



Safer Essex Meeting
Wed 23rd September 2015 10am-12pm
Council Chamber, Chelmsford City Council

Date:	Wednesday 23 rd September 2015	
Time:	10-12	
Venue:	Chelmsford City Council Chamber	
Chairman:	Nicola Beach – Chief Executive, Braintree District Council	
Attendees:	Nicola Beach (Chair)	Braintree District Council
	Susannah Hancock (Vice-chairman)	Office of the Police Commissioner (OPCC)
	Jo Jacobs (Notes)	Essex County Council (ECC)
	Reshma Madhi (Notes)	ECC
	Simon Hart, Independent Chairman of Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards	Presenting
	Emma Callaghan, Restorative Justice Development Manager, OPCC	Presenting
	Cllr Kay Twitchen on behalf of Cllr Hirst	ECC
	Spencer Clarke	Chelmsford Community Safety Partnership (CSP) also representing Maldon CSP
	Craig Carrington	Essex Police
	Graham Browne on behalf of Jodie Bridge	Rochford CSP
	Helena Goodwin	Essex CRC (community rehabilitation company) and Essex Police
	Cllr Gary Waller	Epping Forest DC
	Paula Mason	Basildon CSP
	Donna Finch	Essex Fire and Rescue
	Tracey Parry	Braintree CSP
	Ben Hughes	ECC
	Cllr Godfrey Isaacs	Castlepoint
	Bob Penny representing Melanie Rundel	Colchester CSP
	Peter Kay	Youth Offending ECC
	Dipti Patel	Southend
	Rob Clavey	HMP Chelmsford
	Alex Bamber representing Mary Archer	Essex CRC
	David Messam	National Probation Service



Safer Essex Meeting
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	Shirley Kennerson	National Probation Service
	Pam Donnelly	Colchester
	Jane Gardner	ECC
	Ch. Supt. Luke Collison	Essex Police
	Anna Hook	ECC
	Michelle Cunningham	Thurrock CSP
	Caroline Wiggins	Epping Forest DC
	Faith Watson on behalf of Marysia Rudgley	Harlow DC
	Stephen Lynch	ECC
	Julian Ashley	Essex Fire and Rescue
	Cllr Jim Gordon	Uttlesford DC

Apologies:	Marysia Rudgley	Harlow CSP
	Melanie Rundel	Colchester CSP
	Mary Archer	Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)
	Cllr Hirst	ECC
	Cllr Lynda McWilliams	Tendring CSP
	Richard Holmes	Maldon District Council
	Lindsay Whitehouse	OPCC
	Julie Chandler	Epping Forest DC
	Alastair Morrell	Maldon DC

Item	Discussion	Action/Lead
1.	Welcome and Apologies for Absence – Nicola Beach Apologies noted and introductions made.	
2.	Declarations of Pecuniary or other interests None received.	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting – 24th June and actions arising. Craig Carrington requested an amendment to item no.4; clarifying police will attend low-risk and immediate incidents but there will be a triaging of resources rather than going to every incident. Amended to read ‘there would now be less police response to lower or medium risk anti-social behaviour’.	



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	<p>Minutes otherwise agreed.</p> <p>Actions arising The anti-social behaviour issue and Reducing Reoffending Board to be dealt with in the December meeting. Craig Carrington (Essex Police) to deliver the ASB presentation at that meeting,</p> <p>The DHR paper went to the Domestic Abuse Board, which is now seeking more work to ensure actions are carried out on a local level. An update to be provided – to be tabled at the December meeting.</p> <p>Domestic Abuse Board is on the agenda for an update. Prevent agenda was to be deferred and will be taken off the agenda in the forward plan.</p> <p>A&E data –Task and Finish Group work. There has been progress in hospitals sharing data, with Southend now starting. Discussions with CSPs remain ongoing.</p>	<p>Nicola Beach/ Craig Carrington</p> <p>Susannah Hancock</p>
4	<p>Simon Hart, Independent Chairman of Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards – presentation and discussion led by Simon on the work of the Boards and key safeguarding issues and risks.</p> <p>Simon explained that there is increasing impetus in aligning the work of the safeguarding adult and children boards with that of Safer Essex and Strategic Domestic Abuse Board. The need for close cooperation is clear and will inevitably lead to greater impact on both strategy and service delivery.</p> <p>Simon highlighted the key issues:</p> <p>There is a need to work effectively with other areas of local leadership for people in Essex, with regulators swiftly moving more towards a multi-agency inspection approach. Amongst other considerations, there is increasing recognition that good performance is directly related to recruitment and retention strategies.</p> <p>There are between 19 and 32 health and children services organisations, making co-ordination very complex. Agencies are working closer together on</p>	<p>Simon Hart</p>



Safer Essex Meeting
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	<p>tackling sexual exploitation and supporting vulnerable adults, with good leadership from Essex Police and buy in from other Partners. City District and Borough Councils have made significant contributions to work such as sexual exploitation and there is a strong commitment to the Section II and SAR audits and a very strong moderation process.</p> <p>Information sharing remains a challenge, so there needs to be practical guidance to ensure practitioners are confident, while there is a lot of data to pull in and refine. Ian Davison is leading on this through the Health and Wellbeing Board's performance group. Much is reported about poor care standards and the Board is working with commissioners on how they assure good quality.</p> <p>In hidden harm, there is a willingness to respond to a national agenda on child sexual exploitation (CSE). Other issues include honour based crime, modern slavery, Female genital mutilation (FGM) and gang activity. These have become massive challenges but there is a need to ensure we develop a comprehensive and not piecemeal approach to the way we respond.</p> <p>Cllr Gordon asked if is about a better understanding of the data protection act for all. Simon stated there is nothing in the law that will stop us sharing information as long as it is within the interest and welfare of the protection of a child or vulnerable person. Referring to the Haringey case, he emphasised the need to ensure that local information sharing protocols are in place and followed by practitioners.</p> <p>Hidden Harm is the biggest change to our agenda, with the violence and vulnerable boards created to ensure joining up more on a local level. Caroline Higgins offered to share the work done in her area.</p> <p>Regarding Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and Serious Adult Reviews (SARs), the commissioning arrangements must be carefully aligned and co-ordinated.</p> <p>Susannah said the joint inspectorate is welcomed given the multi-agency approach to much of this work but asked</p>	<p>Caroline Higgins</p>
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Safer Essex Meeting
Wed 23rd September 2015 10am-12pm
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	<p>how soon it would be and how to influence it. Simon expected it would be by the end of the calendar year and to have it tested before Christmas but couldn't answer for influencing the regime.</p> <p>Jane offered to share work carried out by ECC on perceptions and impact of what makes people feel safe. Nicola advised any views on the next steps of child sex exploitation work can be discussed at a future meeting. Caroline informed a sub group is looking at temporary housing and safeguarding issues arising from this.</p> <p>Simon asked the Safer Essex Group to consider five key issues/questions in its work going forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to ensure the most effective commissioning arrangements are in place for DHRs, SCRs and SARs and aligning this work and the implementation of recommendations and actions and ensuring lessons are learnt; 2. What are the next most effective steps we can take in tackling CSE? 3. Are the social care thresholds right for when intervention is deemed necessary; are other forms of intervention being fully explored? 4. What are the safeguarding risks of homelessness and temporary accommodation? 5. What makes people feel safe in Essex? What are the triggers of fear? Jane Gardner will share research ECC has carried out on this topic. <p>There was some discussion on each of these topics and it was agreed these will also be followed up with work outside of the meeting and at future meetings.</p> <p>Nicola thanked Simon for his presentation and the group for the informative debate that had taken place.</p>	Jane Gardner
5	<p>Drugs Testing on arrest – update Spencer Clarke, Public Protection Manager, Chelmsford Presentation and video</p> <p>Beginning three and a half years ago, after finding that many retail thefts are carried out by drug users; a bid was made to Safer Essex to fund this pilot. The project aims to</p>	



Safer Essex Meeting
Wed 23rd September 2015 10am-12pm
Council Chamber, Chelmsford City Council

	<p>reduce the level of acquisitive crime and engage offenders in treatment. Partners involved include Essex Police, Public Health, PCC, CSPs, Westminster Drug Project and CPS.</p> <p>To date, 23% of people tested at Chelmsford custody have tested positive and as a result of the programme, there is increasing engagement of people in treatment. The Home Office have agreed to fund an expansion to cover all custody suites across Essex.</p> <p>This went “live” in May 2015 and has resulted in positive tests increasing to 37% across Essex, which is above expectations, as the national average is 32%. Many were found to be 40–49 years of age, so long-term users seen as hard to engage are starting to come through. It is seeing higher numbers accessing treatment now, including new cohorts of users.</p> <p>Ben responded to queries from Nicola and Cllr Twitchen that drug testing is mandatory and applies to trigger offences, so acquisitive crime. Cllr Gordon asked if this work has been built on for intelligence gathering. Ben felt unsure this would be the vehicle for it but is looking to join up with the police and there will also be data on hotspots and other drug-related crime. Ben and Spencer will keep Safer Essex updated on progress with this project over the coming months.</p>	Ben Hughes
6	<p>Restorative Justice (RJ) – overview and update on programme - Emma Callaghan, RJ Development Manager, OPCC Presentation</p> <p>This is a service between victims and offenders to help repair some of the harm caused. Benefits include greater victim satisfaction, victims feeling listened to and heard, and an impact on reducing reoffending. The service excludes sexual and serious violent offences.</p> <p>Facilitated by volunteers, it is currently in its pilot phase, with a programme roll out for October. It also links in with the community remedy for low level and anti-social behaviour. There has been positive feedback from the 25 referrals received so far. 15 were from police and just two</p>	



Safer Essex Meeting
Wed 23rd September 2015 10am-12pm
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	<p>from indirect outcomes.</p> <p>The next step is to increase referrals and expand the service, with launch events on 27th and 28th October in Rayleigh and near Colchester respectively. The forum was advised to contact Emma Callaghan for any suggestion of events that could be used to promote the service: emma.callaghan@essex.pnn.police.uk</p> <p>Nicola queried if there was a theme in the type of incidents and demographic of victims. Emma informed there was a split between neighbour issues and criminal offences such as low level assaults and burglaries, while the majority were young victims making use of the service.</p>	Emma Callaghan
7	<p>Domestic Abuse analytics and work to identify vulnerable victims – update on project - CI Tom Simons, Essex Police</p> <p>Apologies from CI Simons. This has been taken off the agenda but further updates will be provided via the DA Strategic Board update slot.</p>	
8	<p>Feedback from other Boards or networks Domestic Abuse Board Susannah Hancock, Office of PCC</p> <p>The Board met in Thurrock during August, to sign off on new strategy outcomes, performance indicators and the DHR report.</p>	
9	<p>AOB</p> <p>Future meeting dates and venue for 2015/16. All meetings will be held in the Council Chamber at Chelmsford City Council Offices. Dates and times below:</p> <p>10-12 9th December 2015 10-12 16th March 2016 10-12 15th June 2016 10-12 21st September 2016 10-12 14th December 2016</p> <p>Nicola informed the group about the recent safeguarding</p>	



Safer Essex Meeting
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	<p>audits undertaken by each council and that the findings and best practice were being shared between organisations. This had been presented to the Essex Chief Executive's meeting last week.</p> <p>A Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) event will be held on 30th September, 2.30pm in the Council Chamber at Chelmsford City Council Offices to share with partners that new approach to probation services.</p> <p>Spencer suggested that the North Essex Partnership Trust could present on its suicide prevention work at a future meeting.</p>	Spencer Clarke
	<p>Forward Plan</p> <p>9th December 2015</p> <p>Safer Places IDVA and new contract – Janet Dalrymple Reducing Reoffending Board and IOM – update – Lindsay Whitehouse, OPCC DHR update – Susannah Hancock ASB Police update – Craig Carrington</p> <p>Volunteer police cadet programme – Item deferred.</p>	