

Thurrock District Public Meeting

22nd November 2013

Briefing information

Grays Police Station is open to the public seven days a week from 08:00hrs to 00:00. The Police Stations at Tilbury and South Ockendon are open to the public from 12:00 to 18:00 Monday to Saturday.

Crime Data for Thurrock district

Comparing reports for 1st November 2012 to 31st October 2013 with those from 1st November 2011 to 31st October 2012 the areas of note are as follows:

- All Crime has increased by 2.2% (246 more offences);
- Other Theft and Handling has reduced by 12.5% (174 fewer offences);
- Assault with Less Serious Injury has reduced by 7.1% (61 fewer offences);
- Theft & Taking of Motor Vehicles has increased by 2.4% (16 more offences);
- Theft from Motor Vehicles has increased by 7.3% (88 more offences)
- Serious Sexual Crime has increased by 32.8% (38 more offences);
- Shoplifting has increased by 19.1% (195 more offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents have reduced by 2.4% (144 fewer Incidents).

The figures above represent the full year-on-year comparison, identifying significant crime trends. Comparing the period from April 1st to November 20th 2013, with the same period in 2012, there has been a reduction in all crime of 1.1%, resulting in 78 fewer victims, and reflecting proactive intelligence-led policing by local officers.

1) Vehicle Crime

Theft and taking of motor vehicles in the Thurrock district increased by 7.3% (88 more offences) when comparing recorded offences for 1st November 2012 to 31st October 2013 against the same period the previous year. The Metropolitan Police area bordering Thurrock has also experienced a considerable volume of vehicle crime.

In response, a proactive team was formed to tackle vehicle crime. Between April 1st 2013 and November 20th 2013, a targeted policing approach has led to 113 fewer vehicle crimes as compared with the same period in 2012. The team is predominantly used to tackle emerging crime and disorder related issues, crime patterns and hotspots, to interact with Thurrock-based offenders, arrest wanted suspects, develop intelligence for policing purposes and execute search warrants.

In addition, Community Safety Partnership days of action have been held in Purfleet, Corringham and Stanford-Le-Hope, providing extensive crime prevention advice to the public. Other tactics used to work with the community include talks by vehicle manufacturers, and extensive use of conventional and social media.

2) Cruisers

Vehicle cruises regularly take place around the Thurrock district, including in areas such as Lakeside shopping centre and retail parks. Essex Police has received concerns from local residents regarding noise pollution caused by the cruisers, as well as concerns from other road users relating to road safety and irresponsible driving.

The force has taken a proactive approach to these cruise events and has been successful in applying for a dispersal order for the Lakeside area. The robust enforcement of the dispersal order is supported from local neighbourhood officers and specialist trained officers from our collision reduction units. Essex police are working closely with landowners and stakeholders to make the Thurrock district less attractive to drivers who seek to participate in cruise events.

Events over the summer period have greatly improved by officers working closely with partners. Although the problem has not been completely resolved, several design changes implemented by the Highways Agency, Thurrock Council and managers of the retail parks have made the area far less vulnerable to large scale events. We have also taken a robust approach to enforcement, sending 80 people caught for an array of driving offences to a single special court on 30th September. This resulted in numerous fines and points being issued. One driver, who was disqualified, was arrested trying to drive a few hours after being banned.

3) Street Robbery

Between November 2012 and October 2013, robbery offences within Thurrock District increased by 18.7% (23 offences) when compared with the same period in the previous year. Approximately a third of these offences involved juveniles robbing other young people of items such as mobile phones.

On-going work has been continuing with partner agencies and schools to educate people around the risk of crime and to provide advice on crime prevention. Other initiatives have included operations with British Transport Police and C2C Revenue Protection Teams at Lakeside, deployment of the knife arch, and the formation of a town policing team in Grays in February 2013.

A combination of focused policing, crime prevention work and offender targeting has achieved some excellent results. The latest figures, comparing April 1st to November 20th, 2013, with the same period in 2012, show that there have been 16 less street robberies during this period, which equates to 17.6% fewer robberies.

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

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

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.