



PFCC Colchester Public Meeting 27th November 2017

Panel Members

PFCC - Roger Hirst

Ch/Insp Shaun Kane - Colchester District Commander

Ch/Supt Tom Simons

Greg Keys - ECFRS North East Region

Pam Donnelly – Chair Colchester Community Safety Partnership

Roger Hirst, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) - In October 2017 Mr Hirst became responsible for the governance of the Fire Service, which will further enable greater collaboration between the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service. Whilst all operational responsibility is the remit of the chief constable and chief fire officer, the PFCC oversees the budget and in consultation with wider public sets the strategies for both services. The police and crime plan that was published in 2016 covers seven key areas which the PFCC is committed to see delivered across the county – to view the police and crime plan priorities see <http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/what-we-are-doing/police-and-crime-plan/>. The Fire and Rescue service will have a similar plan which will encompass the importance of keeping the public safe.

Demand on policing is rising, and there are new forms of crime that have come about in the recent years including cybercrime, child exploitation and domestic violence. The biggest rise is in violence without injury which includes cybercrime and burglary and which also has a huge impact on victims. This has resulted in resources having to be deployed from other areas to combat these rising crimes. The PFCC has committed to making policing more visible and accessible but needs more funding to do so. There had been a recent survey asking the public if they were prepared to pay more in their precept for more officers and the results would be published soon.

More is being spent on IT enabling officers to be out on their shift rather than back at the station completing forms. Currently officers are on

average out 18 minutes extra per shift but the goal is for that to rise to an hour per shift. Capital is also being raised through the realising of police estates which should result in around £50 million. This will be reinvested into frontline officers, improving technology and maintaining the remaining buildings and custody suites.

101 is still undergoing improvement and has some way to go. If members of the public are able to use on line service please do so – <https://www.essex.police.uk/contact-us/>. Always ring 999 in an emergency.

Ch/Insp Kane – Priorities for Colchester are tackling ASB, protecting people from harm and working with all agencies to make the community safer. Success will be measured by reducing all crime and having safer communities for residents and for those visiting Colchester. There has been a huge mountain of good work from partner agencies delivering crime prevention work including tackling violent crime in the night time economy, in ASB and in drug misuse. It is important that the police listen to people and the collaboration between agencies has enabled some great successes.

It is vital that people report crime so police can gather intelligence. Thanks to new technology officers on the street are becoming more visible. Whilst it is important to manage expectations of what police can and cannot attend, by tackling issues together with the public and partner agencies it is possible to make it uncomfortable for criminals to be in Colchester. Recently Ch/Insp Kane has worked closely with COLBAC to help assist with issues in the high street in maximising store security, CCTV and also working to drive down shoplifting. The Pubwatch scheme was also helping to tackle violent and disruptive individuals.

‘Street Weeks’ are being run to listen to and address local issues such as parking complaints, ASB and drug use. It is about partnership and community empowerment, listening to local concerns, putting in care plans and environmental plans. Street Weeks have received positive feedback from communities involved and along with the 3000 Neighbourhood Watch members who are the eyes and ears that are also helping tackle those issues.

Questions/Issues	Answers
<p>Night Time Economy Levy Does the PCC see any value in late night level on the Night time economy?</p>	<p>The PFCC welcomes a night time levy and is meeting with the Colchester BID in the new year. It is also important to work closely with the NTE and Ch/Insp Kane is doing exactly that as well as using street warders and street pastors, licensing checks. Additionally Op Lynx is being run over December which will detect people who are out in the town having preloaded on cocaine and alcohol. Furthermore he is ensuring police</p>

	<p>have communication across the district including hotels and taxi drivers. CCTV, Pubwatch and also Facewatch, maximises digital recognition of those who cause issues and assists in identifying and tackling those individuals. Dispersal orders and public protection orders are also used effectively.</p> <p>There had been a recent night of action where police worked closely together with agencies to target appropriate use of licences and protect vulnerable young people.</p>
<p>Octoberfest – why were there no officers on duty during the festival? There were no police and the security outside was not where it needed to be.</p>	<p>There were officers on duty but due to resources it was difficult to have a police officer on every corner. If there were any flash points or 999 calls officers were directed to those incidents.</p>
<p>Domestic abuse – a member of the audience complained about the treatment he had received from police as a male domestic abuse victim.</p>	<p>Clearly not the response you should have had. Ch/Supt Simmons stated every case is taken seriously regardless of whether male or female. He asked to meet with the person after the meeting. The OFPCC also followed up with a meeting to listen and offer support.</p>
<p>Nights of Action – can there be more ‘nights of action’ in the town?</p>	<p>Street weeks were being trialled whereby over seven consecutive days 24 hours a day police work with partners to tackle specific issues in designated areas. There will be more and the police will work closely with the Community Safety Partnership and other agencies. Issues around youth elements had resulted in diversionary tactics. At the end of the street week, police and the CSP identify key passionate people in the community to empower them to take the strategy on long term. PFCC also understands the need to get more resourcing in police. Officer numbers were slowly going up but were still down on where they were two years ago.</p>
<p>Tending District Issues Motorists regularly speed and use mobiles in the area. There is also a lot</p>	<p>Mobile phones and speeding are a huge issue. In Maldon a new scheme</p>

<p>of drug crime in the locality.</p> <p>Are Special constables replacing actual police officers?</p> <p>Drug gangs are now targeting bigger towns, but police do not seem to be doing anything about it. Does this mean the public are paying for a service they are not getting?</p>	<p>is being trialled called 'trucam' where council wardens have been issued with powers to use 'trucam' to catch speeding motorists and to issue fines. If successful this could be rolled out in other districts.</p> <p>Specials are not replacing officers. We are also actively recruiting officers.</p> <p>Tendring has huge issues with county drug lines. Police have had to make difficult choices about how they place staff. They have a team in Tendring Op Raptor whose sole purpose is to look into gangs. Often this is under cover and invisible to the public. There is also another team looking at high harm but they are visible to the public. Police have just arrested an OCG who were responsible for 120 burglaries.</p>
<p>Issues in local community - a resident lived in a community where there were a lot of low income families with car repairs taking place in the front of their properties. Would it be possible for police to carry out an operation in the area?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Kane committed to carrying out an operation in the area.</p>
<p>Funding - how can the PFCC put more pressure on the government to get more central funding?</p>	<p>The PFCC along with all the other PCCs has put a huge effort into compiling a case to the government with evidence and data detailing where funding is needed and has asked for £440m for the next year to be shared between forces.</p>
<p>CCTV - Colchester high street often has people driving the wrong way up the high street, and with heavy lorries parked on the pavement it is only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured. Can we have CCTV to catch culprits?</p>	<p>The Community Safety Partnership has CCTV on the agenda for a meeting next week on more CCTV. They strongly advocate getting more CCTV that is monitored and has invited a specialist to discuss the matter.</p>
<p>A resident in the Dutch quarter has been intimidated by drug uses in an alley where they live. There is a great need for CCTV it would help deter</p>	<p>Ch/Insp – acknowledges the personal impact this type of incident has and how it affects your personal life. When you see threat or activity</p>

<p>but also help deter graffiti and gangs of youths climbing into the park after hours. CCTV for Ryegate road.</p>	<p>taking place phone 999. Other issues such as illegal parking etc also email the LPT so they can pass that information on to their local agencies. If not already reported it please do so and will risk assess with intel and we will have a response that deals with the issue. Please continue to report concerns and he gives assurance we will react to.</p>
<p>Driving on pathways Could Essex police do more to stop drivers driving along the pathway?</p>	<p>More can definitely be done. Currently the Colchester Local Policing Team are working with the CSP in educating the individuals responsible and they are sent a letter by the Ch/Insp and intelligence is also gathered on repeat offenders. North Essex Roads Partnership and South Essex Roads Partnerships are also working to stop obstruction on pathways. The 'Endor' scheme covers re-education on bad driving.</p>
<p>ASB - How are we going to deal with ASB Funding -How are we are going to get more money?</p>	<p>Reporting is going up and more people are reporting ASB etc. Earlier in the meeting Ch/Insp Kane had touched on how resources were being used to tackle new types of crime. While he would like to see as much visible policing the reality is resources need to go where the most harm is being caused.. However, local policing teams are the fabric of the communities and the PFCC wants more visible policing.</p>
<p>101 service - People won't report on 101 as takes too long to get through.</p>	<p>The 101 service needs more improvement and a lot of work has been done around educating call staff, investment and new ACC Pippa Mills who oversaw the call centre in the Met in her previous role is also bringing a wealth of experience in implementing improvements. The 101 service is robustly monitored.</p>
<p>Firebreak programme –</p>	<p>The Firebreak programme is run by the Fire and Rescue Service and helps people who are going through issues, such as prison, etc by putting them through a course where they are given experience of training as a firefighter where they learn about responsibility and accountability.</p>

<p>Barrack Street – the street has issues with street drinking and drugs and graffiti and nothing is being done and it is getting worse. Parking is also an issue as well as cycling on pavements. Police do not seem to be interested.</p>	<p>This is a common theme and where police see these quality of life issues they need to offer support to the areas. Ch/Insp Kane committed to putting a plan in place along with other partners. He added he was sorry that the public feel they are not being listened to. He requested the resident use the email for the local policing team so as to keep in contact.</p>
<p>Cyclists – what are the police doing about cyclists who have no lights and drivers have no lights on.</p>	<p>Police looking to have plans in place with partner agencies.</p>