

LINCOLNSHIRE

action  
trust

RECONNECTING  
OFFENDERS WITH  
THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 2000



**LINCOLNSHIRE ACTION TRUST**

Annual Report 2012-13





## 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 encourage you to read this report of the achievements of the Lincolnshire Action Trust during 2012-13.

It provides a summary of the work of the Trust across an increasingly wide range of activities concerned with the rehabilitation of offenders and support for families affected by a relative's involvement in crime. This work is focussed upon helping individuals to turn their lives around - the real life stories included here demonstrate this. We also show the crucial role of our staff, and our partners in enabling individuals to change.

This work depends upon the continuing financial support of government and charitable sources. In a time of radical change and new market conditions we are confident that our sound stewardship of resources, high quality provision of service and capacity for innovation will ensure our organisation's continued development.

On behalf of the board of Lincolnshire Action Trust I thank all our staff and volunteers, so ably led by our Chief Executive Alison Goddard, for their important and ongoing work.



*S Minshull*  
Sheridan L Minshull  
Chair

## Chief Executive's Report

The last 12 months have seen Lincolnshire Action Trust continue to develop services to resettle and rehabilitate offenders, prisoners and their families in Lincolnshire and beyond. This Report demonstrates that by delivering a comprehensive range of innovative interventions, we are able to successfully change the lives of our clients and help move them away from crime.

The last year has also seen the start of significant changes to the criminal justice world and we envisage that the Government's 'Transforming Rehabilitation' agenda will provide

emerging opportunities for the Trust in the coming months. Effective collaboration with a wide range of partners will be fundamental in ensuring that these new frameworks are able to meet the needs of our clients and to reduce offending in our community.

We impact on the lives of many people and this would not be possible without the efforts of our talented and committed staff and volunteers. They work tirelessly to achieve the best results for our clients and I thank them for their dedication. I also thank our Trustees who give their time

and expertise to ensure we are well governed; our partner organisations who work with us to change lives and reduce re-offending; our funders who continue to financially support our work; and finally our clients, who make our efforts so worthwhile.



*Alison Goddard*  
Alison Goddard  
Chief Executive

## Our Values

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

### ■ **Achievement**

To achieve the best outcome for all

### ■ **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

## 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



## Employment, Training & Education

Sustainable employment remains the single most important factor in reducing re-offending yet finding work in an economic downturn is very difficult for our client group.

As such, we endeavour to ensure that our clients are motivated, well trained and 'job ready' to maximise their success in gaining employment. All of our employability work is informed by accurate details of previous convictions and current Probation risk assessments, and is delivered by qualified staff. This ensures all our work is realistic, prevents the likelihood of re-offending and protects the public.

We work closely with Probation Offender Managers to deliver employment, training and education support to young offenders and adult offenders under statutory supervision across Lincolnshire. Employability interventions are designed to complement other offending-focussed

work to increase the impact on reoffending. During the last year we have supported 634 offenders, 118 of whom have achieved an employment or training outcome.

The Trust also provides employment support via a team of resettlement staff in four local prisons; HMP Lincoln, HMP North Sea Camp, HMP Stocken and HMP Whatton. LAT staff work with prisoners at various points during their sentence from induction to release offering 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. The NOMS ESF funded 'Reach' project also enables us to work 'through the gate' with prisoners on release which offers continuity of support.



**NOMS ESF 'Reach'**  
reduced re-offending  
of participants by  
between 1 and 11%

Source: Ministry of Justice 2013





## Accommodation

Affordable accommodation remains a significant barrier to many of our clients and a lack of private sector accommodation in some areas reduces options further.

We provide a range of housing support solutions both to clients in prison and in the community, all with the aim of ensuring they have an appropriate place to live. In prison, we provide housing advice to help maintain and sustain accommodation on release to minimise the number of prisoners released without suitable accommodation. During the last 12 months, we have worked with over 900 sentenced and remand prisoners. We also provide the Bail Accommodation and Support Service to ensure prisoners due for release on bail or on Home Detention Curfew have an approved place to live, with 37 prisoners supported during the year.

Lincolnshire Action Trust continues to play an active role in the county's multi-agency 'Integrated Offender Management' framework, where our specific function is to gain and sustain suitable housing for IOM offenders and to assist them to live independently, thus reducing the likelihood of re-offending. We can work with an individual for up to two years and this essential 'safety blanket' can make the difference between re-offending and a crime-free future. We have worked with 75 new clients during the year.

Our housing work is greatly assisted by a grant from Crisis to support individuals to move into private rented sector (PRS) accommodation. We are able to assist with tenancy support as well as financial help via repayable deposits.

LAT's PRS scheme saved almost £150,000 to the public purse in the last three months alone.

Source: Making It Count  
Rugg & Plearce 2013

## Finance Benefit & Debt

Many offenders continue to experience debt and this can lead to further offending.

We have continued to provide debt advice to prisoners and offenders in the community over the last year, negotiating realistic payment plans

with creditors and helping clients to budget effectively. 125 clients were supported, and a number of financial capability courses were also delivered.



## Jake's Story

I was studying at university when I committed an offence. I was sentenced to prison and lost my university place as a result. I thought my world had ended and didn't know what to do. I saw a poster about the Reach project while I was in prison and asked to join it. Initially my case manager focused on how I could maximise my employability. I undertook the GOALS course and found it really motivational and thought provoking. We created an up to date CV and discussed disclosure

of my offence with my case manager. I decided to retrain and initially chose a painting and decorating Level 1 course. I continued to have regular reviews with my case manager and I quickly realised that getting 'a job' would help me to get a better job. I have now been released from prison and am training as a chef. I have been offered a full-time position once I have passed my NVQ and I am now really positive about the future.



## Lee's Story

I have been in and out of prison for several years and was unemployed and living in a bail hostel when my Offender Manager suggested the Reach project. I had loads of licence restrictions and a curfew and didn't want to get a job but my Offender Manager thought this would help me stop offending. My Reach case manager helped me look at suitable jobs, create a CV, register an email address and upload my CV to Universal Job Match. She also sent me job vacancies between appointments via text and I applied for many by either phoning or sending my CV. My case manager then told me about a traffic

management operative position and she put my name forward as I had the right licences. I went for an interview a few days later and was offered the position to start the following Monday. My case manager got me some boots and PPE ready to start work. She also got me funding for transport and looked into a CBT course for Wheels to Work, but at the end of the first week I was offered use of a company van. I have now been with the company for five months and my manager says I am a 'model' employee! My Offender Manager is really pleased with what I've achieved and this job has really helped me change my life around.

## Children & Families

The impact of offending on the families of offenders is often underestimated yet can be significant.

Our dedicated children and family officers work in two prisons to maintain family links and reduce the impact of having a family member in custody, with 145 prisoners being supported in the last year. This work is supported by our team of play workers within the Visits Hall at HMP Lincoln, who engage children in activities and play. Over 600 children have benefited from this provision during the year.

## 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. 40 new mentors have been recruited during the year and 41 matches have occurred.

Our community-based family support team supports the families of offenders to access mainstream support to overcome barriers, with the aim of reducing offending and improving their lives. The lives of these clients are often complex and can involve many different agencies and organisations, but engagement with these services can be problematic. The team has worked intensively with 28 complex families over the year.

### Senior Attendance Centre

Lincolnshire Action Trust continues to run the Lincolnshire Senior Attendance Centre on behalf of Lincolnshire Probation Trust. The Centre is for young adult offenders aged 18 to 24 sentenced by the Court and runs for three hours every Saturday morning, providing a range of engaging and educational interventions. 45 offenders have received such Orders of between 12 and 36 hours during the year.





The background image shows a green sign for 'Adult Care' and 'Public Reception' with the Lincolnshire County Council logo. A young child in a blue shirt and shorts is standing in the foreground, looking towards the sign. The sign is partially obscured by text boxes.

Adult Care

Public Reception

Lincolnshire  
COUNTY COUNCIL

## Sally & George's Story

Sally and George were referred as a family unit. Sally's children are in a permanent private fostering arrangement and they had recently suffered bereavement through the death of their child together. Sally and George are well known to most local services for their substance misuse and repeat offending, mostly arising from mental health issues and street homelessness. Over the last

12 months, they have worked with their LAT Support Officer to move into their first home for over two years together, sourced furniture, accessed drugs support and reduced their alcohol consumption. They have also both begun to consider bereavement counselling.

## Steven & Katie's Story

When we were referred to LAT's Floating Support team we were in fear of our safety from gangs I knew in the past. I was supervised by the Integrated Offender Management team and the Police agreed that the threats were real. I was really scared that I would get back into crime if the gang caught up with me. Our Floating Support Officer said we were a high priority and worked with us and local housing providers to relocate us, initially on

a temporary basis until we could find somewhere long-term. He applied for a rent deposit and housing benefit for us and found a landlord who was willing to offer us accommodation in a new area. We have now moved into permanent accommodation and get regular support to sustain our tenancy. Now that we are away from our old area and are getting support, I'm not doing crimes anymore.



# 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
  - Crisis ‘Private Rented Sector’ Grant
  - Evan Cornish Foundation
  - European Social Fund
  - Guideline Careers Service Ltd
- HM Prison Service
  - Investors in Lincoln
  - Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust
  - Lincolnshire County Council Financial Inclusion Group
  - Lincolnshire County Council ‘Supporting People’
- Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership
  - Lincolnshire Probation Trust
  - National Offender Management Service
  - The Prince’s Trust
  - Working Links

# Legal & 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 & Trustees

- Sheridan Minshull (Chair)
- Elaine Baylis (Vice Chair)
- Roy Harper
- Derek Smith
- Linda Withers
- John Carpenter (Treasurer)  
(from 08.08.12)

## Company Secretary

- Alison Goddard

## Accountant

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

## Bankers

- Cater Allen Private Bank  
9 Nelson Street Bradford BD1 5AN  
(until 17.07.12)
- Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 101 1 Balloon Street  
Manchester M60 4EP  
(from 17.07.12)

## Solicitors

- Andrew & Co.  
St. Swithin’s Square, Lincoln LN2 1HB

## Auditors

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

# Financial Summary

Statement of Financial Activities for the year  
ended 31 March 2013

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds (31.03.2013) £	Total Funds (31.03.2012) £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Voluntary income	-	-	-	334
Investment income	8,715	-	8,715	4,081
Charitable activities	744,720	31,279	775,999	1,125,092
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>753,435</b>	<b>31,279</b>	<b>784,714</b>	<b>1,129,517</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Charitable activities	842,939	36,127	879,066	949,771
Governance costs	3,208	292	3,500	2,100
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>846,147</b>	<b>36,419</b>	<b>882,566</b>	<b>951,871</b>
<b>MOVEMENT IN TOTAL FUNDS</b>				
Income/(Expenditure)	(92,712)	(5,140)	(97,852)	177,646
<i>Total funds (01.04.2012)</i>	<i>860,112</i>	<i>4,315</i>	<i>864,427</i>	<i>686,781</i>

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2013

	Total Funds (31.03.2012)			Total Funds (31.03.2012)
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets	-	3,511	-	7,350
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	90,207	-	140,655	-
Cash at bank	724,360	-	758,317	-
Total	814,567	-	898,972	-
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year	(51,503)	-	(41,895)	-
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	-	763,064	-	857,077
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	-	766,575	-	864,427
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>				
Restricted funds	-	(825)	-	4,315
Unrestricted funds	-	767,400	-	864,427

Total Funds 31 March 2013

Unrestricted

**£767,400**

31.03.2013 Total

**£766,575**

Restricted

**(£825)**

31.03.2012 Total

**£864,427**

These summarised accounts are an extract of information from the full statutory accounts, which were approved and signed by the Trustees on 30th May 2013.

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.



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RECONNECTING  
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SINCE 2000

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