

Chelmsford public meeting

Thursday 10th September

District Profile

Chelmsford is part of the North Local Policing Area (LPA), which is sub-divided into four District Policing Areas (DPAs). Chelmsford and Maldon jointly form a single DPA under the command of a District Commander.

The city of Chelmsford is situated in the heart of Essex and covers 133 square miles. 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.

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

Since September 2014 the Chelmsford DPA has operated the following policing model:

Local Policing Team (LPT)

The LPT consists of five teams, which are based at Chelmsford Police Station and work shifts to cover the district 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each team is supervised by an Inspector and deals with a range of policing duties, including incident demand, appointments and missing persons. The Chelmsford teams are sometimes required to provide additional support to Maldon, which also forms part of the DPA.

Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT)

The Neighbourhood Policing Team is based at Chelmsford and comprises a Sergeant, neighbourhood Constables (including a Youth Officer) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The team is supervised by an Inspector, who is responsible for community policing, engagement and problem solving.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Juno Team

Based at Chelmsford, CID has three teams of detectives, led by a Detective Inspector. CID investigates the more serious crimes such as robbery, grievous bodily harm and house burglary.

All high-risk domestic abuse allegations are investigated by the Juno team, also based at Chelmsford.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data

At the meeting on September 10th 2015, there will be detailed discussion about the crime trends and facts which lie underneath the statistics.

The table below sets out the crime figures for Chelmsford, comparing reports for 1st August 2014 to 31st July 2015 with 1st August 2013 to 31st July 2014.

Areas of note:

- All Crime has decreased by 1.1% (104 fewer offences);
- House burglary has decreased by 23.0% (127 fewer offences);
- Other Burglary has decreased by 22.8% (159 less offences);
- Theft from the Person has decreased by 39.1% (111 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has increased by 10.1% (418 more incidents);
- Violence without Injury has increased by 28.7% (274 more offences);
- Sexual Offences have increased by 35.8% (58 more offences);
- Theft from Vehicles has increased by 15.4% (74 more offences).

Knife Crime

On 18th December 2014 Ashley Woolley, a student from Chelmsford College was stabbed and murdered in Oaklands Park. The perpetrator, Steven Davenport, was arrested soon after the event. He later admitted murder and was jailed for 18 years.

In the aftermath of the murder the DPA experienced an increase in gang-related stabbings, often inflicted in connection with drug-related matters. Although this particular type of knife crime has increased the number of offences in total has reduced in the last 12-months.

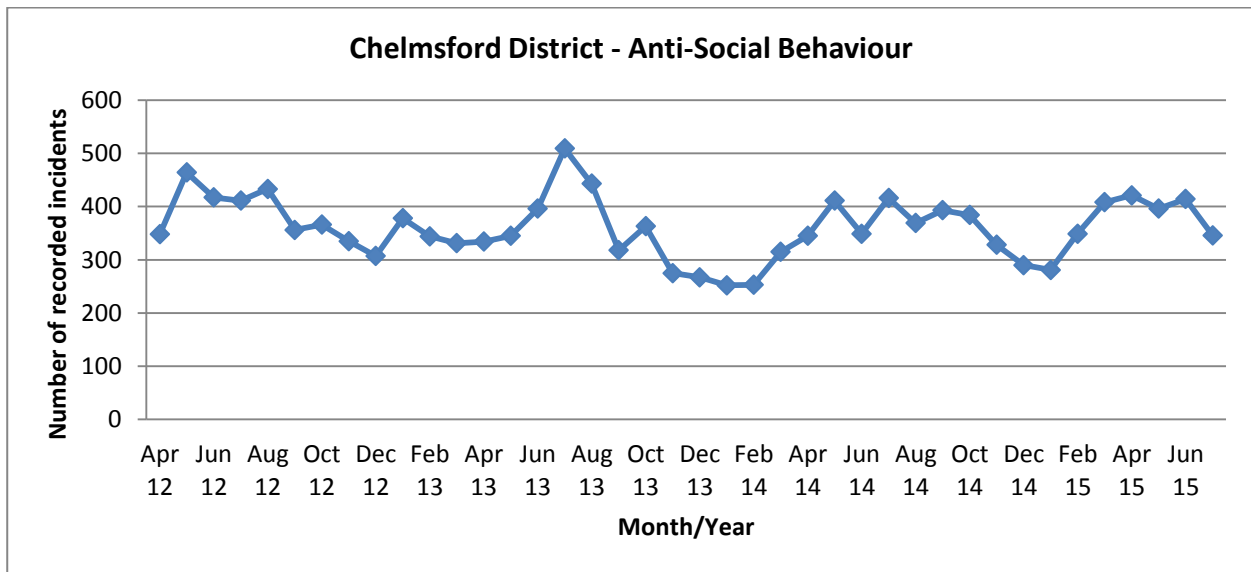
In June 2015 Chelmsford took receipt of a knife amnesty bin as part of a wider campaign led by Essex-based charity Only Cowards Carry. The bin had to be removed shortly after it was launched due to some technical problems around the siting. It is now in place outside the police station in New Street.

Figures show knife crime-related incidents in Chelmsford have decreased over the last two years. Between 1st September 2012 and 31st August 2013 there were 82 knife crimes in Chelmsford, this compares to 84 for the same period in 2013/14 and 63 for the same period in 2014/15.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The number of anti-social behaviour incidents has seen a significant increase. Between 1st August 2014 and 31st July 2015, anti-social behaviour increased by 10.1% in Chelmsford, equating to 418 more incidents.

Essex Police has not identified any specific hot spot areas to account for the increase, which was spread across Chelmsford.



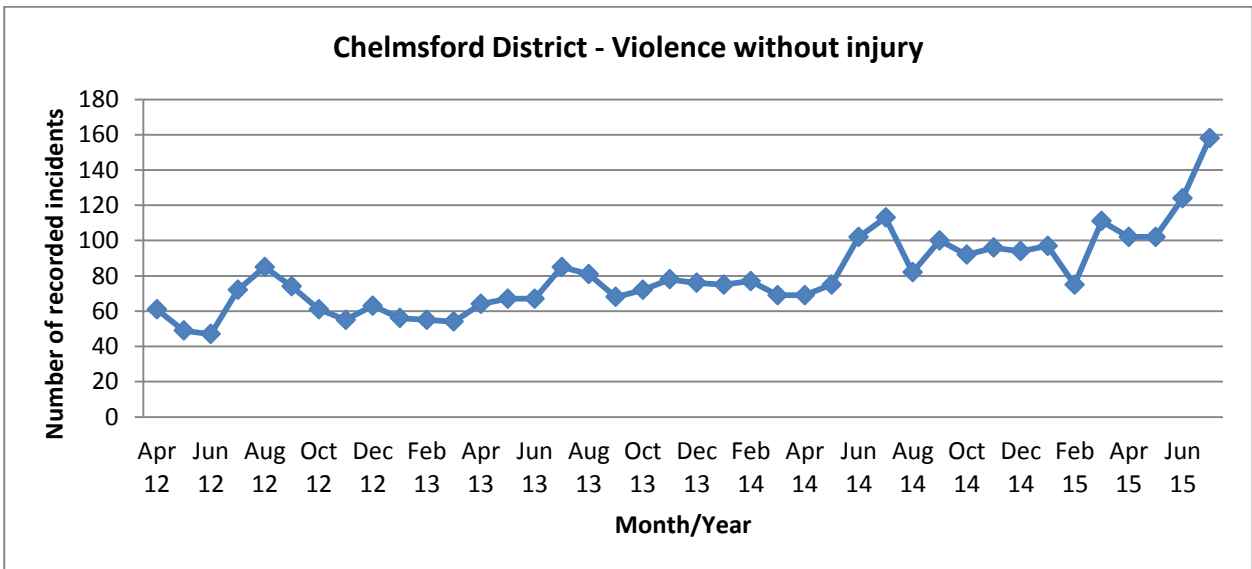
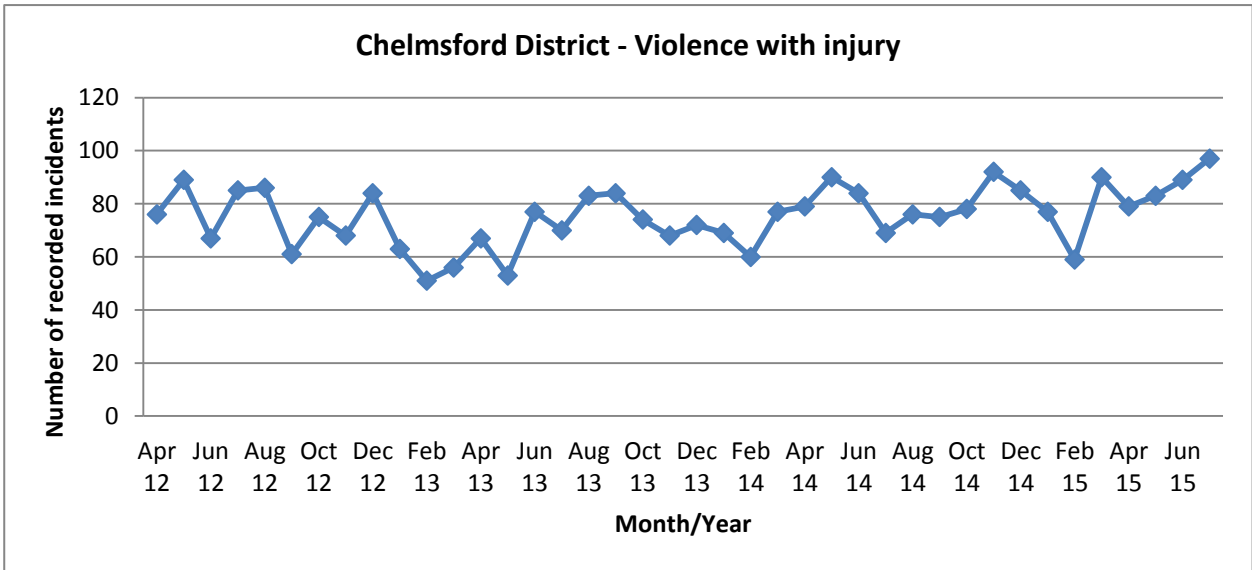
Essex Police has recently changed its policy on dealing with anti-social behaviour. Over the summer the force wrote to local authorities to inform them of the change in its approach to handling reports of anti-social behaviour. The huge financial savings Essex Police has had to make in recent years has impacted on resources however demand from the public has increased. Between 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015 Essex Police recorded 56,506 incidents of anti-social behaviour, however only 1,500 of these were assessed as high risk. Essex Police has said the demand created by this 97% of incidents is unsustainable. Moving forward Essex Police will ensure all reported incidents of anti-social behaviour are risk assessed. The public can expect a response from police where: the behaviour is likely to cause significant harm; the victim is vulnerable or a high risk of threat or harm is identified; repeat victims or locations are identified; an offender who requires police intervention is identified; police are required to put in a support package for a repeated victim.

The local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) continues to prioritise work based on victim, offender and location profiles. This enables the CSP to target problem issues. In 2014, the CSP, along with local officers, received training in the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which introduced a range of new powers. The city council has a section on its public website dedicated to ASB and has set out the minimum standards of service for victims.

Violent Crime and Sexual Crime

The increase in violent crime in Chelmsford follows a similar pattern seen in many other districts across Essex and, according to Essex Police, is largely attributable to an increase in reporting and recording of domestic abuse.

For the 12 months to 31st July 2015, 34.7% of all violent crime related to domestic abuse, and 36.6% of reports of Violence without Injury related to domestic abuse. Since September 2014, the District Policing Area has its own dedicated Juno team to investigate domestic abuse related offences and offenders.



With a large night-time economy there is always the potential for violent offences to occur. Licenced premises which have been linked to disorder are targeted to ensure compliance with licencing regulations.

Few of the serious offences during the reporting period occurred in public between strangers and Chelmsford remains a safe place for the public by day or night.

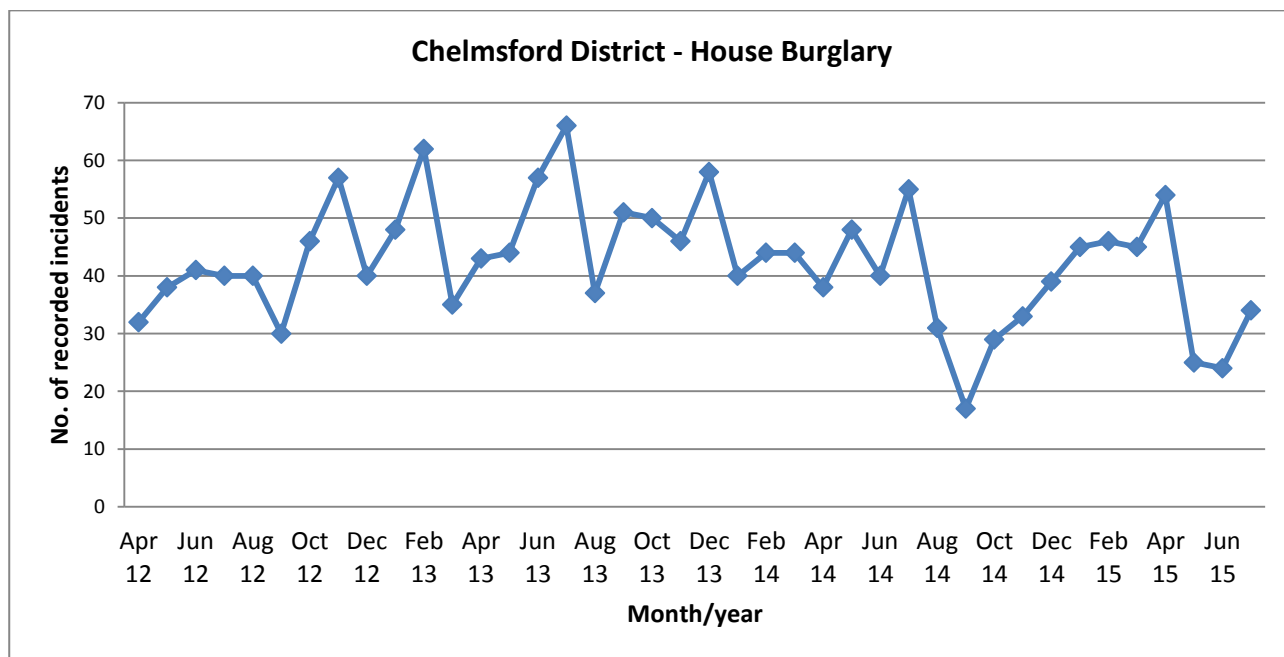
Sexual Crime

Much of the increase in sexual crime in the district is the result of domestic abuse related incidents. For the 12 months to 31st July 2015, domestic abuse was a factor in 16.8% of all sexual offences; it accounted for 50% of the number of reported rapes of over 16-year-olds. All serious sexual crime is investigated by the Sexual Offences Investigation Team (SOIT).

There continues to be a steady reporting of historic offences, which suggests members of the public remain confident in reporting issues such as this to the police.

Burglary

Between 1st August 2014 to 31st July 2015 the number of house burglaries has decreased by 23%, of 127 fewer offences, compared with the same period the previous year.



Essex Police continues to successfully carry out its forwided predictive policing operation to tackle burglary. As part of the initiative, which is called Operation Insight, 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.

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.