

## **Chelmsford Public Meeting**

**July 17, 2014**

### **District Profile**

Chelmsford is part of Essex Police's North Local Policing Area (LPA), which is subdivided into four District Policing Areas (DPAs). Chelmsford and Maldon jointly form a single DPA under the command of District Commander Chief Insp Alan Cook.

The city of Chelmsford is situated in the heart of Essex and covers 133 square miles. Chelmsford has a population of 168,310 (based on the 2011 Census), which amounts to just under 12% of the total population of Essex. Anglia Ruskin University has 8,500 registered students, which increases the population of the city significantly during term-time. Chelmsford is only 35 minutes away from London by train and is within easy access of Stansted and Southend Airports.

Chelmsford was awarded city status in 2012. Whilst the city is a focal point, the area also includes the town of South Woodham Ferrers, plus several villages and open countryside - of which over a third is designated as 'Green Belt'.

Chelmsford is an affluent area with excellent visitor attractions. The city hosts a variety of events and festivals including the 'V' Festival at Hylands Park. There is a thriving night-time economy, with a licensing capacity of over 15,000 which is often reached on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights.

### **Policing Structure and Resources**

A new local policing model is being introduced in the autumn of 2014, and details can be seen on the [Essex Police website](#) and [PCC website](#). The model described below is the one currently operating within Chelmsford district.

### **Neighbourhood Policing Team**

The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) is based at Chelmsford police station and consists of a Sergeant, Neighbourhood Constables, a Youth Officer and PCSOs. This team is managed by a NPT Inspector and the team is responsible for community policing, engagement and problem solving.

### **Neighbourhood Crime Teams**

There are five Neighbourhood Crime Teams (NCT) working a shift pattern to cover incidents 24 hours a day. These teams are based at Chelmsford police station. Each team is managed by an Inspector and deals with a range of policing duties,

including incident demand and appointments, missing persons and the night-time economy.

## **CID**

Based at Chelmsford, CID has three teams of detectives which are led by a Detective Inspector. CID investigates more serious crimes such as high-risk domestic abuse incidents, GBH and dwelling burglary.

## **Response and Patrol**

There are five Response and Patrol teams based at Chelmsford police station. These teams work a shift pattern to cover emergency response incidents 24 hours a day.

## **Specialist Departments**

Specialist police departments that cover the entire county are also available to Chelmsford district to support delivery in areas such as firearms, special operations and specialist investigations.

## **Crime Data for Chelmsford district**

At the meeting on July 17, 2014, there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and the facts which lie underneath the statistics.

Comparing reports from 1st June 2013 to 31st May 2014 with 1st June May 2012 to 31st May 2013, areas of note include:

- All Crime has increased by 6.5% (554 more offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has decreased by 5.1% (27 fewer offences);
- Other Theft and Handling has decreased by 13.3% (177 fewer offences);
- Racially Aggravated Crime has decreased by 7.6% (5 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 5.5% (247 fewer incidents);
- House burglary has increased by 10.3% (54 more offences)
- Burglary in Other Than in Dwelling has increased by 26.7% (139 more offences);
- Robbery has increased by 16.1% (9 more offences);
- Serious Violent Crime has increased by 32.5% (25 more offences);
- Serious Sexual Crime has increased by 94.9% (74 more offences).

## **Overview of all crime**

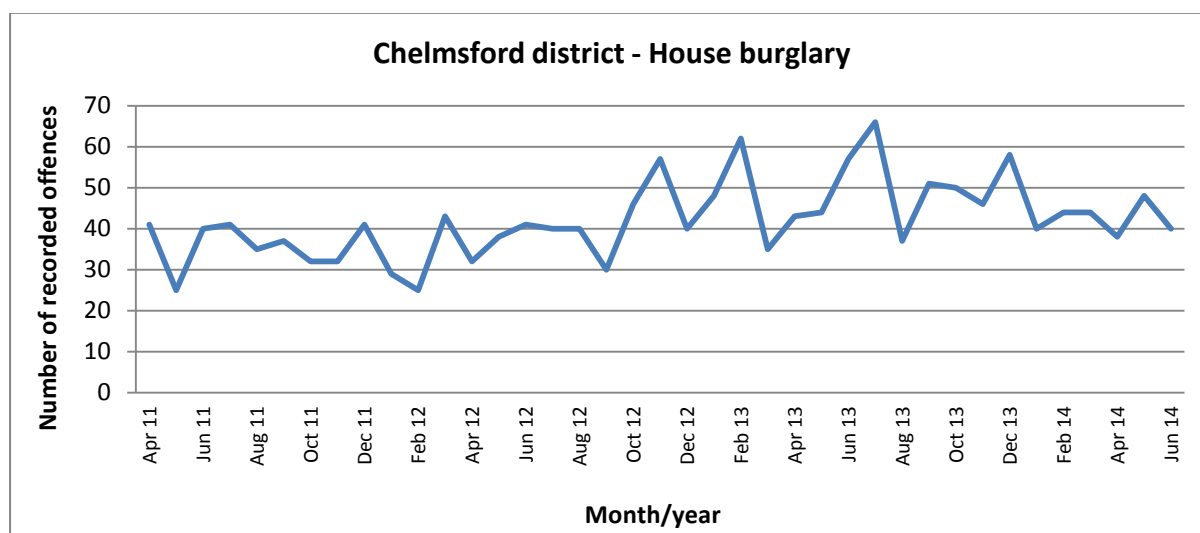
There has been an increase in all crime in Chelmsford district of 6.5%, equating to 554 more offences. At the meeting on July 17, Chief Insp Cook will explain some of the trends that lie behind this increase, and the operational policing work to target

prolific offenders. There will be a briefing about crime in the rural parts of Chelmsford district, and details of how the newly formed Rural Specials team will work with local officers to combat rural crime.

The District Commander will explain how the force's new local policing plans may work in Chelmsford, and there will be time for questions on all aspects of local and neighbourhood policing.

## **House Burglary**

The graphs below showing specific crime trends provide data for Chelmsford district back to April 2011.



Comparing reports from 1st June 2013 to 31st May 2014 with 1st June 2012 to 31st May 2013, there has been an increase in house burglary of 10.3% (54 more offences).

Under Essex Police's forcewide predictive policing operation to tackle burglary, officers visit burglary victims and patrols are undertaken to complete risk assessments on properties in the surrounding area. The risk assessments aim to identify vulnerable properties, people and vehicles, and officers provide crime prevention advice to owners of such properties. There is very close working between local officers and the Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership as part of Safer Chelmsford partnership working, and the local Crime Reduction Officer regularly conducts crime prevention visits. Local officers also continue to work closely with colleagues in the CID (Criminal Investigation Department) who lead on burglary investigations.

## **Partnership Working and the Night Time Economy**

Chelmsford has a vibrant Night Time Economy (NTE) which can see up to 15,000 people visit the city centre on any one night. In 2013, 1783 alcohol-related incidents occurred between the hours of 23:00 and 05:00 in the city centre and were reported to the police. In September 2013, the council was awarded a 'Purple Flag' by the Association of Town and City Centre Management, supported by the Home Office, which promotes safe night-time economies. Chelmsford City Council is currently consulting on a proposal to apply a late night levy to certain licenced premises to help pay for community safety initiatives related to the NTE. Operation Nightsafe is the policing response to the NTE and this consists of high-visibility policing taking place within four identified zones to prevent crime and deal with incidents.

Research into the NTE has recently been conducted by Anglia Ruskin University and Essex Police await the opportunity to consider this work.

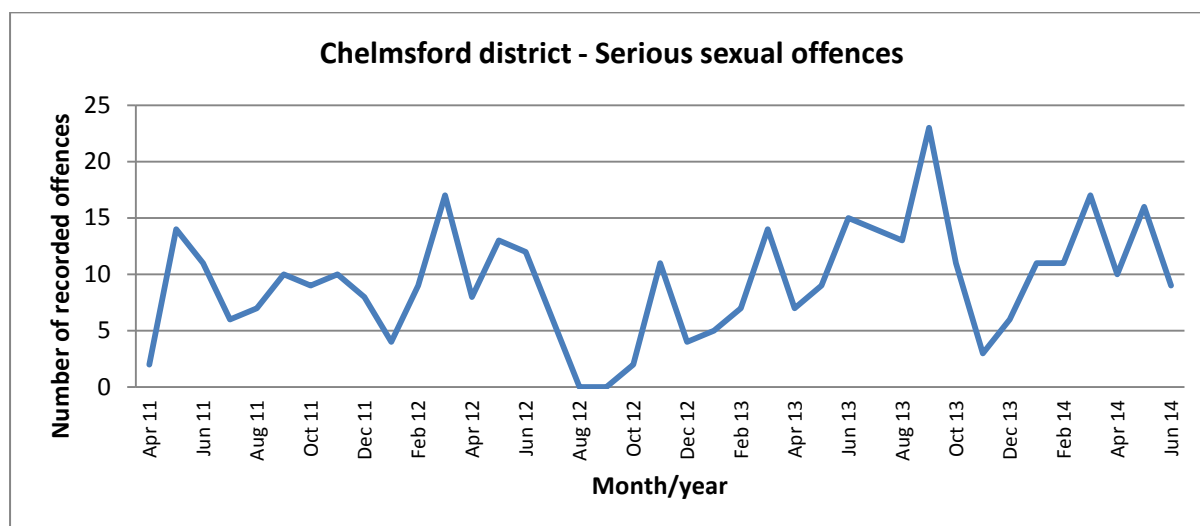
The Safer Chelmsford Partnership – which includes the Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership and Essex Police - aims to address the issue of alcohol related crime and disorder through raising awareness of alcohol misuse, encouraging responsible drinking and licensing, improving enforcement, including underage sales, supply by adults and night time environmental crime and encouraging parents to support a change in the culture of alcohol use and taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children.

Current projects:

- There is a Designated Public Place Order which covers the majority of licensed premises in the city centre. The order gives police the power to remove alcohol from persons drinking alcohol in a public place where nuisance or annoyance to members of the public has been associated with the consumption of alcohol.
- Taxi Marshals are in operation every Friday and Saturday night from 23.30 – 03.30 at the Baddow Road taxi rank.
- A series of targeted multi agency Nights of Action are delivered throughout the year during key times of the year – this includes Christmas and New Year, Easter, Summer and Fresher's Week in September.
- Reality Roadshow – delivered to year 9 students. The programme includes a workshop delivered by Alcohelpp educating about the dangers that alcohol has on the developing body, sensible drinking levels and the influence of peer pressure.
- Crucial Crew – delivered to year 6 students. The programme also includes a workshop delivered by Alcohelpp educating about the dangers that alcohol has on the developing body and peer pressure.
- Publink – partnership between the licensed premises with a direct link to the CCTV control room that includes thirty five licensed premises.
- The Behave or Be Banned (BOBB) scheme discourages alcohol fuelled violence, where persistent offenders are banned from the licensed premises signed up to the BOBB scheme.
- Street Pastor scheme – commenced in April 2008, there are currently 74 volunteers who patrol Chelmsford city centre on Friday and Saturday nights between the hours of 22.00 – 04.00 helping those in need and calming down potentially violent situations.

## Serious Sexual Crime

All serious sexual crime is investigated by the Sexual Offences Investigation Team (SOIT). The number of offences in this category has increased by 94.9% (74 more offences), comparing the year to date with the previous year, and the majority of this increase relates to incidents of domestic abuse and historic domestic abuse offences. This has resulted in an increase in the number of recorded crimes. It is crucial that members of the public continue to have the confidence to report domestic abuse and serious sexual crime to the police.



In the majority of serious sexual offences, the perpetrator is known to the victim. Essex Police continues to adapt operational activity to target both the identified offenders and the locations of highest incidence.

Officers will engage in communication with identified individuals, often calling on them to remind them that they are of interest to the police who are monitoring their movements. The Essex Police Public Protection Unit also works with partners in the probation services to continue to manage offenders whilst in prison, and on their release, with the aim of preventing re-offending.

Both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the force have encouraged the reporting of crime, and teams have made access to services for victims easier. Crimes recorded as serious sexual assault include a number of different offences that are all of a serious sexual nature - there are 20 different offences in this category of crime.

Essex has recently received new funding of £276,000 specifically to help build capacity to support victims of sexual violence. The funding is being managed by the Police and Crime Commissioner, working closely with South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (SERICC), Southend-on-Sea Rape Crisis Centre (SOSRC), Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse (CARA), Victim Support and Essex Police to ensure enhanced support for victims of sexual violence across all parts of Essex and to develop a sustainable long-term strategy. There is likely to be a specific focus on building provision for young people who are victims of sexual violence.

If you are a victim of domestic abuse, or know someone who you believe is suffering from domestic abuse, details of support services can be found as part of the countywide [Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse](#) campaign.

## **The Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership**

The Safer Chelmsford Partnership consists of representatives from all relevant local partner organisations, such as:

- Chelmsford City Council
- Essex County Council
- Essex Police
- Clinical Commissioning Group (Mid Essex)
- Essex Fire and Rescue Service
- Essex Fire Authority
- Essex Probation
- Other public and voluntary organisations, including CHP, Crimestoppers, Neighbourhood Watch and Safer Places

Safer Chelmsford's role is to combine the experience and resources of all partners and work together with the local community to fulfil its key priorities.

The key priorities for Safer Chelmsford have been developed from the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, which is compiled using information gathered from all the responsible authorities, wider partners and information provided by the community. The partnership priorities also include the delivery of the county wide Local Area Agreement targets.

For 2014/15, the key priorities are as follows:

Reducing re-offending is a statutory duty for all community safety partnerships and thus supports the overarching theme for Safer Essex. From analysing overall recorded crime and evaluating responses from public engagement events it is suggested that the key priorities for the Safer Chelmsford Partnership should be the following:

**1. Reducing Violent Crime** - With a clear emphasis on the night time economy and alcohol/drug related disorder.

**2. Protecting Vulnerable People** - Identifying and supporting repeat and vulnerable victims, educating both young and older people, supporting those at risk of re-offending and encouraging proactive reporting of hate crime and domestic abuse.

**3. Tackling Anti Social Behaviour** - Identifying and supporting repeat and vulnerable victims, improving perceptions and facilitating local problem solving to address issues.

**4. Serious Acquisitive Crime** - With a clear emphasis on burglary and theft offences and emerging trends.

It should be noted that the key priorities for the Health and Well Being Group have been set as:

1. Alcohol
2. Isolation/Loneliness
3. Housing

These three areas feed into a lot of the work that the partnership carries out. When developing projects the team will ensure that where necessary, a link is made to these three priorities

**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

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<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.