**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 Accreditation Scheme** |
| **Chief Officer** | **ACC Andy Prophet** |
| **Date Paper was Written** | **28/08/2018** |
| **Version Number** | **0.2** |
| **Report from:** | **Essex Police** |
| **Date of Meeting:** | **25th October 2018** |
| **Author on behalf of Chief Officer:** | **Jenny Brouard**  **Citizens in Policing Manager**  **Local Policing Support Unit** |
| **Date of Approval:** | **15th October 2018** |

1. **Purpose of Report**

This paper describes the current status and direction of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) in Essex.

1. **Recommendations**

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

1. **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this paper is to introduce the development and progression plans for

the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme.

**4.0 Introduction/Background**

The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme was created under Section 40 of the Police Reform Act 2002.

It allows Chief Constables to designate certain powers to deal with low-level crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) to organisations who meet set criteria (Full list at Appendix A).

Although Accredited Persons are employees of their organisation, their membership of the Scheme is entirely voluntary.

Since the introduction of the CSAS, the national policing context has shifted substantially and the concept of the Extended Policing Family is now an integral part of the police service, as is the need for a multi-agency approach to tackle crime and disorder.

Accredited powers are discretionary, maintaining the balance between the need to maintain a mainly non-confrontational, community engagement role and the ability to tackle low level incidents. Accredited staff are only awarded powers that are appropriate to their paid employment. They must wear identifiable clothing of as part of their employment, clearly display the national CSAS badge and carry (and produce if required) photographic ID cards that identify them, their role and list their accredited powers. Displaying the national badge indicates to the public that the individual has reached approved standards of competence, training, vetting, management, supervision and accountability.

Accreditation assists those providing community safety patrols to operate in their role with greater confidence and raises their profile within the local community in addition to providing powers with the potential to address certain issues without the involvement of the police.

Liaison between the police and those involved in the provision of community safety patrols via the CSAS provides a coordinated and more effective service. The formalised framework to facilitate the sharing of information and intelligence allows a more locally driven approach, meeting the needs of employers and members of the public to help resolve community problems.

The importance of the role of Accredited Person is also recognised by legislative protection which has been introduced (offences of assault, resistance and obstruction can now be committed against Accredited Persons).

**5.0 Current Work and Performance**

Essex remains the largest Community Safety Accreditation Scheme in England and Wales with, currently, 54 Accredited Organisations and 539 Accredited Persons, including 13 of the 14 Local/ Unitary authorities in the Greater Essex area (full list at Appendix A).

All Accredited Persons have linked in with their local Community Policing Teams and on a regular basis attend their Local Policing Hub and Hub Tasking Meetings. They are updated with missing persons or wanted persons and provide intelligence back to the local policing team.

Accredited Persons also undertake joint patrols with their local Community Policing Teams which show a visible partnership presence to the public, providing reassurance and increasing public confidence.

Accredited Persons regularly patrol Operation Insight Zones, have assisted with Operation Mercury last year and will be supporting Operation Meteor later this year.

Accredited Persons assist their Community Policing Teams by using their low level policing powers (for example; Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for Littering, Dog Fouling and low level Anti-Social Behaviour incidents) which in turn supports the local community (See 6.1).

Accredited Persons are able to dial 101 and will be directed to the Force Control Room where they can undertake a Police National Computer (PNC) enquiry by providing a password and their Accredited Person identification number in order to obtain details relating to stolen or abandoned vehicles they encounter as part of their patrol. Essex is the **only** force that has this system in place for their Accredited Persons and this is recognised nationally as best practice.

The Citizens in Policing Team, HQLPSU organises a training day each year for Accredited Persons to enable their Continued Professional Development.

This ensures that they are kept up to date with any changes within local policing and national policies and procedure and this gives them the opportunity to engage with other organisations and share best practice.

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**6.0 Implications (Issues)**

None identified

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

The creation and delivery of the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, contribute to all key areas of the PFCC’s Police and Crime Plan, particularly;

* **Building Block 2: Communications and Engagement;**

Giving the Accredited Organisations a voice in local policing so they feel they are heard, feel able to come forward to report crime and Anti-Social Behaviour and have confidence in the way that the police protect them.

* **Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing;**

Improve communications and contact between the police and Accredited Organisations. Accredited Persons have appropriate lower level policing powers in order to assist communities which gives reassurance to the public.

* **Priority 2 - Crack down on Anti-Social Behaviour;**

Accredited Persons have appropriate policing powers to deal with low level Anti -Social Behaviour, which assists their local Community Policing Teams. This helps to build public confidence and community cohesion.

**6.2 Demand**

N/A

**6.3 Risks/Mitigation**

None Identified

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

None identified

**6.5 Health and Safety Implications**

None identified

**7.0 Consultation/Engagement**

* LPSU
* OPFCC Stakeholders
* Key Community Safety Partners

**8.0 Actions for Improvement**

The overarching aims for improvement are contained in section 9 below

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

In April 2018 the current Accreditation Training Provider made a decision to retire.

LPSU recognised an opportunity to ensure consistency, compliance and structure by providing this training in-house. A member of the Citizens in Policing Team is now nationally accredited to deliver the training and arrangements are in place to run courses early in 2019.

This is also a means of income generation (N.B; legislation stipulates that any income generated can only be used for the Scheme but fees from training will be used for CPD events, the production of ID cards, training manuals etc.).

This move has been recognised by the Home Office as an example of best practice and will be highlighting it at the Regional Meeting in October 2018.

The Home Office will be looking at updating the Accreditation Powers and LPSU has been asked to be part of the review which is scheduled for early 2019.

Additionally LPSU is reviewing the organisations currently accredited to ensure their powers remain fit for purpose and identifying opportunities to increase membership of the scheme (for example; discussions are underway with Uttlesford District Council which is currently the only Local Authority not be part of the Scheme).

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

None