

LINCOLNSHIRE

action trust

RECONNECTING OFFENDERS WITH THE COMMUNITY SINCE 2000

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Registered Office:
Lincoln House,
37-39 Newland,
Lincoln
LN1 1YA



Lincolnshire Action Trust is a Registered Charity no. 1089130 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England No. 4108372



ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14



www.lincolnshire-action-trust.org.uk



Our Vision

The vision of Lincolnshire Action Trust is that all offenders are treated with respect, have equality of opportunity and are empowered to achieve their full potential.

Chair's Introduction

I invite you to read this report of the achievements of the Lincolnshire Action Trust (LAT) during 2013-14.



It gives a summary of the work of the Trust which provides a variety of services concerned with the rehabilitation of offenders and support for their families and involves intervening at different points in the criminal justice process. Working in partnership with those running prisons and offender management in the community we make an innovative and high quality contribution. This supports the work of organisations facing particular challenges from reductions in public expenditure and structural change.

Our staff and volunteers are committed to helping people to change; the following pages provide evidence of them doing this in the past year. They are ably led by our Chief Executive and other accomplished managers whose work is overseen by a Board committed to ensuring continued sound financial stewardship and corporate governance. On behalf of the Board of Trustees I congratulate all who have worked to deliver such positive results and express our gratitude to funders, and our partner organisations whose daily co-operation is integral to the achievements described in the following pages.

Sheridan L Minshull
Chair

Chief Executive's Report

Lincolnshire Action Trust continues to be at the forefront of offender services in Lincolnshire and beyond, and the last 12 months have been no exception. This Report demonstrates the increasingly comprehensive 'offer' that offenders, prisoners and their families can access to assist with resettlement and rehabilitation, starting with an appearance in court, through to community reintegration.

The last 12 months have seen us develop new aspects to our service delivery, including SPARC (Supporting People After Remand or Conviction), which was recognised as 'an excellent project' in the recent HMIP inspection of HMP Lincoln.

We have also formed a number of the collaborations over the last year to assist our endeavours; supported several large-scale consultations to ensure that an offender perspective has been heard; and continued to identify innovative ways to plug gaps in provision, several of which will see new provision implemented in 2014-15.



The Government's Transforming Rehabilitation reforms provide a significant opportunity for LAT to have an even greater impact on the lives of offenders and contribute to a reduction in their re-offending. We are proud of the recognition that our experience has gained from a number of the Tier 1 providers who intend to bid in this area and we will continue to work collaboratively to ensure the experience we have gained in developing successful interventions over recent years is utilised to shape local delivery and maximise outcomes for offenders and their families.

The work of LAT would not be possible without the support and dedication of many; our committed and talented staff and volunteers; our loyal and wise Board of Trustees; our diverse funders, both voluntary and statutory. Without each of these, we would not be able to transform the lives of so many individuals. On behalf of our clients, their families and the people who have not become victims of crime because of the work we are able to do, thank-you.

Alison Goddard
Chief Executive

Charitable Objects

The Trust is governed by the following charitable objects:

- the care, resettlement and rehabilitation of offenders and those at risk of offending, their families and dependents in the county of Lincolnshire
- to provide, promote, support or organise the recruitment and training of any offender, and those at risk of offending and to assist them in finding employment, and accommodation and to rehabilitate themselves
- to further and promote the study of and research into, all aspects and methods of the prevention of crime, social exclusion and delinquency and to obtain and make records of and disseminate information concerning the same

Our Values

We aspire to demonstrate the following core values in everything we do:

- **Achievement**
To achieve the best outcome for others and myself
- **Empowerment**
To give power to individuals and encourage them to increase their confidence
- **Inspiration**
To positively motivate and influence others
- **Quality**
To work to the highest standards at all times-
- **Respect**
To be respectful and considerate to others



Employment, Training and Education

Sustainable employment is the single most effective factor in reducing risk of re-offending. We recognise the importance of high quality, bespoke employment support for offenders and have delivered employability interventions to offenders in the community since 2001. Over the past year we have supported 717 individuals to improve their employability, progressing 148 to achieve an employment, training or education outcome. A further 1,968 'soft' outcomes have been achieved as a result of our interventions including disclosure advice, interview skills training and, improved confidence when job-searching.

Our young offender provision has supported 36 individuals who are 'NEET' (not in education, employment or training) and 5 have progressed into employment or training as a result. All of our employment support is informed by accurate details of previous convictions and current Probation risk assessments, and is delivered by qualified staff. This ensures interventions are realistic, prevent the likelihood of re-offending and protect the public.

The Trust also provides employment support in four local prisons; HMP Lincoln, HMP North Sea Camp, HMP Stocken and HMP Whatton, working with prisoners at various points during their sentence from induction to discharge to offer a range of interventions including Information, Advice and Guidance, disclosure, job-search and CV's, with the aim of progressing clients towards employment, training or education ready for release. We have worked with over 1,000 prisoners in the last 12 months, supporting many 'through the gate' to provide continuity of support into the community.

Accommodation

The availability of affordable housing options remains a significant barrier to many of our clients. Our community housing support team continues to assist Integrated Offender Management offenders to gain suitable housing and to sustain their tenancy by providing 'floating support' to develop independent living skills. 30 new clients have been supported during the year and we've delivered almost 6,000 hours of assistance to existing and new clients. We have also been able to support 16 offenders with funding for rent deposits, repayable over an agreed period of time, as well as providing skills development to enable clients to be a 'good tenant'.

LAT also offers resettlement assistance to every prisoner at HMP Lincoln, and we assisted over 1,100 individuals this year. We also deliver a specific housing provision for prisoners on remand at HMP Lincoln and 168 remand prisoners have been supported to sustain their tenancy or to find accommodation ready for release during the last year. Our bail accommodation provision has supported 27 prisoners to gain a suitable address for bail or release on Home Detention Curfew during the year.

Finance, Benefit and Debt

Many offenders continue to experience debt and this can lead to further offending. The Trust has continued to deliver debt advice for prisoners at HMP Lincoln. The provision offers one to one support for priority one debts and has supported 35 individuals with complex debt issues during the year, as well as delivering regular financial capability courses.

Children and Families

The impact of offending on the families of offenders is often underestimated, yet can be significant. LAT has continued to deliver a number of interventions for the children and families of offenders and prisoners during the last year. This has included a dedicated family support worker to maintain family links and reduce the impact of having a family member in custody. 88 new cases have been opened for this provision over the last year. This focused work is supported by our play workers within the visits hall at HMP Lincoln who engage visiting children in activities and play. Almost 500 children have benefited from this provision during the year. The families of offenders in the community are also able to access support via our Children and Families team to overcome a range of barriers that may impact on further offending. The community provision commenced in August and 94 individuals have been supported to date.



Henry's Story

Henry sought assistance from the Trust's Children and Families team at HMP Lincoln when he was prevented from having access to

his children whilst in prison by Social Services. The court had made no orders in relation to this and his partner wanted access to occur to ensure that the family ties were maintained. He had tried to have this decision overturned by writing to a number of agencies including Children's Services, the police and his MP, but to no avail.

The Children's Support Officer liaised with a number of agencies on Henry's behalf and after a number of months of discussion, convened a multi-agency risk management board. She was able to provide evidence from Probation, the prison, and health professionals to support the view that Henry posed no risk to his children and that preventing access could be detrimental to the emotional wellbeing of his children. It was agreed that Henry should not be prevented from seeing his children and that they could visit him in prison.

The Children's Support Officer had maintained contact with the children during this time, sending them information about the prison and what daddy was doing while he was there, and providing support to mum about practical issues such as strategies to assist the children to cope whilst daddy was not there.

The first visit that the children made was very emotional for Henry and the children, and he is now looking forward to rebuilding the bond he had with his children, which is vital for when he is released.

Mark's Story

Mark was referred to the IOM Floating Support provision whilst he was a resident at Wordsworth House Approved Premises, following his release from custody.

Although initially referred for help with obtaining alternative accommodation, he also requested support with making contact with his three young children, poor health problems and the need to improve his limited domestic skills.

During our involvement with him, we uncovered rent arrears that he was unaware of. These had occurred after Mark had been taken into custody and his ex-partner had caused damage to their property prior to her being evicted. As the tenancy had been in his name he was held responsible for these costs so we devised a payment plan and he continues to make substantial payments.

We sought funding for Mark to purchase clothing as he only had one set of clothes when he was released from prison. We have also assisted him to attend appointments with solicitors, at the police station and doctors. Mark has attended various courses that we have identified would be beneficial to him including 'Why-Try?', a confidence & esteem building course, and Market Kitchen, a cooking skills course. He is also now actively engaging with our Reach employability project.

LAT has supported Mark towards a more positive future; he is now in stable accommodation, enjoying a close relationship with his new partner, continuing to address his debts, living healthily and progressing towards achieving the end of his licence, all without further offending.

Luke's Story

When Luke started working with Lincolnshire Action Trust on the Reach project at HMP Whatton he was very concerned that his offences would

mean he would never get another job. He had extensive catering experience and qualifications, although his Food Hygiene certificate had expired whilst in custody, and he was keen to return to this area of work. He discussed his concerns with his Reach Case Manager during their initial appointment and she reassured him that this would be possible, subject to his Offender Manager agreeing it. She encouraged him to apply for positions within the prison kitchens so he could keep his skills up to date, which also allowed him to gain his Food Hygiene certificate. In subsequent sessions, they updated Luke's CV, he received advice about disclosure and practiced his interview technique.

Luke's Reach Case Manager identified a breakfast chef / night porter vacancy in his local area that could be suitable for him to apply for ready for his impending release. The position was approved by his Offender Manager and Luke was keen to apply for it. His Reach Case Manager contacted the hotel and spoke with the manager about Luke's experience, and with Luke's permission, disclosed his criminal record. The manager agreed to give Luke a trial, starting the day after his release. His Reach Case Manager secured funding for work trousers, shoes and a shirt and tie. Since release, his Reach Case Manager has been in regular contact with Luke and his manager to check on his progress. He is thriving in his new role, has been given a permanent contract and has been welcomed by the rest of the team.



Other Activities

Volunteer Mentors

Volunteer mentors are a key component in the delivery of effective interventions. The NOMS ESF 'Reach' project enables us to recruit and train volunteer mentors, including peer mentors, to offer an invaluable resource to offenders to address a range of issues. A number have commenced an NVQ3 in Advice and Guidance and several have gained employment in this field as a result of their mentoring experience. 33 new mentors have been recruited during the year and 25 matches have occurred.

Senior Attendance Centre

LAT has continued to deliver Lincolnshire's only Senior Attendance Centre for 18 to 24 year olds. This is a court order of between 12 and 36 hours requiring an offender to attend 3-hour sessions each Saturday morning. The sessions cover a range of topics such as financial capability, employability skills, health awareness and problem solving. 22 offenders have received an Order during the year and completion rates are positive.

Court-Based Interventions

Individuals are now able to access support from LAT staff in court following sentence, which enables urgent needs to be addressed at an early stage. 288 prisoners have been assessed since the project started in August and needs have included crisis mental health referrals, ordering of essential medical prescriptions, contacting family members and arranging for the RSPCA to retrieve pets from home.

Funding

Lincolnshire Action Trust relies on support from a range of funding sources to undertake the activities described in this Report. We would therefore like to acknowledge and thank the following;

- Action for Employment
- BBC Children in Need
- Changing Lives Fund
- Crisis 'Private Rented Sector' Grant
- Evan Cornish Foundation
- European Social Fund
- Futures Advice Ltd
- HM Prison Service
- Investors in Lincoln
- Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust
- Lincolnshire County Council Health and Wellbeing
- Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership
- Lincolnshire Probation Trust
- NHS England
- Oasis Substance Misuse Charity
- The Princes' Trust
- Working Links

Legal and Administrative Details

Lincolnshire Action Trust is a company limited by guarantee (number 4108372) and a registered charity (number 1089130), governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Directors and Trustees

Sheridan Minshull, Chair
Elaine Baylis, Vice Chair
Roy Harper
Derek Smith
Linda Withers
John Carpenter, Treasurer
Alison Goddard, Company Secretary

Accountant

Streets Chartered Accountants,
Tower House,
Lucy Tower Street,
Lincoln,
LN1 1XW

Bankers

Co-operative Bank,
PO Box 101,
1 Balloon Street,
Manchester
M604EP

Solicitors

Andrew & Co.,
St Swithin's Court,
1 Flavin Road,
Lincoln,
LN2 4GR

Auditors

Streets Audit LLP,
Tower House,
Lucy Tower Street,
Lincoln,
LN1 1XW

Financial Summary

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2014

	Unrestricted funds 2014 £	Restricted funds 2014 £	Total funds 2014 £	Total funds 2013 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Investment income	17,319	-	17,319	8,715
Incoming resources from charitable activities	853,115	33,436	886,551	775,999
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	870,434	33,436	903,870	784,714
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable activities	853,930	34,351	888,281	879,066
Governance costs	3,500	-	3,500	3,500
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	857,430	34,351	891,781	882,566
NET INCOMING RESOURCES / (RESOURCES EXPENDED) BEFORE TRANSFERS	13,004	(915)	12,089	(97,852)
Transfers between Funds	2,006	(2,006)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR	15,010	(2,921)	12,089	(97,852)
Total funds at 1 April 2013	767,400	(825)	766,575	864,427
TOTAL FUNDS AT 31 MARCH 2014	782,410	(3,746)	778,664	766,575

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2014

	2014 £	2013 £
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	15,159	3,511
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	63,898	90,207
Cash at bank	726,125	724,522
TOTAL	790,023	814,729
CREDITORS		
Amounts falling due within one year	(26,518)	(51,665)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	763,505	763,064
NET ASSETS	778,664	766,575
CHARITY FUNDS		
Restricted funds	(3,746)	(825)
Unrestricted funds	782,410	767,400
TOTAL FUNDS	778,664	766,575

These summarised accounts are an extract of information from the full statutory accounts, which were approved and signed by the Trustees on 4th June 2014. The auditors, Streets Audit LLP, have issued an unqualified audit opinion on the full accounts, a copy of which can be obtained from the charity's Head Office.