

**LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY  
AUDIT, RISK AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE  
26 MARCH 2010**

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| <b>SUBJECT</b>   |  | <b>BURGLARY DWELLING SCRUTINY</b> |
| <b>REPORT BY</b>   | <b>SCRUTINY PANEL</b>  |                                   |
| <b>CONTACT OFFICER</b>   | <b>MISS GINNY MASON<br/>RESEARCH AND PERFORMANCE OFFICER<br/>TELEPHONE: (01522) 558016</b>   |                                   |
| <b>SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>   |  |                                   |
| To provide a detailed, evidence based assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Force's prevention of burglary dwelling crimes and to suggest opportunities for improvement and development. |  |                                   |
| <b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>   | <p><i>That:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Force demonstrate how informed decisions are made and how resources are effectively committed to activities that prevent burglary dwelling crimes and update the Authority on any action plans to improve these processes. <i>(page 18, para 2.18)</i></li> <li>2. The Force further utilises Neighbourhood Watch in the involvement of crime prevention initiatives (for example, leaflet distribution). <i>(page 26, para 3.34)</i></li> <li>3. The Force informs the Authority on how it intends/plans to measure the preventative initiatives associated with burglary dwelling in order to assess their impact, value for money and cost effectiveness. <i>(page 30, para 4.22)</i></li> <li>4. The Force reflects on the prevention of burglary dwelling 'evidence base', including information available from the national resource, to support development plans and indicates how continual improvement will be achieved. <i>(page 34, para 5.4)</i></li> <li>5. The Panel strongly support the sharing of good practice and exchange of knowledge amongst the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and encourage all the CSP Chairmen to meet up on a periodic basis to discuss common issues. <i>(page 35, para 5.9)</i></li> <li>6. The Force undertakes a review to identify any potential efficiency savings within the crime prevention business area. <i>(page 36, para 5.19)</i></li> </ol> |                                   |

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|  | <p>7. The Force provides an update on progress made in satisfying itself that the governance and performance management processes associated with force wide operations on the prevention of burglary dwelling remain effective and suitable. <i>(page 40, para 6.10)</i></p> <p>8. The Authority is updated on the extent to which PCSOs visit (in appropriate cases) victims of burglary dwelling crime, indicate if this is a corporate initiative across the Force and consider including the performance indicator 'number of follow up visits to victims of burglary dwelling crimes' in its performance framework. <i>(pg 41, para 7.7)</i></p> |
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## A. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Scrutiny work comprises detailed, evidence based assessment of particular services or issues of local concern that can be developed or improved.
- 1.2 On 21 May 2009, the Scrutiny and Audit Committee agreed to carry out a scrutiny into Burglary Dwelling.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Panel agreed the following broad objective:
- Evaluate the extent to which the Force's preventative initiatives, including those delivered through partnership working; contribute to the reduction of burglary dwelling crimes in Lincolnshire and, where appropriate, make recommendations as to how these may be strengthened and improved.
- 1.4 The Burglary Dwelling Scrutiny Report is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 1.5 The Scrutiny Panel comprised: Dr Wookey (Panel Lead), Mr Must (Deputy Lead), Mr Sellars and Mr Dark with support from Ginny Mason. Mrs Crowe was the interim Panel Lead in the period May – July 2009.

### 2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 The scrutiny was carried out during the period August 2009 – February 2010. In addition to literature review and desk research, the Panel gathered data by conducting interviews with key partners and officers/staff in the Force. The Panel interviewed eight Force officers/staff, the Chairmen of all the four Community Safety Partnerships<sup>1</sup> (CSPs), a CSP Community Safety Manager and the Vice Chairman of the Neighbourhood Watch Association.
- 2.2 The Panel are grateful for the participation of all those interviewed. They particularly wish to acknowledge interviewees' openness and honesty in answering questions and sharing knowledge which contributed greatly to the Panel's understanding of the issues and the conclusions drawn in this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Community Safety Partnerships is the local name for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs)

### **3.0 Findings**

- 3.1 Following the fieldwork stage of the scrutiny, the Panel reflected on the evidence gathered. The Panel's recommendations are provided on page 1 and 2 of this report. The background and rationale for these are included in the full report attached at Appendix A.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 The Panel recognise that the Force has reinvigorated crime prevention work with the establishment of the Crime Reduction Unit and the recruitment of the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Manager in June 2008. The Force has acknowledged that this business area is one that requires development and improvement.
- 4.2 The Panel would like to commend the Force and partners on their hard work and ongoing efforts in relation to crime prevention. The Panel are encouraged that the Force is committed to developing a robust performance monitoring mechanism through Operation Fusion. However, the Panel would strongly recommend and stress the need to continue strengthening work in evaluating and monitoring crime prevention, in order to make informed decisions about which policy measures are the most cost effective and desirable.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that the recommendations made in this report will assist the Force in continuing to improve its approach to the management of crime prevention. The Panel hopes that the recommendations will be both timely and constructive.

### **5.0 Force Comments**

- 5.1 This scrutiny was initiated at a time when the Force faced real challenges in performance, particularly increasing levels of burglary dwelling crimes. It is pleasing to note that during the scrutiny period the Force has been successful in turning that rise completely around and that current performance suggests a reduction of 12.6% at the end of February compared with the same time last year. This is an improvement even on the figure of 9.1% reduction quoted at paragraph 1.6 of the scrutiny report.
- 5.2 Much of this success is attributed to the improvement in the governance and focus in this area of crime brought about by the instigation of Operation Fusion, through which the determined effort of staff and partners has focused on crime prevention initiatives, better communication and use of resources through refreshed application of the National Intelligence Model.
- 5.3 Lincolnshire Police welcome this report. It is both timely and contains constructive observations and comment which will be absorbed willingly within the continuing improvements we are making in the area of volume crime reduction and in our current effort to improve detection rates.
- 5.4 The eight recommendations are accepted.

## **B. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Financial, resource and efficiency considerations are detailed in the Scrutiny report.

**C. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no specific legal or human rights considerations for the Force and Authority arising from the Scrutiny report.

**D. PERSONNEL, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

None specific.

**E. REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee will review progress made against the recommendations on a quarterly basis.

**F. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The risks associated with the prevention of burglary dwelling crimes are highlighted in Chapter 8 of the full report attached at Appendix A.