

LINCOLNSHIRE



RECONNECTING
OFFENDERS WITH
THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 2000

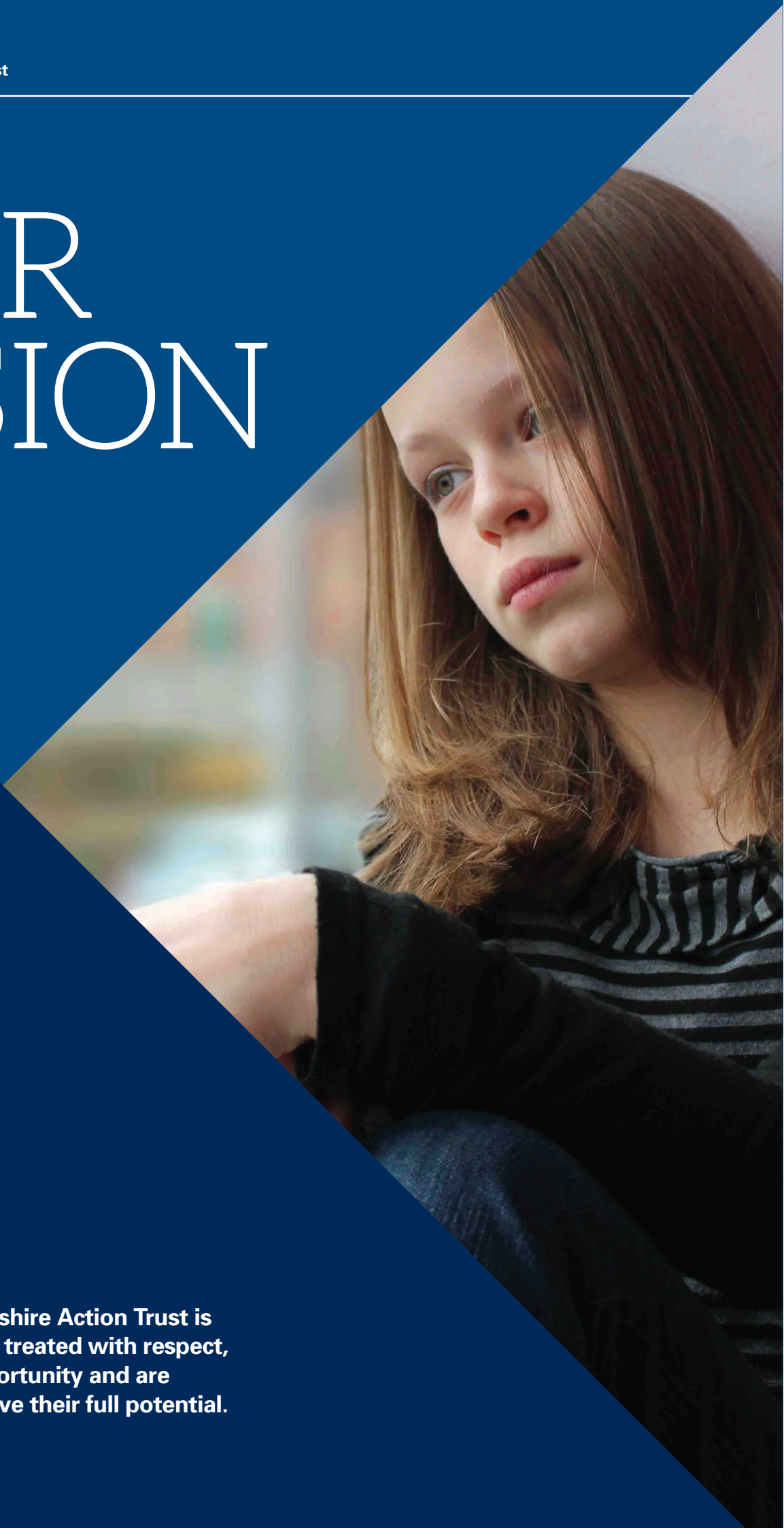


ANNUAL REPORT

2015/2016

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 explaining the work and achievements of the Lincolnshire Action Trust during 2015-16."

It provides an interesting and informative account of a wide range of activities concerned with the rehabilitation of offenders and support for families affected by involvement in crime or addiction. Building supportive relationships is at the heart of the work undertaken by our skilled staff and trained volunteer mentors, and this is apparent in some of the real life stories included in this report.

This report also gives account of our stewardship of the financial resources which the Trust receives from government and charitable sources. These are challenging times for our partners in the public sector

and we are pleased to have been able to develop new services where gaps in provision have emerged.

We continue to engage with a wide range of organisations, to work in effective partnerships and to extend our sources of funding. We would welcome greater acknowledgment by government of the significant contribution of well managed and innovative local voluntary organisations to achieving better outcomes in rehabilitating offenders.

Providing more opportunities for smaller not for profit organisations to bid directly for appropriate

contracts would, in our view, be a significant and beneficial change.

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 all their hard work and commitment.



**Sheridan
L Minshull**
Chair

Chief Executive's Report

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

Lincolnshire Action Trust continues to go from strength to strength, in spite of the significant structural changes that have continued to occur in our operating environment over the last 12 months.

The ongoing changes resulting from Transforming Rehabilitation, substantial reductions in supported housing provision, public sector austerity measures, welfare reform and prison reform have all made the work of charities such as LAT more challenging and also more needed.

Our ethos of flexibility and innovation has allowed us to rise to these challenges, and this is

recognised by both our clients and our funders. This report highlights some of our responses such as the new 'Departure Lounge' at HMP Lincoln, a model that is attracting considerable national interest.

Our clients remain at the heart of all that we do. We work with some of the most marginalised and excluded individuals in our communities, with whom other services often fail to engage.

We would not be able to do this vital work without the commitment and tenacity of our fantastic staff and volunteers. I am truly grateful for all the 'extra miles' our staff

take for their clients to assist them to transform their lives.

Finally I'd like to thank our funders, who have faith in us to deliver our services for the benefit of our clients.



**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 others and myself



Quality

To work to the highest standards at all times



Empowerment

To give power to individuals and encourage them to increase their confidence



Respect

To be respectful and considerate to others



Inspiration

To positively motivate and influence 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 dependants 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 and Education

Sustainable employment is the single most effective factor in reducing risk of re-offending and employability interventions has been a core element of Lincolnshire Action Trust delivery in both custody and community since 2001.

Over the past year our employment related provision has changed in response to needs presented, meaning a focus on those with more entrenched needs, supporting a lower number of individuals but in a more comprehensive way. We have commenced support with 169 individuals to improve their employability. Of these, 69 have accessed at least one 'support measure' to address barriers such as substance misuse, debt, health and wellbeing, or mentoring. 20 have also achieved an accredited short course to enhance their employability. A further 25 young offenders have been supported, 14 of whom have progressed into an employment, training or education outcome within the reporting period. Much of our focus at the start of our support focuses on 'soft outcomes' including disclosure advice, interview skills training and, improved confidence when job-searching, in order to progress individuals further towards employment.

In the final four months of the year we were commissioned to deliver elements of the 'Careers Inspiration in Custody' contract in five prisons across the East Midlands. This involved undertaking a skills and employment audit in each prison, introducing new employers, co-ordinating a series of employer activities to be delivered in custody and hosting several 'inspirational' ex-offenders to deliver a talk to serving prisoners about their employment experience. The links made as a result of this work will continue to be developed across the region.



George's Story

George was referred to us on release from prison for a serious arson offence. He was sofa surfing, taking medication for his drug induced psychosis and was on benefits, but had failed to engage with local opportunities as he lacked confidence and motivation to do anything.

Since starting on our CFO3 project six months ago, he has attended every appointment, secured a tenancy, engaged with a volunteer mentor and decided he was ready to consider a college course. His CFO3 Case Manager attended an open day with him and advocated with the college in relation to his criminal record. He was accepted on the course and his volunteer mentor attended each day with him for the first week. He has now completed the course and he reports that his confidence has improved significantly and he is now ready to consider employment.

Accommodation

Our long-standing partnership with the Lincolnshire Integrated Offender Management scheme has seen us continue to assist IOM offenders and young offenders being released from custody during the year. Staff support clients to gain suitable housing and to sustain their tenancy by providing 'floating support' to develop independent living skills. Our team have delivered 3,860 hours of assistance to over 50 clients during the last 12 months.



Shona's Story

Shona was referred to us for emergency accommodation support as she was fleeing domestic abuse.

She was well known to the criminal justice system and the IOM scheme due to her prolific shoplifting and heavy drug use. The team attempted to source suitable refuge accommodation, but Shona's risk was deemed too high. Eventually a housing provider accepted Shona on the understanding that we would provide intensive floating support for her.

This support has involved registering for benefits in the new area, registering with a GP, accessing support for her substance misuse, and accessing counselling regarding her abusive relationship. We supported Shona intensively for over four months, during which time her engagement with support services has gradually improved. Shona's former partner found out where she was living, and therefore we helped her to move to a different area of the country, ensuring appropriate support could continue in the new location to address her ongoing needs.

Children and Families

We have continued to deliver a range 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. 31 new cases have been opened for in-depth support over the last year and a further 303 children have been supported during visits to the prison. Adult visitors to HMP Lincoln are supported via our FIRST team (Family Intervention and Release Support Team), and 231 individuals have accessed specific advice or support during the year.

Since 1st December 2015, the work undertaken by local charity 'Oasis Project Lincolnshire' has been transferred into LAT. Oasis was a long established Charity, working with children and families who are affected by substance misuse of a family member. For adults, support is offered both one to one or in small groups, and for children all support is one to one. Oasis staff regularly support young people involved in safeguarding, Child in Need and Team Around the Child proceedings, and often provide the key trusted relationship with the young person. In the final four months of the year, 35 new adult referrals and 29 new young person referrals have been received to access Oasis support.

For as long as I can remember my mum has been an alcoholic. When someone mentioned Young Oasis to me I was unsure; I'd always found opening up to people very hard. But it was the best thing I could have done. At my first meeting I met my fantastic support worker, who immediately put me at ease and explained that I could talk freely about how my mum's drinking affected me. That was the first time I'd ever felt understood, and I knew that I didn't have to deal with it on my own anymore.

Young Oasis became my safe place. There was no judgement, I was always listened to and help was there whenever I needed it.

Millie, aged 9



Resettlement

LAT's innovative 'Departure Lounge' facility which is available to every prisoner released from HMP Lincoln, is located within the FIRST Centre building and has been operational since July 2015.

During this time 696 prisoners have engaged with the service (88% of releases), accessing a range of support including sourcing accommodation, making contact with Probation to check an reporting time and directions to the train station. Prisoners are encouraged to return to the FIRST Centre if they require further support in the future. We also provide a 'release pack' containing essentials such as toothbrush, toothpaste, contraception, clean socks and underwear, a bottle of water and key contact information. The Departure Lounge has also engaged with 82 friends or family members to provide information and advice since it opened. The facility encourages Probation, support agencies and mentors to wait for prisoners to be released and can arrange private interview rooms for immediate interventions to take place.

LAT's resettlement services at HMP Lincoln came to an end on 30th April 2015 when Transforming Rehabilitation was rolled out nationally. In the final month of delivery we achieved each of our Service Delivery Requirement (SDR) targets with 11 prison leavers entering education on release (14% of releases), 25 entering employment (31% of releases) and 73 securing accommodation on the day of release (90%). This means the annual SDR targets were exceeded in each of the three areas; 15.12% education on release (target 14%), 29.84% employment on release (target 27%), 90.59% secured accommodation on release (target 88.5%).

We also continued to deliver a specific housing provision for prisoners on remand at HMP Lincoln until June 2015 when this was absorbed into the Transforming Rehabilitation delivery. 27 new remand prisoners were supported to sustain their tenancy or to find accommodation ready for release in the final three months of the provision.



Dean's Story

Dean was released from HMP Lincoln after a 12 month sentence for theft.

When he spoke with our Departure Lounge staff as he was leaving the prison, it was evident that he had nowhere to sleep that night and no means of getting to his Probation appointment an hour away. While Dean had a cup of tea and charged his mobile phone, our team phoned local night shelters to arrange emergency accommodation for that night. A place was secured and arrangements were then made with Dean's Offender Manager for him to attend the Probation office in the local town, rather than the one he was due to attend. Dean was also encouraged to phone his mum as he had not spoken with her since he came into custody. He reluctantly agreed, and after a long conversation, she was very happy to know he was safe. Now they are back in contact, Dean is hopeful that she may be able to help with his housing situation.

Courts Provision

Our SPARC project (Supporting People After Remand or Conviction) continues to provide assessment and support at Court immediately following sentence or remand, with support continuing on arrival at HMP Lincoln and throughout the period of sentence or remand.

698 individuals have been assessed during the year and needs we have responded to have included contacting family members, arranging for children to be collected from school, crisis mental health referrals, arranging medical prescriptions and retrieving belongings, including pets.

Mentoring

LAT has continued to recruit and train volunteer mentors during the last year.

Our focus has been on young offenders supervised by Lincolnshire Youth Offending Service and young people subject to Anti-Social Behaviour arrangements and 149 young people have been referred to the provision during the year.

Our 'Release Support' project provides intensive pre and post release support for individuals with multiple needs at HMP Lincoln. The provision aims to co-ordinate all aspects of an individual's release plans from each agency and then provide support for the individual to successfully engage with the support identified. 32 new clients have been supported during the year.



Chris's Story

Chris, who suffers from depression was remanded into court unexpectedly and was very distressed as a result.

His family were in court and were upset and worried for his welfare. The SPARC practitioner spent time with them to assure them that Chris would receive support for his mental health condition and explained the self harm monitoring process at the prison. They had no experience with prison before so information was given about visits, permitted money and phone calls. Chris was relieved that they were thinking of him and was happy that he would be able to contact his family whilst in custody.



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;

- ★ APM (Advanced Personnel Management)
- ★ BBC Children in Need
- ★ Changing Lives Fund
- ★ European Social Fund
- ★ Futures Advice
- ★ HM Prison Service
- ★ Ingeus
- ★ Investors in Lincoln
- ★ Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust (latterly Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire & Rutland Community Rehabilitation Company)
- ★ Lincolnshire County Council
- ★ Lincolnshire Economic Action Partnership
- ★ Lincolnshire Probation Trust (latterly Humberside, Lincolnshire & North Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company)
- ★ Lincolnshire Youth Offending Service
- ★ Lloyds Bank Foundation
- ★ Oasis Substance Misuse Charity
- ★ Purple Futures
- ★ Skills for Care (ASYE)
- ★ Individual Donors

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
John Carpenter, Treasurer
Roy Harper
Derek Smith
Linda Withers
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, M60 4EP

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 2016

	Unrestricted funds 2016 £	Restricted funds 2016 £	Total funds 2016 £	Total funds 2015 £
Incoming From:				
Donations and legacies	38,548	-	38,548	-
Investments	9,183	-	9,183	11,143
Charitable activities	722,008	55,186	777,194	986,242
Total income	769,739	55,186	824,925	997,385
Expenditure On:				
Charitable activities	644,459	57,806	702,265	898,685
Total expenditure	644,459	57,806	702,265	898,685
Net Income / (Expenditure)	125,280	(2,620)	122,660	98,700
Net Movement In Funds	125,280	(2,620)	122,660	98,700
Reconciliation Of Funds:				
<i>Total funds at 1 April 2015</i>	869,688	7,676	877,364	778,664
Total funds at 31 March 2015	994,968	5,056	1,000,024	877,364

All activities relate to continuing operations.



Balance sheet

As at 31 March 2016

	2016	2015
£	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	11,708	16,409
Current assets		
Debtors	122,840	60,752
Investments	794,937	538,932
Cash at bank and in hand	116,012	369,895
	1,033,789	969,579
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	(45,473)	(108,624)
Net current assets	988,316	860,955
Net Assets	1,000,024	877,364
Charity funds		
Restricted funds	5,056	7,676
Unrestricted funds	994,968	869,688
Total funds	1,000,024	877,364

These summarised accounts are an extract of information from the full statutory accounts, which were approved and signed by the Trustees on 8th June 2016. 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 were approved by the Trustees on 8 June 2016 and signed on their behalf, by:



Sheridan Lincoln Minshull, Chair



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

www.LATcharity.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