



Chelmsford Public Meeting  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
Panel Members PFCC Roger Hirst  
Dave Barnard Area Manager  
A/Supt Gerry Parker  
T/Ch/Insp Steve Scott-Haynes

Welcome from PFCC Roger Hirst setting out the changing nature of crime and how policing is changing as a result. There is an increase in the reporting of Domestic Abuse and much more cybercrime. Because of the changing nature of crime and the need to maintain resources to manage and deal with high harm offences the reduction in police numbers which happened up to 2016 was largely from community policing teams. These are the teams that deal with the majority of proactive, problem solving work.

Over the last two years we have been working hard to increase officer numbers with an additional 368 extra officers recruited since 2018. Combined with the first wave of the Government uplift from which Essex will receive funding for a further 135 officers meaning Essex will get over 500 extra officer and more when the next wave of the Government funding is delivered. Once complete this will mean that Essex Police will be the strongest it has ever been and have more officers than it has ever had.

Essex now has well over 3000 officers and will have over 3200 by April 2020. Over the last few years we have also seen ASB and burglary coming down. At the same time national there has been an increase in violence with and without injury. Special funding has been allocated to tackle gangs and violence including £1,160,000 allocated to Violence and Vulnerability Funding, to provide multi agency intervention and prevention activity. County lines have an impact on our communities.

ECFRS in a good place with less people being seriously hurt in fires, but RTCs are still an issue.

Ch/Insp Parker – We are aware and dealing with drug and knife crime in the district. A number of operations are taking place, including plainclothes patrols and increased stop and search. Officers are also talking to children in schools, leading to earlier intervention with children and parents.

We also undertake specific Operations to continue to disrupt violent gangs, and have specific weeks targeting those who cause most harm.

**Ch/Insp Scott-Haynes** – is looking at reinvigorating NHW, as it is a valuable tool in preventing crime. NHW is also a great way to engage with the local community, gain intelligence and help communities know what is happening in their area, as well as receiving feedback.

**Area Manager Dave Barnard, ECFRS** – Chelmsford has four appliances as well as other kinds of equipment such as an animal rescue unit, which in summer months can carry large water tanks. Chelmsford is supported by four whole time watches. Great Baddow is on call both. The Service is recruiting on call firefighters and anyone interested can find out more on [join.essex-fire.gov.uk](http://join.essex-fire.gov.uk) or drop in to their local fire station. Public engagement is very important and each fire station does their own work in the community.

Programmes such as Firebreak offers fantastic intervention with young or vulnerable people. The Service also works hard with police to drive down arson and help with community safety. Last week the Fire and Rescue Service launched the Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation, which gives the people the chance to have a say about the future of the Service. To fill out the survey follow this link [www.essex-fire.gov.uk/irmp](http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/irmp)

**Community Safety Manager Chelmsford and Maldon Community Safety Partnership** – Spencer Clarke works with statutory agencies such as police, fire and rescue, probation and health to help prevent and reduce crime in the district. Each year crime trends for the district are reviewed and renewed where required. This year the priorities are tackling violent crime, driving down ASB, supporting vulnerable people and helping prevent rural crime. On the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the Community Policing Team moved in with the CSP, along with other regulatory services. This has made a huge difference as they are all able to liaise together and work through issues. They are now looking at how they can engage better with the public and in particular schools. Planned interventions includes embarking on a project with Anglia Ruskin University about gang and knife crime.

Audience Questions	Panel answers
<p><b>Drug dealing</b> - a resident had reported what they believed was repeated drug dealing outside their house. They were disappointed with the response and believed the police hadn't attended. This was impacting his family and had led to threats to his family.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Parker asked to speak to the resident afterwards to get more details. When taking emergency calls, officers are dispatched on a threat harm risk basis, so it would depend on what information the call had contained and what other emergencies were taking place at the time. PFCC felt officers should attend if officers promised to be there. Requested officers speak to the resident after the meeting, as it needed to be resolved.</p>

<p><b>Police Officer Increase</b> - in the Commissioner's opening preamble he mentioned the 135 officers in the first tranche – how does the total number of officers compare with the numbers in 2010?</p>	<p>Getting an extra 20,000 additional officers nationally is a really good thing, but the Commissioner would have liked to see more allocated to Essex. Essex Police is well run and has 10% more officers on the front line than other forces with similar funding.</p> <p>Cities like Manchester, Newcastle and Liverpool have a much higher level of crime, and because of the way funding is allocated will be getting many more officers than Essex per head of population. Hopefully, Essex will receive a bigger share of officers in the next tranche.</p> <p>Fortunately we have continued officer recruitment and are ahead of the rest of the country. The next 135 takes our total officer numbers over 3,350. Once recruitment is complete Essex Police will have more officers than ever before. It is also important to take into account the benefit of the investments we have made in technology. Our officers are saving roughly 19 minutes per officer per shift and will ultimately save around an hour per shift by using mobile technology and not returning to stations to complete paperwork.</p>
<p>Police Estate - How many of the closed police stations have been sold? How will the money be saved? How will those savings be spent?</p>	<p>PFCC Hirst; £110million will be saved in total - £70 million comes from estates. Future spending will be used to invest in HQ and other police stations and the custody estate as many of the current buildings are not fit for purpose. Detailed estates plan on the website:  <a href="https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Estates-Strategy-2018.pdf">https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Estates-Strategy-2018.pdf</a></p> <p>There are some stations that take a while to sell and wished he knew why.</p>
<p>Drug offence figures – why were the number of drug offences not included in the crime data table in the briefing given out at the meeting.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Parker; the drugs data has its own section in the briefing but if the PFCC required it, it could be included in the crime stat table in the future.</p>
<p>Public engagement – many elderly people in the area did not have access to social media so would it be possible to leaflet them. It was a shame NhW was not working in Great Baddow.</p>	<p>NhW works really well elsewhere and police are working with people in the community, using a variety of ways to get messages across to members of the public and communities as a whole.</p>

<p>Website images – a resident had seen a pixilated image of a suspect detained in custody for drunk driving. The resident felt this was inappropriate as the person could have mental health issues and where were their rights?</p>	<p>Posting inappropriate pictures is obviously unacceptable and the member of the public was asked to identify the relevant pictures after the meeting so there use could be considered.</p> <p>NB – since April 17, people who are suffering a mental health crisis are routinely taken to hospital or other places of safety and not into custody unless the gravity of any offences committed dictate otherwise.</p>
<p>A resident had received a visit from police and during the conversation was told his tenancy could be at risk. Context was not given as to why. This had caused his wife who had mental health issues distress. He felt it was unacceptable.</p>	<p>This matter was followed up after the meeting.</p>
<p>How will the Fire and Rescue Service deal with the increase in population? There is a massive amount of building going on in Chelmsford – does ECFRS feel they have enough staffing to cope with this increase?</p>	<p>Dave Barnard - ECFRS are involved in an inspection regime and go out to high rise flats and make sure they are in good working order. Any issues are raised through Local Authorities, and with private companies and the service will prosecute if necessary. The service are meeting targets and take them seriously. Looking ahead a robust plan needed to be in place to ensure the Fire &amp; Rescue Service continue to provide a good service to the people of Essex. Currently the service was consulting on its Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), which looks at the fire service from 2020 -2024 and he encouraged people to take part in the survey.</p> <p>PFCC Hirst added it is important risk is covered in the community. Generally we have the ability to attend more events than actually occur. There is a very good network so can cope with population expansion. Key questions we need to ask include are fire stations in the right place in new towns and villages? We are involved with developers to make sure we are included in their planning. We are trying to get a share of community construction levy rather than just get funding through council tax.</p>

<p>Essex County Council bought the police station at Moulsham Lodge and this has been a great success as a shared community building. Suggested he talk with PFCC about utilising these buildings.</p> <p>Communication – majority of people have no knowledge of what’s happening with police as they don’t have internet. Needs to be something done about communication with residents. This will have a greater impact on communities.</p>	<p>PFCC Hirst – would be keen to engage.</p> <p>Agreed that more needs to be done. Social media isn’t possessed by all. Essex Police is part of a task and finish group and are looking at different ways of communicating.</p>
<p>RTCs – standard of driving is awful, using mobile phones, undertaking, and speeding.</p>	<p>If the public submit consistent reports then the Police are able to act. Driving is still a big killer in our county and we need to do more to stop people</p>
<p>Springfield – two police officers were recently attacked – should all officers be issued with tasers?</p>	<p>The PFCC has signed off on more tasers so officers who wish to be trained can be. British police have the levels of crime that strongly policed countries have but without the same level of restrictions on personal freedoms. We must protect the policing by consent model and have some reservations about whether introducing tasers for everybody may risk this vital relationship.</p>
<p>ANPR in Chelmsford</p>	<p>We have had ANPR in Chelmsford for 10 years and have one of the best networks in the county. Now in the Force Control Room (FCR). The hits are gathered by FCR directly and this works really well.</p> <p>CCTV are directly linked to Essex Police by radio and this works well. There is a new national programme for ANPR and this will help the system be more effective.</p>
<p>Can you upload CCTV to Essex Police?</p>	<p>Yes it can.</p>
<p>Moulsham NHW – have a really good network. We need more information and having stats we can use, can help give more information to people so if people know what is going on, they often feel more assured.</p>	<p>NHW a strong force in the community and excellent work is being done in Moulsham in particular.</p>

<p>Could we be doing more to get ANPR in the area?</p>	<p>We will follow up on the ANPR issue after the meeting but Chlemsford is well covered in terms of ANPR already.</p>
<p>20mph zone in Old Moulsham doesn't seem to be working.</p>	<p>Cllr Madden fielded this question - APRO guidelines – wanted 20mph for ages. This is a pilot, and when we originally went for 20mph ACPO's attitude was that they wouldn't support it. Police have since agreed to support the 20mph. We are intending to put in a camera so they can get data to see if it is working or not.</p> <p>Would have to look at legislation to prosecute but it is more important to put in preventative measures such a speedwatch. Specials can help train. Prevention is better than enforcement – but doesn't have the detail to answer fully.</p>
<p>Galleywood – what preventative action is taking place</p> <p>Asked to engage with residents to make positive change.</p>	<p>PFCC had covered this at the start of the meeting. Planned proactive policing with the support of the other agencies so we can support people and help break the cycle of crime.</p> <p>Services directly engaging with the local community is how we gain the intelligence we need to solve crime.</p>