

Tendring Public Meeting

Wednesday 4th November 2015

District Profile

Tendring is part of the North Local Policing Area (LPA) covering an area of 130 square miles and includes a diverse mix of rural and urban communities. Towns in the district include Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on Sea, Frinton, Walton-on-the-Naze, Brightlingsea and Harwich. Large villages in the district include St Osyth, Mistley, Thorpe and Great Bentley. The district's largest town, Clacton-on-Sea, and surrounding villages have good rail connections to London and there is access to the A133/A120/A12/A14 road networks.

Harwich International Port is situated within the district and has approximately 260 shipping movements per month, including passenger ferries and freight shipments. Recent experience shows that there appear to be no significant increases in illegal entry attempts; however this could be a feature for the future, for example 22 people from Syria were recently encountered close to Weathersfield, near Braintree. It is unclear if these people entered through Harwich or another port.

Recent media reporting has portrayed Jaywick as having one of the highest multiple deprivation figures in the country. Tendring District Council is assisting development around their programme to buy land for regeneration. In addition, the roads are being upgraded, and there is significant investment in the local beaches and seafront areas to benefit all residents of Jaywick.

Tendring District Council is making significant investments in the area. Of note are the sea defence works taking place between Holland-on-Sea and Clacton pier, the building of new council homes for the first time in 30 years and a £10m investment in the Jaywick area to improve housing.

Current Policing Structure and Resources in Tendring

Tendring is part of the North Local Policing Area (LPA).

Neighbourhood Policing

The Local Police and Partnership Hub in Tendring, managed by the local Community Safety Manager along with assistance from the police Inspector, is flourishing and developing, having now been in place for over a year.

The Tendring hub is in a strong position compared to the other structures across similar districts in Essex. According to Essex Police, the team is confident that by joining up and focusing on priorities they will still offer an effective and robust service for all the residents of Tendring.

Recent meetings between police and Harwich Town Council detailed that all crime in the town was down and acquisitive crime had decreased. The challenges that remain concern increases in offences of violent crime and sexual offences. These are issues that often occur behind closed doors, emphasising the importance of taking a more sophisticated and intelligent approach to investigating this type of crime.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID)

Tendring district is covered by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) with detectives based at Clacton Police Station. These officers investigate the more serious crimes such as Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), fraud, robbery and house burglary. There are three CID teams who work a 'six days on and three days off' shift pattern. The CID team is led by a Detective Inspector. Tendring has experienced considerable additional demand, possibly due to the migration of people from London boroughs and the continued emergence of London gangs operating in the district.

Specialist Departments

Specialist police departments that cover the entire county are also available to Tendring district to support delivery in areas such as firearms, special operations and specialist investigations. Over the last year, valuable work has been carried out under Operation Saturn; where a small team of officers, taken from LPT and CID teams, have been heavily involved in tackling gangs in Tendring.

The district went through a Home Office led 'Ending Gang and Youth Violence' review in 2015, which made numerous recommendations. The hub and partners have been very active in their preventative and educational approach to this problem area, which is currently assessed as holding the highest level of potential harm for Tendring.

The team has now made over 150 arrests, recovered over £200k of Class 'A' drugs and have executed over 60 warrants. They make regular safeguarding referrals for vulnerable local people.

Special Constabulary

A group of volunteers work alongside the officers within Clacton and Harwich and are vital to policing the district safely and effectively. Special Constables have the full powers assigned to a regular police constable and attend regular training programmes. There are 23 Special Constables working in Tendring, of these 15 are independent patrol accredited.

Proposed changes to local policing in Tendring

Essex Police is continuing to face significant financial challenges and by 2019/20 is facing further potential cuts of £63million. With around 83 per cent of Essex Police's budget spent

on the salaries of police officers, staff and PCSOs, the financial cuts will inevitably mean that the force will have a smaller workforce.

In addition to this the force faces further financial pressures caused by its ageing estate. Essex Police's 80 buildings are in a poor state of repair requiring £30million of maintenance work to bring them up to standard and £2million a year to keep them in their current condition. This expense comes at a time when analysis shows very few people use police stations to report crime.

Under current proposals, developed according to operational policing need, there are currently proposals to reduce the estate from 80 to 30 buildings.

Essex Police is also proposing to close 15 of its existing 25 police station front counters and reduce the current number of PCSOs from 250 to 60. These proposals are currently under consultation with affected staff.

In Tendring district it is currently proposed to keep the front counter of Clacton police station open. Under the proposals the station would provide front counter services seven days a week from 9am to 5pm. The station would also continue to house local policing teams, CID, custody and domestic abuse investigation teams.

It is proposed that the front counter of Harwich would close to the public but the station would continue to provide an operational base for officers. The station currently provides front counter services to the public seven days a week from 12pm to 6pm.

FRONT COUNTER FOOTFALL IN TENDRING DISTRICT

Research over two separate months showed:

- **3,616 people visited Clacton police station's front counter.**
- **400 people visited Harwich police station's front counter.**

Under proposals Mitley, Thorpe le Soken and Walton-on-the-Naze police stations are also proposed for sale. All of these stations closed to the public in 2011. Brightlingsea police station is being sold for community use and this transaction is at an advanced stage.

Under further changes to local policing Essex Police is introducing new Community Policing Teams. They will be locally based and prioritise: protecting people from harm; preventing and reducing crime; bringing criminals to justice; engaging with the public; and ensuring the public are satisfied with the service they receive. They will work closely with partners to deal with all aspects of neighbourhood policing from tackling night-time economy related violence to responding to emerging crime trends.

Under proposals currently under consultation with affected staff, 13 of the 26 PCSO posts may be removed from Tendring and affected staff would either be retained as PCSOs, redeployed elsewhere or made redundant. It is proposed that a total of 13 PCSO posts would be retained in Tendring – six funded by Essex Police and seven by existing external funding. It is proposed the new Community Policing Team would retain six PCSO posts and would also be made up of a local policing and partnership inspector, two sergeants, eight

constables and one dedicated youth officer. It is also proposed that in addition seven externally funded PCSOs posts – six at Frinton and Walton and one at Alresford and Great Bentley - will be retained.

Essex Police are hopeful that through their continued good working relationship with Frinton council a local base can be found for the six PCSOs that they fund at the council offices at the Triangle shopping centre in Frinton.

Crime data for Tendring District

At the meeting on November 4th, there will be a detailed discussion about the crime trends and the facts which lie underneath the statistics.

Comparing reports for 1st October 2014 to 30th September 2015 with 1st October 2013 to 30th September 2014, areas of note include:

- All Crime has increased by 0.4% (36 more offences);
- House Burglary has reduced by 12.8% (68 fewer offences);
- Criminal Damage (including Arson) has decreased by 9.5% (137 fewer offences);
- Robbery has reduced by 20% (19 fewer offences);
- Violence without Injury has increased by 23.9% (316 more offences);
- Sexual Offences have increased by 23.8% (51 more offences).

Acquisitive Crime

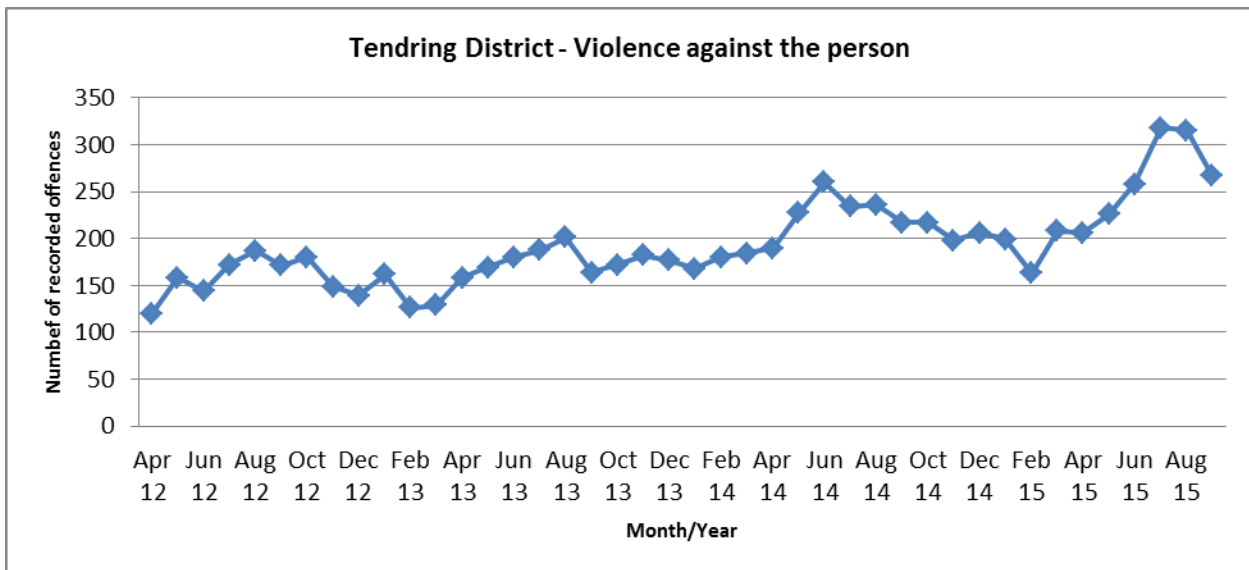
The offences of robbery, house burglary, other burglary, theft from the vehicle, theft of the vehicle and other theft have all seen a reduction during the reporting period compared with the previous year. According to Essex police these figures reflect the significant steps and priority given in the district to acquisitive crime.

Offences of Theft from the Person and Shoplifting have increased. A significant proportion of these offences are linked to drugs and gang activity associated with London groups. Results from the drug testing on arrest project – where offenders are tested for drugs when they are brought into custody – shows that around 40% of all people arrested in Tendring are testing positive for drug use.

Figures show that for the 16 people arrested for possession with intent to supply drugs in October this year, only one person tested positive for traces of opiates/Cocaine. Essex Police say this would seem to suggest that those involved in the supply of illegal substances in the district are mostly controlled and not under the influence of drugs whilst conducting their criminal enterprises in the district.

Violent Crime

During the above reporting period, there were increases in violent crime. Offences of Violence without Injury increased by 23.9% (316 more offences), and offences of Violence with Injury increased by 2.2% (24 more offences).



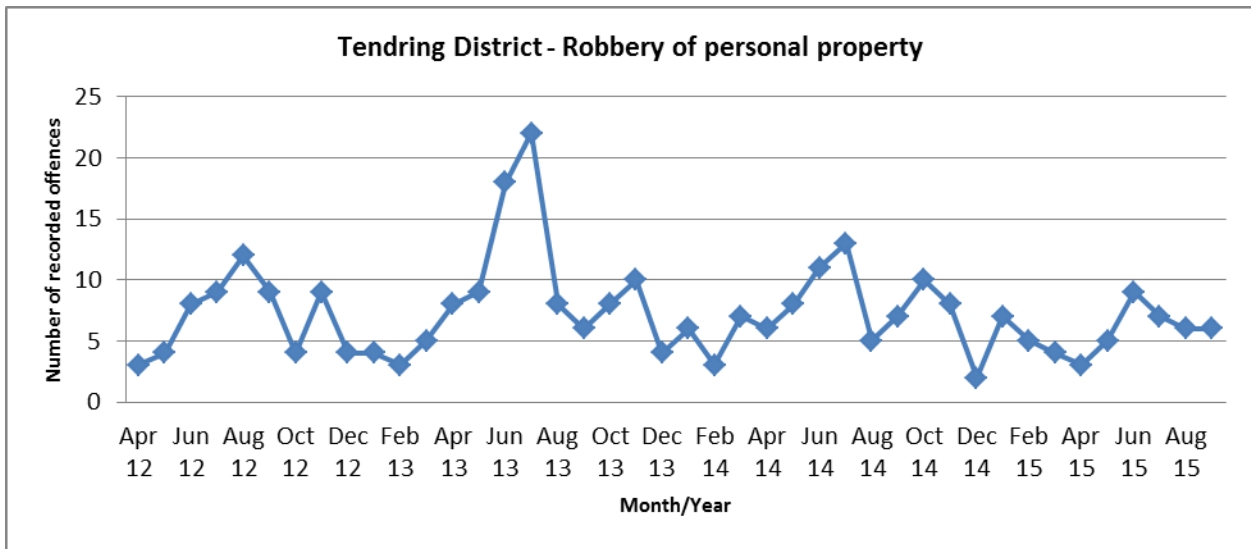
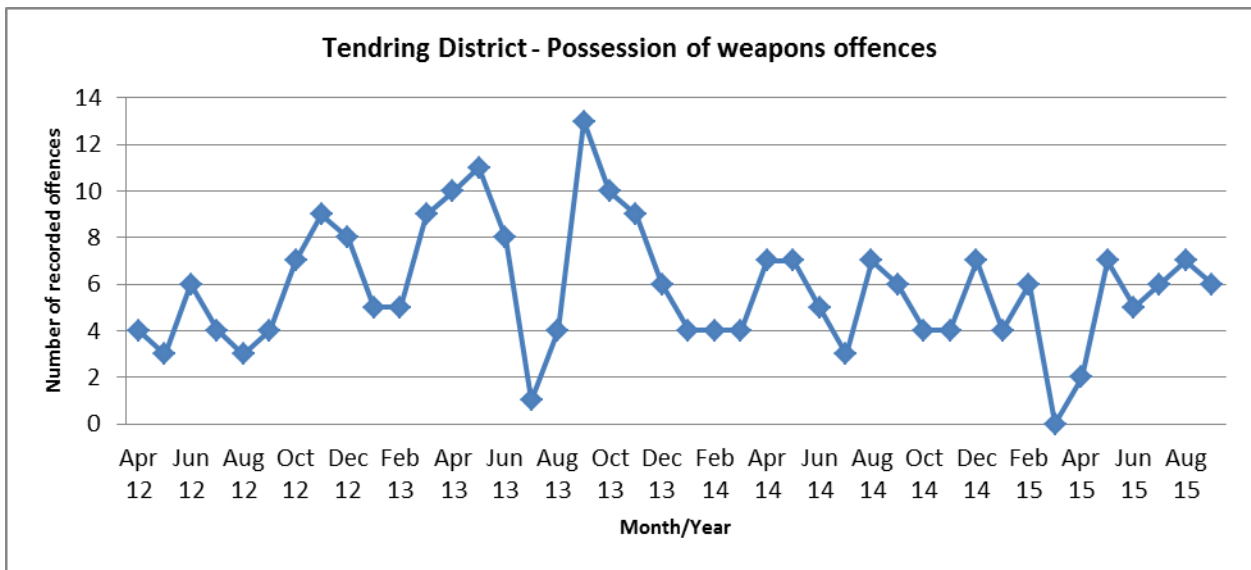
According to Essex Police these types of offences are often related to incidents of domestic abuse where the crimes are committed within people’s homes. Approximately 42% of the Violence without Injury offences in the district relate to domestic abuse. These offences present a challenge to the police in supporting victims and bringing offenders to justice. Much of the repeat victimisation which occurs can, in part, be attributed to the social and economic ability of individuals to break the cycle, or be able to afford to break away from harmful situations. Police in Tendring continue to work with partners and professionals to tackle these issues.

Sexual Offences

During the reporting period, sexual offences increased by 23.8% (51 more offences). Approximately 16% of the sexual offences in the district relate to domestic abuse. These figures mirror increases experienced across the whole of Essex. The increase in sexual offences could be linked to members of the public having greater confidence in reporting these types of offences to the police and the closer work and co-operation between partner agencies, such as the new HIRCs (Hate Incident Reporting Centres) - one of which is located in Rosemary Road, Clacton. Police in Tendring continue to work with partners to assist the victims of these offences and bring incidents to their attention, in order that police can investigate, safeguard victims and tackle these types of ‘hidden harms’.

Knife Crime and Robbery

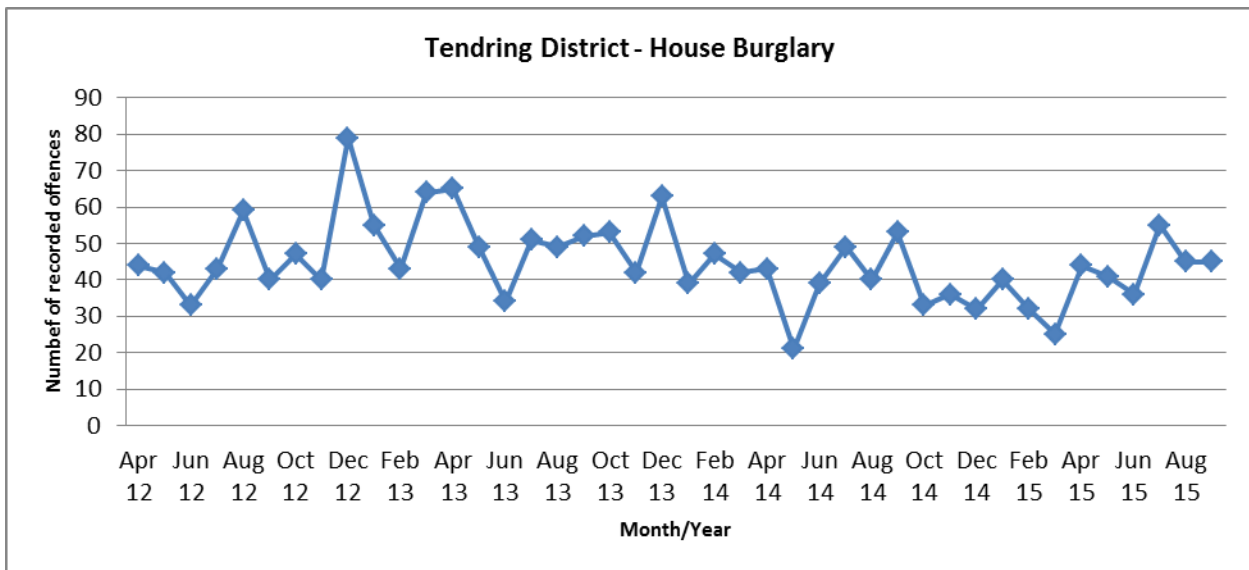
Figures show that robberies and knife crime incidents in the district have decreased. Local officers confirm this is due to dedicated partnership work, including the support from the ‘Only Cowards Carry’ charity and their knife amnesty bin programme.



An intelligence-led approach and attention to detail, focussing on current active criminals and balancing resources across the LPT and CID, has also contributed to significant and welcomed reductions. However, the volatile and transient nature of the community, linked to gangs and pressures in London boroughs still presents clear future challenges around this type of crime.

Burglary

Figures show there has been a decrease in house burglaries in the district. Local teams continue to work with partners around Operation Insight, which is an intelligence-led operation which places patrols in burglary hotspots. The hub have adopted some new approaches, including working with the Fire Service and Tesco delivery van drivers to share information about hotspot zones and to ensure visible patrols are undertaken.



In Tendring, there have been instances where the emergence of a spike in burglaries has correlated with the release of a known offender from prison, or the arrival of a criminal in the district following displacement or re-housing from elsewhere. The local team is proficient in quickly establishing trends, collating evidence and suppressing these problems where they occur. The district also has some 'home grown' burglars, especially in the Kirby and Frinton areas, which the team continues to target proactively.

Tendring Community Safety Partnership

The Tendring Community Safety Partnership continues to work closely with police to improve community safety. The CSP's priorities are: tackling anti-social behaviour; reducing crime and the fear of crime; reducing drug and alcohol misuse within communities; and reducing re-offending.

The CSP helps tackle anti-social behaviour by identifying and supporting repeat and vulnerable victims, improving perceptions and facilitating local problem solving to address issues.

Work to reduce crime and the fear of crime has seen the CSP carrying out work to identify and support repeat and vulnerable victims, educate young and older people in the community, supporting those at risk of re-offending and encouraging the proactive reporting of hate crime and domestic abuse. The CSP has also focused on burglary and theft offences and emerging crime trends such as shoplifting.

The CSP has also been a keen support of the knife amnesty carried out in the Tendring District which has been led by the Only Cowards Carry charity.

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.