

Chelmsford Public Meeting – Tuesday July 12th 2016

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 has a population of 168,310 (which amounts to just under 12% of the total population of Essex. Anglia Ruskin University has over 6,000 students, which increases the population of the city significantly during term-time.

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'.

Policing Structure and Resources

Local Policing Team (LPT) – Established September 2015

The LPT consists of six 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.

The LPT is supported by 27 Special Constables.

Community Policing Team (CPT) – Established May 2016

The CPT is made up of two Sergeants, eleven Police Constables (including a Child and Young Person Officer), 10 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and 10 Special Constables. The team is managed by an Inspector, who is responsible for community policing, engagement and problem solving. The team is supported by a Licensing Officer, a Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor, an Essex Watch Coordinator, an Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator and a Missing Person Liaison Officer.

The uniformed resources are currently split into two teams, one based in Chelmsford and the other in Maldon. The Chelmsford team and support staff operate from Chelmsford police station. Negotiations are taking place to create a Community Safety Partnership Hub in the Chelmsford City Council offices. This is in the early negotiating stages and there is no definitive timetable of when this will happen. However there is strong support for this concept from the local authority and Essex Police.

The Safer Chelmsford Partnership

The Safer Chelmsford Partnership, led by Chelmsford City Council Public Protection Manager, Spencer Clarke, works very closely with the local Community Policing Team. The Partnership will be working to the following priorities in 2016-17.

Reducing crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

Reduction in harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse

Tackling violent crime

Protecting and supporting vulnerable people and victims of crime

Reducing re-offending

At the meeting, more details of some of the innovative projects undertaken by the Safer Chelmsford Partnership will be provided. These include:

Medical triage SOS Chelmsford – based on academic research and funded by Late Night Levy

Education, awareness, interventions and community engagement (10,000 plus contacts per annum)

Introduction of a Public Space Protection Order and effective use of new tools and powers

Night time economy interventions – street pastors, taxi marshals, medical triage, support staff and CCTV

Purple Flag and Best Bar None

Dementia, social prescribing and smoking cessation

Underpass projects – reducing reoffending

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 dwelling burglary.

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

Crime data for Chelmsford

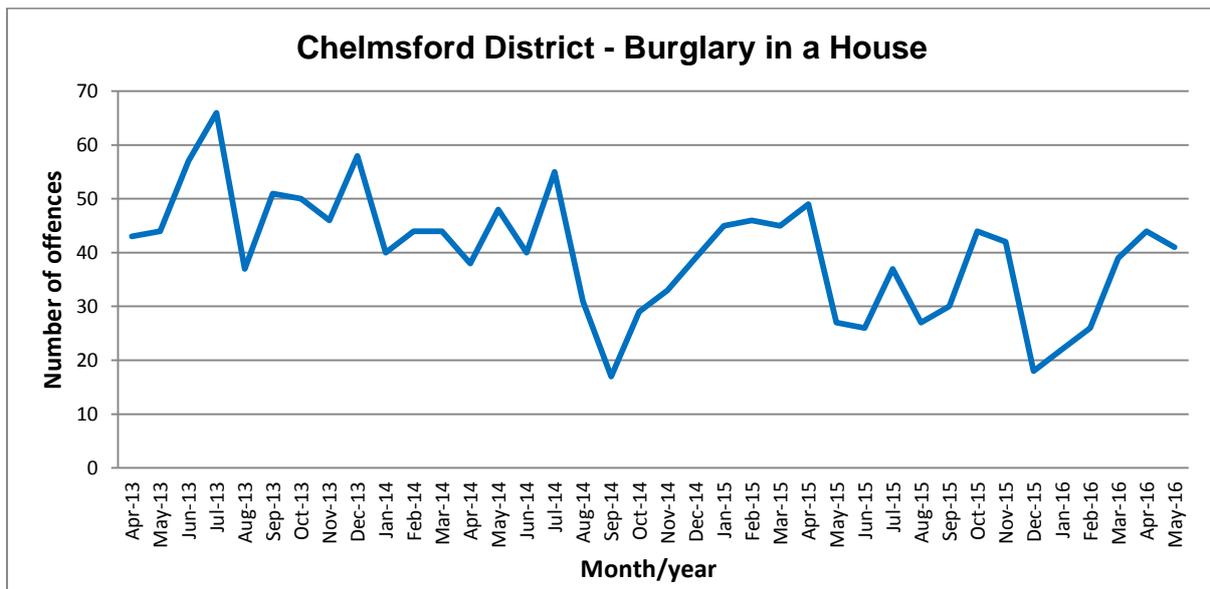
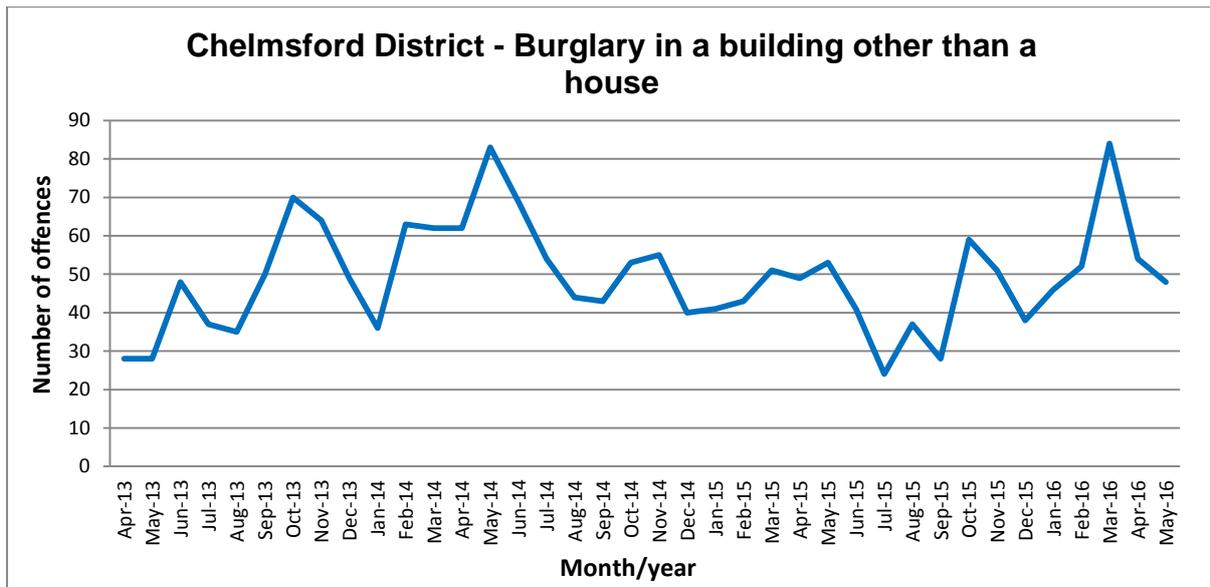
At the meeting on Thursday 12th July there will be a detailed discussion on local crime figures and trends, and the facts that underlie the statistics.

Comparing reports for 1st June 2015 to 31st May 2016 with 1st June 2014 to 31st May 2015, areas of note include:

- All Crime has increased by 12.6% (1114 more offences);
- Burglary in a Dwelling has decreased by 13.7% (63 fewer offences);
- Theft from Vehicle has decreased by 12.2% (66 fewer offences);
- Violence without Injury has increased by 42.8% (497 more offences);
- Theft of Motor Vehicle has increased by 55.6% (94 more offences);
- Shoplifting has increased by 36.9% (326 more offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 9.6% (440 fewer incidents).

Crime/Incident Type	# offences		# diff	% diff
	2015	2016		
ALL CRIME	8860	9974	1114	12.6
Violence with Injury	947	1076	129	13.6
Violence without Injury	1161	1658	497	42.8
Sexual Offences	207	264	57	27.5
Robbery	60	57	-3	-5.0
Dwelling Burglary	459	396	-63	-13.7
Other Burglary	592	560	-32	-5.4
Theft from Vehicle	541	475	-66	-12.2
Theft of Motor Vehicle	169	263	94	55.6
Theft from the Person	168	217	49	29.2
Theft of Pedal Cycles	339	317	-22	-6.5
Shoplifting	883	1209	326	36.9
Other Theft	1142	1155	13	1.1
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	1140	1136	-4	-0.4
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	4598	4158	-440	-9.6

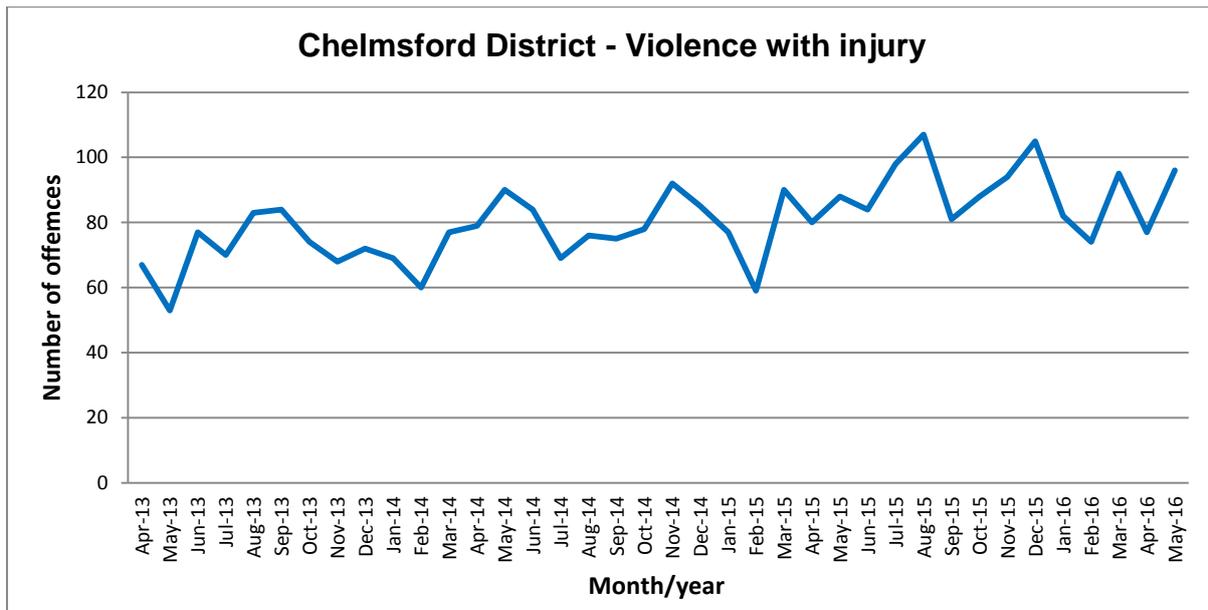
During the above reporting period all crime increased by 12.6% or 1,114 offences. This increase is part of a wider trend and not just exclusive to Chelmsford.



Violent Crime (All Types)

Offences of violence with injury have increased by 13.6% or by 129 offences within the reporting period.

Violence without injury has also seen a significant rise, going up by 42.8% or 497 more offences during the reporting period. This increase is in line with the national trend which has seen this category go up as, due to changes in crime recording rules, the category now includes harassment offences, including sending malicious messages. Approximately a third of violent crimes are linked to domestic abuse.



With a large night-time economy, such as that in Chelmsford which has a licensing capacity of over 15,000 which is often reached at weekends, there is always the potential for violent offences to occur. Licensed premises which have been linked to disorder are identified by police and partners to ensure they comply with licensing regulations. The Community Policing Team has responsibility for policing the night-time economy and Essex Police is carrying out appropriate training to support officers in performing this role.

Theft of Motor Vehicles

During the above reporting period number of offences of Theft of Motor Vehicle increased by 55.6% or 94 more offences, rising from 169 to 263. Essex Police have not identified any particular hotspots or crime series in relation to the increase in offences and the problem is district-wide.

Shoplifting

During the reporting period, offences of shoplifting increased in Chelmsford by 36.9 % (326 more offences). Chelmsford has not had a dedicated town patrol for many years. Essex Police monitors the top ten shops which experience the most offences but this has not identified any specific trends. The Community Safety Partnership encourages retailers to use systems such as Facewatch to help deal with city centre crimes, to complement the effective Townlink radio system, but at present this has not been adopted.

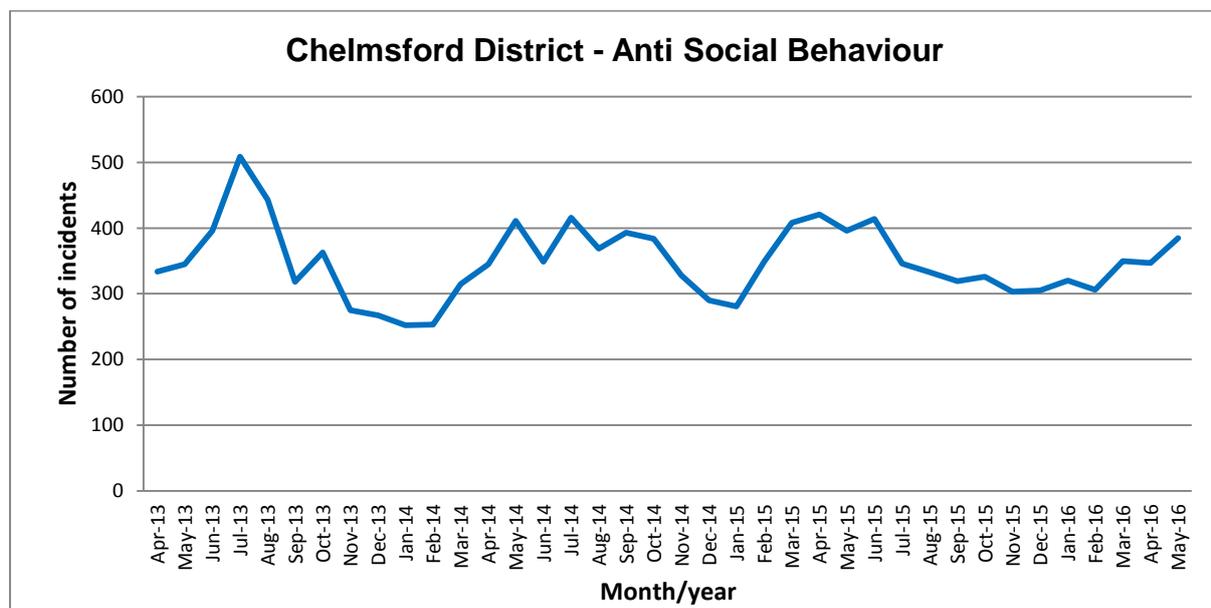
Sexual Crime

The number of sexual offences during the reporting period has increased by 27.5% or 57 offences. Over one third of rape offences where the victim is 16 or over are related to domestic abuse. All serious sexual crimes in Essex are investigated by Sexual Offences Investigation Teams (SOIT).

Essex Police continues to see a steady number of historic offences being reported. This has probably been influenced by the prosecution of a number of high profile public figures for historic sexual offences, encouraging other victims to come forward. The increase in reports of historic offences may also suggest members of the public have increasing levels of confidence in reporting these crimes to police.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

Data provided by Essex Police for the reporting period shows that incidents of anti-social behaviour in Chelmsford decreased by 9.6% or 440 fewer incidents. Essex Police continues to prioritise incidents of anti-social behaviour which involve repeat or vulnerable victims.



Gang Related Crime (Including Knife Crime)

The movement of drug lines from London into the area has resulted in an increase in knife and other violent crime. This takes the form of attacks against rival drug dealing gangs or as a means of enforcing drug-related debts. On 11th November 2015, 27-year-old Ladimeji “Ladi” Benson, was stabbed and killed during one such altercation in Baddow Road at the junction with Longfields Road, Great Baddow.

Following a comprehensive police investigation into the murder two 20-year-old men from Chelmsford who were arrested on suspicion of murder. However the men were released from bail without charge and currently face no further action due to insufficient evidence.

As a result of this murder and other incidents, the profile of knife crimes has risen in Chelmsford and there has been significant press interest and coverage on the issue and violent crime in Chelmsford in general. The anti-knife education charity, Only Cowards Carry, has a profile in the city and secured a knife amnesty bin for Chelmsford which is located near the police station. The partnership has also delivered awareness training on gangs, drugs and knives to over 7000 students in recent months.

The North Local Policing Area currently has a pro-active team of police officers which focus on preventing, detecting and disrupting gang-related crime. The team is known as Operation Raptor. Previously the activity of this team focused on the geographical areas of Tendring, Colchester and Braintree. However due to a developing intelligence picture of gang related issues in Chelmsford, the team have and continue to carry out a number of drug related warrants and covert patrols in the local area resulting in an impressive number of arrests and drugs seizures. Through this work, links have been identified between the activities of gangs and the exploitation of young persons, some of whom are regularly reported as missing persons from other areas of the country.

Activity against gangs is led by a Detective Inspector who also leads our response across the North to tackling organised crime in a number of forms. Increasingly these criminal networks are involved in Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery. The team drafts in the assistance of other agencies such as HMRC, Border Force, Trading Standards and the local authorities to name a few, in order to tackle this emerging challenge.

Night-Time Economy (NTE)

Chelmsford has a vibrant night-time economy which can result in up to 15,000 people visiting the city centre on any one night. In 2014, the council consulted on a proposal to introduce a night-time levy on certain licensed premises. Revenue raised from the levy is being used for local initiatives relating to the city centre and the night-time economy.

The local Community Safety Partnership managed the successful reaccreditation of the City of Chelmsford under the 'Purple Flag' scheme, which included the adoption of the Anglian Ruskin University campus within the scheme. This reflects its on-going support to schemes such as Street Pastors, taxi marshals, nights of action and the launch of a 'purple place' initiative, which provides a city centre safe haven for

revellers if required. Best Bar None, an initiative to raise the standards of licensing within the city, was launched today.

Rural Police and Other Areas

Rural crime and supporting rural communities remains an issue for Essex Police. Officers attend incidents based on levels of threat, harm and risk, which can result in rural communities feeling vulnerable and overlooked. These concerns are also expressed in towns and villages such as South Woodham Ferrers and the Hanningfields.

Your feedback is most welcome. Should you wish to contact the PCC about this meeting, or any other matter you can do so through the following routes:

By email: pcc@essex.pnn.police.uk

By writing to:

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex
3 Hoffman's Way
Chelmsford CM1 1GU

You can learn more about the PCC's work at:
www.essex.pcc.police.uk

News alerts will usually be tweeted via the Essex PCC Twitter account:

<https://twitter.com/essexpcc>

To keep up to date with Essex PCC events and initiatives, you can 'like' our Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/Police-and-Crime-Commissioner-for-Essex-469899289687113>

Reporting Crime:

All criminal information and intelligence reported to Essex Police allows them to build a picture of criminality and emerging issues in the area, and therefore plan and respond to these more effectively.

Local policing teams will always act on intelligence received from the community. If you have information regarding any criminal activity please either call the force control room on 101, your local policing team, or contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is a completely anonymous line where you can report any criminal activity.