

Maldon Public Meeting – Tuesday November 1, 2016

District Profile

Maldon local authority forms part of the North Local Policing Area (N-LPA), which is the largest of three LPAs into which Essex Police divides the county. Chelmsford and Maldon are a shared District Policing Area (DPA), with a shared manager and structure which allows flexibility to target emerging crime trends.

The principal towns are Maldon, Heybridge and Burnham-on-Crouch. The area has 60 miles of coastline stretching from the Burnham-on-Crouch estuary, round the Dengie peninsula up to Bradwell on the River Blackwater.

The population of the Maldon district in 2015 was recorded as being 62,700. This figure is expected to rise to 66,100 by 2025. The number of residents aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 14,900 to 19,000, which is an increase of 27%. Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities account for approximately 8.6% of the total. Maldon is one of the least densely populated districts in Essex.

Located in the district is Bradwell Power Station, which is now over halfway through a process of being decommissioned.

From November 2014 to January 2015, 6.1% of Maldon's young people were not in employment, education or training (NEET), which is higher than the Essex average (5.7%).

Policing Structure and Resources

The following model currently operates within the Maldon district:

Community Policing Team (CPT)

The Community Policing Team for Maldon comprises a Sergeant, five Constables and five Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). These officers operate out of Maldon Police Station and are supervised by an Inspector, who is based at Chelmsford. The CPT officers are responsible for community policing, engagement and problem solving in their designated areas.

Local Policing Team (LPT)

The LPT consist of six teams, which are based at Maldon police station and work shifts to cover the district 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each team is supervised by an Inspector (based at Chelmsford) and deals with a range of policing duties, including incident demand, appointments and missing persons. The policing model means Maldon can be supplemented by additional resources being moved across from Chelmsford during periods of high demand.

Special Constabulary

Maldon currently has eight Special Constables, four probationers and four who have independent patrol status. They are line managed by the Sergeants and support the LPTs.

There are plans to increase the numbers of Specials in the district as part of a force wide plan where it is anticipated that some of the new recruits would be posted to Maldon.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Juno Team

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

All high and medium risk domestic abuse investigations are led by the Juno team, also based at Chelmsford.

Maldon District Community Safety Partnership

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a joint responsibility upon specific agencies to work together, and with other agencies within the community, to develop and implement strategies to protect their communities from crime and help people feel safe.

At the meeting, Community Safety lead Spencer Clarke will provide a briefing on the work of the Maldon District Community Safety Partnership, particularly around the five local community safety priorities.

- Protecting and Supporting Vulnerable People and Victims of Crime
- Reduction in the Harm Caused by Alcohol and Drug Misuse
- Promoting Road Safety and Challenging Irresponsible Driving
- Reducing Crime, the Fear of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing Reoffending

Community Concerns

Maldon has a low crime rate when compared with other districts in Essex.

Issues commonly raised at public meetings include:

- A lack of a visible police presence in some areas, especially rural villages and locations such as Burnham, as has been reflected in the petition for more visible policing in the Dengie
- Response times
- Rural crime issues such as hare coursing
- Theft of and from motor vehicles, especially targeted vehicles such as Land Rovers
- Shed and commercial burglaries
- Speeding, coupled with road safety

Response Times

Essex Police's Force Control Room monitors incidents to ensure they received the correct response. Where appropriate, resources from outside of the district will be allocated to incidents to help deal with demand issues.

Rural Crime

Dealing with rural crime issues remains a challenge. An active Farm Watch scheme remains in place and Neighbourhood Watch schemes continue to promote crime reduction initiatives. The most recent of the PCC's quarterly Rural Crime forums was hosted by a member of the rural community in the Dengie, and attended by colleagues from the local Farm Watch. As part of Operation Buzzard, Essex Police is using a drone to help gather evidence of crime in rural areas.

Hare coursing is an issue of concern for the community. Incidents are reported and dealt with on a case by case basis. The Essex Police Wildlife Liaison Officer, PC Andy Long, is available for advice and monitors offences across the county.

Vehicle Crime and Burglary Other (eg of sheds, commercial premises)

While crimes such as vehicle offences and Burglary Other are a concern, Essex Police has not identified any hotspot areas. Please see current crime data later in this document.

Road Safety

Community Speed Watch schemes exist within the district and additional enforcement activity is undertaken by the Casualty Reduction Section as issues are

identified. There is a very active Community Speed Watch scheme in Burnham. Training is delivered by the Casualty Reduction Team.

Examples of Community Safety Problem Solving Initiatives

1) Local residents raised their concerns to the Community Policing Team that a vulnerable adult was being taken advantage of by some local drug addicts, who were using his house and taking money from him to fund their habit. Residents had witnessed them walking with him to the bank and being given cash that he had just withdrawn. Police officers have worked with partner agencies, including health and housing services, to support the vulnerable adult and prevent the criminal behaviour.

2) The local Community Policing Team relies heavily on information being received from the public to gain sufficient justification to obtain search warrants for suspected offences such as drugs or illegal firearms possession. Officers from Chelmsford and Maldon Community Policing Team have executed a number of warrants in the area over the past year, and these cases are proceeding through the criminal justice system.

Example of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Problem Solving

At the beginning of the year concerns were raised that 'boy racers' were using Maldon town as a race track and were gathering in various car parks within the town. The manner of their driving and the noise this created was causing a nuisance to local residents and businesses alike. It was estimated that up to 100 vehicles were gathering.

A multi-agency meeting was held with representatives of the Town Council, the Community Safety Partnership, local business leaders and the police to discuss a joint approach to prevent the problem. As a result of the meeting, local businesses agreed to make their premises less attractive to such gatherings through the use of speed ramps and gates. Essex Police conducted targeted patrols and in some cases were accompanied by members of the Town Council. Whilst some issues relating to speeding remain, the district is not seeing the same level of nuisance as at the start of the year.

Serious Crime Directorate Update

Amina Begum was murdered at her home address in Maldon, in March 2016. The police attended and found that she had sustained serious knife wound injuries to the back of her neck and to her back.

Her son, Javid Ahmed, pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility at Chelmsford Crown Court on Wednesday August 24, 2016. The prosecution accepted the plea.

Ahmed was detained under Section 37 of the Mental Health Act to receive treatment. He was also made subject of a section 41 restriction order, which means he will not be discharged from hospital until the Ministry of Justice has agreed to his release.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data

The table below sets out the crime figures for Maldon district, comparing reports for 1st October 2015 to 30th September 2016 with 1st October 2014 to 30th September 2015. Maldon remains a safe place with the lowest crime figures for any district in Essex.

12 Months to September

Crime/Incident Type	# offences		# diff	% diff
	2015	2016		
ALL CRIME	2246	2461	215	9.6
Violence with Injury	259	290	31	12.0
Violence without Injury	345	425	80	23.2
Sexual Offences	74	67	-7	-9.5
Robbery	13	11	-2	-15.4
Dwelling Burglary	85	140	55	64.7
Other Burglary	251	237	-14	-5.6
Theft from Vehicle	173	172	-1	-0.6
Theft of Motor Vehicle	69	66	-3	-4.3
Theft from the Person	36	34	-2	-5.6
Theft of Pedal Cycles	16	17	1	6.3
Shoplifting	86	59	-27	-31.4
Other Theft	303	307	4	1.3
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	299	378	79	26.4
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	1137	1020	-117	-10.3

Areas of note:

- All crime has increased by 9.6% (215 more offences);
- Sexual offences have decreased by 9.5% (7 fewer offences);
- Shoplifting has decreased by 31.4% (27 fewer offences);
- Violence without Injury has increased by 23.2% (80 more offences);
- Violence with Injury has increased by 12% (31 more offences);
- House burglary has increased by 64.7% (55 more offences);
- Criminal Damage (including arson) has increased by 26.4% (79 more offences);
- Anti-Social Behaviour has decreased by 10.3% (117 fewer incidents).

Violence without Injury

For the twelve months to September 2016, Maldon had a year on year increase in Violence without Injury offences of 23.2% (80 more offences). This category of violent crime has seen an increase nationally due to changes in the recording process, which has resulted in previously unrecorded crimes such as harassment and malicious communications being added. The latest national data comparing the 12 months to August 2016 with the 12 months to August 2015 shows that 42 of the 43 forces in England and Wales have seen increases in Violence without Injury offences.

In general, Maldon does not have an active night-time economy and therefore most of the violent crimes which occur in the district relate to offences of domestic abuse or other localised incidents. There were 425 Violence without Injury offences for the 12 months to September 2016 and 31.5% (134 offences) were domestic abuse related. Dealing with incidents of domestic abuse is a key priority for Essex Police and all medium and high risk cases are now investigated by the Juno teams.

Burglary

During the reporting period, there was a 64.7% increase in dwelling burglaries (55 more offences) in Maldon district, when compared with the same period the previous year. Burglary remains a priority crime type and offences are monitored as part of the two-weekly tasking and co-ordination meeting. All cases are investigated by CID and are subject to Operation Insight control. Essex Police advises that whilst, in terms of percentages, this increase is high, the overall number of offences is low for an area the size of Maldon. This increase also follows some exceptionally low numbers of burglary offences in the district over recent years.

The burglary issue is a district wide problem. Burglary is reviewed on a daily basis, but there have been no series of burglaries identified by analysts in the past 12 months and therefore there are no related trends for Essex Police to target.

Criminal Damage

Criminal damage has increased in Maldon district by 26.4% (79 more offences) over the past 12 months when compared with the same period from the previous year. The incidents of criminal damage have been district wide and no specific patterns have been identified.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Incidents of anti-social behaviour have decreased in the district by 10.3% (117 fewer incidents). There has been some good work undertaken recently by the CPT dealing with ASB in specific locations.

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>

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.