

## **Harlow Public Meeting**

**5<sup>th</sup> June 2013**  
**Council Chambers**  
**18:30 to 20:30**

### **Speakers**

Nick Alston (PCC) – Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex  
Justin Smith - Chief Inspector & Local District Commander for Essex Police  
Malcolm Morley - Chief Executive of Harlow Council  
Janet Dalrymple – Safer Places Harlow  
Andy Prophet – Superintendent for Essex Police  
Tracy Martinez – Detective Inspector for Essex Police

### **Agenda items**

1. Domestic Abuse
2. House Burglary/Street Robbery
3. Dangerous Dogs
4. Topics for discussion raised by the audience

### **Highlights of Presentation**

#### **All Crime**

- Over the past two years crime has fallen with 2012/2013 showing a 9.2% reduction (676) offences) for the period of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 when compared to the same period the previous year. The 2011/12 figure of 7342 offences also represented a decrease (3.8% over the previous year).

#### **Community Safety Partnership**

- Priorities for Harlow Council
- CSP supporting the work of the police

#### **Domestic Abuse**

- Reducing Domestic Abuse is a key area of focus in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan for Essex 2013-14
- Safer Harlow Partnership works closely with Essex Police and other partners to ensure Harlow remains a safe place to live, work and visit

#### **House Burglary/Street Robbery**

- There were 498 house burglaries in the Harlow district in 2012/13
- There were 99 reported street robberies in the district between 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013

## **Dangerous Dogs**

- Essex Police's response to reports of dangerous dogs is in accordance with the Dangerous Dogs Act of 1991
- In 2012-13, there were 12 recorded offences of 'Allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control and injuring any person' in Harlow

### **1. Domestic Abuse**

Reducing domestic abuse is a key area of focus in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan for Essex 2013-14.

- Q.1 How does Essex Police categorise domestic abuse cases when they are reported?
- A.1 Calls reported to the Force Control Room are risk assessed and categorised and graded. Intelligence led information is also used as part of assessing the priority and managing risk.
- Q.2 Why do Essex Police not follow up or enforce protection orders from court?
- A.2 If there is a breach of order the response from Essex Police is to follow the process which entails risk assessing and investigating the criminal offence. Officers will be despatched to investigate the breach and deal appropriately with the perpetrator.

### **2. House Burglary/Street Robbery**

House burglary offences in the Harlow district showed a very slight increase of 0.6% (3 more offences) when comparing reports between 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013, against the same period in 2011/12.

- Q.1 What should residents do in the event of a house hold burglary?
- A.1 Any calls reported to the Force Control Room are graded and screened. If there is an intruder on the premises a response and control car is despatched. Non-emergency calls should be reported by dialling 101.

### **3. Dangerous Dogs**

Essex Police's current response to reports of dangerous dogs (including dog on dog attacks) is in accordance with The Dangerous Dogs Act of 1991.

- Q.1 An incident involving dogs at a local supermarket was reported via 101. The response received was that Essex Police do not deal with dogs.
- A.1 All incidents are assessed on their precise circumstances and, in Harlow, Essex Police dealt with 12 reported cases between April 2012 and March 2013.
- Q.2 What other agencies are involved in repeat incidents?
- A.2 Agencies such as the RSPCA and the council work closely with the police and the council run dog wardens in all parts of Essex, including Harlow. There are dog control orders in designated areas, for example paddling pools, outside schools which are continuously reviewed and monitored.

#### 4. Open Questions Raised By Audience

Q.1 Can you explain what is your role as Police and Crime Commissioner involves?

A.1 The PCC role is responsible for setting priorities, the police budget and holding the Chief Constable to account.

Q.2 Neighbourhood Action Panel (NAP) meetings take place every 6 weeks. Is it possible to have a presence at one of the meetings from the local District Commander or Chief Superintendent?

A.2 Neighbourhood policing officers attend NAPs and get involved in community issues, problems and concerns. The Chief Superintendent for West LPA agreed to attend one of the meetings.

Q.3 PCSO visibility on the streets seems to be few and far between. What is being done to increase numbers?

A.3 Daily levels of policing are covered by the Neighbourhood teams, supported by a response team. The Force Control Room can draft in additional resources from elsewhere if required, e.g. to cover seasonal events or in response to intelligence. In Harlow, Chief Insp Justin Smith and his supervisors ensure PCSOs regularly patrol the town and surrounding areas.

Q.4 Local residents are putting themselves at risk trying to intervene and resolve local issues because they feel that the police are not dealing with them.

A.4 PCC urged everyone to report all crime to the police either via 101, 999 or the local District Commander.

Q.5 What is the PCC doing to engage with young people?

A.5 There will be 2 interns will be working in the office over the summer to work on youth engagement projects.

Q.6 What has raising the portion of council tax bill been used for?

A.6 The focus is on crime prevention and reduction across the county which is reflected in the Police and Crime Plan and directing resources towards local initiatives.

## **Actions or priorities**

- PCC to encourage closer involvement with social services and management of appropriate domestic abuse cases
- PCC to consider wider issues concerning dangerous dogs for example micro chipping Essex Police to develop awareness of the legislation and communicate to the public
- Attendance of officers at NAP meetings at Harlow to be reviewed at next meeting
- PCC to explore opportunity to meet with Harlow Youth Council
- PCC to continue to scrutinise customer satisfaction levels of 101