

## Colchester Public Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> September 2013

### Briefing information

Colchester police station is open to the public daily between 0800 and midnight. Neighbourhood Policing Team Officers are accommodated at Ipswich Road Police Station, The Garrison Police station and within shared Fire Station premises at Tiptree, Wivenhoe and West Mersea.

Response and Patrol Officers are based at Stanway Police Station.

### Crime Data for Colchester

Comparing reports for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013 with those from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 the areas of note are as follows:

- All Crime has reduced by 4.8% (521 fewer offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has reduced by 37.8% (323 fewer offences) and Theft and Taking Motor of Vehicles has reduced by 30.7% (63 fewer offences);
- Shoplifting has reduced by 7.2% (82 fewer offences);
- Other Theft and Handling has reduced by 8.1% (110 fewer offences);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has increased by 27.7% (129 more offences);
- Robbery has increased by 20.5% (15 more offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 6.5% (394 more incidents).

#### 1) Domestic abuse

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

Domestic abuse incidents can range from a social media interaction or verbal argument between those in a relationship or close family to an incident involving violence and, in the most serious cases, can lead to murder.

During June 2013, there were approximately 239 domestic incidents across Colchester District. Of these, 88 resulted in a crime being recorded. This equates to approximately 7.7 incidents a day and 2.8 crimes per day.

Essex Police complete a record for every incident, ensuring that all details are recorded and assessments made. This is then used to inform specialist work such as safeguarding and multi-agency support programmes.

Greater emphasis is being placed upon a proactive approach to the targeting of high volume repeat perpetrators. This approach operates in parallel to multi-agency support services for victims. Repeat perpetrators are proactively targeted by local policing teams who use a range of tactical options to reduce their propensity to commit domestic abuse against their partners.

The scheme complements the established multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) meetings which are held monthly in order for partners to share information around the most high risk victims of domestic abuse.

The Colchester and Tendring women's refuge provide support to victims of domestic abuse. The Sanctuary Scheme in Colchester also supports safeguarding of vulnerable victims with police crime reduction specialists attending addresses of high risk victims of domestic abuse to conduct a full safety and security check of their homes.

## **2) Colchester's busy night-life**

Colchester is one of the busiest night-time venues in the county, with nearly 100 registered licensed premises. The resident population includes soldiers and students who provide significant support to the local retail economy both during the day and at night. Joint partnership work has recently resulted in Colchester achieving 'Purple Flag' accreditation; which recognises that the district has a varied, safe and enjoyable night-time economy and also has good transport links.

Partnership work with key stakeholders continues to develop crime reduction initiatives associated with the night-time economy. Examples of this work include the SOS bus, Street Pastors, local council Zone Managers and the use of nightclub doormen to monitor taxi ranks.

Police powers are exercised to prevent drinking in public places and the majority of Colchester town is now covered by a Designated Public Place Order. This empowers officers and PCSOs to seize alcohol and dispose of it, and enables police officers to disperse people they believe will engage in alcohol-related crime and disorder from the town.

Colchester town centre also runs operations supporting early officer intervention with people who, through alcohol, may become involved in crime and disorder. This diverts offenders from custody for minor offences and maintains officer presence in the town centre.

The police also play an active part in providing information to support or oppose applications and have successfully opposed extended hours drinking applications at Licensing Committee hearings.

### **3) Knife crime and drugs**

In the Colchester district, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013, there were 38 offences where a person was found to be in possession of a knife or bladed article. This represents an 11.6% decrease on the figure of 43 for the same period the previous year.

Across Essex, the number of serious offences involving knives or sharp implements, such as robberies, assaults and threats to kill, have also decreased. There were 272 recorded offences from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 to July 2013, as compared with 286 offences during 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012. In the Colchester district, such offences have increased by two incidents to 31 during 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013, compared to 29 during the same period the previous year.

The 'Only Cowards Carry' campaign is undertaking excellent work to change attitudes of people not to use or carry knives, which the police youth officers support through the delivery of educational programmes in local schools.

To address any emerging problems in relation to knife crime and drugs an operation has been implemented in the Colchester district to collect information and intelligence and provide directed operational activity towards identified offenders.

The police also continue to work closely with partners from the local drug treatment agencies, the NHS and related charities, to share information and provide a multi-agency delivery of education and enforcement activities.

#### **Your feedback is most welcome.**

Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting or any other matter please e-mail:

[pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk)

or write to:

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

News alerts will usually be tweeted via the Essex PCC Twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/essexpcc>

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

[www.essex.pcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk)

The neighbourhood policing teams will always act on intelligence received from the community. If you have information regarding any criminal activity please either call your local team or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is an anonymous line where you can report any criminal activity.