

Household Support Fund

We are pleased to confirm that ELDC have accepted grant allocation for Lincolnshire County Council to deliver Household Support Fund locally.

That's £1.3 million this year to help households with significant increase in living costs.

Based on our experience of successfully delivering this funding to residents, we will once again be using this funding to support of community, organisations, faith groups and volunteers at food banks and community larders as well as an application scheme open to other households in need.

Details of costs of living support of all households will be updated at our webpage:

www.e-lindsey.goc.uk/costofliving

RSC Launch

Friday 23 June marked the launch of a new partnership between the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Magna Vitae Embassy Theatre in Skegness. Complimenting East Lindsey's Cultural Framework, the partnership feeds into local plans to use arts and culture as a tool for regeneration and boosting health, well-being and opportunities for young people, using a theatre-based approach to learning to help children unlock their full potential. There were 5 new learning partnerships announced across the UK, with Skegness being home to the national launch attracting nationwide press coverage.

LGA coastal SIG visit (upcoming in September) (NS)

The LGA Coastal SIG champions the collective interests of coastal, estuarine and maritime communities by increasing awareness and debate on environmental, economic and social issues at all levels in relation to the coast. We are delighted that they have chosen Lincolnshire as their destination for this year's annual visit, which is taking place on 12th, 13th and 14th September.

Approximately 30 councillors from all over the UK will be attending the trip. The delegates will be based in Skegness, but we will be showcasing projects along the East Lindsey coastline and Boston including Centre for Future Living, Skegness Foreshore, Cultural Regeneration, Coastal adaptation (Boston Barrier and Wrangle Sea Bank) and the Colonnade.

The visit will also include a celebration supper at the North Sea Observatory on the evening of 13th September, and the SIG AGM on 14th September.

CDF Approval (Cultural Development Fund)

At a meeting of Full Council on the 28th June, East Lindsey Members approved plans to proceed with the delivery of a multi-million project to regenerate two culturally significant assets on the Skegness Foreshore. The programme of works will support our partners Magna Vitae in transforming the Embassy Theatre and Mellor's Group in regenerating areas of the Skegness Pier. The funding will support continuing plans to establish the Embassy Theatre as a new Culture House within Skegness which will connect the Midlands Coast to other national and international arts venues and festivals. The project will also see the enhancement of publicly accessible open space on Scarbrough Esplanade, renovations to the current pier deck and Pier façade, and the refurbishment of 24 former beach chalet units to rejuvenate this area of the Foreshore for holidaymakers, visitors and residents. The investment is being primarily funded by the Council's successful application to secure a grant of £5million from Arts Council England's Cultural Development Fund, with additional private sector match funding being provided by the Mellors Group.

Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival

The Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival took place from 20th May – 11th June, offering over 180 events over the 3 weeks. There were a wide range of different activities, including;- guided walks, gliding, horse riding, dancing, river dipping, den building, fly fishing and much more, most activities were free of charge or available at a greatly reduced cost. Over 3500 people enjoyed taking part in the events, many trying a new activity for the first time and some finding a new hobby as a result.

Sarah Baxter visit

The Partnership area received further positive publicity when travel writer Sarah Baxter visited and was hosted in the County. She wrote a number of articles focused on Spalding, Boston and the Wolds (see attached and below)

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-crowd-free-rival-to-the-cotswolds-qf1737ldp>

LUF events

Two successful LUF launch events have been held. The first event was on 19 May to mark the funding success for Alford Windmill and Alford Manor House. Held at the Corn Exchange in Alford, around 70 people attended to hear more about the project. The second event to mark Spilsby Sessions House receiving funding was held on 6 July. This event was held at the Franklin Hall and attracted around 100 people. Both events included short overviews of the project and the first public showing of two films to mark the occasion, produced by Destination Lincolnshire. These will be available on the LUF project website at <https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/article/23103/Levelling-Up>

S&ELCP Employee Awards

The S&ELCP Employee Awards was held on Monday 19 June at the Jakemans Community Stadium in Boston. The event was sponsored by the Staff Forum, who also sponsored the 'Collaboration and Working Together' Award and the event itself was organised by a small group from the forum. In attendance on the evening were officers and teams who were shortlisted for awards, along with members of our Corporate Management Team, Leaders from East Lindsey & South Holland, and the Deputy Leader from Boston, representatives from our Trade Unions, the Chief Executive of PSPS, Lewis Duckett, and other colleagues who were recognised as part of the evening, such as members of our Future Leaders Programme.

Whilst this was a face-to-face event it was also streamed live to colleagues in our staff Facebook group. Feedback from colleagues who attended or watched the event live has been overwhelmingly positive.

The winners and highly commended on the evening were:

Innovation and Improvement Award

Winner: Vikki Cherry – Housing Services Manager at South Holland District Council

Highly Commended: Heather Prescott for her work with the South & East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network

Emma Elghoul and Haley King, Cost of Living response officers at South Holland District Council.

Going The Extra Mile (GEM) Award

Winner: The Partnership's CCTV team

Highly Commended: Jo Stock – for the Partnership's Menopause support group

Boston Caretakers team

Rhonda Booth – Democratic Services at South Holland District Council

Rising Star Award

Winner: Adel Gardner – Environmental Services Project Coordinator at South Holland District Council

Highly Commended: Daisy Jones – Sustainable Housing Officer
Nichola Holderness – Community Leadership Manager

Project of the Year Award

Winner: The Public Sector Hub

Highly Commended: The Partnership’s Democratic Services for elections and member induction
Green Homes Grants – Phase 1b

Collaboration and Working Together Award

Winner: The Ukraine Wellbeing Team

Highly Commended: Emma Staff – Communications Lead
The Partnership’s Levelling Up Fund submissions

Operative of the Year Award

Winner: Nathan Stubleby – Shadow Supervisor, Street Cleansing Team at South Holland District Council

Highly Commended: Miles Smith – Apprentice Plumber at South Holland District Council
Colin Parker – Property Assessor at South Holland District Council

Personal Development Award

Winner: Tom Marsters – Homelessness Reduction and Housing Solution Manager at South Holland District Council

Highly Commended: Susan Armour – Environmental Protection Team Leader at South Holland District Council

Cameron Lithgow – Assistant Building Control Surveyor at Boston Borough Council
Louise Upton – Sustainable Housing Officer

Partnership Champion Award

Winner: James Gilbert – Assistant Director Corporate

Highly Commended: Clive Gibbon – Economic Development Manager – Investment and Growth
A list of winners and highly commended was previously shared with Members via the Members Point Brief.

Changing Places Toilets

I am delighted to announce that earlier today, in line with the Changing Places Awareness Day, Councillor Dickinson and I were present to help to open the first of 6 new changing places toilets within the District at Lincolnshire Wildlife Park. Members may recall that we secured £300k of government funding last year to install 6 new toilets. The toilets are part of a £30m national campaign that aims to allow around 1 million more physically impaired individuals to undertake more recreational activities with dignity, confidence, and freedom.

The first of these to be opened is at Lincolnshire Wildlife Park in Friskney and has been installed in partnership with the Council. The remaining 6 facilities at Alford, Sutton on Sea, Woodhall Spa, Skegness and Sandilands will be opened during the remainder of the year.

Mental Health Awareness

A group of Mental Health First Aiders developed and delivered a number of activities during the national Mental Health Awareness week in May. This included elevating the profile of our trained Mental Health First Aiders across the Workforce and the different levels of employee support available.

Future Leaders Programme

This years intake are now 12 weeks into their programme, so far successfully having taken part in Leadership Engagement Sessions, Workshops and supported local recruitment activity supporting the promotion of career opportunities in local government.

Health

We have an internal menopause support group who have been working together to develop a support network for staff including welcoming a Lead Women's Health Nurse to deliver a Women's Health Talk to our workforce. The sessions will cover a plethora of topics from Menopause to Breast and Cervical screening.

Housing Register Service

Housing Register surgeries take place across East Lindsey to provide advice and assistance to new and current housing applicants. This is a vital service for those that struggle to manage their application on-line. Appointments are not required.

- Louth – Methodist Church – Held third Friday of the month 10:00-12:00
- Mablethorpe – Coastal Centre – Held first Monday of the month 10:00-12:00
- Skegness – Storehouse – Held third Monday of the month 09:00-11:00

Rough Sleeper Service

The service has seen an increase in rough sleeping which is not unusual for this time of year because of the influx of people to the coast. The number found sleeping rough towards the end of June was 13. This is significantly lower than 2019 when the service was established but still far too high.

Nationally, rough sleeping has increased by 35% compared to March 2022. Figures remain below the 2017 peak, but this increase is concerning but not a surprise.

Our staff will support those with no connection to East Lindsey to return to where they have connections if safe to do so but some will refuse all assistance. For people with a connection to East Lindsey, the team will try and get them into accommodation. Some have lost every available option because of their complex needs and unacceptable behaviour which makes ending rough sleeping extremely difficult. Our staff continue to persevere and try to overcome the barriers to obtaining a home.

Occasionally rough sleepers will bed down in the in Shelters on Skegness seafront and may cause anti-social behaviour. Some of these rough sleepers refuse to work with the team or move on which makes it very challenging. However, a joint effort from across teams including the Rough Sleeper team, the Police, ELDC's ASB Officer and Neighbourhood services to keep the shelters in a clean and tidy condition.

The team recently leased a property in Spilsby from Platform Housing to provide a home for our rough sleepers. This is in addition to accommodation in Alford, Louth and Skegness. Two further properties will be leased shortly.

SO Festival

SO Festival returned on June 16, 17 and 18 in Skegness and Mablethorpe. Embracing, its new community centred focus the festival was moved from its usual spot in August, to accommodate and benefit the local residential communities. Highlights included mesmerizing performances, captivating music, and breathtaking art installations. Thanks to talented artists, amazing staff, and an enthusiastic audience, this year's festival was extraordinary. Looking ahead, mark your calendars for SO Festival 2024 on June 14th-16th. Join us as we celebrate the transformative power of art and create more unforgettable memories.

Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)

The Embassy Theatre and the wider Magna Vitae team are delighted to announce that we have recently formed a working partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company that will benefit our local communities for generations. The partnership's aim is to use arts and culture as a positive tool to boost health and well-being alongside learning and employment opportunities for young people within the district. Skegness is one of five new partner towns (alongside Corby, Coventry, Hartlepool and Peterborough) to join 26 existing areas in a long term partnership with the RSC. The RSC pledges to increase touring activity by 50% by 2026 to areas of structural disadvantage.

Shine funding

Magna Vitae has been awarded £56,250 over three years from the Sustainability theme of the Mental Health & Well-being Investment Fund, administered by Shine Lincolnshire. Magna Vitae's funding gives a much-welcomed boost to Ageless and Agile, a community programme that provides weekly physical and social activities for adults. A launch event of the 'Ageless and Agile' programme in Skegness took place on Tuesday 27th June at Magna Vitae's Embassy Theatre where partners and participants alike joined in with the physical and social activities, as a taster of the programme. Jenny and Shirley from Wainfleet enjoyed the competitive activities at Tuesday's session, with Shirley happily conceding Jenny was the champion on the day:
"We saw the sessions advertised on Facebook and the Wainfleet community centre and thought we would come down, it's great, and we will definitely be coming next week; just brilliant."
Ageless and Agile sessions take place weekly for 1.5 to 2 hours providing gentle physical activities, a social opportunity, and a place to discuss lifestyle concerns such as nutrition, technology, and mental well-being.

Safer Streets Fund Round 5 Update – Skegness Upgrade:

Installation work in Skegness was completed on 21st June, with the exception of two camera locations which are awaiting Lincolnshire County Council permissions to be granted. One other location is awaiting reinstatement of power supply.

The new additional static cameras added to the existing PTZ Dome cameras in Skegness have already increased our monitoring and evidence gathering capability and within the first week of going live we have been able to assist the police in the identification, location and arrest of an offender of a serious crime. Subsequently, the Duty Police Inspector has sent a note thanking the CCTV team for their excellent partnership work, which included evidence from the new cameras, in respect of this particularly high profile case.

The CCTV Team is currently assisting and working alongside police colleagues in respect of the recent tragic murder investigation in Skegness and additional resources have been allocated in support of this ongoing investigation.

CCTV community-based police volunteer project

One volunteer has successfully gone through the vetting process and has commenced a volunteering role on Monday of each week. This day is most suitable to support any work following the busier weekends and initial work includes burning disks to free up operating time. It is anticipated that image reviews will also be completed as part of the role, which has already been achieving some good results, with arrests being made as a direct result of our volunteer's work.

Publicity and signage updates to inform people of safe zones / safe routes.

The signage for the Safer Street areas has been produced and sent to Videcom who are installing the signs as and when they are in the areas as an additional matched funding element. A webpage has been added to each District Council website and these are live in East Lindsey and South Holland where the signs are being installed first. Signage has already been installed Spalding and Skegness.

Crimestoppers has been approached to work in partnership on a window sticker that can be placed in local shop windows along the safer routes. The sticker will display the QR code which takes people to the safer street webpages, providing another publicity opportunity.

Publicity is likely to take place once all areas have been completed, rather than a phased approach.