

Rochford public meeting

Wednesday March 18

District Profile

Rochford district is situated in South East Essex within a peninsula between the River Thames and River Crouch and with the North Sea to the East. Much of the district's 65 square miles are designated as green belt land. The district's largest town, Rayleigh, and the other two main settlements of Rochford and Hockley have good rail connections to London and there is access to the A127 London-Southend Arterial Road, the A13 and the M25.

London Southend Airport is primarily situated within the district, and the airport and surrounding area are part of the Thames Gateway regeneration area.

The district is relatively affluent, with owner-occupied homes constituting 86% of households and private renting accounts for approximately 6%. House prices are higher than the average for England and Wales.

Policing Structure and Resources

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Rochford forms half of the Rochford and Castle Point police district. Rochford and Castle Point district together with Basildon and Southend police districts make up the South Local Policing Area.

Rochford consists of seven neighbourhoods: Rochford, Rayleigh, Hockley, Hullbridge, Great Wakering, Ashingdon and Canewdon. The local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) that specifically manages Rochford is made up of an Inspector, a Sergeant, Neighbourhood Constables and Police Community Support Officers.

Each of the seven neighbourhoods has a named Neighbourhood Constable. The Neighbourhood Constables are supported by Police Community Support Officers and they are the point of contact for community issues. The officers attend street meets and local community meetings and work with the community to seek long-term solutions to local problems.

There is one police station situated at Rayleigh, which is open between 8am and midnight, seven days per week. Rochford District Council provides officers with a drop-in facility at their offices which is well used and helps to maximise the visible presence of officers in the community.

Youth Officers

There are two dedicated youth officers within the district, based at Rayleigh and Canvey. Their role is to reduce youth related crime and anti-social behaviour. They are closely

involved with local schools, and work with partners to divert young people, wherever possible, out of the criminal justice system.

Retail Crime Unit

The primary focus of the Retail Crime Unit, which is based at Rayleigh, is the investigation of crimes against businesses, such as theft, and the provision of visible policing to reassure the public, reduce crime and make proactive arrests where required. The team consists of a Sergeant, Constables and a PCSO.

Local Policing Teams

An Inspector manages five Local Policing Teams (LPTs) based at Rayleigh and Canvey police stations that work shifts to provide 24 hour coverage. Each team comprises a Sergeant and Constables; they deal with a range of policing duties, including responding to emergency and priority incidents, other incident demand, appointments, missing persons and the investigation of volume crime.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

Based at Southend, CID is made up of Detective Inspectors, Detective Sergeants and Detective Constables. They investigate the more serious crimes such as high-risk domestic abuse incidents, serious assaults such as GBH, fraud, robbery and dwelling burglary.

Domestic Abuse Crime Operation Juno Team

The Operation Juno is based at Southend police station and the team is responsible for investigating all domestic abuse cases and safeguarding victims. The team provides a service for the district seven days a week; it is led by a Detective Inspector and comprises Detective Sergeants and investigators.

Policing and Partnership Hub

Local police managers and Rochford District Council are liaising regarding the development of a hub within Rayleigh police station, which will facilitate co-located working. This will enable colleagues from Rochford District Council to enhance current arrangements by working even closer with local officers, Crime Prevention officers, the Licencing Officer and Neighbourhood Watch staff; the hub will continue to prioritise local crime prevention and innovative problem solving solutions.

Rochford Community Safety Partnership

The Rochford CSP works closely with police and other partners in the district to help prevent crime and keep the community safe.

Below are the list of the priorities for the CSP for 2014/15 and action taken to achieve these.

Reducing anti-social behaviour

- Operation Wish Bone – reducing youth nuisance in Rochford
- Boleyn House
- Mediation project
- Hotspot awareness campaigns i.e. Halloween, Prom nights etc
- Pub Watch schemes
- ‘Stop Think again’ campaign (Rayleigh beggar issue)

Reducing repeat incidents of domestic abuse

- J9 Programme
- Support Sanctuary Scheme
- Appoint Domestic Abuse Reduction Officer
- Deliver/direct victims to Freedom Programme
- Crimestoppers campaign

Reducing serious acquisitive crime and acquisitive crime

- Cocooning
- Operation Hot Pepper
- Promoting ECM
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Community engagement

- COPE events
- Home safety visits
- Trading Standards – Targeting victims of Scams
- Public Awareness campaigns including Neighbourhood Watch projects, i.e. market stall to raise awareness of purse and wallet theft
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Reducing crime and re-offending

- Working with Offender Management

For 2015/16, the CSP’s priorities will be: reducing dwelling burglary, anti-social behaviour, violent crime including domestic abuse and reoffending.

Crime data for Rochford

At the meeting on Wednesday March 18, there will be a detailed discussion about the crime trends and the facts which underlie the statistics.

Key areas of note for Rochford, comparing reports for 1st February 2014 to 31st January 2015 with 1st February 2013 to 31st January 2014, are:

- All Crime has decreased by 7.3% (210 fewer offences);
- Burglary in Other Than in a Dwelling has decreased by 21.3% (40 fewer offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has decreased by 44.9% (146 fewer offences);
- Criminal Damage has decreased by 20.0% (109 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 4.0% (64 more incidents);
- Other Violence Against the Person has increased by 18.6% (98 more offences);
- Serious Violent Crime has increased by 42.9% (9 more offences);
- Serious Sexual Crime has increased by 48.6% (17 more offences).

All Crime

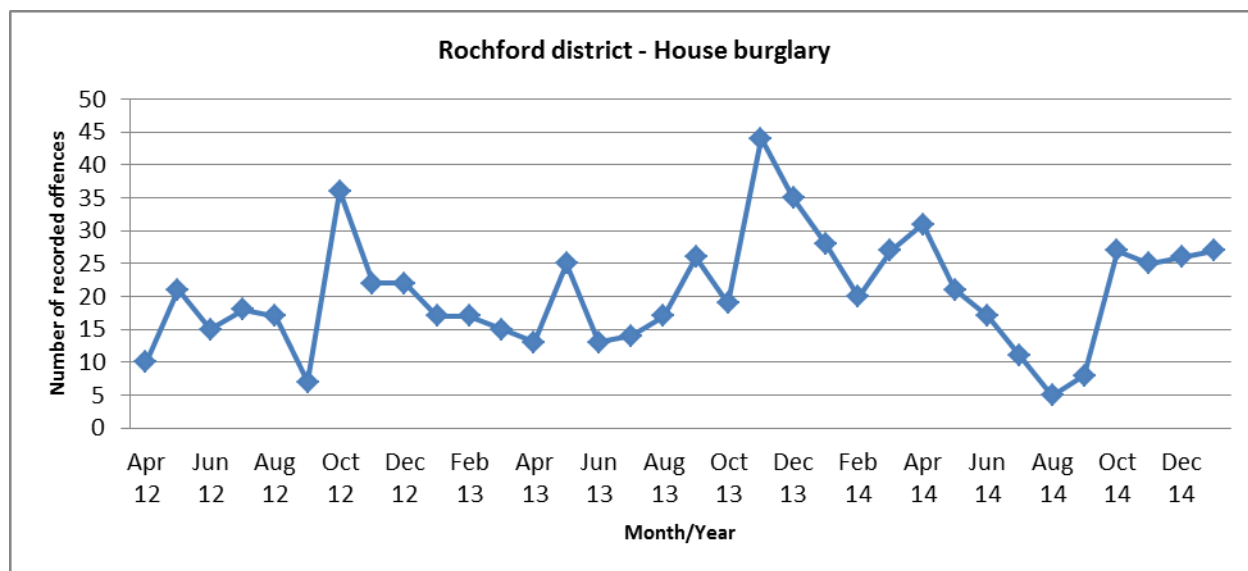
The above figures show that, during the period 1st February 2014 to 31st January 2015, Rochford district experienced a 7.3% reduction in the number of crimes reported, equating to 210 less offences, when compared with the same period the previous year.

This reduction in crime includes significant decreases in criminal damage, thefts from motor vehicles, dwelling burglary and other burglary offences (sheds, garages, commercial premises) across the district.

House burglaries

House burglaries reduced by 7.9%, or 21 less offences, during the period 1st February 2014 to 31st January 2015, compared with the same period the previous year.

Rochford and Castle Point have a coordinated plan for responding to burglary including: actively targeting known local offenders; and robustly enforcing court imposed bail conditions. In addition, a small dedicated team of detectives was formed to bolster this work and provide a robust response to any emerging series of offences.



Ongoing activity to tackle house burglary offences includes proactive policing operations, Integrated Offender Management, developing and acting upon community intelligence and collaborative work with partners.

Vehicle Crime

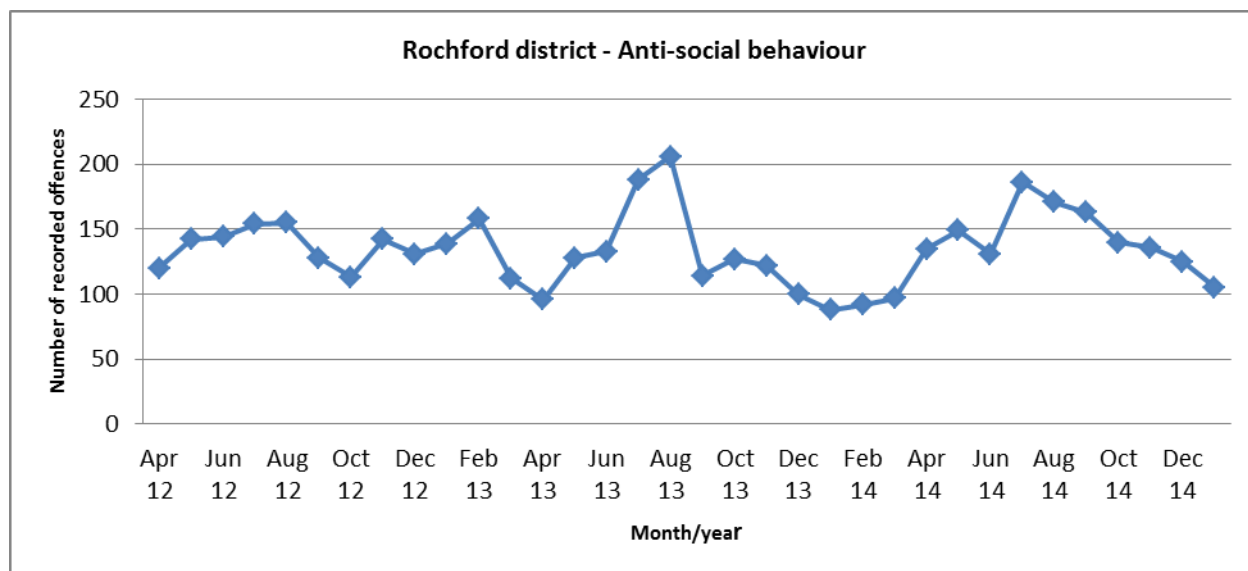
Vehicle crime in the Rochford district has seen a significant reduction. Between 1st February 2014 and 31st January 2015, Rochford there was a 44.9% reduction in theft from vehicles, equating to 146 less offences, compared with the same period the previous year.

During the same period there was a 9.5% increase in the taking of vehicles, equating to 7 more offences. However analysis of these crimes has shown many were left insecure.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Between 1st February 2014 and 31st January 2015, incidents of anti-social behaviour increased by 4.0% or 64 more offences, compared to the same period the previous year.

Local officers continue to monitor hotspots as they emerge and respond to incidents and behaviour that may result in ASB to provide visibility and reassurance to the community.



The police and the council each have a dedicated ASB Co-ordinator. Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Youth Officers work closely with the Community Safety Partnership to reduce incidents of ASB. Plans to reduce ASB are routinely put in place for key times and events, such as half-term and the school summer holidays, Halloween, Bonfire Night and the Christmas/New Year period.

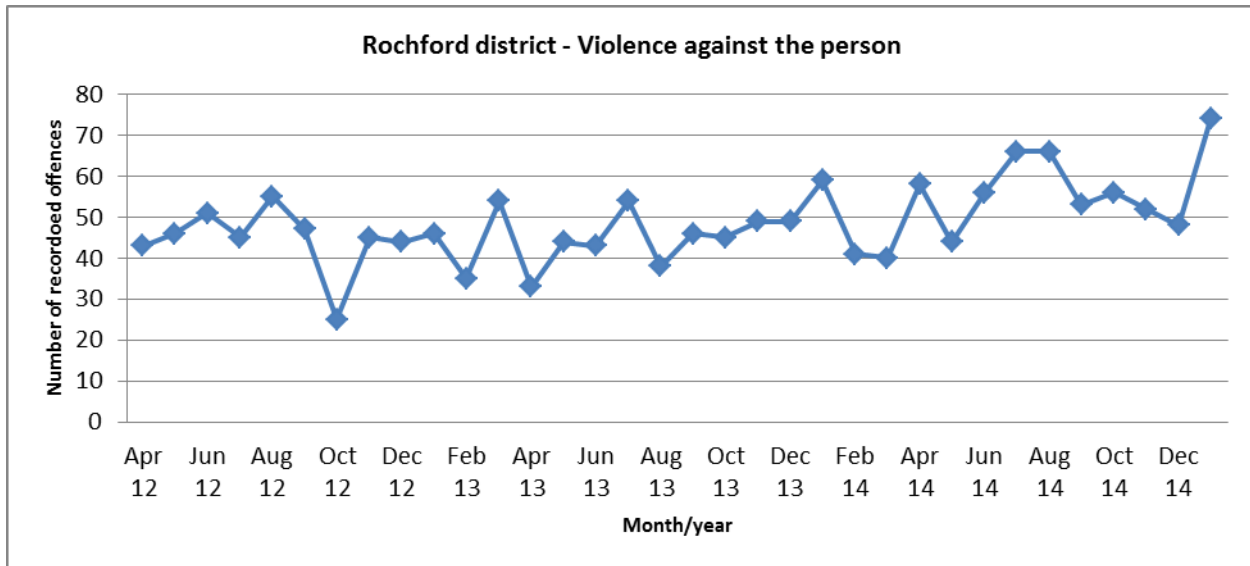
Incidents of ASB are dealt with through a risk-based approach which seeks to provide appropriate extra support for vulnerable or high-risk victims. The high-risk cases are tackled in partnership with the ASB Co-ordinator from the local authority and other relevant agencies, using a problem solving approach.

Individuals who have been identified as regularly causing ASB are challenged about their unacceptable behaviour. Anti-social behaviour contracts are utilised to set agreed boundaries for behaviour. These are closely monitored by neighbourhood officers.

The district currently has three Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) in place and one Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC). Eight ABCs have been undertaken and resolved during the reporting period.

Serious Violent Crime and Other Violence Against the Person

Within Rochford district, offences of serious violence increased by 42.9% or 9 more offences during the reporting period. Offences of Other Violence Against the Person increased by 18.6%, equating to 98 more offences. These offences cannot be attributed to any specific trend or area. Situations giving rise to this type of crime may include offences such as domestic abuse, or violence associated with neighbour disputes and the night-time economy.



During the reporting period, domestic assaults accounted for approximately a third of all Other Violence Against the Person offences. Assault without Injury, Harassment and Public Fear, Alarm or Distress often features within domestic abuse situations. Essex Police continues to work closely with victims of domestic violence and this has resulted in an increase in Domestic Violence Prevention Orders being granted. Breaches of such orders also appear within this crime type.

There is a small night-time economy within the district, which accounts for few offences. Strong partnership work exists between Essex Police and local partners. There is a robust arrangement to review and monitor licenses and take appropriate action when required.



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.