

# Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020

## Quarterly Update

Quarter 1 – 2020/21

*Data to June 2020*



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# Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020 – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q1

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# Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020 – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q1

## Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

### We will:

*Boost community volunteering, encourage the Active Citizen Programme and grow the police family – doubling the Special Constabulary, with a Special Constable in every community.*

- The Special Constabulary headcount stood at 511 at the end of June, compared to 513 at the end of June 2019. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, courses in April were either cancelled or postponed but have now been reinstated with reduced class sizes.
- In the last quarter there have been 292 applications to join the Special Constabulary (11.3% BAME: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, 33.5% Female); 17 candidates are currently in pre-employment checks. In the last six months, 63 people have joined as a Special Constable with 67 leaving. 35 of these left to become Regular Constables. There is a healthy pipeline of candidates for 2020/21.
- In the last quarter, Special Constables contributed a total of 60,844 hours (up 17% vs. same period in 2019). The operational contribution over the last three months has amounted to 51,914 hours (36% increase). Specials Constables have recorded 26,938 of high visibility policing over this period (30% increase). The hours worked are equivalent to having an additional 141 full time officers, who would attract an annual salary cost of £7.3m. Special led policing has supported Operation SCEPTRE (knife crime) and Operation GAMBLER a cross boarder policing campaign with the Metropolitan Police Service. They have also supported in all areas of dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic such as supporting in the Force Control Room and with an online call system at Essex County Council.
  - One of Tendring's dedicated Special Constables provided 276 hours of duty time during this period (up from 65 hours during the same period last year). This has focused on high visibility COVID-19 reassurance patrols in Clacton Town Centre.
  - Braintree and Uttlesford District Special Constables contributed the most operational/high visibility hours, working a total number of 3,065 hours.
- Essex Police currently has 47 Parish/Town Councils signed up to Community Special Constables (CSCs) from across the county with agreements to fund 117 posts. 11 CSCs are actively patrolling for eight councils (Witham, Halstead, Hullbridge, Canvey Island, Little Clacton, Billericay, Birchanger, and Springfield). Ten further CSC's are in post foundation with another three CSC's in foundation training. There are 14 other candidates in various stages of the recruitment pipeline. Over the last three months, CSCs have contributed a total of 590 hours to visible and accessible policing which is an increase of 29% from 440 hours in the previous quarter.
- Essex Police currently retains 130 Active Citizens/Police Support Volunteers and continues to work with all Community Volunteer Services (CVS) to boost volunteer numbers. Due to COVID-19, recruitment events have been postponed but potential volunteers have been kept up to date via e-mail and telephone.

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## Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

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- Essex Police received 31 expressions of interest from Retired Police Officers/Police Staff to assist with COVID-19 and currently have six Volunteers in training to support Front Counter Staff in various Police Stations across the county.
- Essex Police currently retains 410 Volunteer Police Cadets across the 13 Cadet Units. Due to COVID-19 Cadet Units are currently closed but Cadets remained in contact with their Cadet Leaders through social media and have taken part in the Retired Police Dog Baloo Campaign.
- National Volunteer Week (1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June) celebrated the success of the Active Citizen and Police Cadet Schemes with profiles on the Essex Police website of Volunteers and Cadets and what it means to volunteer. The Annual Volunteer Awards, where hard work and commitment of the volunteers is recognised, have been postponed until September.
- The Employer Supported Policing (ESP) scheme (whereby staff are given paid time off to volunteer as a Special Constable) currently has 27 companies registered. 75 Special Constables provided 1,014 hours over the quarter, an increase of 16.3% from 861 hours in the same period last year. The increase can largely be attributed to additional hours worked during the pandemic while staff were furloughed/able to work more hours. Twelve non-ESP businesses provided an additional 1,357 hours of policing and negotiations are underway to discuss formal registration once the crisis is over.
- Employer Supported Scheme was promoted at the Southend Retail Against Crime Meeting. Specials Command attended the meeting and developed a number of key contacts with a view to increasing volunteers within the Southend Retail Community. In addition, this platform was also used to identify other volunteering opportunities such as Active Citizens.

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- Castle Point and Rochford have implemented Operation POMONA, a rolling operation using Special Constables to provide high visibility policing in hot spot crime and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) areas.
- Specials Weekend (05/06 – 07/06):
  - Special Constables took part in a weekend of action across the Basildon District. 28 Special Constables engaged in a variety of proactive activity to tackle crime and persistent ASB. The operation resulted in 22 stop and searches, 228 vehicle stop checks, 3 arrests and 5 community resolutions/conditional cautions for a variety of offences. The operation focussed on developing the proactive policing skills of the Special Constables to fully equip them for the future to keep people safe and catch criminals in our community.
  - Rayleigh Knife sweep 03/06: Seven Specials assisted with a knife sweep of Grove Woods under Operation CLOCKWORK.
- Rochford Rural: A new Active Citizen has been recruited and will be heavily integrated within the rural/equestrian community.
- West LPA: Further increased the involvement of the Special Constables in Operation GAMBLER, a cross border operation with the Metropolitan Police Service to tackle violent crime and vehicle crime. Special Constables managed the transportation of prisoners and the custody process allowing specialist trained drivers to remain on the roads bringing more offenders to justice. Special Constables were also involved in a recent murder investigation that required additional officers at short notice.

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## Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

### **We will:**

*Support increased participation in Neighbourhood Watch, Street Pastors, Active Citizens and Volunteer Police Cadets.*

- Membership of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) currently has approximately 105,000 registered members and over 3,000 NHW Coordinators. NHW works closely with the four Essex Watch Liaison Officers promoting NHW and the various Watch Schemes including Business Watch, Farm Watch, Caravan Watch and Dog Watch. They also work in partnership with the Citizens in Policing Team with respect to Crime Prevention and Fraud and Scams.
- Street Pastors continue to work closely with all Local Policing Teams offering support particularly around Night Time Economy.
- Active Citizens continue to support local Community Policing Teams with “Coffee with Cops” and Crime Prevention Campaigns such as Operation METEOR (burglary prevention).
- Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme are working in collaboration with Essex County Fire Cadets which will include Fire Safety Training for our Police Cadets and Crime Prevention Training for our Fire Cadets. This is planned to commence in late 2020.
- Southend: During the COVID-19 period, Street Pastors provided an enhanced level of support through their ‘Park Pastors’ scheme providing a visible presence within green areas. The team have strong links with the Community Policing Team (CPT).
- South LPA:
  - CPT attended a local recruitment event for NHW to promote policing partnership and liaison with the newly elected chair.
  - Active Citizens continued to support a project aimed at improving victim care obtaining feedback from victims about the service they have received. Findings will be fed back to investigating officers and their leadership teams to consider where improvements are needed. If proved to be successful, further Active Citizens will be recruited to specifically focus on this.

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## Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

### **We will:**

*Make it easy to contact the police through 'Do It Online' and improvements to 101 ensuring that the public get a swift and responsive service from the police.*

### **The Force Control Room (FCR):**

- Call-handling demand remains high, although it has fluctuated during the COVID-19 period. 74,630 emergency calls (999) were taken this quarter compared to 86,134 in the same quarter last year (a decrease of 11,504 calls, down 13.4%). 76,803 non-emergency calls (101) were taken compared to 77,465 in the same quarter last year. However non-emergency calls were significantly up versus last quarter where 67,590 calls were taken (an increase of 9,213 call, up 13.6%). Call levels have started to increase again as lockdown restrictions are lifted.
- The Live Chat facility launched on 28<sup>th</sup> April and enables the public to interact directly with staff in the FCR. To date 2,196 interactions have occurred (34 per day). The level of daily chats are increasing, averaging 80-90 per day versus around 10 per day at launch.
- The online reporting facility for Anti-Social Behaviour was launched on 24<sup>th</sup> May, providing an alternative to calling 101. To date this facility has generated 332 police reports (averaging 8 per day).

### **The Resolution Centre (RC):**

- The Resolution Centre (Case Investigations) continues to embed as a county-wide resource, managing investigations into crimes reported by the public that would previously have been dealt with by front-line officers. 2,880 investigations were received in this quarter of which 80.7% (2,325) were retained and dealt with by the RC.
- 36,013 crime investigations have been processed by the Demand element of the RC (previously known as the Crime Bureau).
- During the quarter 18,372 public calls were processed by the RC, a decrease of 6,751 on the same period last year. 14,248 public calls were processed by just the demand side of the RC, a decrease of 3,853 on the same period last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 2,026 online reports were received

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## Priority 2 – Crack Down on Anti-social Behaviour

### Working with partners we will:

*Target repeat and high harm anti-social behaviour to protect individuals and communities from distress and disruption.*

- The national Single Online Home (SOH) Programme is now live and offers choice and ease of access to members of the public who wish to report Anti Social Behaviour (ASB).
- Volumes of reported ASB increased during COVID-19 with a significant proportion directly linked to reported breaches of COVID-19 restrictions. Hotspots were shared with Community Policing Teams (CPT) for action.
- Colchester:
  - Ongoing ASB reported from car meets where between 75 and 150 vehicles gathered on an industrial estate at night. Dispersal powers, to enable cars to quickly be moved on, and Community Protection Warnings, for individuals who refused to comply, were used. This approach has ensured no further meets have occurred.
  - Joint patrols with Royal Military Police on Middlewick Ranges following some suspicious fires, working with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) to prevent further incidents.
  - Three closure orders were issued in partnership with Colchester Borough homes in response to reports of ASB.
  - During COVID-19 three nuisance motorcycle riders “terrorised” an area. Suspects were identified and arrests made.
- Tendring: Operation ZOMBIE is a plain clothes operation targeting County Drugs lines in and around Clacton-on-Sea. Over the quarter, 104 individuals were stopped and searched of which 27 were found in possession of illegal drugs.
- Rayleigh - Op Clockwork is targeting anti social behaviour caused by a number of known individuals within the community. This has seen the successful prosecution of one of the individuals for breaching a community behaviour order.
- Southend: In conjunction with Southend Borough Council a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was granted covering key areas in the Borough. The PSPO contains 10 prohibitions including consumption of alcohol, begging and substance misuse. The enforcement of the PSPO is supported by Essex Police and those designated by Southend Borough Council.
- Canvey: Operation ERASURE is targeting ASB by providing an extra high visibility focus in a specific hot spot area on Canvey Island.



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- Operation OXYGEN has been created in response to reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in parks and open spaces across Billericay and Wickford. Hot spots have been identified and subject to regular high visibility and plain clothes patrols. The patrols are education focussed with information given out regarding the risks associated with some elements of the reported ASB e.g. nitrous oxide misuse. This operation hopes to deter and disrupt ASB, provide reassurance and increase community confidence in using parks and open spaces.
- West LPA
  - Harlow: Illegal drug use in the communal area of a block of flats was reported. The CPT worked with housing provider and achieved a civil injunction on the key individual causing harm. The area was treated as a hot spot and arrests were made for breaching the injunction and being in possession of drugs. Further action is being taken to evict a tenant who is responsible for much of the ASB.
  - Harlow: Reports were received of young people climbing on roof tops and being abusive to the public and security. Suspects were identified and arrests made. Student officers are now using this issue as a longer term problem solving project.
  - Epping Forest: Increase in ASB related issues in Epping Forest reported over the COVID-19 period. Essex Police, alongside the local authority and Forest Rangers have worked to limit the disruption to the local community and to appropriately deal with those responsible.
  - The newly appointed Community Safety Engagement Officers (CSEOs) will work with partners and members of the community to identify ASB trends and hotspots. These areas are now subject to regularly patrols and other policing activity. COVID-19 legislation has also been used to enforce 'lockdown related' ASB where appropriate.

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## Priority 3 – Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Abuse (DA)

**Working with and through the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board to deliver an ambitious programme of transformation we will:**

*Support victims and their families affected by domestic abuse to feel safe, cope and recover through targeted help and jointly commissioned services; and tackle offending behaviour through robust behaviour change programmes to break the cycle of domestic abuse.*

- Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) went live in January 2020. These new civil orders enable early police intervention, pre-conviction, to address stalking behaviours and protect victims from more serious harm. Essex Police secured the first SPO in the region and one of the first in the country. In total two full five year orders and four interim orders were secured with more applications planned. Of these six orders, four are from South LPA (one full and three interim).
- Colchester: The Domestic Abuse Investigation Team (DAIT) have been successful in securing the county's first full SPO. After a long investigation involving a significant number of DA related offences including stalking, DA investigators secured a number of charges and convictions. In order to safeguard the victim further, the order has been awarded for a period of 5 years and places significant reporting obligations and restrictions on the perpetrator to prevent further offending. Examples include restrictions on his use of computer and communications devices and social media usage.
- South LPA:
  - First regional Stalking and Harassment meeting with Police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) held to share best practice.
  - Southend: DA is one of the Community Safety Partnership priorities in Southend. At the start of the year a newly formed partnership meeting was commissioned and led by Southend Police. The Violence and Vulnerability Perpetrator group focuses on identifying offenders where intervention opportunities exist across all offence types. This may come in the form of diversionary activities or where enforcement opportunities exist.
  - In conjunction with the local DA victim support teams, Operation MEADOW (version of Operation TEARDROP) has been commissioned to deliver targeted support to those victims of repeat high harm offending. The Domestic Abuse Offender Management Teams are also being deployed to focus on repeat high harm domestic abuse offenders. Civil orders (such as Domestic Abuse Prevention Orders and SPOs) can be used with breaches robustly policed.
- West LPA:
  - Operation ENVISION is being piloted in Harlow to understand why Victims of DA who were not supportive of police action and use any learnings to improve process. After a successful trial, this will be actioned in the other districts.

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## Priority 4 – Reverse the Trend in Serious Violence

### Working with partners we will:

*Bring violent offenders to justice through targeted police enforcement, working closely with neighbouring forces such as the Metropolitan Police.*

- Operation RAVEN: An operation focused on a homicide investigation following a RTC in Harwich in April 2020. A vehicle was seen chasing a moped and then deliberately driving into the rear of the bike causing the rider to fall off. He was later pronounced dead at the scene. The vehicle used to hit the bike crashed, and two occupants fled the scene. A second victim was taken to hospital. Both of the suspects were identified, and with the assistance of Hertfordshire Police, one suspect was arrested. Essex Police Major Crime department continue to work with both Hertfordshire Police and the Metropolitan Police services to try and locate the second suspect who remains outstanding.
- Colchester:
  - Operation SCEPTRE deployments have resulted in positive arrests for knives with stop and search powers resulting in a reduction in serious violence with injury offences.
  - Through the Multi Agency Coordination panel and partnership with Serious Crime Directorate (SCD) an Organised Crime Gang (OCG) was effectively disrupted and individuals looking to take their place targeted.
- Chelmsford and Maldon: Operation OVERWATCH is an operation focussed on targeting criminals involved in drugs and knife crime. Officers carried out patrols, stop searches and executed warrants, 15 arrests were made and three warrants carried out under the Misuse of Drugs Act.
- Southend:
  - Operation WAIVER is an operation led by Essex Police in conjunction with the British Transport Police. Focused on joint patrols on trains and around train stations in an effort to detect and deter those wishing to come to Southend to commit crime. The operation has led to improved information sharing, an increase in shared awareness of cross boarder challenges and increased resourcing.
  - Operation YORE is an operation in conjunction with Southend Proactive Team to target two county lines. Eight warrants were executed for five premises. All five members were arrested for conspiracy to supply, with drugs seized and drug line phones and supporting evidence obtained. Four members were charged with conspiracy to supply with bail refused. Fifth member on police bail.
- Canvey Island: Operation CLAYMORE is an operation implemented alongside the British Transport Police to disrupt gang and Organised Crime Gang (OCG) activity. This resulted in the arrest and remand into custody of a significant member of an OCG.

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## Priority 4 – Reverse the Trend in Serious Violence

### Working with partners we will:

*Bring violent offenders to justice through targeted police enforcement, working closely with neighbouring forces such as the Metropolitan Police.*

- West LPA:
  - Operation WILDCAT (part of Operation SCEPTRE) and Operation GAMBLER (a cross border operation with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) tackling violent crime and vehicle crime) take place regularly focussing on the borders with MPS and targeting prolific offenders and those known and wanted for weapons, drugs and theft of motor vehicle offences. To date, over 170 offenders have been arrested across 14 operations.
  - A cross border meeting at command level has taken place with MPS equivalents to ensure intelligence is shared in the most efficient way. MPS colleagues can join local tasking meetings enabling joint focus on those that are causing most harm in the community.

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## Priority 4 – Reverse the Trend in Serious Violence

### Working with partners we will:

*Ensure victims of rape and sexual violence receive the help and support they need, and work with criminal justice partners to ensure that perpetrators are convicted.*

- A Regional Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) Tactical Group has been created and met for first time in April. This enabled recurring issues to be raised, good practice shared and ideas generated to improve working practices and deliver quality investigations. This feeds in to the Strategic Regional RASSO Group chaired by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and as a result a CPS escalation policy and appeals process has been established. This has resulted in Essex Police successfully appealing a CPS charging decision enabling charges to be authorised.
- Rape Crisis are now supplying anonymised victim feedback quarterly to enable victim satisfaction to be assessed. A review has identified that in 2019/20, 90% of victims had a positive perception of Essex Police and were satisfied with the service. Data received in May 2020 shows police referrals to Rape Crisis have doubled over the last 12 months and as a result Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) can increasingly engage with victims and reduce the numbers of victims disengaging.
- Crime and Public Protection have developed an Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) Quality Operational Working Group and associated Improvement Plan in order to review existing practices and identify options to deliver short, medium and long term sustainable improvements to the quality of ABE interviews and improving outcomes for victims.
- Operation GOLDCREST is a pilot operation in Thurrock aimed at young people at risk of becoming or currently a victim of child sexual exploitation (CSE) who do not want to engage with Police or support an investigation. It enables anonymous reporting and provision of forensic samples and has served as an excellent contingency plan during COVID-19 enabling victims presenting with symptoms to provide samples whilst still maintaining safety at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).
- The Shift Project is a collaboration between Essex Police, the NHS and Mental Health Professionals co-located in Southend Community Safety Hub. It seeks to support those with complex behaviour patterns or mental health issues who are at risk of sexual exploitation by creating co-produced crisis care plans for when individuals are most at risk. The project has been expanded and the funding to cover Castlepoint and Rochford districts is now in place.

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## Priority 5 – Tackle Gangs and Organised Crime

### Working with partners we will:

*Support victims of human trafficking and modern slavery including sexual exploitation working closely with UK Border Agency (UKBA), National Crime Agency (NCA) and national and regional partners to bring perpetrators to justice*

- Operation LEMONGRASS: An operation relating to an investigation into Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in June. Kent Police received a phone call from a male stating he was in the back of a freezer lorry with others. Caller location ID suggested the caller was in the Dartford area of Kent. A second call was received by Essex Police, from a different number approximately 20 minutes later, reporting the same thing. Caller location ID suggested he was near Harlow in Essex. Officers attended the area and stopped a refrigerated lorry on the hard shoulder of the M11. Upon opening the doors to the lorry three people exited the lorry and ran out and across the live lanes of the M11. 11 people remained in the trailer. The driver and the passenger were arrested at the scene and have been charged with Immigration Act offences.
- Operation BLUEBIRD: An operation following Operation MELROSE which related a refrigerated lorry containing 39 deceased Vietnamese migrants being found in Thurrock. Essex Police implemented Operation BLUEBIRD, which has reviewed and amended the force protocol to ensure that Victims of the promise of clandestine transit do not come to any further harm. Alongside colleagues in Border Force and Immigration Enforcement, Essex Police have created a new way of working to safeguard vulnerable migrants who may have been exploited by Organised Crime Groups in order to get into the country.

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## Priority 5 – Tackle Gangs and Organised Crime

### Working with partners we will:

*Disrupt and prevent organised drug distribution through improved intelligence shared between the police, partners and local communities to limit the harm drugs cause.*

- Essex Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) maintains a close working relationship with Operation RAPTOR teams across Essex to enable joint focussed investigations against County Lines and Gangs. Two field intelligence officers are aligned to work with the Operation RAPTOR teams, offering support and guidance, gathering intelligence and preparing authority submissions for the teams. Operation QUASH relates to an investigation into a drugs line in Basildon, whereby Essex FIB worked closely with the Essex Police South Raptor team to seize phones believed to be connected to a named drug line. A runner for the drug line was arrested for possession with intent to supply, and was charged and remanded. Further investigation led to the identification of a person suspected of controlling the drug line, and a warrant was conducted in which three drugs phones, £5,000 of clothing and £5,000 cash were seized and a second person was arrested.
- Since 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020, the Essex Police Serious Organised Crime Unit have supported the National Crime Agency in tackling Class A drug importation and distribution. Following four successful operations in Essex, a total of 13 people have been arrested following the execution of 12 warrants, which resulted in Class A drugs being seized with a street value of over £21 million as well as £1.85 million in cash.
- North LPA:
  - Proactive team have been responsible for the location and apprehension of 10 hard to reach target offenders, including three for attempted murder. They have also secured a charge on two principle members of an Organised Crime Group, for drug and possession of criminal property offences.
  - RAPTOR team have made 27 arrests and secured 14 remands in custody. Over 120 wraps of Class A drugs have been seized alongside 7 main line drug phones. 14 safeguarding referrals on individuals identified as being exploited have been made.
- South LPA:
  - Operation CENSOR is an operation which focuses on Local and County Drug lines and the exploitation of vulnerable people in Southend. Southend Borough Council Children and Adult Services, along with a number of housing providers, health colleagues and local schools work together to identify those involved in or who are at risk of involvement in this activity. Information and intelligence is shared between agencies, ensuring a joint approach around safeguarding and enforcement is taken at every opportunity.
  - Operation RAPTOR Team has continued to disrupt county drug lines. Over the last three months the team have made 15 arrests, remanded seven alleged drug dealers into custody pending trial, seized nearly £30k of drugs and cash as well as numerous weapons and taken an active role in safeguarding nine children suspected to be at risk from drug dealing activity.

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## Priority 5 – Tackle Gangs and Organised Crime

### Working with partners we will:

*Disrupt and prevent organised drug distribution through improved intelligence shared between the police, partners and local communities to limit the harm drugs cause.*

- West LPA
  - Operation GLOSS is an operation focused on identifying and targeting those importing weapons including knives, CS gas, and tasers. This has seen the successful execution of warrants and removed dangerous weapons from the streets. This operation continues.
  - Operation SHARK is an operation focussed on targeting drug supply in Harlow and has resulted in 3kg of cocaine being recovered as well as a substantial amount of cash.
  - Operation BILBAO is an operation focused on targeting organised criminality and serious violence in Waltham Abbey. This has resulted in five charges and remands for serious offences including kidnap and blackmail.



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## Priority 6 – Protecting Children and Vulnerable People

**Working with safeguarding partners and the Southend, Thurrock and Essex Safeguarding Boards we will:**

*Bring more perpetrators of rape and sexual abuse to justice.*

- An Operation RATIFY and Operation YALTA Governance Board has been established focussing on preventative activity. Operation RATIFY is a process to identify and tackle repeat offenders and Operation YALTA a process to identify, support and reduce repeat victimisation. The board focuses on identifying new subjects based on intelligence, professional judgement and data analysis; reviewing activity on subjects identified as either repeat offenders or repeat victims; and, overseeing a structured coordinated multi-agency approach where suitable.
- The Crime and Public Protection (C&PP) Learning The Lessons (LTL) Framework is now fully established with the objective of identifying knowledge gaps, training needs and best practice to improve service to the public and to working environments. The June 2020 LTL bulletin included a focus on victim care for rape victims and better utilisation and engagement with support services to support victims.
- C&PP have been leading work with the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioners (OPFCC) Commissioning Officer to establish a Criminal Justice (CJ) Portal to provide improved resources and information accessible to victims and witnesses. A working group has been established in the last quarter to further explore the concept and best practice examples available nationally.

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## Priority 6 – Protecting Children and Vulnerable People

**Working with safeguarding partners and the Southend, Thurrock and Essex Safeguarding Boards we will:**

*Improve reporting of hate incidents through improved community engagement and greater use of Hate Incident Reporting Centres.*

- Essex Police are working with other areas to develop a similar network of Hate Incident Reporting Centres (HIRCs) which facilitate the reporting of hate crimes which would otherwise have not come to the attention of the Police.
- The Strategic Hate Crime Partnership (SHCP) has agreed a new Hate Crime Action Plan for 2020/21. This will focus on partnership working, victim welfare, increasing public awareness, removing barriers to and ensuring minority communities are able to obtain justice.
- COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter movements have not resulted in significant increases in hate crime reporting, however, given trends in under reporting of hate crime, actual incidents are anticipated to be higher.
  - During COVID-19, 28 recorded hate crimes (2.4% of recorded hate crimes) stated COVID-19 as an initiating factor. Of these, 19 hate crimes (1.6% of recorded hate crimes) were against Asian Pacific communities; no increase has been seen with the start of COVID-19. Whilst hate crime is up around 10% nationally, the pandemic has not caused statistically significant increases in Essex.
  - Black Lives Matter movement and associated protests continue to take place nationally. Essex Police are monitoring the number of hate crime incidents stating this as an initiating factor. To date, eight hate crime have been recorded (0.7 % of recorded hate crime).
- Colchester: Independent Advisory Group (IAG) now includes youth representation working alongside Community 360 and African Families to address youth concerns. Dedicated Children and Young People (CYP) officers are working with vulnerable young people through engagement with education, youth clubs and social care to identify support networks for young people and create referral pathways to divert potential victims of exploitation. This focuses on building self confidence, respect for self and others, and making a contribution to society.
- South LPA:
  - Southend: Hate crime remains a Community Safety Partnership priority. Increased participation in the local IAG has helped build confidence and trust in the service victims will receive. A new HIRC has been established in the local Citizens Advice Bureau.
  - Castle Point and Rochford: Community Policing Team (CPT) has established a forum with the Association of Head Teachers group enhancing communication and planning with schools and the ability to identify vulnerable pupils and provide pastoral care.
  - Basildon: Both HIRCs have been closed due to COVID-19 however 'Safer Basildon' have continued the 'stop the hate' campaigns via social media. A refresh of IAG meetings has taken place, acknowledging COVID-19 impact on vulnerable groups.
- West LPA: Newly appointed Community Safety Engagement Officers are working within the community, alongside partners and the IAG, to build stronger relationships with harder to reach groups and encourage hate crime reporting and build trust and confidence in Essex Police.

# Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020 – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q1

## Priority 7 – Improve Safety on our Roads

### Working with Safer Essex Roads Partnership we will:

*Reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on our roads through the work of the multi-agency Safer Essex Roads Partnership on enforcement, engagement and education.*

- There were 142 Killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties in the last quarter, down from 218 KSI casualties in the same period in 2019/20. 12 of these were fatalities up from 11 in the same period in 2019/20. Due to COVID-19 traffic volumes have been exceptionally low.
- The lower traffic volumes have directly correlated with higher vehicle speeds. This has resulted in a 15% increase in vehicle speeds across the road network and included a very high number of high end speeds. Essex Police responded with directed activity, initially on the strategic road network and then moving towards urban and rural roads, responding to safety concerns and public confidence. A total of 5,300 speed offences were detected and processed during May alone in response to these concerns.
- In the last quarter, 876 people were arrested for Drug Driving compared to 485 over the same period in 2019/20 (increase of 81%). The reduced demand placed upon Policing during COVID-19, has meant officers have been able to direct more pro active time towards policing the road network, focusing on safety and disrupting those with criminal intent.
- Operation GAMBLER is an operation focused on cross boarder road safety / road crime in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service targeting those who identify the highest level of risk through criminal intent and manner / behaviour of road use. During the quarter, 86 people were arrested over a total of three operations.
- During June Essex Police supported the National Police Chiefs Council Road Safety Campaign focus on Speed. In response to the COVID-19 period concerns, Essex Police used social media to promote its enhanced level of enforcement and also introduced a new speed enforcement strategy linking enforcement activity over a number of specific routes within the county. During the two week campaign 755 drivers were prosecuted for excess speed.