multi-agency victim centred initiative which aims to enable victims at risk of violence to remain safely in their own homes by installing a 'Sanctuary' in the home through the provision of support to the household.

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GLOSSARY

Term	Explanation
Shine a Light areas of focus	North Lincolnshire Children’s Commissioning Strategy 2020/24 identifies our commissioning intents to articulate the areas of focus that the Integrated Children’s Trust will ‘Shine a Light’ on for partnership action and system change to contribute to children, young people and families being SAFE, WELL, PROSPEROUS and CONNECTED and so that children live within their family, attend their school and be a part of their community.
Safeguarding Practice Learning and Improvement Group (SPLIG)	The SPLIG reports directly to the Children’s MARS Board and is responsible for co-ordinating the outcomes of local multi-agency scrutiny and assurance activity and reviews, monitors and implements areas for development to ensure the Children’s MARS arrangements positively impact on our commitment towards continuous improvements to front line practice. The group disseminates learning from local scrutiny and assurance activity.
Supporting Families Programme	Supporting Families helps thousands of families across England to get the help they need to address multiple disadvantages through a whole family approach, delivered by keyworkers, working for local authorities and their partners. The Supporting Families programme in North Lincolnshire is underpinned by the One Family Approach.
<u>The Adoption and Children Act 2002 (section 120)</u>	An Act to state the law relating to adoption, Section 120 clarifies the definition of harm in the Children Act 1989.
<u>The Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2021</u>	The Tackling Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2021 conveys the Government's refreshed approach and ambition to provide a 'once in a generation' opportunity to reduce the prevalence of violence against women and girls and improve the support and response for victims and survivors.
White Ribbon Action Plan	White Ribbon is a movement that aims to end male violence against women. Organisations pledge commitment by producing an action plan on how to achieve their commitment to involving men in ending violence against women and girls.

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ABOUT THE DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021: STATUTORY DEFINITION

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (hereafter the Act) puts in place a statutory definition of domestic abuse. It defines domestic abuse as abusive behaviour of a person towards another person; if both people are aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other. Behaviour is abusive if it consists of any of the following:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violence or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Economic abuse
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse

It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

Economic abuse means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on a person's ability to:

- acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or
- obtain goods or services

One person's behaviour towards another person may be abusive despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person, for example, their child.

Two people are "personally connected" to each other if any of the following applies:

- they are, or have been, married to each other;
- they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
- they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
- they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child
- they are relatives.

A person has a parental relationship in relation to a child if:

- the person is a parent of the child, or
- the person has parental responsibility for the child.

Any reference in this Act to a victim of domestic abuse includes a reference to a child who sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse, and is related to one of the people "personally connected".

"Child" means a person under the age of 18 years

"Civil partnership agreement" has the meaning given by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004

"Parental responsibility" has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989

"Relative" has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996

ABOUT THE DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021: OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Act is to:

- raise awareness and understanding of domestic abuse and its impact on victims
- further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice
- strengthen the support for victims of abuse and children provided by other statutory agencies

The Act puts in place:

- the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner, sets out what they can do and which public bodies should co-operate
- new civil preventative orders called Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders
- new duties on local authorities in England to convene a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board, assess the need for, prepare and publish strategies and provide support to victims of domestic abuse and children in refuges and other safe accommodation in their areas and report back to central government
- automatic eligibility for victims of domestic abuse to special measures in the criminal, family and civil courts, prohibits perpetrators of certain offences from cross-examining their victims in person in the family and in civil courts in England and Wales (and vice versa) and gives family and civil courts other powers, in certain circumstances
- additional criminal measures such as an extension of the offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate or family relationship to cover post separation abuse, widens the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films to cover threats to disclose, provides for a new offence of strangulation or suffocation and gives clarity that a victim cannot consent to the infliction of serious harm for the purposes of obtaining sexual gratification and extends the jurisdiction of the UK courts so that, where appropriate, UK nationals and residents who commit certain violent and sexual offences outside the UK may be brought to trial in the UK
- the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (also known as Clare's Law) on a statutory footing
- eligibility for victims who are homeless as a result of fleeing domestic abuse, priority need for accommodation secured by the local authority, ensures that people with secure or assured lifetime tenancies are granted a secure lifetime tenancy where the new tenancy is being granted by a local authority for reasons connected to domestic abuse
- disallows certain health professionals from charging for medical evidence of domestic abuse
- polygraph testing for certain domestic abuse offenders following their release from custody on license.

ABOUT THE DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT 2021: SAFE ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT DUTY

A substantial change in the Act is the new duty for local authorities to provide support for all victims of domestic abuse and children within safe accommodation also known as relevant accommodation.

To be classified as safe accommodation, it must be ‘secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse’ and meet the relevant quality standards. This includes the following options:

- Refuge accommodation - offering accommodation and intensive support
- Specialist safe accommodation - such as specialist refuges for those with protected characteristics and/or complex needs
- Dispersed safe (secure and dedicated to supporting victims of domestic abuse) self-contained accommodation - with the same level of specialist domestic abuse support as provided within a refuge which may be more suitable for victims who are unable to stay in a refuge due to complex support needs or for families with teenage sons for example or ‘semi-independent accommodation with support for victims
- Sanctuary schemes – properties with local authority enhanced physical security measures within a home or perimeter. This makes it possible for victims to remain in their own homes where it is safe, their choice and where the perpetrator does not live there
- Move-on and / or second stage accommodation – temporary accommodation for victims and families who no longer need intensive support such as that provided in a refuge and who would benefit from a lower level of domestic abuse specific support before they move to fully independent and permanent accommodation
- Other forms of domestic abuse emergency accommodation - a safe place with appropriate support to give victims an opportunity to spend a temporary period to consider and make decisions in an environment which is self-contained and safe. Includes access to wrap around specialist support for victims with complex needs such as mental health and substance misuse

The new duty requires support including specialist domestic abuse help to be provided to all victims of domestic abuse and children within safe accommodation. Support may be provided directly within refuges or in the form of outreach support in other types of safe accommodation such as victims’ homes in sanctuary schemes. Domestic abuse support within safe accommodation includes:

- Overall management of services and the day to day running of the service
- Advocacy support and the development of personal safety plans including liaison with other services such as GPs, social workers etc
- Domestic abuse prevention advice to help victims remain safe
- Specialist support for victims designed specifically for victims with protected characteristics (including ‘by and for’) such as, yet not limited to, faith services, translators and interpreters, immigration advice, interpreters for victims identifying as deaf and / or hard of hearing, and dedicated support for LGBTQ+ victims and those with additional or complex needs such as mental health or drug and alcohol advice/support
- Children’s support including therapy and advocacy and counselling / therapy for both adults and children
- Housing related support and financial or legal support

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: AN OVERVIEW

According to our needs assessment...

- Domestic abuse all too often goes unreported and unrecorded. Nationally it is estimated that **21%** of adults have experienced domestic abuse in their lifetimes, including **28%** of women and **14%** of men. Over the last 12 months, **5%** of adults have experienced domestic abuse (**6%** of women and **2%** of men).
- This translates into nearly **40,000** people in North Lincolnshire* experiencing domestic abuse in their adult lifetimes with just over **10,000** doing so over the last year.
- The large majority of victims do not report to their abuse to the police and fewer still access support or safe accommodation services. We predict that **15 in 100** domestic abuse victims in North Lincolnshire currently go to the police, **6 in 100** access support from The Blue Door, our specialist domestic abuse support provider and **2 in 100** currently access safe accommodation.
- The level of need for safe accommodation over the last year was **233** units of accommodation, provided by **196** target hardened properties, **12** units of refuge accommodation and **25** units of accommodation for homeless victims.

* = of a total population of 172,292

Over the last year.....



DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: FACTS AND FIGURES

Domestic abuse related crime in North Lincolnshire is slightly higher than the national average but lower than the Humber area average

71% of victims of domestic abuse related crime in North Lincolnshire are female and 29% are male

92% of those accessing domestic abuse support are female and 8% are male

Over 50% of victims of domestic abuse related crime and over 50% of victims who access domestic abuse support are under the age of 35

Around half of women who move into the refuge come from outside North Lincolnshire. Most stay in the refuge from between 3 and 6 months

Most victims accessing domestic abuse support were abused by ex-partners (56%), followed by current partners (33%) and family members (11%)

Domestic abuse related crime is around three times higher in some urban areas compared with most rural parts of North Lincolnshire

64% of referrals to our domestic abuse support provider also had children present in the household at the time

233 units of safe accommodation provided over the last year – 84% consisted of enhancing physical security measures in victims own homes

Domestic abuse related crimes are most commonly committed between Friday and Monday. Most are committed between 10 - 11pm on a Friday and 8 - 9pm on a Saturday

Most domestic abuse related offences are stalking and harassment offences (737 last year), violence without injury (652) and violence with injury (534)

30% of victims going to the police are repeat victims and 34% of perpetrators are repeat perpetrators

13% of domestic abuse related crimes resulted in a charge or summons last year while there were evidential difficulties in 84% of cases

59 perpetrators were referred to non convicted perpetrator programmes over the last year

19% of domestic abuse related crimes were committed under the influence of drink and drugs last year

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: COVID-19 AND BEYOND

- The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a huge challenge, with perpetrators taking advantage of the restrictions to intensify their abuse and support services transforming the way they deliver services at very short notice.
- Overall, agencies have reported increased demand for services in 2020/21 and many are now helping more people than ever before.
- Police data does not reflect this, reporting a 7% fall in domestic abuse related crimes. This suggests significant levels of underreporting to the police over the past year.
- Service use during the pandemic has followed a distinct pattern, with falling demand for domestic abuse support services during lockdowns with a surge when lockdown restrictions were released.
- The small fall in numbers moving into the refuge this year is a reflection of its finite capacity and the temporary decision to stop taking out-of-area referrals during the first lockdown and in Winter 2020/21.
- Despite launching right at the start of the pandemic, the Re:Form non-convicted perpetrator programme has been a real success, with 59 perpetrators referred since its launch in April 2020.

The impact of COVID-19:

Compared to the previous year, the period from April 2020 to March 2021 has seen ...

- Domestic abuse related crimes recorded fall by 7%
- MARAC cases rise by 46%
- Referrals to The Blue Door up 5%.
- Adult safeguarding referrals for domestic abuse rise by 23%
- Children's services referrals with domestic abuse as a presenting issue fall by 3%
- Properties target hardened rise by 37%
- Accommodation duties owed to homeless domestic abuse victims rise by 21%.
- Move ins at the refuge fall by 25%

The longer view:

Over the past three years we have seen ...

- Domestic abuse related crimes recorded fall from 2,670 to 2,485
- MARAC cases rise from 444 to 695
- Referrals to The Blue Door rise from 1,094 to 1,575
- Adult safeguarding referrals rise from 60 to 228
- Children's services referrals with domestic abuse as a presenting issue rise from 365 to 434
- Properties target hardened rise from 139 to 196
- Accommodation duties owed to homeless domestic abuse victims rise from 12 to 25
- Move ins at the refuge fall from 17 to 12

Domestic Abuse Crimes per 1,000 per year:

Some urban wards in North Lincolnshire have the highest rate of domestic abuse, around 3 times higher than in most rural wards. Those living in the urban parts of North Lincolnshire are also most likely to use our support services.

The North Lincolnshire average of 16 domestic abuse crimes per 1000 per year is higher than the national average (13 per 1000) but lower than the Humber area average (18 per 1000). Domestic abuse is notoriously underreported so rising rates do not necessarily mean that the incidence of domestic abuse in society is rising, instead signalling that victims feel increasingly confident to come forward and get the support they need.

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

To achieve our priority for individuals to be safe and well in their homes and in their communities, our support offer must cater to the needs of the whole population. This slide outlines the number of victims with different protected characteristics that have accessed domestic abuse support services over the last 4 years. However, we recognise there is still further data development work required in this area, particularly around the protected characteristics of sexual orientation and disability. *(The % are rounded up/down as appropriate therefore the composite of lines may not always add up to 100%)*

Gender

	Female	Male
Victims of domestic abuse related crime	71%	29%
Victims discussed in MARAC meetings	96%	4%
Victims supported by The Blue Door	94%	6%
Victims supported by the local Refuge	100%	0%
Victims referred to adult safeguarding	78%	21%
Victims securing new accommodation	93%	7%

Although around 3 in 10 victims of domestic abuse crime are male, men currently make up only around 1 in 10 of those accessing support. This is partly because 'women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse' (SafeLives). It has been identified that strengthening our support provision for male victims is a local area of need.

Ethnicity

	White British	White Other	Asian	Black	Mixed
Overall population of North Lincolnshire	92%	4%	3%	0%	1%
Victims of domestic abuse related crime	91%	5%	2%	1%	1%
Victims discussed in MARAC meetings	86%	7%	5%	1%	1%
Victims supported by The Blue Door	90%	6%	3%	1%	0%
Victims supported by the local Refuge	86%	11%	3%	0%	0%
Victims referred to adult safeguarding	88%	7%	5%	0%	0%
Victims securing new accommodation	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%

The ethnicity profile of victims accessing domestic abuse support services broadly reflects the overall ethnic composition of North Lincolnshire. Domestic abuse victims from non-white British backgrounds are marginally more likely to access support services since they are more likely to live in those parts of North Lincolnshire where domestic abuse rates are higher.

Age

	16-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66+
Victims of domestic abuse related crime	24%	32%	21%	14%	6%	3%
Victims supported by The Blue Door	23%	34%	22%	12%	3%	7%
Victims supported by the local Refuge	35%	35%	18%	6%	6%	0%
Victims referred to adult safeguarding	7%	10%	9%	17%	18%	38%
Victims securing new accommodation	17%	33%	33%	9%	7%	2%

While 56% of victims referred to adult safeguarding are aged 56+, those supported in refuge accommodation tend to be younger women, with 70% aged under 35. This reflects younger victims more commonly facing the most violent domestic abuse, while older victims are more likely to be affected by other forms of abuse such as financial abuse which require a different set of interventions.

Victims fleeing North Lincolnshire

Year	Number of Victims
2017/18	28
2018/19	58
2019/20	44
2020/21	51

Some survivors fleeing domestic abuse will travel across borders in order to seek help and move away from the perpetrator. The Blue Door record the number of victims that they know have fled North Lincolnshire to other parts of the country, although the true figure is likely to be even higher than this.

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES (VICTIMS)

What works well

'I felt I didn't have to do anything alone. I was confident to tell her (IDVA) everything that had happened – she didn't judge me.'

'She gave me her strength; staff were knowledgeable and caring. When I went in (to the local domestic abuse service) I was crawling, when I left I felt liberated, I was walking upright.'

'I find the programme (Freedom) very useful, I enjoy it and it's really helped me notice what I went through at that time, I also took the information in.'

'It wasn't until the police got involved and looked at the criminal damage in my house ... it was coercive control and financial abuse. People ask did he hit you? My bruises are inside and it's had an affect on my daughter ... the police were brilliant and logged everything.'

'Children's Services made sure everything was in place for my child and the school and school nurse helped.'

'When I moved here and the school knew I was working with (the local domestic abuse service) it took support to a different level, everything just connected better with access to the right people.'

'I have never claimed benefits in my life and the woman at the Jobcentre was an angel.'

'The Reablement Team were amazing and understood domestic abuse. They helped me fill in forms and sort out bills.'

'She put me on a college course which gave me more confidence because I was doing something with my life, I am now working and want to write a book.'

What could be improved

'In the criminal court I was with the IDVA and protected all the way. In the family court case, I had to go into the same room as him and it was unpleasant.'

'When I applied for housing, it's difficult as I could have been put anywhere in North Lincs and that was no good as my children go to school in (local town) where we live.'

'The pressure on you is so immense at first, struggling to deal with things let alone being able to talk to your children about what has happened.'

'Coercive control and the violence was so normalised I did not know anything was wrong.'

DOMESTIC ABUSE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE: VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES (PERPETRATORS)

What works well

'I didn't realise that my children were affected by my relationship, that the shouting was being reflected in their behaviour, especially the oldest one who would react in the same way imitating our relationship.'

'The course has taught me a lot, it became very obvious that domestic abuse is not just physical, it's mental and verbal as well and I learnt how to talk to someone.'

'The social worker said have you heard of this (Re:Form), will you consider it? I did not realise how massive having the information would be. I would walk away from jobs ... it gives you insight into life, it's helped me through court and how to talk with the social worker.'

'It opened my eyes to look out for signs if I get a new partner.'

'The Judge listened to professionals and thought on the safeguarding side too. Because I've done Re:Form it is one big reason of why the children went back home.'

'My child's plan has moved to a child in need plan from child protection. Services have really helped.'

What could be improved

'I was looking for support and couldn't find anything until I was told about Re:Form.'

If I could have had some help earlier, it might have helped my relationship.'

'It would help to know someone who has been there and to talk to them. It could inspire someone if they are thinking of walking away (from the programme).'

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