



Chelmsford Public Meeting Notes  
 Springfield  
 Beaulieu Community Centre  
 Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Panel Members:  
 Jane Gardner DPFCC  
 Ch/Insp Gerry Parker  
 ECFRS Simon Dedman  
 CSP Manager Spencer Clarke

Jane Gardner welcomed all present and ran through the responsibilities of the OPFCC which included governance of the Police and the Fire & Rescue Service.

Ch/Insp Gerry Parker had been commander of Maldon and Chelmsford for around three months. He was working closely with partners to tackle ASB, gangs etc, and was eager to hear from the audience about any concerns they have, and promised to take away any issues he couldn't answer and get back to them.

CSP Manager, Spencer Clark is responsible for partnership working to tackle crime and disorder along with the police, social services, CRC and NPS etc. The CSP has a partnership plan where they look at crime types that's impacting Chelmsford including the perception of crime and works hard to deliver the solutions that help make Essex safer.

ECFRS Area Manager Simon Dedman was responsible for the Chelmsford area and reiterated that some much of what the Fire Service do is linked with the police and partners in helping to make the community safer.

Questions from the audience	Answers
<p>Could the DPFCC explain what the PFCC does and could the panel explain why there is a Chief Exec on a high salary as in these times of cost cutting shouldn't the money be spent on front line staff?</p>	<p>The position of Chief Exec is a statutory position so has to be there and this has been to replace the CE who left April. The current PFCC's office is a very lean office and as they are responsible for joint governance are far more cost effective than the old police authority and fire authority.</p>
<p>It is very frustrating when people call the police and no officers are sent out. Why can't this be improved?</p>	<p>Presently the police were having to focus where their resources are required using the threat harm risk triage. Officers are deployed where the threat and risk is greater. Until the new 150 police officers raised by the precept are trained and on the front line, resources continues to be an issue</p>

<p>There have been ongoing issues with drug dealing, drug taking and drinking in Pollards Green, Chelmsford. Drug dealers in their cars are present from around 9pm and are very noisy. There are also younger people in attendance with nuisance mopeds. There has been ongoing issue of arson and left syringes on the grass. This year they also started stamping on hedgehogs killing several.</p> <p>The trees and rubbery have been broken down and trampled, and a bin was torched. They are also abusing people verbally.</p>	<p>There has been an uplift in police numbers on the street and the police and partners are working together to tackling drug gangs and OCGs, including early interventions and education. Ch/Insp Parker also wanted to try and address how members of the public can access a PCSO and Police Officer in person and encouraged them to use the local policing team's email on:  <a href="mailto:ChelmsfordandMaldonCPT@essex.pnn.police.uk">ChelmsfordandMaldonCPT@essex.pnn.police.uk</a>  Crimes in progress or emergencies should always be reported on 999. Other ways to report are 101 or <a href="https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/">https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/</a></p>
<p>Reporting online is not easy as it asks for the perpetrators name but often don't know.</p>	<p><b>NB – this fields can be left blank if not known.</b>  The Ch/Insp agreed to take away and have a look and also offered to share the LPT email and contact details with members after the meeting.</p>
<p>A member of the audience had submitted video and intelligence to the LPT email regarding a crime and heard nothing from police.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp advised the evidence reported was acted upon and a warrant was executed. But he agreed that it was regrettable they cannot get back to people as there simply was not the staff.</p>
<p>Another member of the audience had issues with Pollards Green where several cars who had their windows smashed by a youths with a hammer.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Parker had spoken to the member of the audience's son personally and taken the details of the incident. It was so vital that the members of the public shared information</p>
<p>When the PCSOs were cut there was a lot of interaction with the young people in the area. They had their ears to the ground and that has been lost that now. How is the gap the PCSOs left being addressed?</p>	<p>Essex Police are addressing the fill back but this will take time. In the meantime we work closely with the fire service and police and along with the CSP have a lot of involvement in schools. The link with schools is a major part of what Essex Police do. The PFCC commissioned Gangline which enabled several pronged approach in engaging young people. Also running similar projects in the local area such as Boswells where they worked with parents and teachers. More recently engagement had started with primary school where they worked with vulnerability issues with year 5 and 6. They also delivered crucial crew to all the primary schools in the area and now had 20 schools come forward for more education around early intervention. Springfield youth group has seen a rise in numbers as have had a lot of young people sign up and on a Friday night will see 60 odd young people there.</p>

<p>The Councillor for Beaulieu commended the CSP work being done in the area. St Augustine's Church took a lot of time to get police on board due to the vandalism taking place on a nightly basis but following regular patrols by police this had now ceased.</p> <p>Where will the 150 officers be made up of?</p>	<p>The 150 are all fully warranted police officers. In addition Essex Police have a 100 more Specials and quite a few of our specials go on to become frontline uniformed officers.</p> <p>For Chelmsford/Maldon there will be 6 divisional police office in the community team. The City Centre had an additional 4 officers part funded. Over the next 6 months the public will see an uplift in numbers.</p> <p>In addition there are many volunteers who help including NHW, Active citizens.</p>
<p>Are Essex Police experiencing a drop in retention in officers following a change in terms and conditions?</p>	<p>This had been the case but it was not an overwhelming issue with staff brought in post terms and conditions in place. Ch/Insp Parker encouraged officers to think differently about how they do the job and encouraged them to be out on the front foot. There was also new thinking about recruitment as the Police are being more creative in appointments such as having direct appointment from different backgrounds about how we approach problem solving.</p> <p>Also the PFCC has a P&amp;R board where he holds the CC to account. It is important to support officers to do their job by improving occupational health.</p>
<p>A member of audience had been driven into by a mobile police station and was blamed during the insurance claim when it was not their fault.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Parker agreed to look into.</p>
<p>Does Essex Police have targets for arrest? How are they tasked?</p>	<p>There are no targets but officers are given tasking areas. For instance they will be tasked with stop and search but numbers will not be expected as part of it. It has to be quality not quantity. There's little value in saying to officers they have to achieve targets would not be useful. It is about prioritising and THRIVE process.</p>
<p>Does the PFCC have any sway over the judicial system?</p>	<p>What happens at court is the court's decision. Important as a police officer is get them to court and get justice to the victim.</p>

	<p>OPFCC – recognise that the judicial system is completely independent. We do have a criminal justice board which has the judiciary sitting on it but we have no sway over what the tariff will be.</p>
<p>How can the fire service still turn up with cuts?</p>	<p>Fire Service cuts are nowhere near as pressing as with the police. Issues the ECFRS have is recruiting on call fire fighters.</p>
<p>How will the fire service cope with expansion of population</p>	<p>What is encouraging is the reduction in fires and now they much more say in how buildings are built making them safer. Whilst we will never eradicate accidental fires the newer buildings are better equipped.</p> <p>Crime wise at the moment the national funding formula looks at current needs but doesn't take into account the growth taking place in communities.</p> <p>It had been a target for ECFRS was that every house should have a smoke alarm. Currently at 90%.</p>