**Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2018/2019**

**Report to: the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex**

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| **Title of Report:** | **Essex Police proposed response to Home Office Serious Violence Strategy** |
| **Agenda Number:** | **xx** |
| **Chief Officer** | **ACC Prophet** |
| **Date Paper was Written** | **12th October 2018** |
| **Version Number** | **203702** |
| **Report from:**  | **Essex Police** |
| **Date of Meeting:** | **25th October 2018** |
| **Author on behalf of Chief Officer:** | **C/Supt 2037 WELLS** |
| **Date of Approval:** | **15th October 2018** |

1. **Purpose of Report**

This paper outlines the proposed response by Essex Police to the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy (April 2018).

1. **Recommendations**

There are no specific recommendations but the board is asked to note and comment upon the content.

1. **Executive Summary**

Essex Police continues to develop its approach to tackling the increase in Serious Violent Crime and the effect it has on our community, by working with OPCC & key partners to develop a Pan-Essex approach.

A number of work-streams are currently under way, working as part of Safer Essex to develop and deliver this strategy.

**4.0 Introduction/Background**

In April 2018, The Home Office published its revised Serious Violence Strategy.

*The strategy is focused on 4 main themes;*

* Tackling county lines & misuse of drugs
* Early intervention & prevention
* Supporting communities & local partnerships
* Law enforcement & the Criminal Justice response

*The Home Office also announced;*

* The development of a National County Lines Co-ordination Centre.
* Early Intervention Youth Fund
* The creation of a cross sector “Serious Violence Taskforce””

In June 2018, the Safe Essex Violence & Vulnerability framework was approved.

*The framework aims to;*

* Improve visibility and awareness of partnership activity around violence and vulnerability
* Increase the occurrence and effectiveness of prevention and intervention activities
* Identify opportunities to add value to existing and planned activities
* Identify gaps in current and planned activities
* Highlight areas where cross-border and partnership working to be beneficial

***Current MSG position[[1]](#footnote-1)***

*The below table gives the current (Sept 2018) position of VWI offences compared to our MSG*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **High Harm Offences per 1,000 pop.** | **Essex** | **MSG Ave** | **# diff.** |
| Violence with Injury | 7.7 | 8.4 | -0.7 |
| Robbery of Personal Property | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.2 |

Currently, Essex is performing slightly better than the MSG average for high harm offences per 1,000 population.

*The below chart provides comparative of offences per 1000 population 2017 v 2018*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **High Harm Offences** | **2017** | **2018** | **# diff.** | **% diff.** | **MSG Ave. Increase** | **MSG v. Force Diff.** |
| **Redline Measure** | **25,149** | **25,484** | **335** | **1.3%** | **7.7%** | **-6.4%** |
| Violence with Injury | 13,433 | 13,835 | **402** | **3.0%** | 8.6% | **-5.6%** |
| Robbery of Personal Property | 1,284 | 1,373 | **89** | **6.9%** | 20.6% | **-13.7%** |

As can be seen, Essex has had an increase compared to 2017, which is below the MSG average.

 *The below chart provides comparative of solved rate per 2017 v 2018*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **High Harm Solved Rate** | **2017** | **2018** | **Yr. v. Yr Diff.** | **MSG Ave** | **MSG v. Force Diff.** |
| **Force Level** | **12.3%** | **10.1%** | **-2.2%** | 12.6% | -2.5% |
| Violence with Injury | 23.7% | 20.5% | **-3.2%** | 23.2% | -2.7% |
| Robbery of Personal Property | 11.7% | 12.2% | **0.6%** | 12.4% | -0.2% |

What must be noted, is the complex nature of Serious Violent Crime. The crime type impacts on the most vulnerable in our communities, with offenders actively targeting vulnerable groups (from children & young people to adults).

The offenders operate across force & organisational boundaries, with key offenders not based in Essex, which makes local targeting problematic, making a co-ordinated approach essential.

As stated in the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy;

“*Our overarching message is that tackling serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone. It requires a multiple strand approach involving a range of partners across different sectors”[[2]](#footnote-2).*

**5.0 Current Work and Performance**

***Essex Police***

***Operation RAPTOR***

Essex Police currently undertakes enforcement activity under Operation RAPTOR. Each L.P.A has an Op RAPTOR team, which is responsible for targeted activity against County Lines / unlawful supply of controlled drugs. The Raptor teams also ensure that any vulnerability that they identify (as part of their enforcement activity) is appropriately dealt with & referred.

A review of Operation RAPTOR structure & governance is currently underway.

*Key areas of the review are;*

* Strategic governance of gang violence and Op RAPTOR
* Current establishment of Op RAPTOR
* Deployment options for Raptor teams (Locally based v Central team)

The review will ensure it takes into account the current strategic work under the violence & vulnerability strategy.

***Create a centrally managed ‘Youth Justice Team (YJT)*’**

This team will provide consistent decision making, partnership coordination and oversight of the outcome for all youth crimes. It is proposed that the six YJT police staff are given ‘*police support powers’* to enable them to complete certain policing tasks. The YJT will support the creation of a new, multi-agency Out Of Court Disposals Panel. This will consist of all key agencies and will ensure the best decisions and the most appropriate outcome for young people involved in criminality. This will ensure Essex Police is in line with national guidance and identified good practice.

***Creation of an additional 20 CYP officers*** (from the additional 150 starting on local teams in spring 2019). There will be an even allocation of officers, two onto each district community policing team. The officers will investigate all crimes committed by young people on school premises and by looked after children at their residential setting thus improving the efficiency and effectiveness of youth investigations that require a strong partnership and problem solving approach. The officers will also be focussed on promoting the longer term relationship building, diversion activity and support that is required with schools, pupil referral units and children at children at risk. The officers will provide key support to the Op Raptor team sin their enforcement activity and be an important tactical arm to support the emerging violence and vulnerability coordination team.

**Development of Co-ordinated Partnership Activity**

In August 2018, a Task & Finish Group was established to produce an outline proposal for the creation of a countywide (SET) Gangs, Violence and Vulnerability Central Coordination Response.

*The proposal should,*

* Consider options for strategic governance of a county wide gangs, violence and vulnerability drive
* Consider potential operating models for a Coordination Team including the option of co-location
* Set out the proposed staffing structure and other costs associated with a Coordination Team
* Detailed the anticipated benefits and outcomes

The group developed a number of potential options, before recommending the following option; [[3]](#footnote-3)



*Key aspects of this proposal are;*

* The development of S.E.T Violence & Vulnerability Board
* The development of S.E.T Violence & Vulnerability Co-located Unit

***S.E.T Violence & Vulnerability Board – Key Areas***

* Brings together senior leaders to provide a Southend, Essex and Thurrock senior leadership strategic group.
* Its purpose is to bring together key partners to drive strategic change and deliver an effective response to violence and vulnerability which will be outlined under the key themes of: criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, modern slavery, trafficking, violence and drugs, across adult and children’s agenda.
* Chaired by PFCC (or deputy)

#### Governance:

The Violence and Vulnerability Strategic Leadership Board would be accountable to and report directly to Safer Essex

***S.E.T Violence & Vulnerability Co-located Unit – Key Areas***

* The Central Co-Located Unit would be to bring all information together to create an overall picture of risk and opportunity within Essex.
* A role of “Violence & vulnerability Co-Ordinator” would be created.
* Key partners will dedicate resources to be part of this team, including;
* Youth Offending (Team Manager)
* Essex Police - Op Raptor
* Public Health
* Mental Health
* Integrated Offender Management
* Dedicated Analyst
* Dedicated Intelligence liaison
* Part-time post “Communications and Media”
* *Key activities of the unit will be;*
* Information and intelligence sharing across the key agencies to establish and analyse the threat and risk, including having some oversight of risky individuals and perpetrators who may not fall within the MAPPA criteria. Mapping risk to children and adults and enabling this information locally.
* Coordination function: analyse cross cutting themes, identify threats spanning areas and understand specific localised issues.
	+ - Oversee information flow across agencies
		- Identity disruption methods and communicate effectively with local areas as required.
	+ Grading of risk
	+ Cascading of what we know to affect local delivery and frontline practice.
	+ Provide a place for workforce support, advice and training.
		- Dissemination of information to educational establishments through enabling an understanding of the problem and interventions, learning, diversionary activities.
		- Establish a ‘team around the worker’ approach in delivery of support and advice.
		- Supporting the understanding (mapping) and delivery of interventions for organised and complex abuse enquiries across SET.
		- Develop a suit of approved services and interventions, diversionary activities and gang exit strategies.
	+ Inform the Violence and Vulnerability Strategic Leadership Board.

**6.0 Implications (Issues)**

A funding bid has been submitted to the Early Intervention Youth Fund to support proposed activity (developed & submitted by OPCC). The result of this is due in November 2018.

Activity is currently on-going by senior managers to progress the above proposals, to ensure that Essex has a co-ordinated approach to address serious Violence in the County.

**6.1 Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

The proposal works towards the following aspects of the Police & crime Plan Priorities;

* Priority 4 – Reverse the trend in serious violence
* Priority 5 – Tackle Gangs & Organised Crime
* Priority 6 – Protecting Children & Vulnerable People from harm.

**6.2 Demand**

N/A

**6.3 Risks/Mitigation**

Essex Police response to Gangs is part of the Essex Police Risk register – currently graded as a “Medium” risk

**6.4 Equality and/or Human Rights Implications**

Proposal is being developed – this area will be subsequently reviewed.

**6.5 Health and Safety Implications**

Proposal is being developed – this area will be subsequently reviewed.

**7.0 Consultation/Engagement**

O.P.C.C

Safer Essex

Essex Police

Y.O.T

Southend Borough Council

Thurrock Council

**8.0 Actions for Improvement**

Proposal is being developed – this area will be subsequently reviewed.

**9.0 Future Work/Development and Expected Outcome**

The development of co-ordinated partnership activity is key for the county of Essex.

Referring back to the Home Office Serious Violence Strategy

“*Our overarching message is that tackling serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone. It requires a multiple strand approach involving a range of partners across different sectors”[[4]](#footnote-4).*

Essex Police will continue to work towards achieving this partnership response to the increase in serious violence in the county and the associated harm it brings to our community.

**10.0 Decisions Required by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner**

Nil – For information only at this time.

1. Statistics from Essex Police Redline Measures – September 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Home Office Serious Violence Strategy April 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Violence & Vulnerability Response paper – August 2018 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Home Office Serious Violence Strategy April 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)