

Lincolnshire Action Trust

SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES
Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

Lincolnshire Action Trust works in partnership with a range of statutory and non-statutory agencies to improve the skills and employability of offenders and prisoners. This work has included resettlement and remand housing projects, employment, training and education, and NEET young offenders provision, supporting over 1,500 individuals each year.

Through its ongoing resettlement programme, the Trust has aimed to provide employment, training, education and accommodation options for prisoners released from HMP Lincoln in order to reduce the problem of short-term repeat offending. Both during their induction and on their release, all prisoners can access a team of qualified practitioners, including a debt advisor.

Also located at HMP Lincoln and running since 2008, the Trust's remand housing project aims to ensure that remand prisoners have full access to specialist advice on preserving their housing tenancy or finding an address for their release if they are of no fixed abode. This includes a partnership arrangement with the YMCA to provide floating support in Lincoln for remanded prisoners on release.

The Trust also provides specific employment, training and education assistance through Lincolnshire Probation Trust and Lincolnshire Police Integrated Offender Management units with the aim of reducing high levels of unemployment within this offender group, supporting them through a multi-agency team and providing an incentive for their compliance. During the six month trial of this project, which

ended in March 2012, the Integrated Offender Management team reported a 51% reduction in reoffending and a drop in unemployment amongst the offenders from 90% to 30%.

The Trust has also secured three years funding to employ a part-time Information, Advice and Guidance Advisor to work with NEET (not in education, employment or training) young offenders who are not engaging with Youth Offending Service Learning Liaison Officers. Using a person centred innovative approach, the staff member works intensively with the young people to identify long term and sustainable employment, training and education opportunities, and to assist in overcoming the barrier of a criminal record.

During the last 10 years LAT has successfully increased the access offenders and prisoners have to employment, disclosure, training, education, accommodation, family support and debt management, leading to a reduction in reoffending and anti-social behaviour, and an increase in employment and community cohesion.

Through the Trust's work there has also been a reduction in costs for the prison service, police force, courts, children's services, the education authority and the welfare system.

For further information on Lincolnshire Action Trust visit www.lincolnshire-action-trust.org.uk.