

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## 2014 / 2015

LINCOLNSHIRE

action  
trust

RECONNECTING  
OFFENDERS WITH  
THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 2000



# 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



**Sheridan L Minshull**  
Chair

**I encourage you to read this Report about the work of the Lincolnshire Action Trust during 2014-15.**

It shows the numbers of people the Trust has helped into employment or training, with accommodation needs or in providing support to the children and families. In our work at court with offenders going to prison and before they are released we identify needs and give practical help to ameliorate some of the negative consequences of imprisonment. Behind the numbers are real people and some of their stories are told.

Two years ago I wrote: "At a time of constraint in public expenditure the contribution of local well managed not for profit organisations can provide government with the means of delivering small scale innovation at an affordable cost. This may require government to move away from bidding processes which favour large national third sector organisations." It is deeply regrettable that the Government implemented its plans in ways that were totally contrary to "supply chain" assurances given to high performing voluntary sector organisations with

successful local delivery partnerships. This required us, for the first time in our 14 year existence, to withdraw from an area of work in which our highly effective contribution was greatly valued by partners and clients.

We look forward to future opportunities for genuinely competing to provide services to offenders and their families and as a Board, we are confident that our Chief Executive and her team will successfully meet new challenges and welcome new partnerships. Our work depends upon the continuing financial support of Government and charitable sources and the co-operation of colleagues in other organisations providing public service. We are grateful to them all.

Lincolnshire Action Trust continues to be responsibly and ably led, for which I am grateful to all members of our Board and our Chief Executive Alison Goddard. We pay particular tribute to all our staff and volunteers for their commitment to and efforts on behalf of those who need our help.

## Chief Executive's Report



**Alison Goddard**  
Chief Executive

**"Leading an organisation such as Lincolnshire Action Trust is a position I am very proud to be in."**

As a nimble and innovative charity, with staff who 'buzz' with enthusiasm for their work, LAT has continued to bring about real change to the lives of hundreds of people during the last year. This Report showcases the work we deliver and the results we achieve for our clients; working with offenders across the age spectrum from 10 upwards, with those who are new to the criminal justice system through to those who have entrenched offending behaviour, and with the children and families of offenders, 'hidden victims' of offending; with meaningful interventions at each stage of the criminal justice system.

There have been a number of large-scale structural changes to our operating environment in the latter part of the year, the most significant of which is Transforming Rehabilitation. The initial

stages of implementation have excluded smaller voluntary sector organisations, which is regarded by many as a missed opportunity for the transformational change that was envisaged. We wait to see whether this position will change over the coming months. Despite this, the ongoing work of LAT continues to be recognised and praised, both by key strategic partners and, most importantly, by the clients we work with.

LAT would not be the successful charity that it is without the support and dedication of many people; our committed and talented staff and volunteers; our loyal and wise Board of Trustees, and our diverse funders, both voluntary and statutory. Without each of these, we would not be able to transform the lives of so many individuals. Thank you all on behalf of everyone that we work with.






# 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 and Lincolnshire Action Trust has delivered employability interventions to offenders in the community since 2001. Over the past year we have supported 538 individuals to improve their employability, progressing 145 to achieve an employment, training or education outcome. A further 1,862 ‘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 54 individuals who are ‘NEET’ (not in education, employment or training) and 43 have progressed into employment or training as a result.

## Eric’s Story

When Eric first started working with LAT he was new to the area, living in hostel accommodation and not motivated to find work.

Eric has been supported by the Reach project over the last few months and has become increasingly motivated. We have been able to secure him a place at a local college to study a Diploma in plastering starting this month. He has also passed his CSCS test and we have sent off the application to apply for his card, which will also help with his business aims.

Eric is now living in independent accommodation and is really keen to re-start his business and having the plastering diploma and a CSCS card will be a huge help, as without any qualifications he was struggling to find work.



## Resettlement



LAT continued to deliver resettlement services in a number of local prisons during 2014-15, focusing on employment support, accommodation assistance and debt advice. Methods of working vary in each prison, but we are able to work with prisoners on a case management basis as soon as they arrive at the prison until the day they are released. Interventions include Information, Advice and Guidance, employability skills development, disclosure support, a motivational course, self employment course, debt advice and housing assistance and support. 1,464 prisoners have been supported in the last 12 months and prison targets for accommodation, education and employment on release have all been exceeded during the year.

We have also continued to deliver a specific housing provision for prisoners on remand at HMP Lincoln which

has assisted 256 remand prisoners to sustain their tenancy or to find accommodation ready for release during the last year. Our bail accommodation provision has supported 34 prisoners to gain a suitable address for bail or release on Home Detention Curfew during the year.

January saw the start of our 'release support' project, working intensively with a small number of prisoners approaching release from HMP Lincoln. The purpose of the provision is to co-ordinate the release plans of individuals who are identified as requiring additional support, and to work through the gate with each of them for up to 12 months following release.

### Steve's Story

**Steve was at college when he came into custody but wanted to continue with the maths course he had started.**

Steve's resettlement practitioner contacted his college tutor who agreed he could return to his course on release and his tutor sent in homework and text books so he could keep up with the rest of the group. Steve achieved a 'C' in his most recent Maths exam. In addition, Steve also completed a self employment course while in custody as he had a goal of setting up his own wheelie bin cleaning business. He was then referred to a community Enterprise Programme by his resettlement practitioner and continues to receive support from them after release and is well on his way to setting up his business.

## Courts Provision

Our innovative SPARC project (Supporting People After Remand or Conviction) has continued to go from strength to strength this year. The team undertake an immediate needs assessment following sentence or remand, which enables urgent issues to be addressed. This information is shared with the receiving prison and referrals can then be made to relevant prison departments. Any urgent needs which the client has, such as contacting family, securing belongings and child protection or animal welfare concerns can be dealt with straight away. Those prisoners going to HMP Lincoln will be seen again the following day for their resettlement induction by the same practitioner. If necessary, they will then work with the prisoner throughout their sentence in regards to Sentence Planning, Housing and Employment, Training and Education (ETE). 700 prisoners have been assessed during the year and needs have included contacting family members, making arrangements for pets, ordering replacement prescriptions and mental health referrals.



### Simon's Story

**Simon received a 5 month sentence and was worried about who would look after his dog and whether he would lose his flat.**

An LAT SPARC practitioner contacted his sister from court and asked her to go round and feed his dog. She said that she would do this and said to assure Simon that his dog would be well cared for whilst he was in prison. The SPARC practitioner supported Simon to fill out the housing benefit paperwork whilst he was in custody which meant he could keep his tenancy, ready for his release.



# Other Activities

## Volunteer Mentors

During the year we have continued to recruit and train volunteers to mentor both adult and young offenders.

Our ‘Reach’ mentors are matched with adult offenders to assist with progression of employment related goals, and 51 new mentors were recruited during the year. We have also started a new mentoring provision for young offenders this year, with a further 46 mentors being recruited, to assist young people with constructive use of leisure time, employability goals and life skills.

## 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;

- ★ BBC Children in Need
- ★ Changing Lives Fund
- ★ Evan Cornish Foundation
- ★ European Social Fund
- ★ Futures Advice
- ★ HM Prison Service
- ★ Investors in Lincoln
- ★ Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust (latterly DNLR Community Rehabilitation Company)
- ★ Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership
- ★ Lincolnshire County Council
- ★ Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership
- ★ Lincolnshire Probation Trust
- ★ Lincolnshire Youth Offending Service
- ★ Lloyds Bank Foundation
- ★ NHS England
- ★ Oasis Substance Misuse Charity
- ★ 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



# Accounts

## Statement of financial activities

(incorporating income and expenditure account)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

	Unrestricted funds 2015 £	Restricted funds 2015 £	Total funds 2015 £	Total funds 2014 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Investment income	11,143	-	11,143	17,319
Incoming resources from charitable activities	948,920	37,322	986,242	886,551
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>960,063</b>	<b>37,322</b>	<b>997,385</b>	<b>903,870</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>				
Charitable activities	859,084	36,101	895,185	888,281
Governance costs	3,500	-	3,500	3,500
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>862,584</b>	<b>36,101</b>	<b>898,685</b>	<b>891,781</b>
Net incoming resources before transfers	97,479	1,221	98,700	12,089
Transfers between Funds	(5,496)	5,496	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	91,983	6,717	98,700	12,089
<i>Total funds at 1 April 2014</i>	<i>782,410</i>	<i>(3,746)</i>	<i>778,664</i>	<i>766,575</i>
<b>Total funds at 31 march 2015</b>	<b>874,393</b>	<b>2,971</b>	<b>877,364</b>	<b>778,664</b>



## Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2015

	Note	2015 £	2014 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	16,409	15,159
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	60,752	63,898
Investments	13	538,932	506,738
Cash at bank		369,895	219,387
<b>Creditors:</b>			
amounts falling due within one year	14	(108,624)	(26,518)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>860,955</b>	<b>763,505</b>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	15	2,971	(3,746)
Unrestricted funds	15	874,393	782,410
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>877,364</b>	<b>778,664</b>

These summarised accounts are an extract of information from the full statutory accounts, which were approved and signed by the Trustees on 4th June 2015. 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.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 4 June 2015 and signed on their behalf, by:

*Sheridan Lincoln Minshull*

Sheridan Lincoln Minshull, Chair



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

[www.lincolnshire-action-trust.org.uk](http://www.lincolnshire-action-trust.org.uk)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Lincolnshire Action Trust is a Registered  
Charity no. 1089130 and a Company Limited by  
Guarantee, registered in England No. 4108372