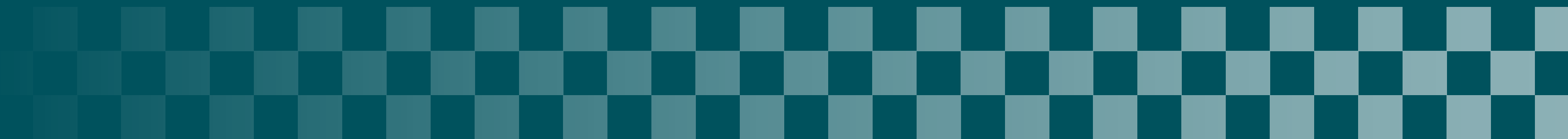




ANNUAL REPORT

2013/14



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PCC
POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX



“I am confident that Essex Police will continue to operate with a high degree of professionalism and effectiveness as it meets those twin challenges of increasing demand and more limited resources, whilst keeping Essex one of the safest counties.”

Nick Alston CBE Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to my second Annual Report as Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex. I continue to be humbled and honoured to act and speak on behalf of all those who live and work in Essex.

This annual report covers the period between April 2013 and March 2014, during which time there has been a significant change in the way we hold the police to account. I have recruited a highly professional team to my office including Assistant Directors for victims' commissioning, scrutiny and engagement. Full scrutiny and public engagement programmes have also now been established as well as embarking on a major victims' commissioning project.

"Ultimately, on your behalf, I then hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the force."

Following my election as the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, I set a simple overriding objective and that is: to do everything I can to reduce crime and keep the people of Essex safe.

I will set a direction for Essex Police which reflects our local priorities, while also balancing the wider responsibilities of the force to meet its national responsibilities. Ultimately, on your behalf, I then hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the force.

As this report will set out, Essex Police has worked within a number of challenges including budgetary and operational complexities.

However I am confident that Essex Police will continue to operate with a high degree of professionalism and effectiveness as it meets those twin challenges of increasing demand and more limited resources, whilst keeping Essex one of the safest counties.

Nick Alston CBE

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex

FORCE OVERVIEW DATA



89 new police officers recruited during 2013/14.



76 less police officers than in 2012/13 which dropped from 3,311 to 3,235.



51.1% increase in the number of detections for serious sexual crimes.



7.2% increase in the number of crimes solved against the previous year.



£993,616 cash recovered from criminals under POCA in Essex.



£41.8m Savings between 2010-2014.



91.2% 999 calls attended within response times: an increase of **5.2%**



82% of the public are satisfied with the overall service we provide: an increase of **2.7%**



81 less Specials than in 2012/13 which shows a decrease of **16%**



45 new Specials recruited during 2013/14.



1,079,369 public calls received during 2013/14.



1,575 calls each day to the Essex Police control room.

PCC RESPONSIBILITIES

Since taking office on 22nd November 2012 the PCC has fulfilled his statutory duties in accordance with The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (2011) and the Police Act (1996) as amended.



The responsibilities are:

To secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for the area

The PCC must hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of the Chief Constable's functions and those under his direction and control

To exercise powers in relation to **bringing together** community safety and criminal justice partners, to co-operate with PCCs and formulate and implement crime reduction strategies across the county

Issue a Police and Crime Plan

The PCC must hold the police fund and other grants from central or local government. PCCs must set the council tax policing precept for the county

All of these responsibilities have the over-arching responsibility of reducing crime and disorder in Essex.

The PCC must obtain the views of local people and victims of crime before the Police and Crime Plan is issued

The PCC may appoint, suspend or remove the Chief Constable and must be consulted by the Chief Constable on the appointment of Deputy and Assistant Chief Constables.

The PCC has **direct responsibility for complaints** against the Chief Constable, and indirect oversight of how the Chief Constable deals with force complaints.

The PCC has a general power of competence (e.g. may do anything calculated to facilitate his/her own functions), may enter into contracts, and collaboration agreements, and **must have regard to the views of local people** and the Police and Crime Panel in exercising his/her functions.

HOLDING THE CHIEF CONSTABLE TO ACCOUNT

Since 2012, I have been developing a robust performance and scrutiny programme.

Topics covered over 2013/14 include:

- Crime trends and police performance, improving road safety and increasing efficiency in policing.
- Numbers of PCSOs and police officers, involvement of Neighborhood Watch, Essex Police traffic units, budgets, street lighting.
- The future of local policing, Essex Police performance, particularly in crime types associated with local policing, local policing teams, how the public make contact with the police.

I have ensured that all areas of Essex Police performance in delivering the Police and Crime Plan have been scrutinised and appropriately challenged. I hold regular scrutiny meetings with the Chief and his senior Officers.

I have published the outcomes of investigations by the Professional Standards Department of Essex Police, as part of my recognition that openness and transparency are crucial to trust and confidence in policing.

I have responded to all reports of investigations carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC); and tracked progress made against recommendations.

During the last year we introduced and held **three Essex Police Challenge events**. These are a key part of how I hold the Chief Constable of Essex and his senior team to account on behalf of the people of our county. **The events all end with open question and answer sessions**, and I always allow as much time as is possible for these.

I have ensured that findings from important **HMIC** reports such as these have been built in to my **scrutiny programme**.

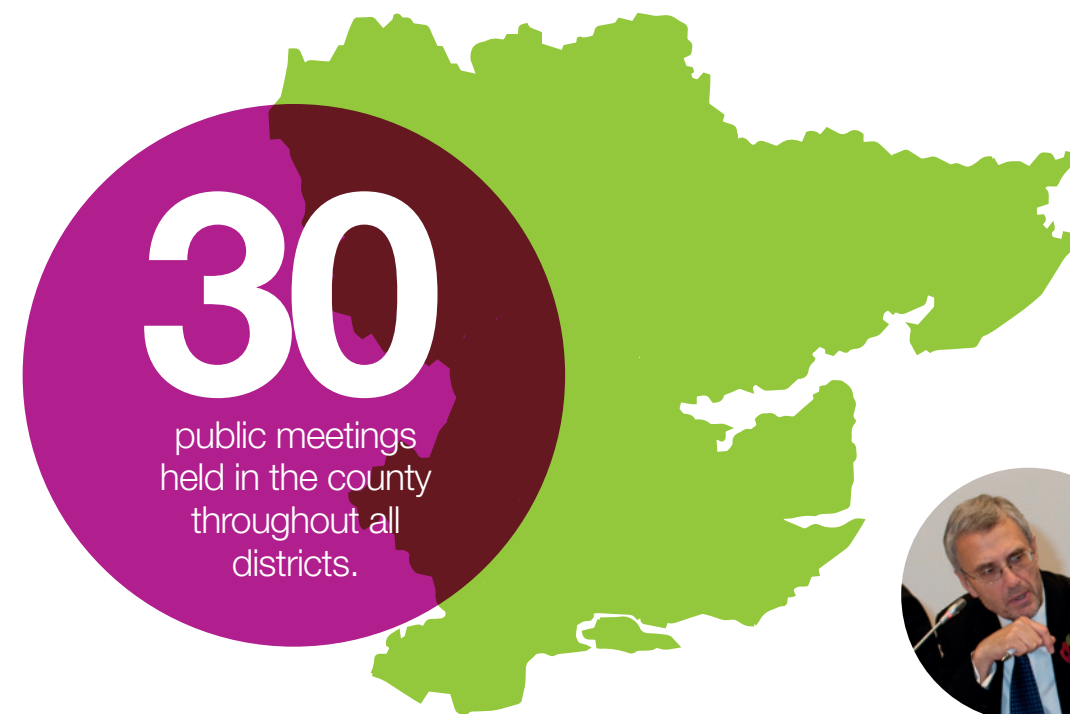
The national HMIC reports from 2013/14 covered:

- Domestic abuse inspection (Essex only; this review was requested by Essex Police with my support).
- Police custody suites.
- Using custody as a place of safety for people with mental health disorders.
- Response to the funding challenge.
- Rape monitoring.
- Approach to tackling domestic abuse.

ENGAGING WITH THE PEOPLE OF ESSEX

As the first person to be democratically elected into this important role for Essex, I have remained diligent in engaging with communities across the county.

I visited each district and borough in the county and held over 30 public meetings, all of which were at the heart of local communities. At each of these meetings I brought the public together with the police and community safety partners to discuss local issues, and drive positive partnership solutions to the things that matter most to the people of Essex.



In addition to these meetings I continued to attend numerous events hosted by partners in the statutory and community and voluntary sectors, including women's refuges, minority ethnic forums and mental health service user forums.

Each of these meetings ensures that the experiences and needs of all communities are informing the delivery of the PCC's Police and Crime plan and scrutiny of Essex Police.

I also host regular forums addressing particular areas of vulnerability, and will soon be launching a youth forum and a hate crime working group

to support ongoing work around community safety partnership working and victims commissioning.

I have continued to work closely with partners across the county, including Safer Essex, Essex Public Service Reform board, Essex Criminal Justice Board and the Health and Wellbeing board.

Looking ahead I will be increasingly supporting the work of the Strengthening Communities' board: aimed at increasing resilience and support for vulnerable people within communities.



COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSIONING

The PCC continues to work with local partners such as Community Safety Partnerships, Youth Offending Teams and statutory partners such as local authorities and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to deliver against community safety priorities.

The PCC's Community Safety Fund (CSF) directly allocates grants to these organisations for activities that match locally identified priorities and align to the areas of focus within the Police and Crime Plan. Recognising the importance of this partnership approach, the PCC has **maintained** funding levels for these organisations since acquiring the CSF from the Home Office in 2012.

The PCC contributed £290,000 to the Essex Public Service Reform Unit (formerly Whole Essex Community Budgets) to deliver against the programme's priorities of improving the quality and efficiency of public services, specifically in relation to reducing re-offending, tackling domestic abuse and strengthening communities.

The PCC allocated £500,000 through the New Initiatives Fund (NIF).

The purpose of this fund is to encourage local organisations, including community and voluntary groups, to develop and deliver new and innovative approaches to preventing and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. In recognition of the success of this fund a further £300,000 will be available via the NIF in 2014-15.

A key area of work this year has been preparing to transfer the responsibility for the commissioning of victims' services from the Ministry of Justice to local PCCs.

In preparing for this the PCC is continuing to develop and consult upon his commissioning intentions. This helps to identify the needs of local victims and the support they need to recover from the effects of crime.

NEW Initiatives Funding

Youth Offending - Total £92,947

Case Study example - EB&GC boxing diversion

Deliver 2 diversionary boxing projects aimed at 11-19 year olds who are NEET (not in employment, education or training) or at high risk of becoming NEET.

Alcohol & Drugs - Total £68,025

Case Study example - Risk Avert

School based risk assessment programme for young vulnerable people from complex families.

Reducing reoffending - Total £8,300

Case Study example - Firebreak

Intervention scheme for young people to develop life skills and address offending behaviour.

Victims - Total £19,065

Case Study example - Safe as Houses

Volunteer led reassurance and support visits to elderly vulnerable residents.

Domestic Abuse - Total £135,080

Case Study example - 'Cut it out'

Beauty salon based awareness raising and training campaign to identify, support and signpost victims of domestic abuse.

Crime Prevention - Total £132,419

Case Study example - Chalkwell Lifeguards

Cycle response team providing patrols, safety cover, rescue and first aid along the Chalkwell beach front.

Road safety - Total £8,000

Case Study example - Let's Look Out campaign (ECC)

Awareness raising campaign for motorists and cyclists.

Total spend: £468,836

The PCC allocated community safety grants amounting to £3m.

THE BUDGET

The PCC set a net revenue budget of £271.1m for 2013/14 to fund police operations on a day to day basis and ensure that the Force is well equipped and supported.

This budget will continue to reduce over the next three years. Actual spending was £267.8m, some £3.3m (1.2%) less than budget. This underspend resulted from intended reductions in staffing levels, as part of the savings and efficiency plans of the force.



Essex Police is focussing its budget on the part of the force that makes the most difference – **the frontline**.

Savings:

The level of spending on police services in Essex has been reducing over recent years to support the Government's austerity measures. Essex Police has delivered year on year savings of **£41.8m** as part of the 2010-2013 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR1).

A further Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR2) sees the PCC having to maintain the focus on a further savings plan for 2014-2016.

Reductions in Numbers:

Over the course of the financial year the total number of police officers reduced by **76** from **3,311** to **3,235**. In total, as part of the first Comprehensive Spending Review, there were **371** fewer police, **95** fewer PCSOs and **306** fewer support staff.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate has identified Essex Police as a lean and efficient force.

THE BUDGET



The two main sources of income are
70% Government grants
30% Council tax

Reducing Government grants means that more reliance is placed on council tax to fund policing services.

When compared with the other 31 shire forces in England Essex has, per head of population:

Above average
 proportion of officer time spent on the operational front line

3rd lowest
 Council Tax precept at £141.48 per year for a Band D Property.



Capital is the money spent on assets such as land, buildings and equipment.

Capital expenditure during 2013/14 amounted to **£5.7m**.

This represents investment in IT, Estate and Transport.

During the year two major reviews were initiated. These reviews were designed to ensure that the IT support and estate portfolio will be fit for purpose over many years ahead with the flexibility to respond to continued changes and challenges in policing.

Investment during 2013/14 concentrated on essential replacement of vehicles and IT equipment and software, along with repairs to police properties.



£3.26m on I.T.

Including 2,000 tablets; 400 body worn cameras and Athena, a crime, intelligence, custody system.

£2.11m on Transport



The Essex Police fleet travelled 17 million miles last year.

PROGRESS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN ENSURING LOCAL SOLUTIONS MEET LOCAL PROBLEMS



The PCC is committed to ensuring that Essex Police works with local partners and across local communities to identify and solve problems on a local basis.

Twenty-one different types of Watch organisations provide excellent crime reduction support to communities across our county, including Farm, Business, Pub, Caravan and Horse Watch.

The PCC increased funding to help support the work of Neighbourhood Watch by

↑ 50%

The PCC encouraged a renewed local focus, ensuring local police teams work closely alongside Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to help deliver on local priorities, and develop clear plans for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

To encourage local initiatives which have a measurable impact on crime and community safety, the PCC allocated £500,000 to his New Initiatives Fund to provide start-up and 'seed' funding for innovative crime prevention projects run at a local level.

Local Solutions - Case Studies

Only Cowards Carry

is working to educate young people about the risks of carrying knives in the north of Essex.

Street Pastors

are new to Saffron Walden to try to help keep the town centre safe in the evenings.

Operation Home Safe

a pilot initiative in Epping Forest to tackle an emerging burglary trend.

Safe as Houses

in Southend-on-Sea have tackled specific burglary trends in their local areas.

REDUCING DOMESTIC ABUSE

The PCC is clear that whilst Essex Police has a crucial part to play, it cannot solve the problem of domestic abuse alone. In July 2013, the PCC and Chief Constable led a Domestic Abuse Summit bringing national and local partners together to review the issues involved and agree an approach to solving these.

The PCC now chairs the pan-Essex Domestic Abuse Strategy Board and is leading an ambitious programme of work across police, social care, criminal justice agencies, the CPS, probation, health and the voluntary sector to tackle domestic abuse in a co-ordinated fashion.

During 2013-14, Domestic Abuse Triage teams were created across Essex, Southend and Thurrock with involvement from Essex Police, social care, health, probation and housing.

These multi-agency hubs will ensure that victims at high risk of harm will be identified at the earliest opportunity, with information shared across agencies and support packages quickly put in place.

Agencies are now sharing resources and pooling funding to jointly commission services to support domestic abuse victims. For example, this will ensure that funding is available for a comprehensive Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) service across the county, to help support victims at high risk of domestic abuse.

In January 2014, the Home Office announced an award of £440,000 to Essex and Kent Police towards the cost of body worn cameras.

This has enabled Essex Police to equip its response officers attending domestic abuse incidents with body worn cameras which can capture evidence immediately and automatically.





SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF CRIME

The PCC has used the launch of the new national Victims Code as an opportunity to focus on the voice and rights of victims in Essex. The new code marks an important watershed for victims of crime, meaning all victims can now receive support after a crime, with enhanced support available for victims of the most serious crimes and their families.

All victims, and businesses, will now get the chance to make a **'Victim Impact Statement'**, which allows them to tell the court how the crime has affected them. The PCC will monitor the implementation of the Victims Code in Essex Police and throughout the criminal justice system.

In 2013, the PCC hosted a unique **Victims' Conference**, where victims of crime were given the chance to talk about their experiences. It also saw various partner organisations come together to discuss victims' needs and how services across the county could be enhanced in the future. This is supported by the ongoing work of the **Victims' Forum**, which is hosted by the PCC, and engages with representatives of those affected by crime to inform decision making and policy.

In December 2013, a **"Stop the Hate"** conference was held, led by the Chief Constable and PCC, with a clear message from police and partners of **"Report It To Stop It"**. The PCC recognises that we must be prepared to see an increase in hate crime if it means more people have confidence in reporting such crimes, enabling more perpetrators to be brought to justice.

The PCC wants to ensure that the impact of crime on any business, whether big or small, is taken into account by the police and criminal justice system.

The PCC is now preparing for the commissioning of local support services of victims of crime to start in 2014/15.

“ALL VICTIMS WILL NOW GET THE CHANCE TO MAKE A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT”

“ALL VICTIMS CAN NOW RECEIVE SUPPORT AFTER A CRIME”



REDUCING YOUTH OFFENDING AND ALL TYPES OF RE-OFFENDING

In 2013-14, the PCC provided over £440,000 to Youth Offending Teams and local agencies to deliver a proactive programme of early intervention to help stop young people on the cusp of offending from falling into a cycle of crime.

Case Study - Firebreak: The PCC commissioned three pilot programmes from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service engaging with a total of 30 young people. The early results of these pilots have been encouraging in reducing reoffending. They will be closely monitored over the next 12 months to measure success.

The PCC leads on **reducing re-offending** under the Essex Partnership Board and his office works in close collaboration with all criminal justice agencies.

The most recent Essex re-offending figures show a downward trend in youth re-offending over the last 12 months, with a youth re-offending rate of 31.3% to December 2013. Adult re-offending rates

have remained stable over the last 12 months, with a current adult re-offending rate of 26.5%, as of December 2013.

The PCC continues to support the innovative Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme which is a multi-agency approach to identifying, monitoring and intervening with those repeat and persistent offenders causing the most harm and damage to our communities. IOM provides support to repeat offenders who want to move away from crime, and utilises police, probation and partner resources to target those offenders who are continuing to commit crime.

The success of IOM has made a significant contribution to lower offending rates across Essex.



IOM
Provides support to repeat offenders who want to move away from crime.

An integral part of the IOM programme is supporting offenders who have drug or alcohol dependencies.

TACKLING THE CONSEQUENCES

DRUGS, ALCOHOL ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

During 2013-14, with £16,000 of PCC New Initiatives Fund money and funding from the Essex Drug & Alcohol Action Team and Safer Essex, the Westminster Drug Project ran a pilot project in police custody suites to test arrested suspects for the use of Class A drugs. A positive test for a banned substance triggers early intervention with drug users to address their use of illegal substances and any links to their offending behaviour. This project has now received Home Office Police Innovation funding of £718,000 to expand its geographical reach across Essex.

Continued support for community initiatives:

SOS buses and Street Pastors are making our towns and city safer places to be at night. Through New Initiatives Funding and other means, the PCC will encourage the police and partners across the county to build on these and other community safety initiatives which have earned Chelmsford, Colchester and Southend Purple Flag status.

Targeting Class A drug suppliers: Between April 2013 and March 2014, the Essex and Kent Serious Crime Directorate has brought 134 Class A (primarily heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine) suppliers to justice. The PCC and the Chief Constable are clear that whilst the objective is to reduce all crime in Essex, a continued

focus on targeting Class A drug dealers and working with CPS to secure charges is welcomed because it demonstrates proactive policing to prevent overall crime and reduce harm. Essex Police will continue to act robustly to seize the funds and assets of those involved in such criminality.

Police custody suites: The PCC and his office closely monitor cases where Essex Police exercises the power (under section 136 of the Mental Health Act) to take to a place of safety anyone suspected of suffering from a mental health illness. There were 182 applications of the Section 136 powers during 2013/14. A 12.5% decrease on the previous year.

SOS buses and Street Pastors are making our towns and city safer places to be at night.

IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY

Killed or Seriously Injured Casualties:

Sadly, the number of people killed or seriously injured in road collisions on the county's roads increased by 6.9% compared to last year.

However five fewer people were killed in collisions in Essex.

12%



Essex Police continue to **work closely** with partners and other agencies across the county, through the **Casualty Reduction Board**, to reduce casualties on the road network.



Improving driver behaviour and disrupting travelling criminality.

In 2013, Essex Police and partner agencies conducted a minimum of two 'Surround a Town' operations each month. These multi-agency operations are focused on improving road safety and disrupting those who use the road network to commit crime.

The National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme (NDORS)

has been fully implemented across our county. Figures to 30 November 2013 show that 20,115 drivers and riders have attended a recognised course, focusing upon the use of mobile phones whilst driving, seat belt wearing, careless driving, excess speed and red light offences

A programme of mobile roadside enforcement, focusing on road collision hotspots, is now underway. The PCC welcomes the continued work of **Community Speed Watch Volunteers** which complements this police activity and performs a vital role in promoting road safety in their local areas.

Strong proactive policing led to the **prosecution of over 50 drivers involved in "cruiser" activities** in the Lakeside and Thurrock area. Determined community and multi-agency work led to the introduction of CCTV to combat illegal street racing in Roscommon Way, Canvey Island.

Following a range of Essex Police and partner initiatives, the PCC welcomes **a reduction in the number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured from 169 to 159** in the year to 31 March 2014 compared with the previous year.



-10

AREAS OF FOCUS IMPROVING CRIME PREVENTION

The PCC has maintained a core focus on crime prevention projects.

Business crime:

The PCC has created a business crime forum including representation from the business community, Essex Police and partner agencies. Eight out of the ten police districts now have a **Business Against Crime (BAC) group** and five of the police districts have a **Town Link Radio system**, enabling evidence of suspicious or criminal behaviour to be rapidly shared. To help keep the night life of our town centres safe, **Behave Or Be Banned (BOBB)** and **PubWatch** schemes operate across much of Essex.

Rural crime:

The PCC rural crime forum regularly meets, with representation from rural and farming communities, Essex Police and partner agencies. There is now a **Farm Watch** scheme in every police district. Crime prevention advice and recruitment activity was undertaken at major farming events and at the

Rural Crime Awareness Day in November 2013. **Farmers' Action Panels** have been relaunched in Uttlesford, Braintree and Maldon. The PCC has used New Initiatives Fund money to help create the Special Constabulary Rural Crime Teams, dedicated to using specialist knowledge to combat rural crime. Its impact will be closely monitored.

Older or vulnerable people:

Essex Police PCSOs, Crime Prevention Advisors and **Essex Watch Liaison Officers** regularly work with older people to help create strong, supportive, neighbourhoods. The New Initiatives Fund has helped support several projects designed to increase the safety of older people, as well as the Support 4 Sight project which enhances road safety awareness for visually impaired people. The PCC is now increasing his focus on the Hidden Harms impacting older and vulnerable people in 2014.

AREAS OF FOCUS INCREASING EFFICIENCY THROUGH COLLABORATIVE WORKING AND INNOVATION

Collaboration with Kent Police.

Joint IT, HR and other shared support services have been created serving both Essex and Kent Police. The collaboration began in 2010-11, and by the end of 2013-14 will have delivered around £6.3 million of annual savings for Essex Police. The joint Essex and Kent Support Services Directorate won a national Improvement and Efficiency Award for Police Project of the Year 2014.

Essex and Kent Serious Crime Directorate (SCD).

The joint SCD enables greater tactical and strategic capability to be deployed across both counties to target and disrupt serious and organised criminality. During the period April 2013 to January 2014 there were 55 serious and organised crime groups

dismantled or disrupted in Essex. During this period £993,616 was recovered from criminals under the Proceeds Of Crime Act (POCA).

Implementation of new technology.

Mobile Data Terminals, essentially modified laptop computers, are being rolled out enabling officers to have better access to information and to make reports whilst out on patrol. Cameras will increasingly be worn by officers to enable automatic evidence capture.

Liaison with universities.

Seminars were held with the University of Essex and University College London, and discussions have taken place with Anglia Ruskin University, to build on Essex Police research and analysis capability, contributing to the most effective use of police resources.



Since it began in 2010, the **Essex and Kent collaboration** now delivers around **£6.3 million** annual savings.

CRIME TRENDS

798 fewer offences committed in Essex.
Representing a reduction of **0.8%**

All figures are for 2013-14 compared to 2012-13



Anti-Social Behaviour

4.2% decrease
2,390 fewer offences



Essex Police and partner organisations worked hard and successfully to reduce anti-social behaviour which still blights so many people's lives.

House Burglary

5% decrease
395 fewer breaks-ins



House burglary continues to be a **high priority** for both Essex Police and the PCC. Essex Police has introduced an operation which uses predictive policing and intelligence analysis to target patrols and resources in areas which, this information suggests, are most at risk of burglary.

Vehicle Crime

5.6% decrease
701 fewer offences



Good work continues to be carried out between Essex Police and the Community Safety Partnerships across the county to **educate motorists** to keep their vehicles safe.

Robbery

11.4% decrease
136 fewer offences



Robbery is a particularly distressing crime. The good news is that the number of robberies decreased and the **number solved rose from 14.6% to 20.9%**, compared with the previous year.

Serious Violent Crime

11.8% increase
92 more offences



A significant proportion of violent crime is related to domestic abuse, which continues to be an area of focus for the PCC and Essex Police. Police and partners continue to work closely to support victims of domestic abuse and all crimes where serious harm has occurred; while Essex Police seek to bring offenders to justice.

Serious Sexual Crime

36.3% increase
391 more offences



The increase in serious sexual crime has been a **national trend**, and is likely to be as a result of high profile historic investigations, including those involving prominent or celebrity figures causing more victims to come forward and report offences. The PCC and Essex Police will continue to seek to ensure victims have the confidence to report offences to the force. **The number of serious sexual crimes solved in 2013/14 has increased from 17.7% to nearly 19%.**

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

1ST APRIL 2013 TO 31ST MARCH 2014

Solved Crimes: The 'all crime' solved rate **increased** in 2013-14 to **29.17%** compared to **27.0%** the previous year.

Public satisfaction

During the year the force continued to focus on improving the service it provided to victims of crime.

93.1% of 999 calls answered within 10 seconds up from 92.7% last year



91.6% emergency response incidents attended within standard up from 86% last year

55 Serious and organised crime gangs dismantled or disrupted.

£993,616 in cash confiscated from criminals using the proceeds of crime act.

The 2013/14 end of year figure for total crime was the **lowest recorded for at least 14 years.**



2000/01	106,768
2001/02	113,150
2002/03	136,181
2003/04	144,512
2004/05	134,789
2005/06	132,378
2006/07	127,163
2007/08	119,164
2008/09	112,842
2009/10	104,796
2010/11	103,445
2011/12	105,017
2012/13	100,144
2013/14	99,346

VOLUNTEERS

The Police and Crime Commissioner continued to support the expansion and professionalisation of the Special Constabulary in Essex Police, and has recently provided funding for a bespoke team of special constables who will address crime within the most rural areas of the county.

He is also exploring options for a universal Volunteer Police Cadet Programme for Essex, which will include provision for structured support for vulnerable young people (including those who are vulnerable to crime) and involve them in supporting community safety activity.

Independent Custody Visitors

The Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) volunteer scheme forms part of the PCC's statutory responsibility, and ensures the standard of custody facilities and treatment of detainees is independently monitored. Three new ICVs were recruited, bringing a diverse range of background and experience to the scheme. Essex ICV volunteers conduct two visits per month to facilities across Essex, and at varying times of day and night. In the last year 647 welfare visits were carried out with people detained in custody in Essex.

Dog Welfare Scheme

This scheme provides a similar level of public monitoring and scrutiny to the ICV scheme, but over the dog training, working and kennelling facilities in Essex Police. There are currently 40 working dogs in Essex Police, with more in training and 25 dog handlers. Recruitment for new volunteers for this scheme is currently underway and appointments will be made during the summer of 2014 to coincide with the completion of the new Essex Police dog unit at Sandon.

Independent Misconduct Panel (IMP) Volunteers

Three IMP volunteers have been recruited in the last year in Essex, and bring with them experience of senior management, and legal oversight from a range of disciplines. These volunteers will represent the public by ensuring an independent and impartial voice on misconduct panel hearings for Essex Police officers and staff, helping to ensure a fair and transparent process and protecting both the individual and Essex Police.

3 new Independent Custody Visitors have been recruited this year, bringing a diverse range of background and experience to the scheme.

There are currently **40 working dogs** in Essex Police, with more in training and **25 dog handlers**.

DECISIONS MADE IN 2013/14

Decisions made by the PCC are published on the PCC's website.

The key decisions taken by the PCC this year include:

- Appointed Mr Stephen Kavanagh as Chief Constable of Essex
- Approved a net revenue budget of £267m for 2014/15 delegated to the Chief Constable to fund his operational delivery plan.
- Proposed a Council Tax precept increase of 1.97%, the equivalent to an additional £3.12 a year on a band D property that was subsequently approved by the Police and Crime Panel on the 20th February 2014.
- Agreed the Revenue and Capital Programmes 2014/15.
- Allocation of £500,000 to the New Initiatives Fund.
- An additional £290,000 was made available to provide an additional 6 Independent Domestic Violence Advocates across Essex.
- £150,000 was committed to the Essex Community Resilience Fund which will provide sustainable funding to promote resilient communities within Essex.

These can be found at

www.essex.pcc.police.uk/scrutiny/decision-making

2014/15 AND LOOKING FORWARD

This Annual Report covers my first full financial year as Police and Crime Commissioner. I am now building on earlier successes and ensuring a continued focus on supporting victims and ensuring there are local solutions to local problems.

My office has been developing a commissioning programme to support victims cope and recover from the harmful effects of crime.

Domestic abuse continues to be a priority for me;

every domestic homicide is a tragedy. It should be a source of shame for us as a society that domestic murders are still taking place. I know that there will be more domestic homicides across the country until we all mobilise and say: domestic abuse is unacceptable. In the coming year I will be expanding this area of focus to encompass the wider hidden harm agenda.

As supported by my office I continue to hold Essex Police to account through my scrutiny programme and the Essex Police Challenge Events

where I ask tough questions of the Chief Constable in a public forum. I will continue to support Essex Police as they maintain their focus on improving their use of technology, ensuring the most effective and efficient use of the force's estate and further professionalising their staff.

I will be working closely with my newly-appointed Strategic Independent Advisors,

recruited especially to advise (on a no-cost basis) on matters relating to the long-term strategy of Essex Police, including matters to do with ethics and integrity, which go to the heart of public confidence in policing.

I am deeply concerned that we are seeing abusive relationships develop even amongst our young people.

One of my New Initiatives Fund (NIF) projects for next year will be delivered by the Ministry of Parenting across mid-Essex, aimed at giving parents and children affected by adolescent violence the knowledge and tools required to combat and prevent the escalation of abuse.

Another project that I am funding is the Thurrock Hate crime initiative.

A coalition in Thurrock will recruit a local "connector" who will act as a gateway for people from under-represented minority groups to access support and community services, focussing on those who have been the victim of hate crime.

“ESSEX IS A SAFE COUNTY, AND I AM COMMITTED TO LEADING WORK TO MAKE IT EVEN SAFER”

CONTACT THE PCC

YOUR FEEDBACK IS MOST WELCOME.



Should you wish to contact the PCC please e-mail:

pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk



or write to:

Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex
3 Hoffmanns Way, Chelmsford, CM1 1GU



You can learn more about the PCC's work at:

www.essex.pcc.police.uk

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