The reality and perception of crime:
A picture of the social and economic impact on Lincolnshire
Foreword

Quality of life is a difficult thing to describe as it means different things to different people; however I am sure that we would all agree crime and anti-social behaviour can have a major effect on our quality of life whether we have been a victim of it or not.

What do we know about crime and how can we prevent it are questions that we need to address. This report, produced by the Jupiter team in Lincolnshire, highlights some of the key issues facing the county.

When we launched Jupiter some five years ago across the East Midlands region, our aims were to create a delivery culture by working together in partnership and to collect and use evidence to engage and influence others.

It was true then, as it is now, that an improvement in police performance can only be achieved if local partnerships and other organisations and agencies, including the community, voluntary and private sectors, play a full and active role in efforts to reduce crime and disorder as part of a wider agenda of achieving safer, stronger communities.

I believe that Jupiter has played a major role in this by providing a controlled ‘safe’ environment in which information can be stored and shared. Lincolnshire was one of the first counties to work with GOEM and is thus one of the major drivers for this approach in our region. The recently produced Crime and Disorder Audits reflect the improvements in sharing information based upon this experience and I hope that this will continue and embrace more organisations.

This report together with the local Crime and Disorder Strategies provide a strong foundation on which to support the achievement of safer stronger communities through the development of evidence based solutions by the sharing of knowledge and I commend this report to you.

Stephen Brookes
Home Office Regional Director
Government Office for the East Midlands
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Executive Summary

During 2004 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships were responsible for producing an audit of crime and disorder in their local area and identifying a number of strategic priorities to tackle key issues. Jupiter in Lincolnshire was tasked with providing data from a range of sources to the Partnerships for this purpose and this report brings together the information to provide a countywide view. The report looks at crime data and also considers a range of socio-economic issues to help provide a greater understanding as to what is happening and why.

Crime Levels

In the year prior to the audit, overall crime levels decreased in Lincolnshire and were below both the national and regional levels. The most prevalent types of crime occurring within the county were criminal damage, theft and handling and violent crime which together made up two thirds of all recorded crime. Criminal damage was a particular concern since it was the only crime type to increase to a level similar to that seen across the UK.

Types of crimes occurring across Lincolnshire

Although crimes occurred throughout Lincolnshire, the vast majority were concentrated in the urban areas around town centres or in areas of high deprivation. For example almost a quarter of criminal damage occurred in the top 10% of deprived neighbourhoods. Reducing this crime type may lead to improved feelings of safety and community pride, which may also help regenerate such deprived areas.

Theft and handling, the second most common crime type in Lincolnshire, occurred throughout the county, although there were differences in the types of property being stolen in rural and urban areas. For example in urban areas theft from a shop and mobile phone theft were most common whilst in rural areas residents were most likely to have their garden fixtures and ornaments stolen.

Violent crime had seen the largest increase since 2001/02 with figures in Lincolnshire doubling. Some of this increase may have been due to the National Crime Recording Standards, although the increasing number of pubs, clubs and young people in the county may also have impacted on the figures.

Crime rates in Lincoln and Boston
Drug offences were the least common offence type, although examining recorded crime alone does not give a true picture of drug use across Lincolnshire since it covers only supply and possession of drugs. The issue is therefore likely to be more widespread than recorded crime suggests and is often associated with acquisitive crimes such as vehicle theft and burglary.

Location Factors

The level and trends in crime are influenced by an area’s social, economic and physical profile which increase the chance of a person being a victim or offender. These factors include high population density, and whilst Lincolnshire as a whole has a low population density, it has a number of densely populated urban areas and locations with large transient seasonal populations.

Population density in Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire does not suffer from wide spread deprivation although there are a number of areas in the bottom 10% of the country which may affect crime rates in these locations. Analysis of offender location against issues such as deprivation helps to explain some causes of offending and reasons for such behaviour.

Relationship between offenders and deprivation in Grantham

Vulnerability to Crime

Profiling victim’s characteristics such as age and gender will also assess who are most vulnerable to crime and enable analysis of how this relates to fears and perceptions.

People aged 18-24 in Lincolnshire are most likely to be the perpetrators and victims of crime regardless of the crime type.

Age of offenders compared to the population in Lincolnshire

There is an east/west divide in what can best be described as vulnerable groups amongst the county’s population. Eastern areas tend to have higher proportions of elderly people and those with limiting long-term illness whilst western areas have younger residents and higher proportions of single parent households.
Overall in Lincolnshire there is a 1 in 20 chance of being a victim of crime, although residents aged 18 to 24 are ten times more likely to be a victim than those aged over 65.

**Perception and Reality**

The Police recorded crime statistics provide us with detailed information on crime levels, types and locations within Lincolnshire, however, it is also important to take into account residents experiences and perceptions of crime. Such information may provide a truer indication of crime levels and also enable agencies to determine how effective they are being in reducing the fear of crime.

Only 4% of respondents to the Lincolnshire Crime Audit Survey knew that crime had decreased during 2003/04, the majority thought it had increased.

**Crime rates in Lincolnshire compared to regionally and nationally**

The cost of crime in Lincolnshire for 2003/04 is estimated to be £212.9 million. If all crime types were decreased by 5% there would by a cost saving of approximately £10 million.

**Cost of Crime**

All crimes have a social and economic cost associated with them. This covers a range of factors including expenses incurred to prevent or insure against crimes, costs due to the actual criminal act, such as the value of property taken or the emotional effects, and finally the resources to respond to crime and apprehend criminals. It varies considerably between crime types, but violent crimes are the most costly, and also one of the most common crimes in Lincolnshire.

**Cost of crime in Lincolnshire**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence category</th>
<th>Cost per offence (£ million)</th>
<th>Total cost (£ million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence against the person</td>
<td>£19,000</td>
<td>£156.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common assault</td>
<td>£540</td>
<td>£1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual offences</td>
<td>£19,000</td>
<td>£12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>£4,700</td>
<td>£1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary dwelling</td>
<td>£2,300</td>
<td>£8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary other</td>
<td>£2,700</td>
<td>£15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle theft</td>
<td>£890</td>
<td>£1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other theft</td>
<td>£340</td>
<td>£6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal damage</td>
<td>£510</td>
<td>£7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud &amp; Forgery</td>
<td>£1,500</td>
<td>£3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£212.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Removing the top 0.5% of offenders, i.e. those classed as prolific, could reduce the level of crime in Lincolnshire by 9% per year. Based on current data this would mean that apprehending 50 prolific offenders could reduce crime by 5,000 incidents per year resulting in a possible saving of nearly £20 million.

**Business Crime**

It is not only individuals who are victims of crime and The Lincolnshire Development Employer Survey showed that 41% of the county’s businesses had been affected by crime with the majority being victims of burglary, attempted burglary or theft.

Of these, 80% stated that crime had had an impact on their business, which for the majority had led to increased operating or insurance costs. In a few businesses crime had led to job losses and even relocation.

**Impact of crime on businesses**

- Increased operating costs
- Increased insurance costs
- Led to increased security
- Disruption to trading
- Threatened personal safety
- Reduced staff morale
- Other
- Job losses
- Have relocated

On average, crime had cost businesses £4,500 which could lead to a total loss of £37 million across the County, a sum which could potentially be used to employ over 500 more people within the economy.

**Next Steps**

Current figures show that the level of British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes across Lincolnshire has recently reduced. However the issues raised in this report are still relevant, with criminal damage, theft and handling and violent crime remaining the most prevalent crime types across the county.

Crime types, which are above the average of similar authorities and increasing, should be seen as a priority by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership’s, in particular if they are high volume crimes. Violent crime, for example, is a particular concern since it is continuing to increase across the county as a whole and also incurs the highest cost per offence.

**Violent crime rates in Lincolnshire compared to regionally and nationally**

There are also differences between Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas in terms of performance compared to their peers. Both Lincoln and North Kesteven are doing relatively well with both areas having a number of British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes below their group average, for example theft from a vehicle and burglary dwelling.

In comparison to this, the majority of crimes in Boston remain above the family group average, in particular criminal damage and wounding which are also high volume crimes.

In order to address these issues three areas were highlighted:-

- Direct crime reduction/prevention initiatives at people aged 18-24 due to the high proportion of people in this age group offending.
- Provide job training schemes and drug and alcohol treatment to help prevent the reoccurrence of offending. A quarter of people on probation had drug use, and one-third alcohol, linked to their offending.
- Publicising success stories to help inform people about the true levels of crime in the county and reduce fear of crime.
Introduction

During 2004 all seven of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in Lincolnshire were responsible for producing an audit of crime and disorder in their local area and identifying a number of strategic priorities to tackle key issues. Jupiter in Lincolnshire was tasked with providing data from a range of sources to the Partnerships for this purpose and this report brings together the information to provide a countywide view. The report not only looks at Police recorded crime data but also considers a range of socio-economic issues from the 2001 Census to help provide a greater understanding as to what is happening and why. Further information for each Partnership can be obtained in their local audits and strategies which are available at www.research-lincs.org.uk.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships were established to provide a multi agency approach to tackling crime and disorder issues at a local level. As part of the audit and strategy process they are required to set targets against which their performance is monitored.

For the period 2005 to 2008 the Government is committed to reducing crime by 15% nationally and to achieve this, all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships have set targets for each of the ten British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes, in addition to any local issues identified during the audit process.

The ten British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes which have been identified by the Home Office are primarily acquisitive crimes or crimes against the person (Figure 1).

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships with higher levels of crime are expected to achieve more stretching targets to give an overall crime reduction of 17% across Lincolnshire. The targets for each of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are shown in Figure 2. From this Figure it can be seen that the largest reductions across the county have been set for criminal damage (20%) and burglary dwelling (16%) and all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships have selected one, or both, of these as their largest target.

Interference and tampering with a vehicle, theft from a person and robbery are all low volume crimes and a number of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships have therefore chosen not to tackle these issues.

Figure 1. British Crime Survey Comparator crimes and the main crime category which they fall within

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Category</th>
<th>British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal damage</td>
<td>Vandalism (to a dwelling, other building or vehicle), including arson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
<td>Common assault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wounding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft and handling</td>
<td>Bicycle theft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theft from a person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle crime</td>
<td>Vehicle thefts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theft from a vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vehicle interference and tampering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary dwelling</td>
<td>Burglary dwelling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### % target reduction for each Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
<th>Total number of crimes 2003/04</th>
<th>Boston</th>
<th>East Lindsey</th>
<th>Lincoln</th>
<th>North Kesteven</th>
<th>South Holland</th>
<th>South Kesteven</th>
<th>West Lindsey</th>
<th>Lincolnshire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criminal damage</td>
<td>15,027</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounding</td>
<td>5,669</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theft from a vehicle</td>
<td>4,571</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary dwelling</td>
<td>3,438</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common assault</td>
<td>2,308</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft of a vehicle</td>
<td>1,932</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle theft</td>
<td>1,623</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interfere &amp; tamper - vehicle</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from a person</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,975</strong></td>
<td><strong>17.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>12.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information about local audits and strategies please contact your local Community Safety Manager:-

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Living in Lincolnshire

In order to examine why certain crime patterns and trends are occurring, it is important to have an understanding of an area’s social, economic and physical profile which can impact on the number and types of crimes by increasing the chance of a person being a victim or offender. This chapter examines these factors and highlights some of the key issues which may affect crime levels across the county.

Population Density

Population density has been highlighted by Home Office research as a major factor in determining the number of crimes in an area i.e. highly populated areas experience higher rates of crime. With Lincolnshire regarded as a mainly rural area due to its low population density, (109 people per square kilometre compared to the national average of 344 people per square kilometre), it therefore has lower levels of crime than the national average. Although this is true for Lincolnshire as a whole, it is important to look below these figures as the county has a mixture of both urban and rural areas. Just over half of residents live in areas classified as urban and population density within the county differs from a low of 69 people per square kilometre in West Lindsey to a high of 2,399 per square kilometre in Lincoln. The difference in density across Lincolnshire is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Population density in Lincolnshire

It is also important to note that in addition to the resident population, the east coast in particular has a high transient population during the summer months due to the tourism industry which may influence the number and types of crimes.

Lincolnshire’s population has increased by 10% since 1991, one of the largest increases in the country and it is set to rise by a further 11% by 2011. This is entirely due to net inward migration. The increase in population will affect population density, and in turn impact on crime levels. By 2011 the population of Lincolnshire is set to reach 722,900, giving a population density of 122 people per square kilometre. The variation in population density across the county will remain, with a low of 77 people per square kilometre in West Lindsey and a high of 2,425 in Lincoln.
Household Composition

How and where people live will also influence crime levels and there are a number of household types which are considered to be more at risk of crime. The prevalence of some of these groups in Lincolnshire is shown in Figure 4.

Overall Lincolnshire has a higher than average proportion of single person pensioners, residents aged over 65 and those with limiting long-term illness. However, these trends are not countywide and the east coast tends to have higher proportions of these groups whilst western parts of the county such as Lincoln and Gainsborough have higher proportions of single person households and lone parents.

![Figure 4. Proportion of vulnerable groups in Lincolnshire compared with regionally and nationally. Those which are higher than the national and regional figures are shown in blue.](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Single person pensioner</th>
<th>Single person</th>
<th>Limiting long-term illness</th>
<th>Lone parent</th>
<th>Over 65</th>
<th>Non-white</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lincolnshire</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England and Wales</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* England

Deprivation

Home Office research typically suggests that more deprived areas tend to suffer from higher crime rates, although the links between these two factors are often complex. The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 enables us to examine this by providing an indication of deprivation across the county. The index is made up of the following seven domains all of which may have some relationship with crime levels:-

- Employment
- Income
- Health
- Education
- Skills and training
- Crime
- Barriers to housing and services
- Living environment

Overall Lincolnshire does not suffer from widespread deprivation, as shown in Figure 5, although a number of the county’s Super Output Areas* fall within the bottom 10% of the country and these are located in parts of Lincoln City, Gainsborough, Boston, Grantham and the East Coast. If there was a link between deprivation and crime then these areas would be expected to display higher rates than the rest of the county.

* Super Output Areas are currently the standard geographic unit of dissemination for small area statistics.
Summary

- Overall Lincolnshire has a low population density, but has a number of densely populated urban areas and locations with transient seasonal populations.

- There is an east/west divide in the county’s population. Eastern areas tend to have higher proportions of elderly people and those with limiting long-term illness whilst western areas have younger residents and higher proportions of single parent households.

- Lincolnshire’s population has been growing at a higher rate than the national average and this is forecast to continue.

- Lincolnshire does not suffer from widespread deprivation although there are a number of areas in the bottom 10% of the country which may affect crime rates in these locations.
Who is Affected by Crime in Lincolnshire?

Reviewing the characteristics of offenders and victims in Lincolnshire allows for more targeted crime reduction and prevention activities. Analysis of offender location against issues such as deprivation may help to explain some causes of offending and highlight reasons for such behaviour. Profiling victim’s characteristics such as age and gender will also assess who are most vulnerable to crime and enable analysis of how this relates to fears and perceptions.

Offenders

Within Lincolnshire, three quarters of offenders lived in urban locations, compared to only half of the population as a whole. This increased proportion may be linked to the high levels of crime found in densely populated areas.

Figure 6 shows the relationship between deprivation and offending with the top 10% most deprived areas also having a high proportion of offenders. However, other areas also have a high proportion of offenders highlighting that deprivation is not the only explanation for offending. Therefore, the characteristics of individuals also need to be examined.

Males accounted for 82% of all offenders in the county despite making up only 49% of the population. Figure 7 shows the age breakdown of offenders compared to the population and clearly demonstrates that they are over represented in the under 35s. In fact only 20% of the population are aged 18 to 34, yet almost 60% of those who offended during 2003/04 fell within this category.

Overall people aged 18 to 34 were ten times more likely to offend than someone aged 35 or over. Due to these high proportions, it is clearly beneficial to direct crime reduction and prevention initiatives at this age range.

Figure 6. Relationship between offenders and deprivation in Lincoln and Grantham
Figure 7. Age breakdown of offenders in Lincolnshire compared to the population

Looking at offenders over the age of 17, Probation Services data revealed a number of patterns within the county:

- A quarter of people on probation had drug use, and one-third alcohol, linked to their offending.
- Almost half of all probationers were unemployed compared to 3% of residents in the 2001 Census for Lincolnshire.
- Two thirds of those who were unemployed also had drug use linked to their offending.

Statistics such as these reinforce the need for job training schemes and drug and alcohol treatment availability to prevent the reoccurrence of offending.

The Home Office predicts that 10% of active offenders accumulate more than three convictions and commit at least 50% of all serious crime. Within Lincolnshire this would mean that almost 1,000 offenders were responsible for half of all serious crime. Targeting this smaller number of offenders would dramatically decrease crime within the county.

Victims

Figure 8 shows the rates of victims alongside ‘hotspots’ of offenders. It can be seen that there are high levels of both in densely populated urban areas. This demonstrates that offenders may not be travelling far to commit crime, although this is not always the case. A similarity of locations in some areas may be explained by the same people being classed as both offenders and victims. For example a person may be assaulted and become a victim, but may then retaliate, thus also becoming the offender.
Police figures show that 5% of the population have been the victims of crime whilst the British Crime Survey statistics shows a higher figure of 18% having been the victims of household crimes and 5% the victim of personal crime. As crimes often go unreported, the British Crime Survey figure may be a more reliable statistic.

Within Lincolnshire:

- More males than females were the victims of crime.
- Residents aged 18 to 24 were ten times more likely to be a victim of crime than those aged over 65.

Figure 9. Age breakdown of victims in Lincolnshire compared to the population

These figures support the idea of targeting crime prevention and reduction strategies at a younger audience. However, these statistics may not reflect people's fear of crime. Older residents are more likely to report an increased fear of crime despite a decreased likelihood of being a victim and whether this is true of Lincolnshire will be examined in the chapter entitled Perception of Crime in Lincolnshire.

Summary

- In Lincolnshire people aged 18-24 are most likely to be both offenders and victims of crime.
- Due to the high proportion of 18-24 year olds offending it is clearly beneficial to direct crime reduction/prevention initiatives at this age range.
- The Home Office predicts that 10% of active offenders accumulate more than three convictions and commit at least 50% of all serious crime. Within Lincolnshire this would mean that almost 1,000 offenders were responsible for half of all serious crime. Targeting this smaller number of offenders would dramatically decrease crime within the County.
- Almost half of all probationers were unemployed and a quarter had drug use linked to their offending. This reinforces that providing job training schemes and drug and alcohol treatment may help prevent the reoccurrence of offending.
- Overall in Lincolnshire there is a 1 in 20 chance of being a victim of crime, although residents aged 18 to 24 are ten times more likely to be a victim than those aged over 65.
What Crimes are Occurring in Lincolnshire?

For crime reduction activities to be successful it is important to have a clear understanding of the issues and for that to be shared with all local agencies involved. Knowing which crimes are occurring, where and when they take place, and who are most likely to be the victims and offenders will assist with implementing crime reduction activities. This section examines all crime, but concentrates on the high volume offences which have the greatest impact on the county’s crime rates.

All Crime

During 2003/04 Lincolnshire had a crime rate of 93 crimes per 1,000 population which was considerably lower than either regionally or nationally and a reduction from the previous year (Figure 10). This decrease was larger than that seen across the East Midlands and in contrast to the national picture where crime increased by 1%. The rise between 2001/02 and 2002/03 can be partly attributed to the implementation of the National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) which was estimated to have increased crime by 10% nationally.

Types of crime

The most prevalent crime types during 2003/04 were criminal damage, theft and handling and violent crime which comprised over two thirds of all recorded crime as shown in Figure 11. The acquisitive crimes of burglary (dwelling and other) and vehicle crime made up a further quarter.

Fraud and forgery, drug offences and other offences were the least common crime types in Lincolnshire making up only 8% of all crime between them. However, examining recorded crime alone may give a misrepresentation of drug use across the county since the figures only cover supply and possession of drugs. The Lincolnshire Drug Audit 2004 estimated there to be 58,000 people in Lincolnshire, nearly 1 in 10 of the total population, who may have used an illegal substance in the previous year, of which a quarter may have used a class A drug. The issue of drug use is therefore likely to be more widespread than recorded crime suggests and is often associated with acquisitive crimes such as vehicle theft and burglary.

The remainder of this chapter focuses on the high volume and acquisitive crimes. These offences make up over 90% of recorded crime and reducing them should therefore have the largest impact on crime figures.
Location

Crime occurred throughout Lincolnshire, but was not evenly spread across all areas as shown in Figure 12. The level was greatest in the district of Lincoln (148 crimes per 1,000 population) and lowest in North Kesteven (53 crimes per 1,000 population). Within districts crime tended to be concentrated in the urban areas around town centres, which have a high number of visitors, or in areas of high deprivation (e.g. Fenside, Gainsborough South West and Mablethorpe). This supports the facts outlined in the Living in Lincolnshire chapter that population density and deprivation influence crime rates.

However, crime is not only an urban issue; Approximately a quarter of all Lincolnshire’s crimes occurred in areas classified as rural by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The main types of crime being committed were similar in both rural and urban areas, although burglary other was more common in rural locations probably due to the higher number of outbuildings and sheds/garages.

Figure 12. Crime rates across Lincolnshire 2003/04 and the main urban centres of Lincoln, Boston and Grantham
Criminal Damage

Criminal damage was the most prevalent crime in Lincolnshire during 2003/04 (15,176 crimes) and had been steadily increasing since 2001/02 as shown in Figure 13. It is also the only crime type in the county which had a rate as high as both the regional and national figures.

Criminal damage covers a range of crimes including arson and vandalism to vehicles, property and dwellings. Damage to a vehicle was the most reported crime of this type followed by damage to property and dwellings. Together these three types made up over three quarters of criminal damage offences (Figure 14).

Criminal Damage is closely associated with anti-social behaviour and is a key factor in causing neighbourhoods to appear neglected and run down. Research undertaken as early as the 1960s identified that criminal damage occurs more frequently in run down areas as it is assumed that no-one will care, and that minor acts of damage need to be addressed to prevent an escalation into more serious offences. Reducing criminal damage may therefore lead to improved feelings of safety and community pride and help regenerate deprived neighbourhoods.

These facts alone should be enough to demonstrate that reducing criminal damage should be seen as high priority and will have a large impact on reducing the county’s overall crime rate and improving the quality of life.

Figure 13. Criminal damage rates in Lincolnshire compared to regionally and nationally

![Graph showing criminal damage rates in Lincolnshire compared to regionally and nationally](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate per 1,000 population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lincolnshire 01/02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincolnshire 02/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincolnshire 03/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands 03/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England and Wales 03/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Victims and Offenders

Almost 40% of those who had been convicted of criminal damage were males under the age of 18. However, victims were fairly evenly split between males and females. Although it is young offenders who are committing the crimes the victims are most likely to be people in the older age groups who own property, such as vehicles and houses, which can be vandalised.

Location

Criminal damage followed the pattern of all crime and was concentrated in the urban and deprived areas with almost a quarter of offences occurring in the top 10% of deprived neighbourhoods. This is highlighted in Figure 15 which shows that the majority of criminal damage hotspots in Lincoln City fell within the areas which are most deprived. In fact 66% of damage offences in this district fell within the top 20% of deprived areas. Lincoln City also has a high proportion of young people and this is the group which are the most likely to commit criminal damage.

Figure 14. Types of criminal damage in Lincolnshire

![Graph showing types of criminal damage](image)

- Damage to a vehicle: 32%
- Damage to property: 21%
- Damage to a dwelling: 13%
- Damage to other buildings: 6%
- Arson: 1%
- Threat to damage: 13%
Just over a quarter of criminal damage offences were committed in rural locations and in these areas damage to property was most prevalent, compared to damage to a vehicle in the urban areas. This is probably due to rural areas having a higher number of gardens, outbuildings or sheds/garages containing property which is vulnerable to damage, whilst there are generally more parked cars in urban areas.

**Figure 15. The relationship between criminal damage and deprivation in Lincoln City**

![Map showing the relationship between criminal damage and deprivation in Lincoln City.](image)

**Theft and Handling**

Theft and handling covers the act of taking items which belong to another person including shoplifting, making off without payment and handling stolen goods. Two categories of theft and handling - theft from a person and theft of a pedal cycle - are now included as targets for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (as shown in the Introduction).

During 2003/04 theft and handling fell to 22 crimes per 1,000 population and was below the regional and national levels. However it was the second most prevalent crime in Lincolnshire and therefore had a large impact on the overall crime rate (Figure 16).

**Figure 16. Theft and handling rates in Lincolnshire compared to the regionally and nationally**

![Graph showing theft and handling rates.](image)
Police records showed that non-specific theft (50%) was most common followed by theft from a shop or stall (22%) and theft of a pedal cycle (12%). Non specific theft covered a range of items with mobile telephones, purses, wallets and bags and garden equipment being most prevalent. Theft from a person (i.e. taking of items being worn by the victim, or contained in clothing the victim was wearing) was low across the county as a whole (4%) and a number of Partnerships have chosen not to include this in their strategy targets.

Theft and handling showed a peak during the summer months followed by a decline in September. This may be due to the increased seasonal population in the county and was particularly pronounced in Skegness, where there were three times as many thefts during August 2003 as January 2004.

Thefts were most likely to occur during the afternoon compared to the overall pattern of crime in Lincolnshire which peaked in the evening. However, there were differences in the time when certain items were most likely to be stolen as shown in Figure 17. Purse, wallet and bag theft followed the general pattern for all theft with a peak in the afternoon, however mobile phone theft peaked again in the late evening and theft of garden fixtures and ornaments was relatively stable throughout the day. Providing information to people as to when they are most likely to have their possessions stolen may help reduce thefts.

**Victim and Offenders**

Almost 70% of offenders were male and the majority of these were aged 18 to 24, however female offenders tended to be slightly younger and were most likely to be aged under 17.

Home Office research has shown that trends in thefts tended to be associated with the number of young males in an area. They stated that there would be a 1% increase in this crime type for every 1% increase in males aged 15 to 20. Over the next five years it is predicted that there will be a 9% increase in males aged 15 to 20 within Lincolnshire which may have an impact on the theft rate and reverse the downward trend which is currently being seen.

Victims also tended to be young with over 40% being under the age of 24.

*Figure 17. Times when various types of thefts occur*
Location

There were higher than average rates of crime in the main urban areas, in particular parts of Lincoln, Grantham and Skegness. These areas all have a high transient population and a large number of shops and therefore provide opportunities for thefts to occur. The rate of theft and handling was lower in the rural areas, but there were differences between the types of theft occurring between rural and urban locations. In rural areas non-specific theft comprised almost three-quarters of all theft compared to less than half in urban areas (Figure 18). The types of items being taken under non-specific theft also varied between rural and urban locations. In urban areas almost 22% of these crimes were thefts of mobile phones and a further 17% were of purses, wallets and bags. However in rural areas theft was mainly of garden fixtures and ornaments and was concentrated in areas such as Washingborough, Horncastle, Market Rasen and Holbeach.

**Figure 18. Differences between theft types in urban and rural locations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non specific theft</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from a shop/stall</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft of a pedal cycle</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from a dwelling</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from a person</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interfere with motor vehicle</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Violent Crime

There are a number of offences classified as being violent crimes including assault, harassment, sexual offences and robbery. Not all of these crimes result in physical injury, but all are extremely traumatic for the victim involved. The British Crime Survey showed that this was particularly true for those who had been victims of domestic violence and mugging.

In Lincolnshire violent crime has seen the largest increase of all crimes with a rise of over 100% between 2001/02 and 2003/04. This crime type was particularly affected by the National Crime Recording Standards, but this rise is greater than would be expected simply from looking at the change in recording.
In Lincoln City, in particular, the past four years has seen a considerable increase in the number of pubs and clubs, as well as a rise in the younger population within the area. Such factors may have impacted on violent crime levels both in the centre and on routes in and out of the area. During 2003/04 violent crime reached a rate of 17 crimes per 1,000 population which equates to over 30 violent crimes per day across the county. Although this is still lower than both regional and national comparators (Figure 19), it is currently the third greatest volume crime in the county.

Over three-quarters of all violent crime is classified as violence against the person which covers offences including assault, possession of a weapon and racial violence. The remaining categories of harassment, public order, robbery and sexual offences are low across the county.

Information on reported incidents of domestic violence is also contained within these figures. Since 2001/02 there has been an increase in the rate in Lincolnshire, due, in part, to the implementation of the National Crime Recording Standards, but possibly also due to work carried out by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to raise the profile of this type of incident.

Domestic violence offences tend to peak during the summer and Relate have reported that there was an increase in couples seeking counselling at this time and following Christmas. Both of these periods may be times of stress for families due to children being home from school or the pressures of family holidays. However, domestic violence is generally considered a vastly underreported offence and a number of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in Lincolnshire continue to try and address this issue.

Victims and Offenders

Almost 60% of violent crime offenders in Lincolnshire were under the age of 25 and the majority of these were male.

This group was also most at risk of being a victim with 1 in every 25 males aged 18 to 25 being victimised during 2003/04 (Figure 20). The risk then declined with age so that by the age of 65 there was only a 1 in 1000 risk of being a victim of a violent crime.

Location

Violent crime often tends to be concentrated in only a few localities and across Lincolnshire that is also the case. Almost a quarter of all violent crime in Lincolnshire occurred in Lincoln City which had a crime rate twice that of any other district. This may be due to the large number of people coming into the city and the high concentration of licensed premises. Other urban hotspots of violent crime were present along the seafront at Skegness and within Grantham. In both Lincoln and Skegness violent crimes were...
concentrated around the areas containing pubs and clubs. However in Grantham the crimes were clearly divided between two areas as shown in Figure 21.

The main hotspot in Grantham was still around the town centre and accounted for almost a third of violent crime in the town. This area had a large number of licensed premises and 44% of the crimes in this area had been recorded by the Police as being alcohol related (Figure 21). In contrast to this only 19% of violent crimes on the Earlesfield Estate were attributed to alcohol, but the proportion recorded as domestic violence in this residential area was higher than the Grantham average (18% compared to 13%).

Differences also occurred in the times and days on which these crimes were being committed (Figure 22). Violence in the town centre was primarily at the weekend and occurred in the early hours of the morning, as pubs and clubs closed, whilst in the Earlesfield area crimes occurred throughout the week and tended to be committed in the early evening.

Despite being concentrated in urban locations, violent crimes also occurred in rural areas, in particular Horncastle and Holbeach. Although classified by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as rural, these towns service a large area and, it is likely that the volume of violence is caused by people visiting from surrounding areas as well as those residing there.

This demonstrates that violent crimes may be related to a number of issues. Developing an understanding of where and when crimes are occurring and why certain types of crime are more prevalent is vital when considering which crime reduction measures to put in place.

**Figure 21. Location of violent crime hotspots in Grantham and the differences in the proportions of classed as alcohol related or domestic violence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>% of crimes recorded as alcohol</th>
<th>% of crimes recorded as domestic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grantham</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Centre</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earlesfield</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincolnshire</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 22. Days and times on which violent crime occurred in the Earlesfield Area and Grantham Town Centre

Earlesfield Area

Grantham Town Centre

Other Acquisitive Crimes

Acquisitive crime covers all offences where the offender takes something tangible from the victim. Some of these offences, such as theft and robbery, have already been discussed in sections above and the term acquisitive crime in this section therefore refers only to vehicle crime and burglary.

Acquisitive crimes are often associated with drug use and the link has been well documented. For example the Home Office NEW-ADAM (New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring) programme found that 75% of offenders who had used heroin, crack or cocaine in the previous twelve months had also committed an acquisitive crime during that time.

The rates for burglary and vehicle crime in Lincolnshire were all below the regional and national levels and overall these crimes decreased by 17% during 2003/04. Figure 23 shows that theft from a motor vehicle and burglary dwelling made up almost half of acquisitive crimes, with burglaries of sheds, garages and other buildings such as business premises making up a further quarter. Not all of burglaries actually result in property being stolen. In these cases the burglar entered, or tried to enter the building, often with the intent of stealing, but did not take any items.

Figure 23. Types of acquisitive crime in Lincolnshire
Vehicle Crime

Vehicle crime in Lincolnshire is almost half that of the East Midlands as a whole at 10 crimes per 1,000 population and saw a decrease during 2003/04. Almost 70% of these crimes were theft from a vehicle with a further 20% being theft of a motor vehicle.

Theft from vehicles was concentrated in the urban areas, particularly Lincoln and Boston which both had rates almost twice that of any other District. Figure 24 shows hotspots of theft from a vehicle in Boston Town Centre and the locations of Council car parks. From this it can be seen that thefts occurred across the town and the majority took place away from the main car parks. These thefts may have been from cars parked on the street or in car parking areas not covered by the town’s CCTV cameras.

Theft of a vehicle was higher in South Holland and West Lindsey than the other districts. Both of these areas have main A roads running through them and leading to neighbouring counties (A15 and A17). These roads may provide an easy escape route from Lincolnshire and the opportunity to dispose or sell stolen cars in other parts of the region.

Burglary Dwelling

During 2003/04 burglary dwelling decreased across Lincolnshire, in particular in Lincoln City which saw a decrease of 34%. At this time in 100 households across the county were victims of domestic burglary which is lower than the chance of being a victim of violent crime, criminal damage or theft and handling. Despite this burglary dwelling is still one of the crimes which residents are most worried about as discussed in the chapter Perception of Crime in Lincolnshire.

Police records showed differences between the items taken during domestic burglaries in urban and rural locations which may simply reflect the types of items owned by residents. In urban areas audiovisual equipment, such as TVs, videos and DVD players, were the most commonly stolen item compared to jewellery in the rural areas.

Risk of being a victim

Previous research has shown that there are a number of factors which increase the risk of being a victim of burglary dwelling. These include issues such as:

- Head of household aged 16-24
- One adult living with children
- Head of household is unemployed
- Lack of security measures
- Living in an area of high physical disorder

Households within Lincolnshire’s top 10% of deprived areas were almost three times as likely to be victims of burglary than other households.
Risk was also increased for residents aged 16 to 24 who were over three times as likely to be a victim as other residents. Figure 25 shows burglary dwelling hotspots in Gainsborough and from this it can be seen that there are two hotspots falling within Gainsborough South West and Gainsborough East. When the socio-economic characteristics of these areas are examined there are an above average proportion of households which fit into a number of the categories outlined above.

Although the social make up of an area cannot easily be changed these figures support the idea that residents in such areas should be made aware of their increased risk to burglary dwelling and educated about the importance of taking preventative measures. Over 12% of burglary dwellings in Lincolnshire occurred through unlocked, open or insecure windows or doors and educating residents about the importance of keeping openings secure could decrease burglary dwelling by over 400 crimes a year.

*Figure 25. Burglary dwelling hotspots in Gainsborough and socio-economic factors in the area*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Gainsborough East</th>
<th>Gainsborough South West</th>
<th>West Lindsey</th>
<th>Lincolnshire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head of household Under 24</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone parent household</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglaries through insecure openings</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Current Situation

As already discussed all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are working towards achieving targets for the ten British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes. In order to measure their success it is important to look at whether crime levels have increased or decreased and also how they compare to other similar areas. Such comparisons can be made using family groups which contain Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships with similar geographic, demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Any variations in crime rates between these areas may then be attributed to other factors such as policing, or the crime reduction activities, which are taking place.

Current figures show that the level of British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes across Lincolnshire has recently reduced. However the issues raised in this report are still relevant, with criminal damage, theft and handling and violent crime remaining the most prevalent crime types across the county. Crime types which are above the family group average and increasing should be seen as a priority by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, in particular if they are the high volume crimes. Violent crime, for example, is a particular concern since it is continuing to increase across the county as a whole and also incurs the highest cost per offence (see section on The Cost of Crime in Lincolnshire). However, despite this overall increase in violence some of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas have seen a reduction in the British Crime Survey Comparator Crime of wounding.

There are also differences between Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas in terms of performance compared to their peers. Both Lincoln and North Kesteven are doing relatively well with both areas having a number of British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes below their group average, for example theft from a vehicle and burglary dwelling. In comparison to this, the majority of crimes in Boston remain above the family group average, in particular criminal damage and wounding which are also high volume crimes.

The issues outlined in this report are therefore still a priority across Lincolnshire with criminal damage, wounding and theft from a vehicle remaining high volume crimes. However, there are local differences in both the level and types of crime occurring and any emerging issues will need to be taken into account.

Summary

- During 2003/04 crime decreased in Lincolnshire and is below both the national and regional levels.

- The most prevalent crime types occurring in Lincolnshire were criminal damage, theft and handling and violent crime which together made up two thirds of all recorded crime.

- Criminal damage is a particular issue since it has increased to a level similar to that seen across the UK.

- Crime occurred throughout Lincolnshire, but all types were concentrated in the urban areas around town centres or in areas of high deprivation.

- The categories of crime occurring in rural and urban areas were similar, although there were differences observed in the types of property being stolen.

- People under the age of 35 are the main perpetrators and victims of crime regardless of the crime type.
Perception of Crime in Lincolnshire

The Police Recorded Crime Statistics provide us with detailed information on crime levels, types and locations within Lincolnshire. However, it is also important to take into account residents experiences and perceptions of crime. Such information may provide a truer indication of crime levels and also enable agencies to determine how effective they are being in reducing the fear of crime. This section therefore examines information from a public survey to determine whether the fears and perceptions of Lincolnshire’s residents differ from reality.

The Public Perception Survey

Lincolnshire’s Crime and Disorder Survey 2004 was carried out by Lincolnshire Police and asked a range of questions including whether respondents had been a victim of crime, their perceptions of crime and disorder and the issues they saw as being a major problem. The proportion of male and female residents responding to the survey was similar to the county as a whole, but respondents tended to be older with 54% being aged over 55 compared to only 39% of the population. Although this will impact on results, particularly in terms of people’s fears and perceptions of crime, the survey still provides a useful insight into how people perceive crime and disorder across Lincolnshire.

Levels of Crime

Just over a third of respondents thought that crime in Lincolnshire had increased over the previous twelve months and a similar proportion thought the level had remained the same. Only 4% of respondents correctly identified that the crime rate had actually fallen. Respondents were also most likely to think that burglary had risen whilst in reality this crime type showed the largest decrease. This clearly shows that there is a large misconception about crime rates and more positive publicity is required to promote successes in order to change people’s views.

Approximately 1 in 5 respondents stated that they had been victims of crime and over half of these had only been victimised once which is similar to national figures. However, the British Crime Survey stated that only three quarters of crime was actually reported to the Police. This was also true in Lincolnshire where 77% of people reported crimes to the Police with the remainder reporting incidents elsewhere such as the Fire Service or their local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. The main reason given for not reporting an incident was that it would be a waste of time as the Police were not really interested and there was little chance of the offender being caught. This under reporting may mean that the true level of crime across Lincolnshire is as high as 121 crimes per 1,000 population compared to the recorded level of 93 crimes per 1,000 population.

Fear of Crime

Virtually all respondents stated that they were very or fairly worried about being a victim of at least one crime type with their main concerns being burglary (actual or attempted) and vehicle crime. Overall 17% of respondents were very worried about being a victim of burglary, 16% about vehicle crime and 11% about violent crime. These results are slightly different to the British Crime Survey which reported that, across England and Wales, people were more concerned about violent crime (16%) than burglary (13%). These differences in concerns may reflect the rural nature of Lincolnshire with residents in such areas being less concerned about violent crimes which they believe to be an ‘urban issue’ and more concerned about crimes against their property.

Figure 26 shows respondents fear of certain crime types alongside the crime rate in Lincolnshire. From this it can be seen that concern about being a victim of at least one crime type does not always reflect the level of crime. For example residents have the highest chance of being a victim of assault, but are less concerned about this than the majority of other crime types. There are also some crime types which have a low crime rate, but high level of concern, namely theft from a shed or garage, vandalism to a house or garden and mugging or robbery.
The latter is particularly concerning since robbery has the lowest rate of all the crime types examined with only 1 in every 2,000 people in Lincolnshire being a victim compared to 25 in every 2,000 for other assaults. However, it is a crime that is often violent and attracts lots of publicity in the national press which may increase the fear of this type of offence.

Burglary, vandalism to a vehicle and theft of and from a vehicle have a high crime rate and also a high level of concern amongst residents. Burglary has already been mentioned as it saw a large decrease during 2003/04, as did vehicle crime although criminal damage, of which vandalism to a vehicle is part, increased.

Reducing the level of these crimes further should also help reduce resident's concerns. There are therefore clearly some discrepancies between the actual rates of crime in Lincolnshire and the fears and perceptions of the county's residents. Such issues need to be tackled in order to change the public's perception and ensure they are basing their concerns on reality. Over 50% of respondents stated that they got information about local crime and disorder problems from the local paper, radio or television. Ensuring that these sources publish correct information about crime will therefore be vital in reducing the fear of crime and raising resident's knowledge of the true extent of crime in the county.

Figure 26. Respondent's fear of certain crime types compared to the rate of crime in Lincolnshire.

Summary

- Only 4% of respondents to the Lincolnshire Crime Audit Survey knew that crime had decreased during 2003/04, the majority thought it had increased.
- Only three-quarters of those who had been victims of crime reported it to the Police. Others felt that it was a waste of time as the Police were not really interested.
- People were most concerned about being victims of burglary and vehicle crime, despite these crime types both falling. Concern about mugging/robbery was also high despite this crime being extremely rare in Lincolnshire.
- Publicising success stories will help educate people about the true levels of crime in the county and should reduce fear of crime.
The Cost of Crime in Lincolnshire

All crimes have a social and economic cost associated with them. This covers a range of factors including expenses incurred to prevent, or insure against crimes, costs due to the actual criminal act, such as the value of property taken or the emotional effects, and finally the resources to respond to crime and apprehend criminals. This section aims to estimate the cost of crime in Lincolnshire using figures from a Home Office study on ‘The Economic and Social Costs of Crime’ and the Lincolnshire Development Employer Survey.

Estimating the Cost of Crime

Figure 27 shows the estimated costs of various types of offence which vary considerably from £340 for a theft to £19,000 for some violent crimes. Initially it may appear that acquisitive crimes such as theft and burglary have the highest costs since material items with an intrinsic value are taken. However, when all aspects of cost are taken into consideration, the emotional and physical costs of violent crimes plus associated health care is far greater.

In addition to the cost per offence, Figure 27 also shows the numbers of offences committed in Lincolnshire during 2003/04 and the total cost of these crimes to the county. However, as already discussed, the Lincolnshire Crime Audit Survey found that only 77% of all crimes were reported. An extra column has therefore been added showing estimated costs to include unreported crimes. The cost for crime for the year 2003/04 is therefore estimated to have been between £213 and £277 million which is equivalent to at least 3% of the county’s Gross Value Added.

Almost three quarters of the cost is due to violent crime, which is also one of the volume crimes committed in the county. If the level of this crime type alone was reduced by 5% (i.e. 550 crimes) there would be a cost saving of over £8 million, primarily due to savings in the health service and a reduction in other costs incurred due to the physical and emotional impact on the victim.

**Figure 27. Cost of crime in Lincolnshire**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence category</th>
<th>Cost per offence</th>
<th>No. of offences 2003/04</th>
<th>Total cost (£ million)</th>
<th>Estimated cost (£ million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Violent crime</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence against the person</td>
<td>£19,000</td>
<td>8,209</td>
<td>£156.0</td>
<td>£202.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common assault</td>
<td>£540</td>
<td>1,939</td>
<td>£1.0</td>
<td>£1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual offences</td>
<td>£19,000</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>£12.1</td>
<td>£15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>£4,700</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>£1.4</td>
<td>£1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Burglary</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary dwelling</td>
<td>£2,300</td>
<td>3,438</td>
<td>£8.0</td>
<td>£10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary other</td>
<td>£2,700</td>
<td>5,614</td>
<td>£15.2</td>
<td>£19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theft</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle theft</td>
<td>£890</td>
<td>1,932</td>
<td>£1.7</td>
<td>£2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other theft</td>
<td>£340</td>
<td>18,733</td>
<td>£6.4</td>
<td>£8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criminal damage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£510</td>
<td>15,176</td>
<td>£7.7</td>
<td>£10.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud and Forgery</td>
<td>£1,500</td>
<td>2,320</td>
<td>£3.5</td>
<td>£4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£212.9</td>
<td>£276.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An overall reduction of 5% in every crime type would lead to a reduction in the total cost of crime of approximately £10 million and would have a huge impact on victim services, the Health Service and the Criminal Justice System, including the Police.

The Cost of Crime to Businesses

Business crime may cover a range of crime types including burglary, theft and handling and fraud and forgery. If businesses lose money through crime this will impact on their profits, the number of staff they employ and ultimately their sustainability in the local area.

The Lincolnshire Development Employer Survey 2003 asked businesses across the county whether they had been victims of crime. Overall 41% had been affected by crime with the majority being victims of burglary, attempted burglary or theft. Businesses within the distribution, hotels and restaurants sectors were most likely to have been victims with the banking and finance sector least likely.

There were some differences in the types of crimes experienced by certain sectors. For example manufacturing and construction companies were most likely to have been victims of burglary, whilst public administration, education and health were most affected by criminal damage, probably due to the high number of properties owned by this sector e.g. hospitals and schools (Figure 28).

Of these businesses over 80% stated that the crime they had been a victim of had impacted on their business (Figure 29). The main reasons for this impact was increased operating or insurance costs. In a few businesses crime had led to job losses and even relocation.

Figure 28. The types of crimes sectors had been victims of in Lincolnshire
Businesses were also asked about the financial costs of being a victim and the majority stated that the cost of crime to their business was under £500. However, over 15% thought they had lost more than £10,000 and the average figure for all businesses was £4,500.

Across Lincolnshire there are approximately 20,000 VAT registered businesses and if 41% of these were victims of crime this would lead to a total estimated loss of £37 million across the county. This would impact not only on the individual business but also on the economy as a whole. It is generally assumed that every £70,000 spent within an economy generates one job and therefore the loss of £37 million to local businesses could potentially mean a loss of 500 jobs.

**Figure 29. Impact of crime on businesses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>% of Businesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased operating costs</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased insurance costs</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Led to increased security</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disruption to trading</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threatened personal safety</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced staff morale</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job losses</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have relocated</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary**

- The cost of crime takes into account the expense of insuring against crimes, the value of property taken, the emotional effects and the cost of responding to crime. It varies considerably between crime types, but violent crimes are the most costly and also one of the most common crimes in Lincolnshire.

- The cost of crime in Lincolnshire for 2003/04 is estimated to be between £213 million and £277 million. If all crime types were decreased by 5% there would by a cost saving of at least £10 million.

- The Lincolnshire Development Employer Survey showed that 41% of the county’s businesses had been affected by crime with the majority being victims of burglary, attempted burglary or theft.

- Over 80% of businesses stated that the crime they had been a victim of had had an impact on their business which for the majority had led to increased operating or insurance costs. In a few businesses crime had led to job losses and even relocation.

- On average crime had cost businesses £4,500 which could lead to a total loss of £37 million across the county, a sum which could potentially be used to employ over 500 more people within the economy.
Jupiter in Lincolnshire

This report has been produced by Jupiter in Lincolnshire. Jupiter (Joined Up Partnerships in the East Midlands Region) was established by the Regional Crime Director as part of a Home Office initiative to provide data sharing and analysis facilities for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships. Similar systems are in operation across other parts of the country.

Within the East Midlands Jupiter currently consists of a series of countywide hubs based in Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire who co-ordinate data exchange and share good practice between themselves and their partners.

Jupiter in Lincolnshire is part of the research team at the County Council who also house the Lincolnshire Research Observatory. This co-location provides greater integration of data by enabling the team to take a broader view on crime by looking at social and economic issues together with crime patterns.

Since 2002 Jupiter in Lincolnshire has worked with a range of partners in order to achieve its three primary aims which are: To provide the seven Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships in Lincolnshire with an information exchange and mapping network; To provide the facility for analysis and to use a problem solving approach to effect long term resolutions to local crime issues; and To provide a greater integration of data at a local level.

The above has resulted in Jupiter in Lincolnshire:

- Supporting the production of local crime audits and strategies by analysing and mapping a range of social and economic indicators together with an examination of crime hotspots.

- Assisting the county in achieving its LPSA target on domestic burglary by producing an interactive toolkit highlighting hotspots and linking this to other socio economic information.

- Supporting GOEM with their work on business crime by providing results from the Lincolnshire Development Employer Survey examining which crimes businesses had been victims of and the cost and impact of these.

- Enabling resources to be targeted efficiently and effectively by providing additional analysis on when and where violent crimes were occurring within the Skegness area.

- Evaluating the impact of CCTV in town centre and residential areas in Boston Borough by examining changes in crimes rates, assessing CCTV usage and consulting with local communities and businesses.

- Providing supporting information for future funding bids by determining the impact of improved street lighting within Lincoln City on both actual crime rates and the perceptions of local residents.
As to the future, Jupiter in Lincolnshire is currently working with the Home Office to produce Good Practice Guides covering a number of issues. These reports will provide a detailed examination of crime including charts, thematic and hotspot maps plus linkages to other datasets. In addition, they will discuss what crime reduction activities can be put in place to tackle the issue and the impact of any methods undertaken.

Through the audit process, and discussion with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Team at Lincolnshire County Council, Jupiter in Lincolnshire has identified the following key issues in the county which it believes could be analysed and understood more fully using this approach:

**Measuring and mapping anti-social behaviour**
An examination of how Police incident records can be integrated with information held locally by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to provide analysis and mapping of anti-social behaviour issues. It will consider the issues of duplication, demographics and tolerance within areas. The report will look at the role of partner agencies in tackling anti-social behaviour and any reduction activities currently taking place in the area.

**Alcohol related crime**
Alcohol is recognised as a key factor in a number of crime types, in particular violent crime and criminal damage. A detailed analysis of these crime types will be undertaken, including mapping hotspots of high crime areas. This analysis will be examined alongside data on related issues such as on- and off-licensed premises to determine areas where partnership activities should take place and the impact of any interventions.

**Evaluating the reduction in domestic burglary**
Domestic burglary has declined steeply in some parts of Lincolnshire in recent months and an understanding of why these changes have occurred will be vital to the future allocation of resources. This project will update the Lincolnshire Burglary Dwelling Model to look at where changes have occurred and then examine possible reasons for this, including links between acquisitive crimes and the availability of drug treatment in an area.

**The impact of business crime**
The term ‘business crime’ will be defined and analysed using Police Recorded Crime information. This information will be used in conjunction with the Lincolnshire Development Employer Survey to gain further understanding of the impact and costs of crime to local business.

If you would like further information about the work of Jupiter in Lincolnshire please contact one of the team:-

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