

Tendring Public Meeting – Tuesday June 21st 2016

District Profile

Tendring is part of Essex Police's North Local Policing Area (LPA). The district covers 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. Sometimes referred to as the 'Tendring Peninsula', the district was formed in April 1974 as a merger of the borough of Harwich, with Brightlingsea, Clacton, Frinton and Walton urban districts and Tendring rural district. The area has a long and beautiful coastline covering 60 kilometres and includes a large number of marinas and sailing clubs.

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, freight shipments and roll on roll off traffic predominantly to Holland. Recent trends are that passenger numbers are up at 1.6 million this year, whilst the roll on roll off movements of HGV accompanied freight account for over 250,000 vehicles passing through the port each year. It is a port of call for a number of international cruise companies such as Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and Celebrity Cruise Lines. The increase in security at Dover and Calais has the potential to change the dynamic of activity in organised people smuggling groups, possibly making the routes between Holland and Harwich more attractive, or the crossing in smaller boats between Holland/Belgium and the Tendring coast a viable option.

A key element in Tendring's economy is tourism, and the district includes the largest collection of static caravans in the UK which continues to attract police and partnership attention. Information suggests that currently approximately 125,000 people are passing through Clacton town centre every week; the busiest day recently on 23rd May had around 25,000 people shopping, passing through and enjoying the leisure facilities in the town centre. The local authority provides useful information around footfall numbers; this intelligence is used in summer operations to place officers and partners at the busiest places at the busiest times of the week. There is evidence that these facilities attract a criminal element from East London, notably the boroughs of Newham/Hackney using the A12, A13 and train routes to arrive in Tendring, residing for short periods in caravans, whilst engaging in criminal activity.

Local policing teams maintain a good relationship with Douglas Carswell, MP, and Bernard Jenkin, MP; both have been briefed recently around raised threat levels.

Recent media reporting has portrayed Jaywick as having one of the highest multiple deprivation figures in the country. Tendring District Council is assisting development with their programme to buy land for regeneration, improve roads and regenerate the area. Recent television programmes have attracted attention, which have met with mixed comment from local residents.

Tendring District Council is making significant investments in the area. Sea defence works were completed on time, and within the £39m budget, between Holland-on-Sea and Clacton pier. New council homes are being built for the first time in 30 years and a £10m investment has been made in the Jaywick area to improve housing.

The area hosts some significant public events. The best attended is the Clacton Air Show which in August 2015 attracted around 200,000 visitors during the event. The show, the only one of its kind on the east coast, is planned to run again in 2016 before the August bank holiday weekend (on the Thursday and Friday).

The Tour of Tendring recently took place with a number of set routes offering challenges to riders both locally and further afield through the roads of Tendring, and starting and finishing in Harwich. Other notable Tendring events include the Essex Air Ambulance event which takes place in September, attracting over 10,000 motor cyclists to the Harwich Green area. Small scale events such as the Naked Bike ride attract press attention; there have been no adverse incidents over the last two years and the number of cyclists involved remains very low. An event is due to take place in the summer of 2016.

Population

The population of Tendring is approximately 128,000. The largest town is Clacton-on-Sea, with a population of 53,000.

In Tendring, people who are aged 65 years or over make up a significant proportion of the population - approximately one in three of the adults in the district.

Ethnicity

The population of Tendring comprises 97.5% White, 0.9% Asian, 0.3% Black, 1.0% Mixed Race and 1.3% Other Ethnic Groups (2011 census).

The district has recently seen the development of a mosque/community education centre. Community Police Team members retain a good relationship with the group and community leaders sit on the local Independent Advisory Group.

Policing Structure and Resources

Community Policing Team

The Tendring Community Policing Team consists of one Inspector, two Sergeants, nine Community Constables, nine PCSOs and ten Special Constables. In addition, a Children and Young People Officer is soon to join the team.

The district has seven fully funded PCSOs, six provided by Frinton and Walton Town Council and one further PCSO who is jointly funded by Alresford and Great Bentley councils.

The District Commander and Community Policing Team (CPT) liaise closely with councillors. We are monitoring the effectiveness of shift patterns to assess whether they meet local needs.

The Community Policing Team is supported by Local Policing Team officers working 24/7 across the district.

Community Safety Hub

The Tendring Community Safety hub is leading the way in Essex in relation to partnership work. There is strong support from the local authority, including the Tendring District Council Chief Executive.

The Community Safety hub, is jointly managed by the local Community Safety Manager Leanne Thornton and Inspector Julia Finch. This group was one of the pilot hubs and received positive feedback in relation to local government inspections and other recent reviews. There are a healthy numbers of partners committed to the group, a wider number of virtual partners and a well-attended partnership tasking meeting sits on the last Wednesday of every month.

The Community Safety Hub will be working to the following priorities in 2016-17.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Identifying and supporting repeat and vulnerable victims, improving public perceptions and facilitating multi-agency local problem solving to address issues.

Protecting Vulnerable People (Crime and Fear of Crime)

Identifying and supporting repeat and vulnerable victims, educating vulnerable age groups and encouraging proactive reporting of hate crime and domestic abuse. There will also be a clear emphasis on emerging issue of gangs and youth violence, Child Sexual Exploitation, Preventing Violent Extremism, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

Reducing drug and alcohol misuse within communities

With a clear emphasis on Domestic Abuse and alcohol and drug related disorder.

Reducing re-offending

This is a statutory duty for all community safety partnerships and thus supports the overarching theme for Safer Essex.

Criminal Investigation Department

Tendring district is covered by Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officers that are stationed at Clacton Police Station. They investigate the more serious crimes such as grievous bodily harm, robbery, dwelling burglary and gang related violence. There are three 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, due to gang related issues where competing groups have been active in trying to control the apparently lucrative Class A drugs market. The team has had a number of successful operations and seizures.

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 (Now Operation Raptor) where a small team of officers, taken from local policing and CID teams, have been heavily involved in tackling gangs in Tendring and across North Essex. Due to the demand and clear intelligence picture showing inter-gang tensions and violence, this team has spent a considerable amount of time over the last year 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.

Significant amounts of Class A drugs have been recovered from local gangs. The frequency of the criminal enterprise known as 'cuckooing' of vulnerable people continues to be an issue. There is an emerging trend of young 'looked after' people from the East London area being found in Tendring being manipulated by gang members in the supply of drugs. Train routes and the use of hire cars to 'reload' drug supply networks continue to be an issue.

There have been a number of successful partnership initiatives in the district. However, the local crime dynamic has changed recently following the arrival of new gangs based in Liverpool and Manchester. There was a sharp spike in February of inter-gang violence and increases in violence and robbery offences - these were mostly between the gang members themselves, with few law abiding members of the local community caught up in this. Local teams tackled this through Operation Raptor enforcements, with warrants executed and stop checks being conducted. Additional support was drawn in from headquarters, with the Operational Support Group being used throughout May. There are plans running throughout the summer to tackle this emerging issue.

Special Constabulary

A group of volunteers works alongside the officers within Clacton and Harwich and are vital to policing our district safely and effectively. Special Constables have the full powers assigned to an officer and attend regular training programmes to meet their individual needs. There are now 20 Special Constables working in Tendring under the Special Constable Inspector; ten of these are attached to the Community Policing Team. The Special Constable Inspector attends local police tasking meetings; this insight into the fine

detail of local police problems gives the Specials their freedom in tackling some important problems within their own team structure. Through the CPT Special Constable Team, recent operations have been run tackling vulnerable people at railways, looking for missing people under the control of gangs. The Special Constabulary team are also fully trained on the use of the ANPR vans, and recently conducted some valuable high-visibility policing work at pinch points, around the more remote areas of Manningtree, Frinton and Brightlingsea, looking to make the use of the road network a more difficult venture for travelling criminals.

Further Special Constabulary recruitment drives are planned and the potential increase in more recruits into Essex Police may draw some of our valued volunteers into the wider Essex Police team. The District Commander leads on Special Constable retention issues across the force. Bespoke and fully briefed tasking, local support and regular interactions to provide feedback and additional support (such as master classes around recruitment interviews) have all been established as best practice in retaining these much needed colleagues and embedding them into local teams.

Community Concerns

Knife Crime and Robbery

During the 12 months to February 2016, lots of dedicated partnership work was carried out to address knife crime and robbery, including the support from 'Only Cowards Carry' and the 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, had seen significant and welcomed reductions. However, the volatile and transient nature of the community, and the arrival of the Liverpool based gangs, has caused a spike in these types of crimes. Worryingly, rather than knives, the northern gangs have areas of concern linked to firearms. Associates have been arrested in Suffolk for using firearms, a warrant was recovered in Clacton which resulted in a shotgun being found, and reports have been made that a firearm was discharged within Clacton. The rise in gang related violence was tackled head on by Operation Drummer. This saw additional resources proactively patrolling the areas in Clacton where gang violence had been seen to occur, and intelligence led stop checks and warrants were conducted. A media campaign was run alongside this to make it clear to these criminal groups they sat at the top of local priorities, and if they continued they would be arrested. The early signs are that this activity is being effective, as there have been recent arrests of high profile gang members and reporting that the hostility between the gangs has reduced.

Examples of gang activity have seen the new criminal groups giving away free samples of Class A drugs to rival customers to secure their loyalty and future custom.

Additionally, drug users have been offered free samples of Class A drugs to call northern gang members on mobile phones ('county lines' – a telephone owned by a gang, containing the details of people who have previously bought drugs from them) to give away the location of London street dealers. This has led to rival dealers being robbed of their illicit drugs and seriously assaulted, along with cash and watches being taken by force.

One of the most effective measures to tackle this has been the partnership work linked to securing funding for a gang coordinator. The gang coordinator works in the Community

Safety hub (funded by Tendring District Council/Department of Work and Pensions) and deals with vulnerable people who are on the edge of gang violence. These people are spoken to and offered a way out of gang violence. Tendring is looking to adopt best practice from the Metropolitan Police area where St Giles' Trust runs a very effective gang rehabilitation scheme.

Changes to Local Policing

There remains considerable local concern around the loss of geographically based officers across Tendring who were formerly based in Walton, Brightlingsea and Mistley police stations. The closure of the stations is also a local concern. However, Essex Police believes the formation of a centralised Community Policing Team (CPT) in Tendring offers some real benefits. The local team is greater in numbers than before, has two dedicated Sergeants, nine Constables and more PCSOs than any other district in Essex. Thanks to the support of local councils fully funding extra colleagues, the District Commander believes it is an effective force with enough weight in numbers to make a real difference to emerging problems and series crimes.

The Community Policing Team work to deliver the Community Safety Hub priorities, which were set through listening to local concerns. These include anti-social behaviour (ASB), especially those involving repeat victims and high harm. Community Policing Team Inspector Finch has used innovative approaches to tackling ASB, including obtaining powers to set a 48 hour dispersal order tackling a rise in local concern. In another example, partnership working through the Community Safety Hub addressed residents' concerns about drugs activity in their area. The problem was tackled through joint police and local authority powers, resulting in a man being ejected from his residence. Problem parties have been stopped using ASB legislation, both protecting neighbours from nuisance but also reducing the likelihood of violence to young people who were due to attend, where indications were that violence could have occurred.

These positive pieces of work are promoted through social media and local newspapers to give reassurance and let the community know we are committed to making a difference to local problems.

The District Commander has delivered local presentations on the benefits of the new process to local groups and councillors in Frinton, Harwich, Mistley and Manningtree, highlighting the good news stories to the local press.

Road Safety

The community is concerned regarding speeding vehicles on local roads and the policing of the road network. The Essex Police Casualty Reduction team are regularly invited to assist in the district with a growing number of Community Speed Watch initiatives.

The junction at Little Bentley attracts local attention. There has been a reduction in serious incidents since the recent introduction of speed cameras and an average speed limit of 50mph along a three mile stretch of the road.

Other frequent factors in many road accidents that have occurred in the district include the age of drivers, collisions due to people failing to adhere to road signs and drivers failing to pay attention.

The district is well supported by casualty reduction teams, with major roads policing initiatives often taking place in the area to tackle traffic matters and travelling criminals.

The local Special Constabulary are proactive in relation to conducting ANPR events.

Part-Night Lighting

A key local concern, especially for councillors around Harwich, is the issue of the Essex County Council part-night lighting policy, although there is no crime spike attributable to this.

There will always be a concern in the district around road safety, including people walking home late at night having consumed alcohol.

Information from the Serious Crime Directorate

On 18th December 2015, the police received a report of a murder. Officers attended an address in Clacton and the body of a female victim was found. The victim had sustained multiple stab wounds and was declared dead at the scene.

Scott Hilling, 25, of no fixed abode, admitted causing the death of a woman in Clacton just before Christmas last year and has been given a 16 year custodial sentence.

The Judge directed that initially Hilling will continue to be treated in a secure mental health facility and then will be transferred to prison when appropriate.

Senior investigating officer DI Al Pitcher said: "Scott Hilling has admitted the manslaughter of Kathleen Griffin. His attack on her was savage. At no point has he ever shown any shred of remorse for his actions for this brutal attack. I am pleased that he has been held to account for his cruel and violent acts. I would like to pay tribute to Kathleen's family for the support that they have provided to our investigation and the dignity that they have shown throughout the case.

"Although nothing will ever bring Kathleen back, or lessen the pain that they have suffered, I am hopeful that this verdict and sentence will give the family some closure so that they can start to move forward. My thoughts are very much with them at this time."

Tendring Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data

At the meeting on Tuesday June 21st, there will be a detailed discussion on local crime figures and trends, and the facts that underlie the statistics.

The table below sets out the crime figures for Tendring, comparing reports for 1st May 2014 to 30th April 2015 with 1st May 2015 to 30th April 2016.

Areas of note:

- All Crime has increased by 9.6% (879 more offences);
- Violence without Injury has increased by 31.0% (449 more offences);
- Violence with Injury has increased by 14.5% (161 more offences);
- Theft from the Person has increased by 64.1% (50 more offences);
- Theft of Pedal Cycles has decreased by 20.2% (33 fewer offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 4.3% (209 fewer incidents).

1st May 2014 - 30th April 2015 vs. 1st May 2015 - 30th April 2016

Crime/Incident Type	# offences		# diff	% diff
	2015	2016		
ALL CRIME	9155	10034	879	9.6
Violence with Injury	1112	1273	161	14.5
Violence without Injury	1449	1898	449	31.0
Sexual Offences	257	278	21	8.2
Robbery	87	74	-13	-14.9
Dwelling Burglary	446	496	50	11.2
Other Burglary	651	671	20	3.1
Theft from Vehicle	439	510	71	16.2
Theft of Motor Vehicle	165	162	-3	-1.8
Theft from the Person	78	128	50	64.1
Theft of Pedal Cycles	163	130	-33	-20.2
Shoplifting	1044	1013	-31	-3.0
Other Theft	1034	983	-51	-4.9
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	1341	1356	15	1.1
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	4821	4612	-209	-4.3

All Crime

It is suspected that the arrival of a new and much more readily available supply of Class 'A' drugs, brought about by Manchester and Liverpool criminal gangs operating in the town that are looking to take control of markets previously controlled by London based criminals, has driven an increase in violence and associated acquisitive crime in the district, including theft from the person.

There has been an increase in incidents of domestic abuse in Tendring, particularly those in the new crime category of Violence Without Injury. The district sees the second highest number of domestic abuse offences of all the districts in Essex.

Violence with Injury

As detailed previously, the increase in gang related violence has been a significant factor in the district. Most of these incidents have occurred between rival criminal groups; local people going about their lawful business in the district do not appear to have been significantly affected.

In comparison to the other police districts in Essex, Tendring and Southend are similar because both districts see a significant rise in demand and reported crime during the summer. Tendring has a summertime plan called Operation Gatehouse, where additional resources will be available at busy times of the week. Special Constables will be supporting the district. Persistent and prolific offenders, including gang members, will be targeted.

There has been some good support to this proactive and predictive approach from local partners. Tendring Business Against Crime has provided £4,000 of funding for focused CCTV work around gangs and problems that occur during the summer across Tendring. This idea came from good practice within the Metropolitan Police Service area of Hackney where a similar approach had led to a reduction in crime and the early identification of criminals.

Around 31% of domestic violence offences investigated in Tendring result in a positive outcome, where an offender is charged or cautioned. Safeguarding, including arrest, remand and preventative powers remains a priority.

Partners such as 'In My Living Room' aim to focus on supporting people who have chaotic lifestyles and have been victims of violent crime. The initiative looks at early warning signs and, by providing support, allows the client to break dangerous cycles and become more resilient to future crimes.

'In My Living Room' specifically focuses on 'hoarding'. Items such as newspapers, clothing and general household goods can build up to levels that are dangerous or impede the quality of living. The group, which recently received an innovation award, picks up on these areas and gives assistance. An example of their good work occurred in the Harwich area where a person was a victim of domestic violence. Clutter had built up around their home, and they found difficulty building the right type of relationships. The team found the client was buying lots of items they neither needed nor could afford off eBay. They did not know how to cancel direct debits and they were vulnerable to cold callers. By clearing the house, assisting with bills and arranging new supported housing, the client was able to break the cycle of behaviour that had previously been an issue. No further incidents of domestic violence occurred and the individual became more self-sufficient, reducing burdens on other service providers.

Violence without Injury

The crime category 'Violence without Injury' is impacted both by domestic violence and also emerging crime such as harassment issues which occur over social media and the internet. An increasing number of these crimes are being reported. The ability of officers to investigate these, understand how suspects can be found, keep positive outcome rates high and manage these investigations in a timely fashion, remains a challenge simply due to the high number of incidents.

Sexual Offences

During the above reporting period, there was an increase of 21 sexual offences in the district when compared with the same period the previous year. In the early summer of 2015 there was a spike in this type of crime. A man was found to be approaching young men who were then indecently assaulted. A number of arrests were made, proactive overt

and covert patrols were undertaken and the crime pattern then stopped. There has been no repeat of this series of crimes.

There have been local patterns of crimes occurring around the district's caravan camps. It is unfortunate that sometimes whilst on holiday people fall victim to these types of crime. The CPT and partners have events planned throughout the summer to attend the holiday camps and provide crime prevention advice to the public, and this will include supporting the 'Did you Know?' campaign where issues such as domestic violence, sexual exploitation and immigration crime are highlighted through a media campaign. This raises awareness, encourages reporting of incidents and assists us to investigate further and to uncover incidents of hidden harm.

Detectives in Tendring recently conducted a successful prosecution against a man who was holding victims of crimes against their wishes, retaining their passports and forcing them into acts of crime. Locations such as a car wash and caravans were used by this criminal group to exploit people whilst they worked and resided in the district.

Forthcoming events to tackle modern slavery are planned with the CPT and the UK Border Agency who will be looking at a force-wide range of activities, including attending car washes, nail bars and market garden sites, looking for people who could be suffering from various forms of exploitation, including violence, coercion, financial or emotional forms of abuse.

House, Commercial and Shed Burglary

During the reporting period, there were increases in offences of house burglary and other types of burglary such as those involving commercial premises or sheds. Detectives have found that new arrivals in the town, sometimes offered accommodation through probation or the prison service have been responsible for some crime patterns. The local availability of Class A drugs, Heroin and Crack Cocaine, may have driven this type of offending. A number of offences have occurred where older people who had a spare house key in a 'key safe' were targeted.

Crime patterns are being monitored in Brightlingsea and Frinton. Additional patrols, pattern analysis and work by the local CID team are on-going to target suspects and to give information to householders to take all possible steps to prevent crime.

There have been some notable success stories - a suspect was arrested and charged for the key safe series of crimes, this has since stopped. A suspect and Heroin user was arrested by a CID officer in the act of committing a crime, and was charged and remanded. A man arrived in Clacton from Southampton, where he had convictions for burglary offences. He was subsequently arrested by detectives in Clacton, a series of burglaries promptly stopped, and the man admitted committing other offences.

The District Commander judges that one current challenge centres on night-time offending, particularly in the high streets of Manningtree and Clacton, where shops and small businesses are being targeted by unsophisticated means, such as throwing a brick through the window and stealing the till. These patterns are being investigated by the CPT which has the capacity to extend the team's duties to allow for proactive night-time patrols.

Vehicle Crime

This crime type has again developed in line with increased county lines of Class A drugs being experienced in the district. Patterns of offences currently centre on very early hours of the morning where insecure vehicles are being targeted. There have been occurrences where trade people have had vans and tools stolen, which causes significant upset and loss to local businesses. Steps to counter this include CPT activity, use of vehicles and equipment with tracker devices, and a programme of crime prevention geared to encourage people to secure and remove obvious items of value from their vehicles.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

There are some good news stories in relation to ASB. The Community Safety Hub is well placed to tackle ASB and recent activity has taken place around licensed premises which sell high-strength alcohol. A new ASB Public Spaces Protection Order comes into effect on 1st June 2016, prohibiting Anti-Social Behaviour in the town centre and the Clacton seafront area. In addition, preventative powers have been used successfully to crack down on bad behaviour; for example, restrictions were placed to prevent a house party from going ahead when social media had indicated it was going to be swamped with unwanted guests. The party had the hallmarks for significant violence to break out. The Community Safety Hub tackles emerging patterns of ASB through various plans and actions; this work is coordinated during Hub tasking meetings.

Crime and ASB in Brightlingsea

There is a slight increase in the crime type of Violence with Injury in Brightlingsea with six more offences reported than the previous year.

This increase in violent crime has been repeated fairly consistently across Tendring and across Essex. Chief Insp Cole advises that, across Tendring district, Pier ward in Clacton had the highest number of violent crimes with 238 offences, whilst Alresford saw the lowest with 1 offence over the last year. Brightlingsea saw 47 violent crime incidents and sits in 9th position ranked against the 35 wards in the district. In Tendring, around 32% of all recorded violent crimes are committed in the context of Domestic Abuse.

Analysis of crimes recorded by Essex Police show that young people aged between 11-15 years old are most likely to be involved in offences of violence, both as victims and perpetrators. This highlights the importance of parents, carers, teachers, youth workers and police officers pooling their experience and expertise to stem this pattern and deliver preventative schemes wherever possible.

Chief Insp Cole is conscious that the fear of street robbery, perhaps whilst travelling to meet a friend or going about everyday business, can be a significant cause of concern for the public. In Brightlingsea, street robbery is a rare event with only 2 offences having taken place over the last year.

Recently, in the Brightlingsea area, there was a spike in incidents of theft and a series of burglaries occurred. Patrols were stepped up in the area and local officers worked hard providing crime prevention advice and gathering valuable intelligence on suspects who could be involved. As a result of placing extra officers in Brightlingsea, a man was arrested on suspicion of a number of offences.

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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:

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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.