



**East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership**  
**Community Safety Survey Results 2015**

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## Key Findings

- 856 people completed the community safety survey this year, a decrease of 11% (n=105) compared to 2014. 47% of respondents were male and 51% were female; the majority of respondents were aged between 16 and 24 years.
- 'Rubbish and litter lying around' was the top issue identified as a 'very' or 'fairly' big problem by respondents in all three districts (when asked to pick from a list of seven anti-social behaviour issues).
- The percentage of people who think that Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is a 'very' or 'fairly' big problem has increased in Boston (by 9.5%) and South Holland (by 13%). However, in East Lindsey there was a decrease of 5% compared to the results of the 2014 survey.
- When asked what they are most worried about being a victim of in their local area, the majority of respondents in Boston and East Lindsey (35% and 36% respectively) said that they are 'not worried'. In South Holland the majority of respondents (24%) are worried about being a victim of burglary.
- The majority of respondents in East Lindsey feel as safe as they did 12 months ago. However, in Boston and South Holland there has been an increase in the proportion who feel 'less safe' (+17% in Boston and +10% in South Holland).
- The proportion of people who 'strongly' or 'tend' to agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together has decreased across the partnership area with reductions of 11% in Boston, 15% in South Holland and 1% in East Lindsey compared to 2014.
- The percentage of people who 'strongly' or 'tend' to agree that people drinking alcohol in public places is an issue increased in Boston by (+10 percentage points) and South Holland (+23 percentage points), East Lindsey has seen a small decrease (-1 percentage points) compared to 2014.
- There has been an 11% increase in the proportion of respondents in East Lindsey who agree that the Police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and ASB. However, In Boston and South Holland there have been reductions of -4% and -8% respectively compared to last year's survey.
- When asked what issues the partnership should focus on in their local area the majority of respondents in Boston and South Holland said 'Drinking in Public' whereas in East Lindsey the top issue identified was 'drugs'.

## Introduction

For the sixth year running the East Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership (ELCSP) asked local residents to complete a short survey to gather their views on community safety issues; this information will be used as part of the annual priority setting process to identify which issues the partnership should focus on in 2016-17.

## Summary of responses by year

Year	Start and end dates of the survey	Number of responses
2010	1 <sup>st</sup> August to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2010	311
2011	17 <sup>th</sup> May to 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2011	586
2012	3 <sup>rd</sup> September to 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2012	540
2013	2 <sup>nd</sup> September to 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2013	976
2014	18 <sup>th</sup> August to 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2014	961
2015	3 <sup>rd</sup> August to 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	856

Although there were 105 fewer responses to the survey this year, a reduction of 11%, this data can still be considered as a reliable source of opinion across the three districts.

## The following methods of distribution were used in 2015

- Online link accessible from the Boston Borough, East Lindsey and South Holland District Council websites and copies in Council reception areas (including the East Lindsey Community Access Points in Horncastle, Louth, Mablethorpe, Manby, Skegness, Spilsby and Tattershall).
- Press Releases issued during week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> August by district councils and Lincolnshire Police.
- Copies distributed by Boston Mayflower Ltd.
- Copies sent to Boston Health Group, Boston Police Cadets, Skegness Shopwatch and distributed at public events
- Details included in the 'Members Point Brief' to notify all Elected Members in East Lindsey and circulated to Elected Members in Boston.
- Details sent out to approximately 100 Parish Councils in East Lindsey via an e-bulletin.
- Sent electronically to all Parishes, schools, sports clubs and health clubs in South Holland.
- Distributed at the Pumpkin Festival on 3<sup>rd</sup> October in Spalding.
- Hard copies distributed at Activate events in Donington, Gedney Drove End and Sutton Bridge (South Holland) where over 700 people attended.
- Details included in the August edition of the Boston Bulletin and a reminder in the September edition.
- Distributed via the Lincolnshire Alert System to 2336 people registered in Boston borough, East Lindsey and South Holland.
- Distributed to staff at East Lindsey District Council.
- ELCSP sponsored a football match on 19<sup>th</sup> September (Boston United) to promote the survey.
- Send out via Facebook and Twitter.
- Distributed to the following schools/colleges: Skegness Academy 6<sup>th</sup> Form pupils, King Edward VI Grammar School in Louth, Haven High in Boston, Skegness Vocational College, and sixth form pupils at Boston College.

## Results

### 1. Demographic Summary

In total 856 responses were received, a decrease of 11% (n=105) from the 961 responses received in 2014. The majority of respondents (n= 448) were from Boston borough. 236 were from East Lindsey and 160 were from South Holland. 12 respondents did not specify which district they reside in.

Responses were received from towns and villages across the three districts. Table 1 below shows those from which 10 or more responses were received.

**Table 1: Towns and Villages with 10 or more responses**

Town/Village	Number
<b>Boston</b>	259
<b>Skegness</b>	54
<b>Spalding</b>	84
<b>Kirton</b>	31
<b>Louth</b>	31
<b>Wyberton</b>	26
<b>Fishtoft</b>	19
<b>Swineshead</b>	14
<b>Holbeach</b>	12
<b>Long Sutton</b>	11
<b>Wrangle</b>	10

The following gives an overview of key demographic information relating to respondents across the partnership area<sup>1</sup>:

- Gender: 47% of respondents were male, 50% were female and 0.4% identified as Transgender, 2.4% did not specify.
- Age: The majority of respondents (n=250, 29%) were aged between 16 and 24 years followed by 16% who were aged between 65 and 74, and 15% aged 55 to 64 years.
- Nationality: The majority of respondents (n=756, 88%) identified themselves as either British or English. 2% (n=15) identified themselves as Polish.
- Ethnicity: 90% of respondents classified themselves as 'White'.

The full data tables are included in Appendix 1 (tables 1-4).

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<sup>1</sup> The values in this report are rounded and may not total 100%

## 2. Perceptions of Anti-Social Behaviour

Respondents were asked how much of a problem the following anti-social behaviour issues are in their local area:

1. Noisy neighbours or loud parties
2. Teenagers hanging around the streets
3. Rubbish and litter lying around
4. Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles
5. People using or dealing drugs
6. People being drunk or rowdy in public places
7. Abandoned or burnt-out cars

The boxes below show the top three issues identified by respondents as being a 'very' or 'fairly' big problem in their local area.

A full breakdown of responses is included in Appendix 1 (table 5).

### **Top three issues identified in Boston borough:**

1. Rubbish and litter lying around (49%)
2. People being drunk or rowdy in public places (43%)
3. People using or dealing drugs (41%)

### **Top three issues identified in East Lindsey:**

1. Rubbish and litter lying around (32%)
2. People using or dealing drugs (28%)
3. People being drunk or rowdy in public places (24%)

### **Top three issues identified in South Holland:**

1. Rubbish and litter lying around (58%)
2. People being drunk or rowdy in public places (46%)
3. Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles (33%)

The top issue is the same across the partnership area – 'rubbish and litter lying around'. This was also the top issue identified last year. The proportion of respondents who identified this issue in Boston and East Lindsey remain similar to last year, however, in South Holland there has been a 14% increase in the proportion of respondents who perceive rubbish and litter lying around to be a 'very' or 'fairly' big issue.

'People being drunk or rowdy in public places' is the second biggest issue in Boston and South Holland, and third in East Lindsey. 'People using or dealing drugs' was identified as the third biggest issue in Boston and the second biggest issue in East Lindsey. This issue did not feature in the top three for South Holland this year; it was replaced by 'Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles'.

The responses to each category above were combined to provide an overall percentage of respondents who have a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour (previous National Indicator 17).

Table 2 below shows the percentage results from the 2015 survey along with the difference from last years survey.

**Table 2: NI 17 – Percentage of respondents who think that Anti-Social Behaviour is a ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ big problem**

	<b>% 2015</b>	<b>Percentage point change from 2014</b>
<b>Boston</b>	30%	+9.5%
<b>East Lindsey</b>	15%	-5%
<b>South Holland</b>	31%	+13%

Comparisons to the 2014 survey show an increase for Boston (+9.5 percentage points) and South Holland (+13 percentage points) in those who perceive ASB to be a ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ big problem. In East Lindsey it shows a decrease (-5 percentage points).

### 3. Fear of Crime

Respondents were asked to identify what (if anything) they are most worried about being a victim of in their local area.

In previous years respondents were given a list from which they were asked to pick one issue that they were most worried about being a victim of. This year respondents were given a free text box or the option to tick ‘I’m not worried’. The most commonly highlighted issues are presented in table 3 below:

**Table 3: Summary of issues that respondents are most worried about being a victim of in their local area**

	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
<b>Boston</b>	I’m not worried (n=157, 35%)	Burglary (n=53, 12%)	Stabbing (n=29, 6%)
<b>East Lindsey</b>	I’m not worried (n=84, 36%)	Burglary (n=32, 14%)	Speeding (n=11, 5%)
<b>South Holland</b>	Burglary (n=39, 24%)	I’m not worried (n=19, 12%)	Drunken behaviour (n=10, 6%)
<b>East Lincs CSP</b>	I’m not worried (n=260, 30%)	Burglary (n=124, 15%)	Robbery (n=32, 4%)

Across the partnership area, the majority of respondents (30%) stated that they are ‘not worried’ about being a victim of crime, this is the same proportion who said the same in last the survey last year. This is followed by ‘Burglary’ with 15% stating that they are worried about this in their local area. Boston and East Lindsey results mirror the overall results in terms of the top two issues with 35% ‘not worried’ in Boston and 36% ‘not worried’ in East Lindsey, and 12% and 14% respectively worried about burglary. However, in South Holland the majority (24%) are worried about burglary and only 12% stated that they are ‘not worried’.

The issue which came third across the partnership area was robbery with 4% worried about this. The issue coming third in each district differed with 6% in Boston worried about 'stabbing', 11% in East Lindsey worried about 'speeding' and 10% in South Holland worried about 'drunken behaviour'.

Respondents were asked if they feel more or less safe in their local area than they did 12 months ago. Table 4 below gives a breakdown of the responses.

**Table 4: Feelings of safety compared to 12 months ago**

	<b>Boston</b>	<b>East Lindsey</b>	<b>South Holland</b>	<b>East Lincs CSP</b>
<b>I feel safer</b>	8%	8%	4%	7%
<b>Less safe</b>	42%	11%	37%	32%
<b>I feel about the same</b>	46%	78%	58%	56%
<b>I am new to the area</b>	2%	3%	1%	2%

The results for East Lindsey are very similar to last year suggesting that feelings of safety in this district have not changed much since the last survey was conducted.

However, in Boston and South Holland there has been a marked increase in the proportion of respondents who feel 'less safe' (up 17% in Boston and 10% in South Holland). There has also been a reduction in these districts in the proportion who stated that they 'feel safer' (-8% in Boston and -7% in South Holland).

Respondents were then asked if they feel that people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area. Table 5 below shows the results for this year along with the percentage change from the 2014 results.

**Table 5: Agreement that people from different backgrounds get on well together.**

	<b>% 2015</b>	<b>Percentage point change from 2014</b>
<b>Boston</b>	129 (29%)	-11%
<b>East Lindsey</b>	118 (50%)	-1%
<b>South Holland</b>	51 (32%)	-15%
<b>East Lincs CSP</b>	298 (35%)	-9%

There has been a reduction in the proportion of people who agree that people from different backgrounds get on well together in Boston and South Holland compared to last year (-11% and -15% respectively). In East Lindsey there has also been a reduction but only by 1%.



Respondents were asked if they felt that people drinking in public places was an issue in their local area; table 6 shows the results of those who felt it was an issue.

**Table 6: Agreement that people drinking alcohol in public places is an issue in your local area.**

	<b>% 2015</b>	<b>Percentage point change from 2014</b>
<b>Boston</b>	282 (63%)	+10%
<b>East Lindsey</b>	51 (22%)	-1%
<b>South Holland</b>	98 (61%)	+23%
<b>East Lincs CSP (current)</b>	434 (51%)	+13%

South Holland has seen the biggest increase in the proportion of people who agree that people drinking alcohol in public places is an issue in their local area (+23%). There has also been an increase in Boston of 10% but a slight decrease of 1% in East Lindsey. Both Boston and South Holland have a similar proportion of respondents who perceive street drinking to be a problem (63% and 61% respectively), whilst only 22% believe street drinking to be an issue in East Lindsey.

#### 4. Views on the Police and Local Public Services

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree or disagree that the Police and other local public services are dealing with crime and ASB. Table 7 below gives a breakdown of responses along with the changes from the 2014 survey.

**Table 7: Agreement that the Police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour? (National Indicator 27)**

	<b>Boston</b>	<b>East Lindsey</b>	<b>South Holland</b>	<b>East Lincs CSP</b>
<b>Local Survey 2015</b>	29%	50%	32%	35%
<b>Local Survey 2014</b>	33%	39%	40%	37%
<b>Change between 2014 and 2015</b>	-4%	+11%	-8%	-2%

There have been reductions in both Boston (-4%) and South Holland (-8%) in terms of the proportion of respondents who agree that the Police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and ASB. However, in East Lindsey there has been an 11% increase compared to the figures for last year.

Respondents were asked to specify what issues they think the partnership should focus on in their local area.

A summary of the responses is provided in table 8 below:

**Table 8: Issues respondents would like the partnership to focus on**

Priority Order	Boston	East Lindsey	South Holland	ELCSP
1	Drinking in public N=79	Drugs N=34	Drinking in public N=45	Drinking in public N=134
2	Drugs N=42	Speeding N=33	Litter N=20	Drugs N=87
3	Increase in Police presence N=38	Young people hanging around/not enough activities for young people N=19	Increase in Police presence N=19	Increase in Police presence N=74
4	Alcohol misuse N=34	Litter N=17	Spitting/Urination/Defecation on the streets N=18	Speeding N=70
5	Litter N=29	Increase in Police presence N=17	Speeding N=18	Litter N=67

The top priority that the public would like the partnership to address in Boston and South Holland (and overall for the partnership area) is 'drinking in public'. A similar theme – 'alcohol misuse' was identified as fourth in Boston.

In East Lindsey the issue identified by the majority of respondents is 'drugs', this also featured as second for Boston and second overall for the partnership area. The second most common issue identified in East Lindsey was 'speeding' and third in East Lindsey was 'young people hanging around/not enough activities for young people'. Speeding also featured as fifth in South Holland and fourth overall for the partnership area.

'Increase in Police presence' featured third for Boston and South Holland and also third for the Partnership area as a whole. This issue was ranked fourth in East Lindsey.

'Litter' featured second in South Holland and fifth in Boston, East Lindsey and the partnership area. Spitting/urination/defecation on the streets was identified 4<sup>th</sup> in South Holland.

### General Comments

Respondents were asked for any general comments at the end of the survey. The majority of these reiterated what has already been said earlier in the survey around lack of police presence, drinking in public places and speeding. Additional comments include the need for more CCTV cameras and also increased Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

## Appendix 1 – Data Tables

**Table 1: Gender**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Transgender</b>	<b>Not answered</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Boston</b>	210 (47%)	225 (50%)	3 (0.7%)	10 (2.2%)	448 (100%)
<b>East Lindsey</b>	115 (49%)	115 (49%)	0 (0%)	6 (2%)	236 (100%)
<b>South Holland</b>	68 (43%)	92 (58%)	0 (0%)	0 (0)	160 (100%)
<b>District unknown</b>	5 (42%)	2 (17%)	0 (0%)	5 (42%)	12 (100%)
<b>East Lincs CSP</b>	398 (47%)	434 (51%)	3 (0.3%)	21 (2.4%)	856 (100%)

**Table 2: Age**

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>16-24</b>	250	29%
<b>25-34</b>	56	7%
<b>35-44</b>	77	9%
<b>45-54</b>	112	13%
<b>55-64</b>	128	15%
<b>65-74</b>	138	16%
<b>75-84</b>	64	7%
<b>85+</b>	14	2%
<b>Not answered</b>	17	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>100%*</b>

**Table 3: Nationality**

	Australian	Bangladesh	Brazilian	British	Chilean	Chinese	Danish	Dutch	English	German	Latvian	Lithuanian	Northern Irish	Polish	Portuguese	Scottish	Thai	No details given
<b>Boston (n=448)</b>		2	1	262	1	2			119	1	3	8		12	8	1	1	27
<b>East Lindsey (n=236)</b>	1			184			2		43					1				5
<b>South Holland (n=160)</b>	1		1	96		1		1	47	1	2	1	1	2	1			5
<b>District unknown (n=12)</b>				4					1									7
<b>East Lincs CSP (n=856)</b>	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)	2 (0.2%)	546 (64%)	1 (0.1%)	3 (0.4%)	2 (0.2%)	1 (0.1%)	210 (25%)	2 (0.2%)	5 (0.6%)	9 (1%)	1 (0.1%)	15 (2%)	9 (1%)	1 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	44 (5%)

**Table 4: Ethnicity**

	White	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese	Mixed	Any other ethnicity	Did not answer
<b>Boston (n=448)</b>	398 (89%)	13 (3%)	2 (0.4)	2 (0.4)	7 (2%)	10 (2%)	16 (4%)
<b>East Lindsey (n=236)</b>	216 (92%)	1 (0.4%)			2 (0.8%)	7 (3%)	10 (4%)
<b>South Holland (n=160)</b>	153 (96%)			1 (0.6%)		4 (3%)	2 (1%)
<b>District unknown (n=12)</b>	6 (50%)	1 (8%)					5 (42%)
<b>East Lincs CSP (n=856)</b>	773 (90%)	15 (2%)	2 (0.2%)	3 (0.3%)	9 (1%)	21 (2%)	33 (4%)

**Table 5: National Indicator 17**

**Number and percentage of respondents who perceive issues to be a 'very' or 'fairly' big problem**

	Boston		East Lindsey		South Holland		East Lincs CSP	
	No / (%) 2015	% change from 2014	No / (%) 2015	% change from 2014	No / (%) 2015	% change from 2014	No / (%) 2015	% change from 2014
Noisy neighbours or loud parties	69 (15%)	-4%	24 (10%)	-3%	23 (14%)	-6%	118 (14%)	+2%
Teenagers hanging around the streets	118 (26%)	+6%	45 (19%)	-/+0%	47 (29%)	-1%	212 (25%)	+3%
Rubbish and litter lying around	218 (49%)	+3%	75 (32%)	-3%	93 (58%)	+14%	390 (45%)	+5%
Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles	115 (26%)	+1%	29 (12%)	-4%	53 (33%)	+2%	199 (23%)	+1%
People using or dealing drugs	184 (41%)	+ 9%	65 (28%)	-2%	49 (31%)	-/+0%	300 (35%)	+5%
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	194 (43%)	-12%	56 (24%)	-6%	73 (46%)	-15%	326 (38%)	+5%
Abandoned or burnt-out cars	20 (4%)	+6%	5 (2%)	-/+ 0%	3 (4%)	+1%	29 (3%)	+3%