

Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2020

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

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Author on behalf of Chief Officer:	Chief Inspector 3027 Balding
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1.0 **Purpose of Report**

The report covers:

- Headlines of prevention activity during Quarter 1 (April to June 2020) specifically in relation to CoVid19 and Black Lives Matter;
- Proposal for new Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-24 and reporting format;
- Quarter 4 (January – March 2020) progress against each thematic strand of the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy (2018 – 2021);
- Activity of Rural Engagement Team and Business Crime Team.

2.0 **Recommendations**

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

3.0 **Executive Summary**

Traditionally the Crime Prevention Strategy report submitted to the PRSB updates on delivery during the previous quarter; Quarter 4 for this report. However, in response the unprecedented times and the successful flex of Essex Police to adapt during the CoVid19 pandemic and latterly, the Black Lives Matter protests, this report also includes the headline preventative work that Essex Police has delivered during Q1 in response to these key global events.

In response to the death of George FLOYD there has been widespread public outcry in USA and beyond. Protest have been seen across the world, focused on highlighting the rights of all citizens, however clearly focused on the rights of BAME communities and their treatment by the 'state'. The current position within England is that the country remains in a relaxed state of 'lockdown' with legislation to support the restriction on gatherings of individual groups of more than six people to help prevent the spread of the COVID virus. The challenges and managing the conflict of facilitating peaceful protests against a backdrop of CoVid legislation is clear however, EP has successfully facilitated 7 protests between 31 May and 7 June which reported in no arrests as a result of disorder.

Furthermore, EP have demonstrated its agility and flex to the daily demands presented by CoVid19 (Op TALLA). Utilising national and local data insights and predictors, it has successfully delivered during uncertain and unprecedented times with the added CoVid related question within the SMSR showing just over three quarters (75.3%) of those surveyed have confidence in the approach the force is taking in policing during the pandemic.

Op TALLA Recovery has taken on an adopt, adapt, abort or accelerate model to returning to the 'business as new normal' and ensure the learning is embedded. The key aspect going forward is recovery/restart and preparing for the potential increase and/or changes in demand at detailed in section 4.0.

Despite these unprecedented times, the thematic leads have continued to deliver against the existing Crime Prevention Strategy, and where the current situation has required, EP has adapted the delivery approach which has included:

- Increasing social media messaging of the support available for vulnerable domestic abuse victims in anticipation of the upward trends evidenced in China and Italy who were ahead of the UK in terms of CoVid lockdown;
- Stepping up EP's utilisation of existing powers such as DVPN/Os which resulted in special mention of EP during the DA Bill reading in Parliament on 12 June. Jess Phillips MP (shadow minister for Domestic Violence and safeguarding) stated *'If everybody was like Essex police force, I would be jumping for joy. I do not hope for this, but maybe one day somebody will perpetrate a crime against me in Essex and I will see how brilliant the force is at orders'*.

Looking forward Essex Police are committed to developing a stronger new Crime Prevention Strategy (2021-24) that builds on the foundations of its predecessor. In order to support the ambition of a whole system approach to crime prevention (section 6.0) a dedicated Superintendent has been provided to Local Policing Support Unit for 3 months to formulate and drive the early part of this work.

4.0 **Covid-19**

The UK Government announced lockdown toward the end of Q4 (23 March 2020). The lockdown restrictions triggered the introduction of the new legislation – the Coronavirus Act 2020 which gave police powers to use enforcement for non-compliance.

Essex Police position was clear from the outset: 'We police by consent' and adopted the 4E model of Engage, Explain, Encourage and lastly Enforce. The result of our approach, community engagement and clear messaging has been that local authorities have only issued prohibitions on a small number of businesses operating during the restrictions and Essex Police have issued 241 fixed penalty notices (correct as of 16 June 2020).

The Op TALLA cell have received daily national updates, distilled to local information and intelligence and coordinate the Force's response. This model has successful delivered:

- Review of daily national intelligence reports on community tensions and hate crimes which has been monitored for any change in community cohesion, responding effectively, engaging with the community & key partners as required to mitigate any issues. This has been disseminated by Community & Engagement Officer to lead thematic officers for Prevent and Hate Crime and LPA Superintendents and raised at daily Gold call where relevant;
- Daily reviews of national intelligence giving predicted criminal activity such as:
 - Pharmacies - Being broken into and theft of prescription pain killers as the government restrictions had an impact on the supply and distribution of prohibited drugs. In an attempt to reduce delivery trips more opioids were to be stored at Care homes, GP surgeries and Palliative homes (oxycodone, oxycontin and morphine) These premises held potential to be targeted;
 - Warehouses and storage sites being targeted as the buildings remain unstaffed. Premises of national electrical chains were having walls rammed and electric goods stolen;
 - Pubs and bars being targeted for cigarettes and cash from machines;
 - Theft of cigarettes and alcohol from service stations;
 - Construction sites being targeted for tools and machinery as sites are left vacant;
 - Theft from HGVs as the vehicles become more recognisable as motorways are clearer of traffic and less patrols by police traffic vehicles. HGVs are also being targeted at fuel forecourts and are having side curtains slashed. Drivers sometimes being robbed;
 - Offenders following home delivery vehicles of companies who are now leaving goods on doorsteps to achieve social distancing. Offenders are lifting goods from doorsteps. Incident in Avon and Somerset of a robbery from an Amazon driver, vehicle and all parcels stolen;

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- NHS PPE stolen, uniforms and ID cards so offenders can gain entry to hospitals and storage sites. Uniform and ID also being used for drug distribution by county lines. The belief that dealers will be less likely to be stopped if in uniform;
- 5G masts targeted.

The above were drivers to mobilise District Commanders to develop localised Patrol & Engagement Plans based on evidence (identifying potential targeted sites, local mapping, daily national picture updates and local intelligence/insight) and to increase visibility in communities and provide public confidence/reassurance. The Business Crime team played an active role in coordination.

The above preventative steps have resulted no or low level local reflection of the national predictions.

Local analytics identified:

Crime types currently at lower levels (& stable) than the pre-lockdown period (in 2019):

- Violence with Injury
- Theft (including vehicle offences, shoplifting)
- Burglary (Business and Community, and Residential)
- Robbery of Personal Property
- Rape and Other Sexual Offences

Crime types currently above levels experienced pre-lockdown (in 2019):

- Possession of Drugs
- Trafficking of Drugs

Crime types currently at comparable levels to the pre-lockdown period (in 2019)

- Violence Without Injury
- Domestic Abuse
- Arson
- Robbery of Business Premises (9 in 2020 when compared with 8 in same period in 2019)

In addition to the above, EP received a significant increase in ASB reports (5,500 during 3 weeks period) which data interrogation concluded that these were predominately related to breaches of CoVid19 restrictions. EP identified a number of intervention opportunities for example, a number of reports relating to 60 licensed premises operating during lockdown restrictions; these were resolved and shutdown through action by joint approach through licencing (slow time) and LPT (response).

A typical week's analytical interrogation (3 to 9 June 2020) resulted in the following action:

- 37.4% were referred to CPT for action, an increase from the 37.0% average over the whole period;
- 10.4% were referred to the local authorities. This is a stable trend, with the overall rate for the entire period (9.4%);
- 7.1% were referred to the FCR for LPT response;
- The remainder were NFA.

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Independent SMSR survey which completes telephone surveys with 7,700 Essex residents per year has added specific questions for our response to COVID-19, as of end of May EP had received 728 responses over last 4 weeks which provides reliable interim results.

Just over three quarters (75.3%) of those surveyed have confidence in the approach the force is taking in policing during the pandemic. This was highest in week 2 at just over 80% and is notably higher than levels of 'general' public confidence previously.

Op TALLA Recovery has taken on an adopt, adapt, abort or accelerate model to returning to the 'business as new normal' and ensure the learning is embedded.

As businesses and communities work through the stages of lifting of the restrictions, EP have engaged with key partners to facilitate Essex's recovery. We also have clear plans in response to the different phases of lockdown restrictions being lifted, including supporting to other agencies and organisations in delivering core responsibilities. Areas of focus include town centres, roads, public transport, sporting events and the night time economy.

5.0 Black Lives Matter

On 25 May 2020 George FLOYD was detained and restrained by police officers in Minneapolis and subsequently died. Police officers have been charged with his murder. This tragic incident has been widely reported, and has caused widespread public outrage in USA, and across the world. America has experienced widespread violent protest. Protest has also been seen across the world, focused on highlighting the rights of all citizens, however clearly focused on the rights of BAME communities and their treatment by the 'state'.

The country is in the middle of the COVID 19 pandemic, an unprecedented public health emergency, which is having a huge impact internationally, nationally and here in Essex. The current position within England at the time of writing is that the country remains in a relaxed state of 'lockdown' with legislation to support the restriction on gatherings of individual groups of more than six people to help prevent the spread of the COVID virus.

As the UK continues to deal with the response to COVID19 there is concern and anxiety amongst communities, and there is a wide spectrum of views and different levels of compliance throughout the force area and country. The National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) daily Op Talla National Daily Update and Assessment reports on issues across all regions and forces. Whilst there have been no large-scale issues of disorder there has been evidence of large gathering and some protest activity in parts of England. The further relaxation of restrictions as of 01 June remove the restriction on leaving home addresses without reasonable excuse, and the police have no powers to enforce social distancing guidance. This change in law creates a situation whereby some of the public expectation on policing to disperse gatherings, particularly those that are not socially distanced exceeds what is possible in law. Essex Police's position

remains that we will utilise the 4E approach with heavy focus on the first three Es.

Intelligence enabled EP to successfully facilitate 8 peaceful protests as follows:

- Loughton - 31st May
Group of up to 30 persons gathered and then walked to Loughton police station chanting, shouting and displaying banners or placards showing support for this cause.
- Harlow – 03rd June
Group numbering in excess of 150 at some point did the same. They gathered, walked around the town and had a sit-down vigil outside Harlow police station. Both events passed without incident.
- Grays – 5th June
Group of 4 protestors with placards and loud hailer. No issues.
- Southend – 6th June
Group of 1,000 protestors who completed 9 minutes kneel speeches and placards. No issues.
- Colchester – 7th June
Group of 1200 protestors who completed 9 minutes kneel speeches and placards. At the conclusion of the assembly approx 40 protestors commenced a procession through the town centre. No issues or offences.
- Chelmsford – 8th June
Group of 70 protesters who assembled at 2pm. undertook a peaceful march around the parkrun route and had all dispersed by 4.30pm
- Southend – 10th June – No issues.
- Chelmsford – 13th June – no issues.

In addition to EP's response to and managing public protests, LPSU and relevant thematic leads continue to monitor the daily national NPoCC intelligence report to identify any predators in relation to community tensions and increases in crime types such as Hate Crime. So far, there has been no change in Hate Crime reporting.

EP has a strong Strategic Independent Advisory Group that are able to advise on community cohesion, local intelligence and provides further reach to communities.

6.0 Crime Prevention Strategy moving forward

Essex Police are committed to develop a stronger new Crime Prevention Strategy (2021-24). In order to support the ambition described below a dedicated Superintendent has been provided to Local Policing Support Unit for 3 months to drive this work.

Several key documents have been reviewed including Force Management Statement, Strategic Assessment, Force Plan, OPFCC Police and Crime Plan to ensure 'read across' to identify the thematic areas which cause the biggest impact on Essex; these will be the strands for the Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-24 and are grouped:

1) Serious Violence

- Knife Crime
 - Rape
 - Night Time Economy
- 2) Organised Crime
- County Lines/Exploitation
 - High impact Organised Crime (MS/HT)
 - Cybercrime & Fraud
- 3) Complex Needs
- Child Sexual Abuse & exploitation
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Drugs & Alcohol
 - Mental Health
 - Dwelling burglary & Street robbery
 - Prevent
 - Hate Crime

LPSU have recommended a revised model for the Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2024 going forward which includes Crime Prevention Tactical Advisors aligned and supporting the thematic leads

The model:

For each theme the Crime Prevention Strategy will:

- Describe a 'picture of Essex'
- Definition of thematic strand – what do we mean when we say 'NTE' etc
- Strategic aim – overarching, reduce/increase
- Strategic Objectives (4-5)
- Delivery Plan – whole system partnership approach
- Measure – how will we know when we have delivered the plan

Next Steps:

- June – July 2020 Work progressed with thematic leads to progress above, map stakeholders and thematic governance
- July – August 2020 LPSU to consolidate work with thematic leads
- 08 September 2020 – proposal to Safer Essex (partnership arena)
- September – November 2020 Partnership consultation and contribution
- December 2020 – final draft
- January 2021 – Launch of Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-24

Proposed reporting format:

- Reports quarterly to PFCC
- Reporting format Data from quarterly Strategic Assessment (shows trends)
- Performance – predefined measures of success
- Update of progress against Delivery Plan including 'Delivery Dashboard' of % of strands of work completed, in progress, at risk
- Risks
- 1 x year – short case study of success
- Development of public facing report as part of Communication Strategy strand of CPS

7.0 Crime Prevention Strategy Progress Report

The Essex Crime Prevention Strategy is set out at Appendix 1. The strategy targets nine key areas of crime prevention each of which is assigned a senior operational lead who is the author for the corresponding section:

1. Domestic Abuse – Chief Superintendent Mariner.
2. Gangs and Knife Crime – Chief Superintendent Harman.
3. Night Time Economy – Superintendent Hallworth.
4. Child Abuse and Exploitation – D/Chief Superintendent Baldwin.
5. Extremism and Radicalisation – Superintendent Davies.
6. Hate Crime – Detective Superintendent Cannon.
7. Digital Crime and Fraud – Detective Chief Inspector Truss.
8. House Burglary and Street Robbery – Chief Superintendent Anslow.
9. Serious and Organised Crime – Detective Chief Inspector Morton.

7.1 Domestic Abuse:

Stalking Protection Orders went live in 2020. These are new civil orders which allow for early Police intervention pre conviction to address stalking behaviour before the behaviour escalates. Currently, 4 persons are subject to Interim orders and 2 persons are the subject of full orders and there is one application pending which compares well with most similar Forces.

DA training for Local Policing Teams on Flex days has commenced. The training covers initial actions on scene, use of body worn video and obtaining best evidence. The training covers those areas that needed development as highlighted in the review of the Outcome 16 cases.

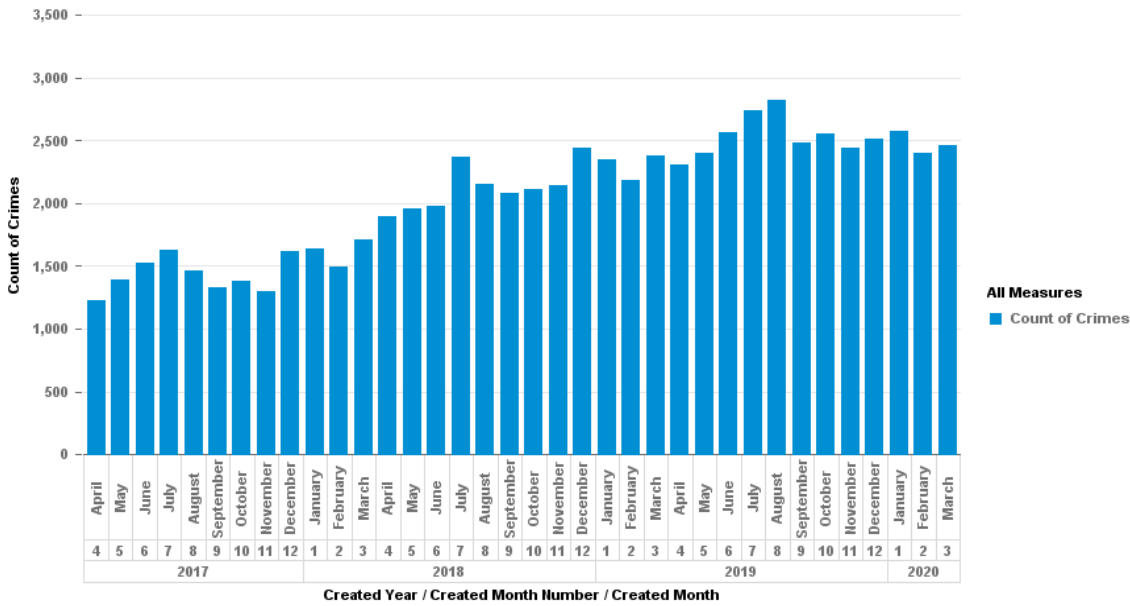
The pilot for Op Encompass was launched in Thurrock within this quarter. The pilot allows for a referral pathway for Essex Police to inform schools if a pupil has been present or reside at an address where medium risk DA incident has occurred. Essex Police with partners are scoping out options to roll out Op Encompass County wide 2020/21.

Further DA preventive initiatives are being developed between Essex Police, Next Chapter and Compass. The first was launched on 1st April 2020 which provides a wrap around service for victims including phone support 24/7 (through Independent Domestic Violence Advisers as Police leave the scene of an incident.)

DA Offences

12 months to end of March 2020:

12 Month ending March 19	12 Month ending March 20	Diff.	% Diff.
26032	30268	4236	+16.3%



7.2 Knife Crime Offences:

There were 1,574 knife offences recorded in 2019/20, which represented 53% (545) more offences than the previous year. It was predicted that this figure would further increase in the next quarter however due to COVID19 and lock down restrictions it is suspected a dramatic decrease of offences will occur and be noted within the next Crime Prevention Strategy Quarterly report.

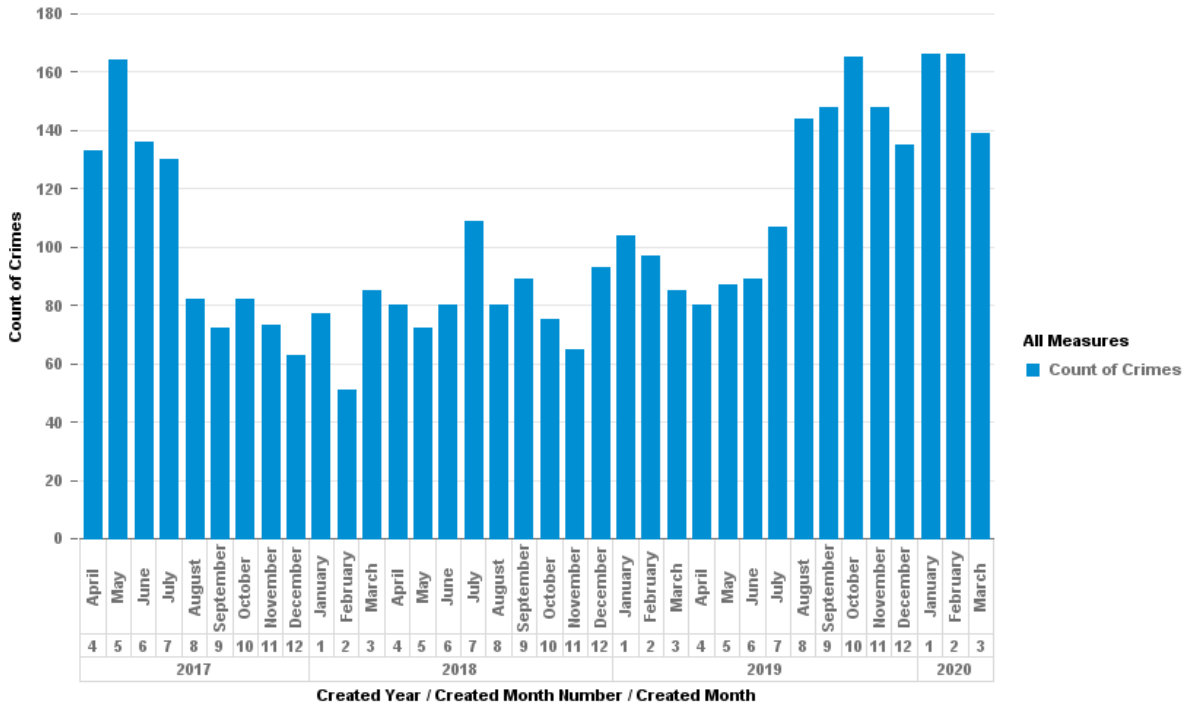
There have been several operations in respect of knife crime within the reporting period but of note:

Operation Gloss – A previous initiative which has now been adopted full time due to its success. Border force are supporting Essex Police and now working together with Border Force seizing weapons as they arrive in the Country destined for homes in Essex. The process is aimed at targeting risk and repeat offenders. To date approx. 20 deliveries have been intercepted including 3 flick knives, 2 canisters of CS destined for an address of a domestic abuse nominal. The operation is unique to Essex Police.

Knife Crime Offences

12 months to end of March 2020:

12 Month ending March 19	12 Month ending March 20	Diff.	% Diff.
1029	1574	545	+53%



7.3 Night Time Economy (NTE):

Supt Hallworth as the new Crime Prevention lead for the NTE and has instigated several new initiatives. These include:

The creation of a new NTE Crime Reduction Group, in which priority areas of focus have been identified and split into primary, secondary and tertiary focus areas. All areas targeted by multi agency resources and the primary / secondary aspects subject to a CONTEST style 4 P approach.

An interactive map is being created for the NTE areas and thus allow for local briefing and preventive and partnership responses.

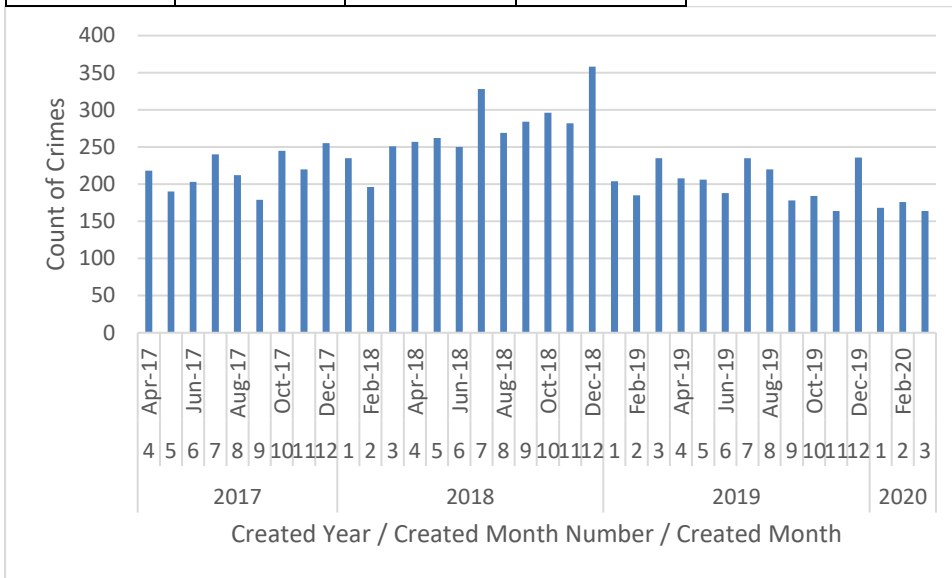
Emphasis on harm reduction rather than overall reduction, with the Crime Reduction Group utilising insights to focus activity in small time / space concentrations to inform activity, maximising visible deterrence.

The NTE Crime Reduction Group will also be liaising closely with Local Policing Support Unit in order to inform, contribute and shape the NTE aspect of the Crime Reduction Strategy.

NTE Offences

12 months to end of March 2020:

12 Month ending March 19	12 Month ending March 20	Diff.	% Diff.
3210	2327	-883	-27.5%



7.4 Sexual Offences, Child Abuse and Exploitation:

Sexual Offences:

The Rape Prevention Strategy was formalised in early 2020, a 5 year preventive plan created by Essex Police in order to prevent rape and serious sexual offences. The strategy is partnership approach and tackles repeat offenders and assists repeat victims. The strategy is based sharing of data, resources and expertise. It has five key areas: Victim, Offender, Partnership, Staff and Innovation.

Crime and Public Protection have introduced Op Ratify, which addresses repeat offenders of sexual violence. Essex Police data is used to identify and target offenders by each Public Protection Investigation Unit creating a 4P plan against each identified offender. The identified individuals will be subject to proactive target in order to reduce their offending.

Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:

The second wave of Op Kirn (use of Police cadets to test the response of hotels and CSEA) has been postponed due to COVID19. However, SET have endorsed a funding bid in order to secure a third party to complete training for staff on premises in which CSEA is likely to occur. Once legislation allows then Op Kirn will resume.

The Catalyst Project continues. The project uses extracted data from Athena to establish patterns of offending in respect to CSEA. The data has the potential to inform strategies for targeting offenders and safe guarding potential victims.

During this quarter a CSEA input was delivered to a large group of foster carers/ parents in the West LPA by staff from the CSE Triage Team which received positive praise, further to this Intu Lakeside have received training from the Local Policing Team reference spotting and reporting concerns to Police.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel is in place. The purpose of the panel is to provide independent advice and expertise on safe guarding policies, procedures and practices to those within the Church.

The launch of the CSE Team has been postponed due to COVID19 but officers have been posted and the team will create a specific team in Essex Police which will focus on CSE investigations and allow specialised focus on victim care, engagement and safe guarding. The team will improve investigation standards and performance.

7.5 Extremism and Radicalisation:

Eastern Region Special Operations Unit, Counter Terrorism Policing, Prevent continue to support partners by conducting and co-ordinating briefings and training on extremism.

The ERSOU training includes:

- Prevent team supporting the training of "new starter" Border Policing Officers on their induction courses.
- Prevent team providing training and support at Regional NHS Prevent workshops.
- Prevent team continues to support Military colleagues across the region with specific training given to staff at Military corrective training centre in Colchester.
- Detailed local briefings to community policing teams continue, where Prevent referrals identify those individuals who pose a threat, harm or risk in their communities.
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In March 2020 HMICFRS published the thematic inspection on Prevent which sought to ascertain 'How effective is the police contribution to Prevent?' by considering:

- what capability is in place in police forces to support Prevent;
- whether there is consistency in the way in which police forces operate with regional counter-terrorism (intelligence) units (CT(I)Us) and other organisations; and
- whether there is effective sharing of information: within policing, with other agencies, and their joint approach to communication with the public about Prevent.

The national recommendations have been distilled into local action and this was the focus for the refreshed Essex Police Prevent Delivery Plan presented and adopted at the CONTEST Board on 26 May 2020. The EPPDP ensures we are well positioned to receive and embed the national products when they are created.

The Report identified 8 national recommendations as follows:

- By June 2020, the NPCC national Prevent lead and the College of Policing should develop a training and awareness package that encompasses continuous professional development for Prevent strategic leads in forces.
- By June 2020, the College of Policing and the NPCC national lead for public protection and safeguarding should add vulnerability to radicalisation as the 14th core discipline of public protection.
- With immediate effect, the NPCC national Prevent lead should make sure that all fixed intelligence management units have enough access to the Prevent case management tracker.
- With immediate effect, the NPCC national Prevent lead should create national guidance for the police service on applying Prevent to staff vulnerable to radicalisation or extremism, to identify a range of options, such as selection processes, welfare and vetting, including guidance on risk thresholds.
- By June 2020, the NPCC national Prevent lead should review the national business assurance process to assure compliance with NCTPHQ policy.
- By June 2020, the NPCC national Prevent lead and Office for Security and Counter-terrorism (OSCT) should develop performance measures that will help police forces assess their operational contributions to Prevent.
- With immediate effect, the NPCC national Prevent lead and each force Prevent lead should review the attendance of force representatives at Channel panels so that police are correctly represented by decision makers who can contribute to managing risk.

- By June 2020, the NPCC national Prevent lead and OSCT should undertake a national review of counter-terrorism local profiles (CTLP), to include its governance, purpose, method of creation, structure and dissemination, and produce revised CTLP guidance.

A comprehensive review of local and national documents have afforded a 'stock take' of Essex' position post HMICFRS inspection, identified areas of strength/delivered against, risk/gaps, best practice which may be adopted or adapted by EP and opportunities for further integration across Essex partners which has shaped and influenced the refreshed EPPDP.

Personnel changes:

- ACC Andy Prophet has taken on the Essex Contest Lead and Chair of the Eastern Region Contest Board (6 Eastern Region Forces of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk);
- Superintendent Michelle Davies has been appointed as EP Strategic Prevent Lead.

7.6 Hate Crime:

The local picture reflects the national picture with no significant rise in hate crime due to COVID19. Chief Inspector Balding has taken ownership of COVID19 related hate crime and implemented weekly hate crime virtual meets with Hate Crime Officers, weekly Strategic Independent Advisory Group meetings and daily reporting on hate crime in order to identify patterns and trends.

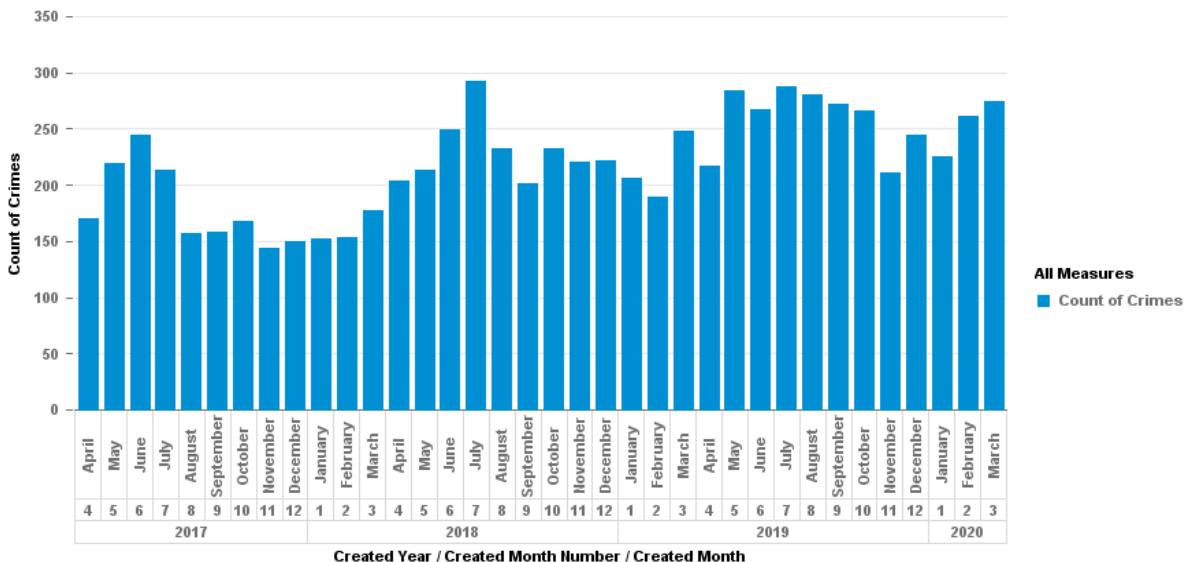
Essex Police continues to work with the Strategic Hate Crime Partnership in order to reduce hate crime.

Ongoing activity for this quarter includes presentations on hate crime prevention to faith groups, supporting local initiatives which raise hate crime awareness to Community groups. Overall 21,000 contacts have been made through engagement by the Counties network of hate crime ambassadors and hate incident reporting centres (HIRCS). Local Essex Police Community Teams continue to respond to hate crime and supported by the dedicated hate crime officers.

Hate Crime Offences

12 months to end of March 2020:

12 Month ending March 19	12 Month ending March 20	Diff.	% Diff.
2713	3090	377	+13.9%



7.7 Digital Crime and Fraud:

Fraud:

Fraud Co-ordinators were successfully recruited in October 2019 and are now firmly embedded within Local Policing Support Unit. The Fraud Co-ordinators work directly under the Business Crime Sergeant and are responding quickly to the changing landscape of fraud created by the COVID19 crisis. During this quarter the Fraud Co-ordinators have contacted over 150 potential victims of fraud identified through ACTION FRAUD, contributed to Facebook Live discussions on password fraud and COVID19 related frauds. These preventive actions reduce the number of victims of fraud.

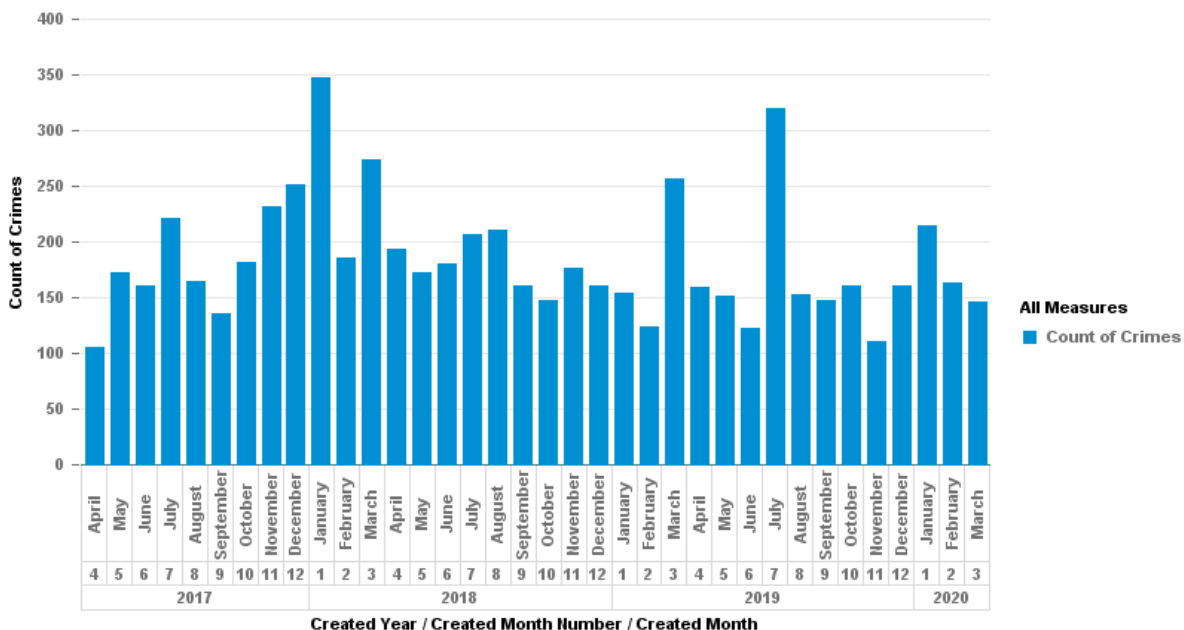
During this quarter Serious Economic Crime (SEC) have recruited volunteers with expertise in fraud to visit potential victim groups and victims based on fraud hotspots to provide preventive advice. They have also worked with investigation teams to identify emerging trends and be proactive to reduce crime.

SEC have been working closely with ERSOU in respect to an increase in COVID19 related reports. Critical public messages have been published through Essex Police media in order to highlight emerging fraud trends and provide preventative advice.

Fraud Offences

12 months to end of March 2020:

12 Month ending March 19	12 Month ending March 20	Diff.	% Diff.
2146	2008	-138	-6.4%



Cybercrime:

Prevent & Protect strands are utilising media to circulate key messaging and have published in both local and national publications, for example, a 2-page article in the Essex Business Time magazine reaching an audience of thousands. Essex Police are linked into national campaigns such as the Matrix Challenge for schools; this national cyber skills competition is open to all 11-17 year olds, competing in one of two age categories (11-14 or 15-17 years). The Matrix Challenge tests participant’s knowledge of The Computer Misuse Act, how to stay safe online and develops cyber skills.

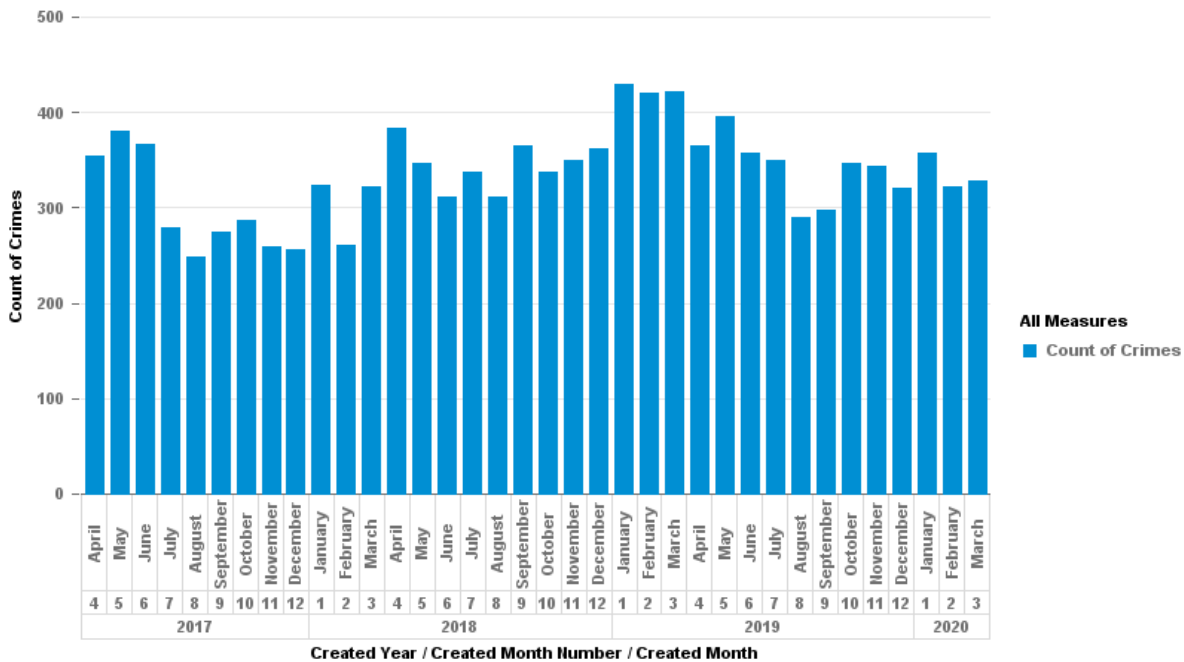
We also work with suspects to divert them onto positive pathways by delivering Cease & Desist notices. Working with National Crime Agency (NCA) and Eastern Regional Specialist Operational Unit (ERSOU), we are notified of Essex residents purchasing cyber programmes known to be utilised for criminality. We then proactively visit them and seek to minimise the risk of offending.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen an increase in the number of cyber related incidents using the crisis to access digital networks. Therefore, the Cyber Crime and Prevent & Protect teams are working with regional resources to enhance their ability to minimise the risk to businesses.

Cyber / Online Offences

12 months to end of March 2020:

12 Month ending March 19	12 Month ending March 20	Diff.	% Diff.
4378	4071	-307	-7%



7.8 House Burglary and Street Robbery:

House Burglary:

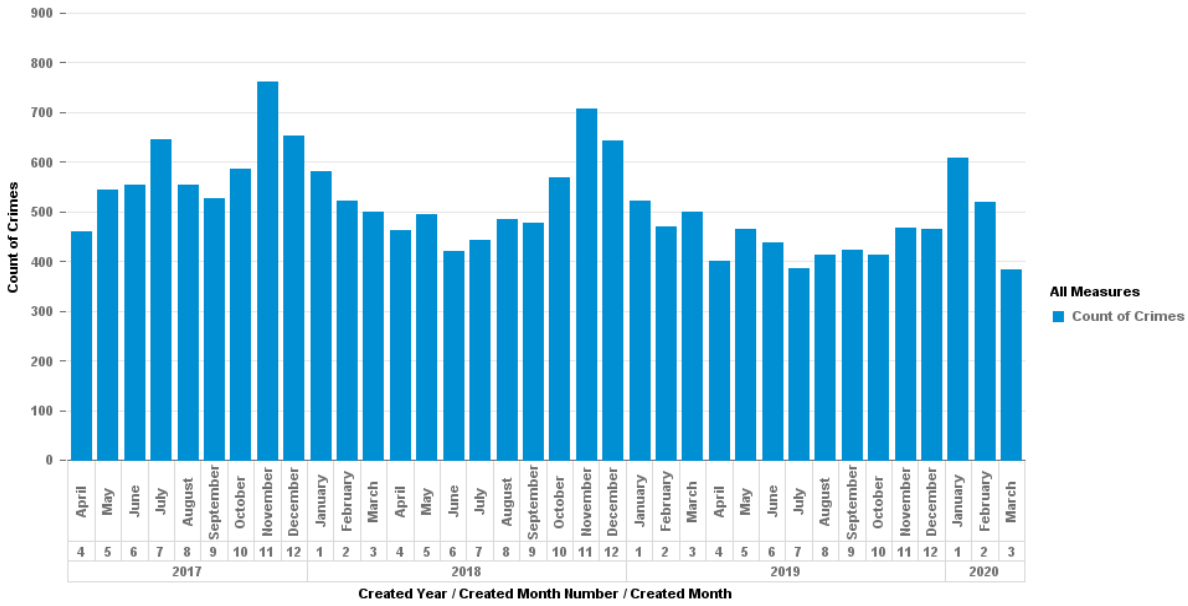
House burglary has been significantly impacted by the Coronavirus crisis, with less opportunity to commit offences because potential victims and witnesses are at home and increased risk of detection during travel to or from offending. There have been some residual overnight car key burglary offences across the force which have been responded to locally through investigation and proactive tasking where trends can be identified.

Op Meteor is the force 'flagship' burglary prevention operation, delivering property marking to many homes in those areas considered most vulnerable to offending. The operation was due to roll out in the next quarter, driven by lead officers in each of the local policing areas. This piece of work has been paused during the lockdown phase and the use of remaining funds is being considered in the context of current crime trends and the restrictions to engaging with homeowners owing to social distancing guidelines. PIER have supplied an interim report which provides evidence that the Operation has successfully deployed continue with their work to academically evaluate last year's deployment albeit progress has been slowed. Within the duration of Operation Meteor over 3,800 households were visited by Essex Police to receive burglary prevention advice.

Burglary (Dwelling) Offences

12 months to end of March 2020:

12 Month ending March 19	12 Month ending March 20	Diff.	% Diff.
6191	5381	-810	-13.1%



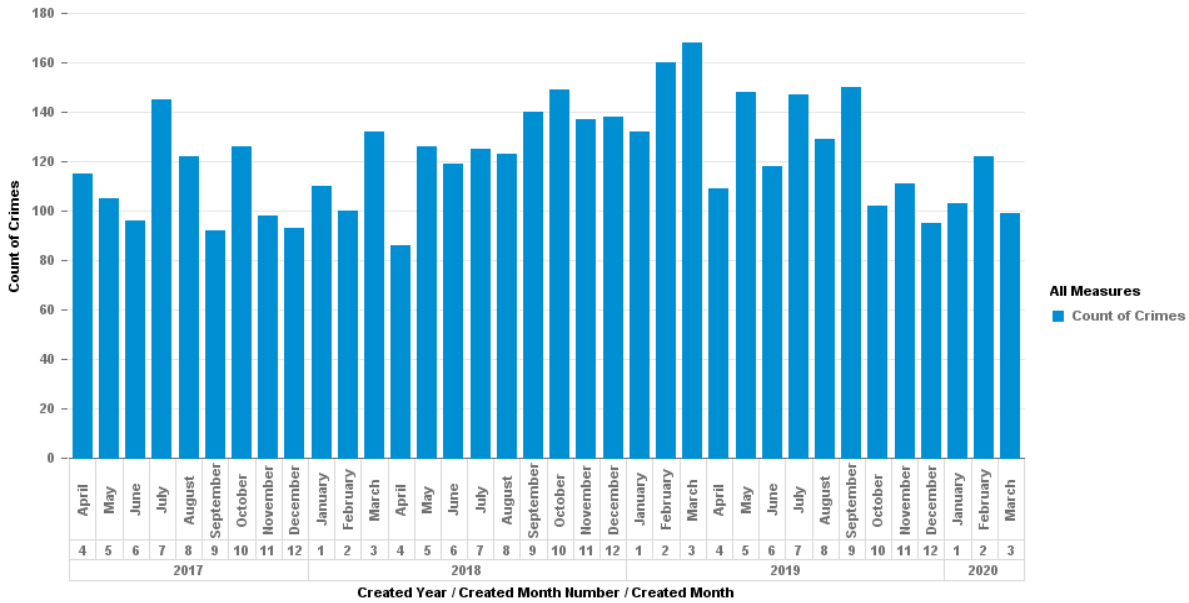
Robbery (Personal) Offences

Street robbery offences continue to fall, with an accelerated rate of decline since the social restrictions owing to Coronavirus. This is likely to be down to fewer potential victims on the street and perceptions that offenders may be at greater risk of detection due as a result of 'standing out' if in public without a lawful purpose. Offending over the last 3 months averages 3 offences per day across the force, down nearly 2 offences per day on the same period last year.

Op Sceptre deployments continue and the hotspots for those patrol frequently overlap with those areas suffering the highest number of street robbery offences. The focus on high visibility policing, knife sweeps, use of stop and search in these locations is likely a strong deterrent. The 12mth between April '19 and March '20 saw a 120% increase in stop and searches and a 97% increase in knives recovered. The roll out of Risk Terrain Modelling (RTM) for Op Sceptre over the coming year is likely to continue to impact on street robbery.

12 months to end of March 2020:

12 Month ending March 19	12 Month ending March 20	Diff.	% Diff.
1603	1433	-170	-10.6%



7.9 Serious and Organised Crime:

Essex Police Modern Slavery Human Trafficking unit (MSHT) is now fully staffed and are providing a specialist function to the investigation of this crime type, this has increased proactive operations linked to MSHT and resulted in the safeguarding of 23 vulnerable trafficked victims.

Through partnership with the Justice and Care, dedicated MSHT victim navigators have been embedded within the teams, this resource provides wider force support outside of SCD and is identified as a best practice model which is now being adopted by other forces outside of Essex Police, this work prevents future victim exploitation by early identification and signposting for support.

Essex Police have enhanced the MSHT updates and training material on the internal website with links to mobile devices. This has now been published and is available to all officers as best practice guidance material to deal with such matters. In addition to this training packages are being delivered by the team to LPT officers on Flex training days as part of the new force shift pattern.

Serious Organised Crime have a standing partnership with Cardtronics and during the COVID19 lock down arranged for the ATMs managed by them within Essex (85% of ATMs in the county) to have cash storage reduced by 50% to reduce losses should ATM crime rise.

Detective Chief Inspector Coan has instigated the creation of the Essex Organised Crime Group Tactical Delivery Group, the first meeting taking place in May 2020. The aim of the group is to substantially reduce the level of serious and organised crime affecting Essex, the UK and its interest. The purpose of the Essex OCG Tactical Delivery Group is to:

- Ensure co-ordination between all Departments within Essex Police in tackling Serious and Organised Crime.
- Explore and implement innovative, co-ordinated tactics to tackle Serious and Organised Crime.
- Ensure analytical output enables an effective understanding of the problem and enables solutions to be found
- Ensure a consistent approach to drive activity against OCG's operating impacting on Essex communities

7.10 Rural Crime:

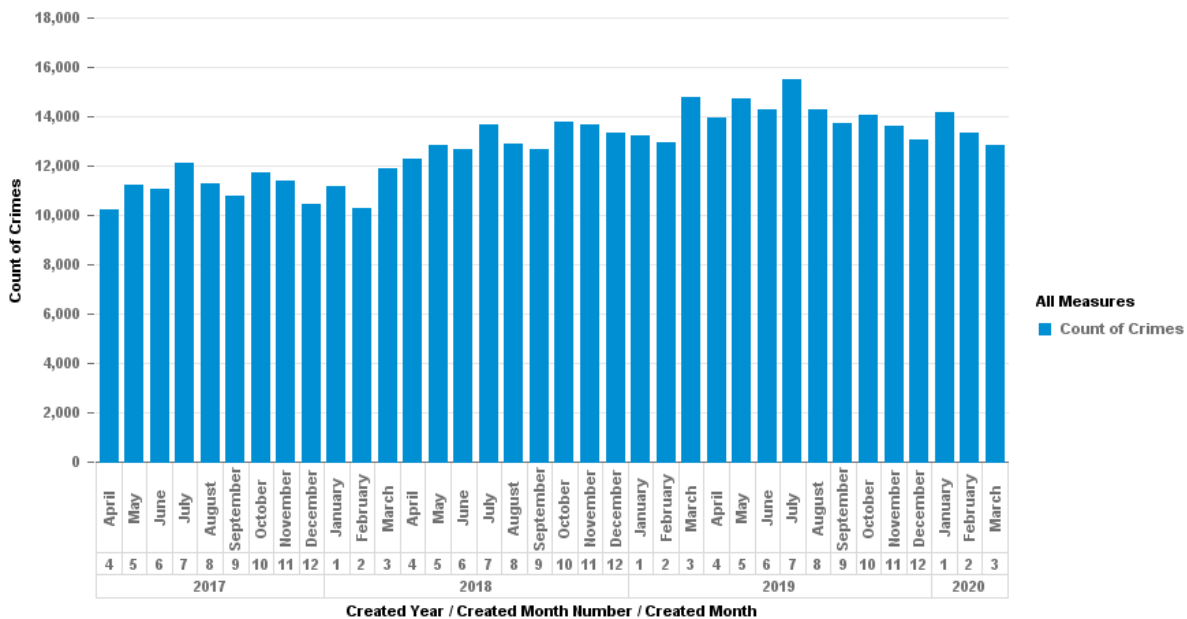
Consultation is taking place between May and July 2020 in respect of increasing the team's terms of reference. A draft delivery plan is being created in which strategic objectives are underpinned by a 4P delivery plan. Prior to Covid19 the team were working with local authorities around fly tipping. Joint Police and local authority patrols took place which included joint operations to target those breaching legislation in relation to waste carriers' licence.

The team have been engaging with the farming community in order to encourage the accurate reporting of hare coursing and other forms of poaching. The team have conducted high visibility patrols and promoted such on Twitter in a bid to deter poaching within the county. The officers have worked with ANPR to target suspects while on the road network and have made effective use of Community Protection Warnings and Notices. High visibility speed checks in villages to reduce speeding and the risk of serious harm have been completed. Heritage and Wildlife officers have also been patrolling some of the county's historic sites due to increase of risk within the COVID19 crisis and reduction

Rural Crime Offences

12 months to end of March 2020:

12 Month ending March 19	12 Month ending March 20	Diff.	% Diff.
13186	13002	-184	-1.4%



7.11 Business Crime:

The team have been working with several identified town centre locations to start to create Business Against Crime support groups, allowing members of the business community to join and have access to information sharing systems, crime prevention information and support from other businesses within the locality.

An excellent working relationship has been formed with the Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses to ensure a reach out to over 3000 businesses in Essex. The contacts will receive a monthly newsletter written by the team to update them on work being conducted and emerging local and national crime trends to aid crime prevention. The team have identified prolific offenders and are working on simplifying the procedure to place these offenders on behavioural orders. This will support Local Police in dealing with offenders who cause the most harm by placing conditions on the offender and reduce re-offending.

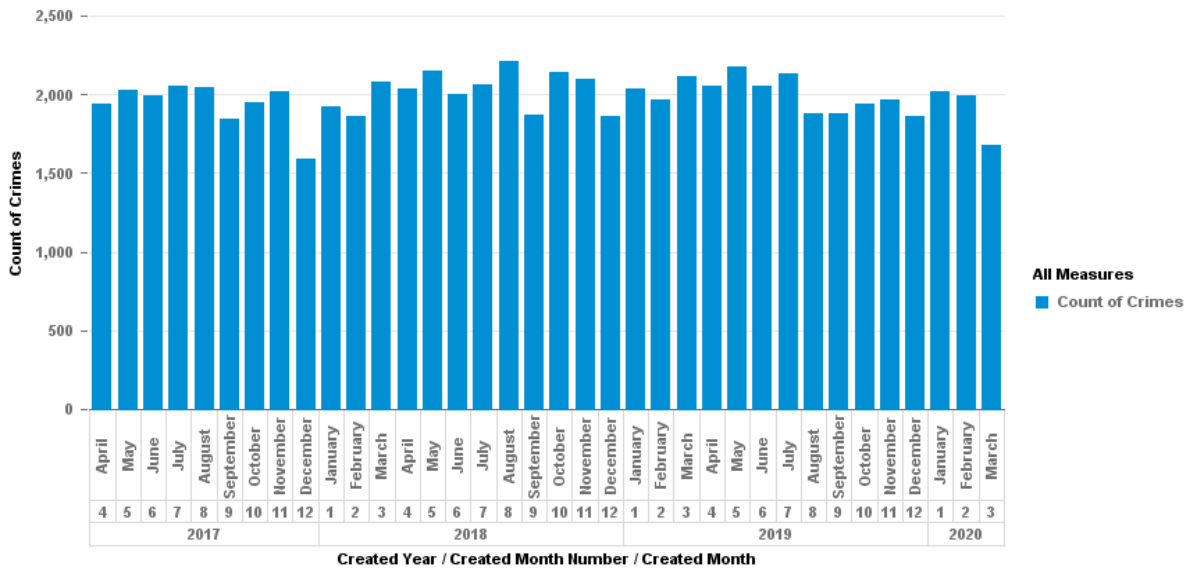
The creation of a MOWP campaign is in early stages after a recent successful POCA bid. The campaign will look at new, cost effective and innovative ways of reducing offences

on forecourts around the county. Outcomes will be reduction in offences, visible presence and increased confidence by the Business Community.

Business Crime Offences

12 months to end of March 2020:

12 Month ending March 19	12 Month ending March 20	Diff.	% Diff.
24569	23628	-941	-3.8%



8.0 Implications (Issues)

None identified.

8.1 Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities

The creation and delivery of this strategy contributes to all areas of the PFCC Police and Crime Plan and should be considered an underlying theme throughout.

8.2 Demand

None identified.

8.3 Risks/Mitigation

None identified.

8.4 Equality and/or Human Rights Implications

None identified.

8.5 Health and Safety Implications

None identified.

9.0 Consultation/Engagement

- NPCC Crime Prevention Delivery Group
- NPCC Modernising Neighbourhood Policing Working Group
- NPCC Problem Solving Working Group
- Essex Chief Superintendents
- Key Community Safety Partners (via the Essex Community Safety Network and Safer Essex.)
- Local Policing Support Unit and OPFCC stakeholders.

10.0 Actions for Improvement

There are no outstanding HMICFRS improvement plans or Areas for Improvement (AFIs) relating to the Crime Prevention Strategy.

11.0 Decisions required by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

None.

Appendix One:



Essex Police Crime
Prevention Strategy 2