**Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex**

**Public Meeting – Castle Point District**

**Public Information Pack**

**Panel Members:**

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

Jane Gardner, Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex,

Essex Police’s District Commander Chief Inspector Glen Westley

Area Manager Dave Barnard from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Cllr Godfrey Issacs from Castle Point Borough Council.

**Essex Police**

**District Profile**

Castle Point is a small borough covering an area measuring approximately 17 square miles, which is located in south Essex at the heart of the Thames Gateway.

Castle Point is bordered by Basildon to the west and Southend to the east. Just over 60% of the land area in Castle Point is designated as ‘Green Belt’ and there are a number of important wildlife areas in the borough.

Castle Point comprises: Benfleet, Hadleigh, Thundersley and Canvey Island. The percentage of the population’s 89,400 people living within these four areas is as follows:

Benfleet: 22%

Hadleigh: 14%

Thundersley: 21%

Canvey Island: 43%

Castle Point maintains a very high level of owner-occupied accommodation at 82.9%, which is significantly above the national average. However, this proportion has decreased by 5.6% compared to 2001, with a corresponding increase in private rented accommodation. The proportion of social housing in Castle Point is very small, at approximately 1,550 homes.

Within the borough, the proportion of people over the age of 65 is expected to increase to 30% by 2030. Young people (under 20 years) will continue to make up over 20% of the population. The under 15 age group is expected to decrease by 6% over the next five years.

The diversity of the population in Castle Point is not extensive. Approximately 95% of the population regards itself as ‘White British’. The next highest ethnic group is ‘Asian’ at about 1.7% of the population. Canvey Island has a Haredi community originating from Stamford Hill, London. The Haredi community are Orthodox Jews and it is expected that 800 people will eventually settle on Canvey Island by 2020.

Hadleigh Country Park is a popular scenic location and overlooks the Thames Estuary. It is visited by both local residents and visitors from outside the borough. It is also the site of the ruins of Hadleigh Castle which was built during the 13th Century. The castle remains a popular site for visitors and the park was used during the 2012 Olympics for mountain bike racing. The facility is now open to the public.

West Canvey Marshes is situated on Canvey Island and has been designated as a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Partnership work continues between Essex Police, Castle Point Borough Council, the RSPB and Natural England to maintain and secure this site.

Canvey Island has a sizeable tourist population during the summer due to its seaside location and has two very large “caravan” sites. The first of these is “Kings”, which is exclusively for permanent residents who are over 50. The site is gated, with very secure access and almost no reported crime. The residential, properties are semi-permanent chalets rather than caravans. There are approximately 800 of these and they are priced above similar residential properties on the island. The second is “Sandy Bay”, formerly known as Thorney Bay Caravan Park, which contains a wide mix of residents, including: summer season tourists who bought plots many years ago, rented plots hired direct from the site and permanent residents. Significant partnership work has been necessary to reduce the number of incidents at this location, which include: domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and criminal offences committed by a small cohort of transient residents. It is estimated there are about 840 plots on this site, 600 of which are rented. Work has begun on the park to revamp the 90 acre coastal site, which will see the site move to an exclusively over 50’s site, similar to that of the “Kings” site. This development has begun with phase one having been completed, and the four phase plan estimated to be completed within three years.

**Policing Structure and Resources**

The borough of Castle Point forms half of the Rochford and Castle Point District Policing area (DPA). The Rochford and Castle Point DPA, together with the Basildon DPA and Southend DPA, make up the ‘South’ Local Policing Area (LPA).

Community Policing Team (CPT)

Castle Point consists of four neighbourhoods: Benfleet, Hadleigh, Thundersley and Canvey Island. The Castle Point and Rochford Community Policing Team comprises an Inspector, 2 sergeants, 7 constables (which include a children and young person’s officer) and 6 police community support officers (PCSOs). The team are supported by six Special Constables, and six ‘Active Citizen’ volunteers. The community team also have assistance from our 24 volunteer police cadets, who meet once a week, and often provide support with crime prevention operations, education initiatives, remembrance parades, high-visibility patrols and assist our police constables at our community fairs and events.

Our ‘Active Citizen’ volunteers deploy within the community on crime prevention initiatives, such as leaflet drops. They have provided high visibility in “hot spot” dwelling burglary areas and also distribute burglary prevention advice and leaflets to residents in these areas. They also conduct shop visits, and have provided crime prevention advice to the elderly and vulnerable in order to prevent purse thefts. Our Active Citizens also carry out preventative measures to combat ASB on Hallowe’en and Bonfire Night.

The Constables and Police Community Support Officers remain a point of contact for the community, and work towards delivering the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) plan. There is one CSP for Castle Point and Rochford and its objectives are to: safeguard vulnerable people, reduce acquisitive crime (primarily burglary, robbery and vehicle crime) and to reduce ASB.

Our CPT also focus on the PFCC control strategy and our officer’s priorities reflect that of: local, visible and accessible policing, cracking down on anti-social behaviour, breaking the domestic abuse cycle, reversing the trend of serious violence, tackling gangs and organised crime, protecting children and vulnerable people and improving safety on our roads.

The CPT are now based within the Community Safety hub within the Castle Point Council Offices, Kiln Road, Benfleet. This has allowed the CPT to work alongside our partner agencies to maximise effectiveness in reducing crime and ASB within the district. This further allows for a multi-agency approach and information sharing between our teams. All our police officers for the district have been issued smart phone devices, allowing our officers to carry out mobile policing, reducing the time spent on paperwork in police stations, and being able to spend more time on patrol targeting community issues. More recently, all uniformed officers across Castle Point and Rochford have been equipped with a new generation of body worn video, offering further opportunities to capture evidence at an early stage, increase opportunities to bring offenders to justice and build community confidence in the Police.

The CPT had previously set up a referral process with Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS) for victims of crime, or vulnerable people that require more support following police contact. Since 1 January 2018 to the beginning of November, CAVS have seen 117 referrals from Essex Police relating to Castle Point & Rochford residents who have been deemed as either vulnerable or in need of additional support, which is a massive increase since the previous year and shows just how much more we are doing to help the vulnerable.

Local Policing Teams:

The Local Policing Teams (LPT) provide a 24/7 response service to the district, attending both emergency 999 and routine calls from the community. The LPTs are co-located at Canvey and Rayleigh Police stations and comprise three Inspectors, six sergeants and forty one constables. Neither station has public access or operational front offices, however there is a direct line outside the police station, direct to the force control room, for members of the public to use to report incidents.

Operation Juno Team:

Operation Juno, is a team dedicated to investigating the higher risk domestic abuse cases across the district. It is led by a Detective Inspector and comprises Detective Sergeants and Detective Constable Investigators. The team provides a service for the district seven days a week and is currently based at Basildon Police Station.

Criminal Investigations Department (CID):

CID is a team dedicated to investigating our most serious crime within the district. They investigate violent crime, such as grievous bodily harm and robbery in the Castle Point area. They also investigate dwelling burglary in the district and take a lead and provide investigative advice to our LPT’s during reports of serious and organised crimes. They are made up of a Detective Inspector, 2 Detective Sergeants, and 10 Detective Constables who operate out of Basildon Police Station.

Operation Falcon Team:

The CPT are also supported by a new pro-active policing team named “Operation Falcon”. This team is made up of, a Sergeant, and four specialist Constables who primarily focus on disrupting organised crime & street gangs, targeting drug supply & related violence, and targeting offenders who cause the most harm within the community. Formed in March 2018, the team have seized £3,600 worth of Class A drugs and a £13,000 of Class B drugs. They have made 36 arrests, executed 11 drug search warrants and have generated and developed 429 intelligence reports in relation to drug supply. Their work has been invaluable, and continues to be a huge success in tackling drug dealing and disrupting organised criminality across the Castle Point and Rochford District.

**Community Concerns and Media**

Some local publications may give the impression that the Castle Point area is unpleasant to live in. However, official crime figures for 2018 provide a more accurate picture, and shows decreases in key areas – such as Theft from a Vehicle and both Commercial and Dwelling Burglaries.

The use of the Essex Community Messaging system, which is an alert message platform, has seen subscribers for Castle Point, increase to 44,254 recipients with 54 messages having been sent since 1st of January 2018.

In addition, the CPT utilises the Echo newspaper to promote positive success stories and community safety messages, as well as requests for help. Social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter accounts are also utilised heavily by the CPT, which have seen engagement with the public grow considerably with a recent post reaching 37,870 Facebook users with 292 shares. Currently, CPT Facebook page has 6,164 followers and 5,714 likes from the local community. The Facebook page is used for witness appeals, ‘good news’ stories, addressing community issues and advertising our engagement events, such as “Coffee with Cops”. It also provides crime prevention advice and reminders. It remains in third place for ‘likes’ and interest amongst all of the Essex Police Facebook pages, second to Basildon and Tendring. As a result the engagement with the community is overwhelmingly positive. Our recent post concerning our officers Halloween patrols have reached over 22,700 people and have had positive engagement from 7,000 people. Our Twitter page has a similar success with both accounts having a total of 1548 followers.

High Profile cases:

*Prolific Offender Imprisoned:*

Work carried out by the CPT saw the suspect of several accosting’s of young girls in the Benfleet area, whose offending spanned from November 2017 to July 2018, sentenced to 32 weeks imprisonment on 25th September 2018. Officers within the team worked to obtain accounts from the young girls, gather evidence, carry out preventative measures and seek a prosecution against the suspect. Officers from the CPT utilised Anti-social behaviour legislation to address this individuals concerning behaviour when it first came to police attention. The suspect was issued a Community Protection warning in November 2017, preventing him from approaching young females, and loitering and frequenting local schools in the Benfleet area, for a 12 month period from the date of issue. This warning served to warn the individual of his behaviour, expressing that he should desist from such and explained further action would be taken if he ignored the warning. The suspect subsequently breached this warning, and continued to approach vulnerable young girls and loiter at local schools. In December 2017 he was subsequently served a Community Protection Notice by our CPT, which served further conditions on him to not speak to any female under the age of 18 without their parent or legal guardian present and only with their consent, not to loiter around any school in the Castle Point District, not follow any female into a shop and speak with them, and to not use language or behaviour that is likely to constitute an offence of public order.

Further reports were made to police detailing the individuals concerning behaviour, and intelligence was gathered and collated by the CPT and in January 2018, The suspect went on to commit further offences despite the notice, and was summonsed to court in March 2018. At court the suspect was issued with a Criminal Behaviour Order for five years, banning him from carrying out the conditions detailed in earlier warnings, with a power of arrest if found to breach this order. The suspect then committed a further three public order offences, which breached his Criminal Behaviour order and as a result of the evidence gathered by the CPT regarding the breach, he was sentenced to 32 weeks imprisonment on the 25th September 2018. This prolific and dangerous individual was the first person in the county to be sentenced to prison as a result of breaching a Criminal Behaviour Order which is a massive success. The individual and was only brought to justice due to the hard work of the Community Policing Team and due to the co-operation of the victims, and as a result the community can be suitably protected from further incidents of this nature by this individual.

*Closure orders:*

During 2018, the CPT and local council has seen two successful closure orders be issued on problem premises in Benfleet and Canvey Island. The success of multi-agency working was demonstrated when the orders were issued on the back of anti-social behaviour legislation, and following the hard work of both police and council officers in gathering evidence of on-going anti-social behaviour and criminality.

In Benfleet, an address was subject to numerous reports of concern that a vulnerable occupier had been ‘cuckooed’. *Cuckooing*, is the term used to describe the actions of people who take over the homes of vulnerable people in order to deal drugs or use the premises for criminal activities. The address was also reported to police on many occasions to have large disturbances, late night parties, be subject to drug dealing and be the cause of general nuisance and ASB to other neighbouring properties. As a result of joint working, an interim closure order was issued on Saturday 13th April 2018, preventing any person other than the occupier and a carer to be at the property.This allowed police and local authority personnel to conduct visits and enforce that anyone not named to be at the address on the notice, was forced to leave. A full closure order was served on 16th April 2018, which restricted access to those named on the order and anyone found in the premises was subject to ejection and being reported by police to be in breach of the order. This saw a massive decline in anti-social behaviour in the Queensmere area of Benfleet and subsequently allowed for a vulnerable person to be suitably protected from harm.

A premises in Rosberg Road, Canvey Island was also subject to a closure order following work from the CPT and Castle Point Borough Council. The premises was reported to have regular disturbances, and many reports of drug use and drug dealing occurring at the location, subsequently resulting in related ASB nuisance which saw regular police attendance to deal with the problems. As a result, a closure order was sought for the address, and this was granted by the courts utilising legislation from the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014. There have been no further incidents recorded at the premises since the closure order was served, showing a decline in anti-social behaviour in the location and no longer causing disruption to other residents which has been hugely successful in building community confidence in both the police and local council.

*Young Persons Engagement Program*

Sgt McQuade from the community team has started a new youth education initiative in local schools within the Castle Point district, focusing on the issues faced by local youths in today’s society. The first of its kind to be launched in the district, at Castle view School, Canvey Island on 2nd July 2018 saw the Year 9’s attend an informative presentation, and then the rest of the day was spent in an engaging interactive environment led by officers, focusing on and discussing in detail the areas of gangs, knife crime, drugs, child sexual exploitation, alcohol and anti-social behaviour. This has provided a platform in order to educate around the law, how to recognise risk behaviour displayed, what to do if we find ourselves, or others in this situation, and who to report incidents to in order to stay safe. This has been so successful in deterring youths from engaging in this type of risky behaviour that other schools across the district have also signed up for this program to be implemented to their students. The Deanes School (Benfleet) is due to have this input in December 2018, seeing the King John School (Benfleet) and The Cornelius Vermuyden School (Canvey Island) be delivered the input in the New Year. This engagement program aims to further educate local youths and break down barriers between the police and local youths.

*KFC ASB Nuisance*

Towards the end of 2017 Police began to receive reports from staff members at the KFC, High Street on Canvey Island, that local youths were causing anti-social behaviour and being repeatedly disruptive inside the restaurant, refusing to leave when challenged and becoming increasingly abusive towards staff. Staff morale was at a low, and staff were increasingly distressed with the actions of the youths, so much so they considered leaving to seek alternate employment. These reports spanned across the final few months of 2017, and robust action was taken by the CPT against the youths. This included an increase in high visibility patrols, logs of interaction with all those stopped inside the restaurant, and home visits conducted on those identified with an emphasis on the parents of the youths taking parental responsibility for their child’s behaviour. Collaboration work with the staff within the store itself, by providing accounts and CCTV images of those youths, allowed positive action to be taken against those responsible. The issuing of banning notices to the eight youths identified, banning them from entering all KFC stores for twelve months, and a warning to parents that parental orders would be pursued if the eight youths ignored the notices - saw a stop to the incidents in early 2018 which was an excellent result for the team, the local community and very much welcomed by staff at the store.

*Roscommon Way Vehicle Nuisance*

Vehicle based ASB in the area of Roscommon Way, Canvey Island, has historically been a cause for concern. During the summer month’s further reports were received of large groups of vehicles congregating in the car park of the local supermarket and some of the vehicles were involved in street racing and ‘drifting’. CPT and officers from the Casualty Reduction Unit work together to address the problems here, and have previously obtained a dispersal order and carried out dedicated patrols in the area to disperse groups of vehicles. We continue to see results of this activity, with a number of fixed penalty tickets being issued, ASB warning letters are sent to the registered owners of the vehicles, and some drivers have their insurance certificates revoked due to undeclared modifications on their vehicles.

The police also monitor social media to gain intelligence, and identify and combat any organised car cruiser events planned for the local area, which are often linked to nearby districts that suffer the same issues (Pitsea / Lakeside). Calls from the public regarding noise nuisance caused by loud car modifications, or bad driving behaviour are recorded and responded to on a case by case basis. With the increase in the use of “dash cams” we are able to gather further intelligence of those who offend and take action against those who continue to abuse the road. The CPT continues to work closely with Castle Point Borough Council and other partners on this issue. Three CCTV cameras have been installed at Roscommon Way. These CCTV cameras have assisted in capturing and recording evidence of inappropriate driving behaviour. Officers from Roads Policing and Casualty Reduction continue to support the local CPT by visiting Roscommon Way and other known car cruiser venues most weekends. We often see pre-planned operations carried out by our casualty reduction section in the Canvey Island area to combat these ASB issues.

Sandy Bay/Thorney Bay Caravan Park

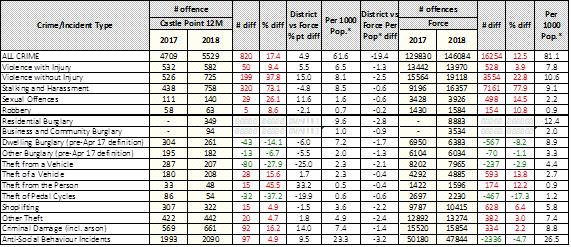
There is a perception among many that the site is rife with drugs and criminality. There are undoubtedly a higher percentage of troublesome residents on the site when compared to other areas of the Castle Point district, but a lot of work has been undertaken with partners to reduce the problem. Seven partners, ranging from Social Care, housing associations, the job centre, anti-social behaviour officers, our community team and the council meet every six weeks on the site to discuss and tackle site issues, and offer further support for families who may be identified as vulnerable or at risk. Similarly, this meeting is also used to address problem areas on site that need multi-agency action taken against them. In addition, the development of the park is seeing new private homes being built on the park, replacing the old tenancy housing. The site will move to an exclusively over 50’s site, this development has begun with phase one having been completed, and the four phase plan estimated to be completed within three years. With the park going through considerable change the level of incidents reported at the location has dropped, the security and management have adopted a more robust approach to dealing with troublesome tenants serving notices to quit more regularly, as well as being more selective as to who they allow onto the site.

**Examples of Problem Solving Initiatives undertaken in the District**

* Local Community Meetings – Sgt McQuade chairs four weekly meetings at locations across the district in Castle Point, which are attended by local councillors and members of the public. During these meetings, local crime and ASB figures are discussed and Q&A sessions are welcomed from members of the community. It is a tool for highlighting community concerns across the district.
* Regular weekly beat surgeries are also held by Active Citizens and our PCSO’s with members of the public, which is more commonly known as “Coffee with Cops”.
* Crime prevention initiative’s by Active Citizens and officers from CPT are carried out raising awareness around home security to prevent dwelling burglaries (Op Mercury).
* Regular use of social media websites, such as Facebook and Twitter, to raise awareness around hidden harm, crime prevention advice, ‘good news’ stories and demonstrate what the community and local policing teams have been dealing with.
* Quarterly steering group meetings with partners to disseminate, review and action intelligence
* All incidents are reviewed by the CPT, and investigative ownership taken where appropriate - including known and persistent offenders, all hate crimes, reviewing mental health investigations, dealing with general ASB, nuisance neighbour related incidents and cluster crime series
* Questionnaires/surveys are regularly conducted at family fun days
* ASB panel reviews and actions monthly
* Hi-visibility patrols carried out in high ASB areas by officers
* Multi language leaflet drops to ethnic minority residents
* Continuing to make referrals to CAVS (Castle Point Volunteer Service)
* Op Bagshot - An operation was put in place to locate, manage and target offenders of human trafficking / modern day slavery, as well as seeking to identify any vulnerable people –focusing on potential domestic abuse victims and human trafficking. Officers engage with those working at locations such as car washes, nail parlours, massage parlours; offering assistance and information, but also undertake enforcement activity with regard to suspects who are wanted for crime or traffic offences. They also liase with immigration officals where necessary. This work helps to develop force intelligence.
* Op Zambesi: An operation created by our Community Team to address the on-going ASB issues that are occouring on Furtherwick Road, Canvey. This includes high-visibility patrols and information gathering to try and disrupt and target persistent ASB offenders.
* Op Rectify- An operation to target, record and respond to reports of nuisance motorcycles in the castlepoint district. After extensive work by the team in trying to identify and stop those persistant offenders, The Community Safety Partnership has afforded our CPTtwo new high definition video camcorders to assist with the identification of vehicles and offenders who carry out this type of anti-social riding, allowing police to carry out enquries, utilize evidence and seize vehicles from those offenders. A police drone plan has also been given approval to assist in identifying those responsible and bringing anti-social legislation against those individuals.
* Op Kingwood: Targetting the on-going ASB issues at John Burrows recreational park, our officers are conducting and enaging with local youths, stop and searching those where circumstances exist to deter and detect drug usuage at the location.
* Op Rogue Trader – A CPT and multi-agency operation targetting our mobile tradesmen to ensure they are operating legitimately in the district. The Mayor and three local councillors were also in attendance to this operation following concerns that had been raised by members of the public in regards to rouge or bogus tradesmen. The team also carried out safegaurding visits on our vulnrable elderly residents in neighbourhoods with a high elderly population, providing information on to how to spot illigetimate tradespeople, and what to do if they encountered any tradespersons who appeared suspicious.

**Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data**

The table below sets out the crime figures for Castle Point, comparing reports for the 1st November 2017 to 31st October 2018 with 1st November 2016 to 31st October 2017 for the Castle Point district and the Force.

\*Residential and Dwelling Burglary per 1000 Households

Areas of note for Castle Point :

• All Crime has increased by 17.4% (820 more offences).

• Violence without Injury has increased by 37.8% (199 more offences).

• Stalking and Harassment has increased by 73.1% (320 more offences).

• Sexual Offences have increased by 26.1% (29 more offences).

• Theft from a Vehicle has decreased by 27.9% (80 fewer offences).

• Dwelling Burglary (pre-Apr 17 def.) has decreased by 14.1% (43 fewer offences).

• Theft of Pedal Cycles has decreased by 37.2% (32 fewer offences).

• ASB Incidents have increased by 4.9% (97 more incidents).

Violence without Injury

During the above reporting period, offences of Violence without Injury increased by 37.8% (199 more offences).

This category of crime includes harassment, stalking, assaults without any visible injuries, threats, public order and malicious communications. Malicious communications was added as a recordable crime in 2015 and has had a huge impact on increasing the number of violence without injury offences. This offence often takes place over social media websites and other internet platforms.

Harassment and stalking type offences, are often linked to incidents of domestic violence, or nuisance neighbour related incidents. With the above statistics, it is worth noting that offences of Stalking, Harassment and controlling coercive behaviour are now recorded in addition to the most serious additional notifiable crime. Therefore we have seen offences, such as public order incidents recorded as both a public order offence and a harassment offence. Resulting in two crimes having been created for the same incident. This is due to a change in Crime Recording Rules set by the Home Office, which came into effect in April 2018. Therefore it is not a surprise to see that offences of this nature have increased by 73.1% compared with last year’s statistics. This does not necessarily show an increase in offending, but shows an increase in the amount of this type offence being recorded.

There are no particular concerns relating to the night-time economy to account for the increase in offences of violence without injury. CPT work in close partnership with the licensing authorities and licensed premises, carrying out regular licencing checks on premises that sell alcohol within the district, and raising any concerns to the local licencing officer to ensure the robust enforcement of conditions relating to licensed premises and the selling of alcohol. We also utilise test purchasers to ensure the sale of alcohol to under 18’s is being challenged effectively.

Theft from a motor vehicle (TFMV)

Theft from a vehicle has decreased by 27.9% (80 fewer offences). Operation Original was introduced as a result of this increase in vehicle crime, which was predominantly around central Benfleet and occurred mostly late evening / overnight. Op Original employed dedicated covert, and overt assets to carry out patrols in the hot spot areas during these times. Through intelligence CPT conducted visits to known offenders on a daily basis to disrupt criminal activity. One such offender who was well known to Essex Police left the Castle Point district due to the Police attention he was receiving on a regular basis. The success of our work around vehicle crime is shown in the large decrease in recorded offences across the district.

Theft of motor vehicle (TOMV)

Theft of motor vehicles within our district has unfortunately increased, seeing 15.6% increase which equates to 28 more offences. A large proportion of the vehicles stolen are motorcycles and mopeds, which are easily “barrelled” (the ignitions damaged) and identification numbers on the vehicles sawn off or destroyed making them easy to disguise and ride without detection. Operation Rectify has been created in response to ASB issues that often involve the use of stolen mopeds and “joy riding”. Our community officers are pro-active in stopping young moped riders, carrying out checks and ensuring they are legitimately used and are not stolen. We utilise anti-social behaviour legislation to target persistent offenders who use mopeds to commit anti-social riding, serving notices and then seizing vehicles. Some of the commercial vehicles stolen, are often located in ‘chop-shop’ operations by organised criminals. Utilising automatic number recognition technology, proactive patrols at night and owners using tracking systems, are key ways of reducing offences and locating offenders.

Theft of Pedal Cycles

There has been a decrease seen in Theft of Pedal Cycles by 37.2% (32 fewer offences). Our CPT Officers continually provide anti-theft advice on our Facebook page, regarding the importance of logging cycle serial numbers in case of theft and providing this information to police upon request if cycles are stolen. At a recent event at the Castle Point Show in July 2018, our volunteer police cadets (VPC) along with officers from the CPT carried out electronic tagging on many pedal cycles, and registering these on the immobilise database. This way police have a much better chance of returning these bikes to the rightful owners if stolen.

Dwelling Burglary:

Dwelling Burglary has seen a decrease by 14.1% (43 fewer offences), our CPT provide continuous precautionary advice and home security advice on our social media sites, this reaches a far wider audience, with our most recent ‘Top 5 Tips to securing your home’ post reaching 7,487 people.

The PCSO’s (Police Community Support Officers) carry out ‘cocooning’ following the report of a dwelling burglary within the community. Cocooning involves our PCSO’s attending and conducting house to house witness enquires, leaflet drops and providing crime prevention advice to 10 properties either side of the targeted premises, 10 addresses opposite, and 5 addresses in the road directly behind the targeted property. This ensures that surrounding properties are aware of the incident, and allows residents to check their CCTV cameras for suspicious activity and take further preventative measures on their own properties. Our active citizens and Volunteer police cadets also carry out preventative high visibility burglary patrols providing advice and carrying out property marking.

Sexual offences

Sexual Offences have increased by 26.1% (29 more offences) this year. There is no direct pattern to these, however Essex Police has seen an increase in incidents reported by schools and safeguarding officers between teenagers as result of wide spread use of social media platforms such as ‘Snapchat / Instagram’. With Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) being a force priority for Essex Police, we take a robust approach to tackling sexual exploitation and safeguarding those whom are identified as being at risk. Collaborative work is undertaken with social services and local schools to positively identify any young people who could be at risk and provide appropriate safeguarding to these young people and their families. The Community Policing team has the support of a dedicated Children and Young Persons officer, who specialises in managing CSE for the Castle Point area. Educational material also may have contributed to the further reporting of sexual offences. In September 2018, Essex Police launched ‘Breck’s Last Game’, which was a major new film aimed at raising the awareness of online grooming. The film is based on the murder of 14-year-old Breck Bednar, in Grays, by Lewis Daynes, in February 2014. The film was shown in controlled screenings within schools, and was supported by educational material to address CSE.