**Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2017/18**

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

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| **Title of Report:** | **Community Safety Hub Update Jan 2019** |
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| **Chief Officer** | **ACC Prophet** |
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| **Report from:** | **Essex Police** |
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| **Author on behalf of Chief Officer:** | **ACC Prophet** |
| **Date of Approval:** | **17th December 2018** |

1. **Purpose of Report**

This paper summarises the development of Community Safety Hubs across the county.

1. **Recommendations**

The Board are asked to note progress in hub development and, in particular, the potential for future (19/20) capital costs at Thurrock and Basildon.

1. **Executive Summary**

Community Safety Hubs (CSH) are at the heart of local partnership efforts to prevent crime and harm as well as responding to other community priorities across the county.

Although not every district area has a fully functioning CSH, with the notable exception of Harlow, every community safety partnership (CSP) is committed to either maintaining or developing a co-located community safety team (a hub).

**4.0 Introduction/Background**

The new Community Safety Hub at Epping Forest opened in August 2018 and the new hub at Chelmsford is due to open in February / March 2019.

Conversations are nearing completion regarding a new hub at Thurrock Council. The capital costs to Essex Police are yet to be finalised (expected Jan / Feb 2019) but are only expected to extend to IT linkage so should not exceed £15k to £20k. Linked to the launch of this hub is the 3 year (full) funding of 6 additional officers by Thurrock Council.

A community safety hub similar to the scale and ambition of the Chelmsford hub is the shared police / Local Authority ambition in Basildon. The capital costs will be assessed by March 2019 but may be similar to the costs at Chelmsford (£50k to £80k).

The Harlow Chief Executive is not currently prioritising the development of a co-located hub. This is based on the fact there is likely to be significant redevelopment of Harlow town centre in the coming years and that may present better long term opportunities for co-location. Equally the partnership, as it stands in Harlow, is operating effectively. This assessment is shared by Essex Police.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) is committed to providing eight dedicated staff members to work within the CSHs by April 2019. Similarly, a local senior fire officer will attend local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meetings by April 2019.

The Safer Essex Board is currently reviewing its overarching goals and membership. Draft findings suggest the board will in future consist of a smaller group of senior members and focus on violence and vulnerability priorities across the county as well as strategic coordination of partnership activity across Essex. The review and establishment of the refreshed board will be complete by April 2019.

All Community Safety Hub managers continue to meet on a six weekly basis. This allows for the sharing of best practice and a shared understanding of the operational challenges. It is proposed that each CSH manager will update the refreshed Safer Essex Board with their activity and achievements.

The Violence and Vulnerability Unit is currently being established. An advert to attract and select a manager for the new unit has been released and interviews planned for mid-January. A Youth Offending manager has been identified to work within the hub and an advert released to select a Detective Inspector. It is hoped the new hub will be up and running from April 2019 and will drive the coordination of enforcement, diversion and prevention activity across the county. Currently an option is being explored to locate the new unit within the Chelmsford CSH.

**5.0 Current Work and Performance**

The Essex Police Crime Prevention Strategy launched in Nov 2018. This has been welcomed by all CSPs and CSH managers. The priorities within the strategy are being considered by each CSH manager as they undertake the review of annual CSP priorities.

The precept growth from 18/19 will result in 50 additional CPT officers starting operationally in March / April 2019. These additional officers will support the operation of the CSHs and delivering local problem solving activities. Further investment in school / young person based activities as well as town centre crime and disorder is anticipated from 19/20 precept investment.

**6.0 Implications (Issues)**

The development of new CSHs in Thurrock and Basildon are likely to require capital investment in 2019/20 in the region of £70k to £100k.

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

More local, visible accessible policing and reversing the trend in serious violence are supported by the continued operation / development of CSHs across the county.

**6.2 Demand**

N/A

**6.3 Risks/Mitigation**

* Financial - capital investment in CSHs at Thurrock and Basildon.
* Financial - increased ‘on-costs’ for a police constable (as a result of technical pension changes) if passed onto funding partners in full.
* Financial - unknown / uncertain future local authority funding.

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

No issues identified.

**6.5 Health and Safety Implications**

No issues identified.

**7.0 Consultation/Engagement**

N/A.

**8.0 Actions for Improvement**

A clearer performance and reporting framework is being developed (see section 9).

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

All CSHs are in the process of setting their annual priorities for 19/20. Common areas of focus have been agreed including:

* Reduction in street based violence
* Reduction in the levels of county lines based violence
* Increased working with schools and others to provide more awareness, diversion and preventative activity for young people
* Improve community confidence in local policing / community safety partnership activity

SMART objectives and a consistent reporting structure are being discussed across the CSHs (facilitated / overseen by the Safer Essex Board) and will be agreed by April 2019.

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

No decision sought.