

Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2020/2021

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

Title of Report:	Plan on a Page and PFCC Priorities – Aspirational MSG Positions – April 2020 Data
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1.0 Purpose of Report

To provide a quarterly update on Essex Police's Force Plan and PFCC Priorities Aspiration document. This is a substantive agenda item for the PFCC Performance and Resources Scrutiny meeting.

2.0 Recommendations

There are no recommendations. This report is for the board to note.

3.0 Executive Summary

Essex is **meeting its aspiration in four areas:**

- All crime – solved rate.
- Violence with Injury – offences.
- Trafficking of Drugs – solved rate.
- Percentage of sick – police officers.

Essex is **not meeting its aspiration in six areas:**

- Public confidence.

- All Crime – offences.
- Violence with Injury – solved rate.
- Trafficking of drugs – offences.
- Homicide – solved rate.
- Percentage sick – police staff.

Since the last quarterly update, Essex's MSG position has **improved in two areas**:

- All crime – solved rate.
- Trafficking of drugs – offences.

Since the last quarterly update, Essex's MSG position has **deteriorated in one area**:

- Violence with Injury – solved rate.

** Please note that on Wednesday 23 October 2019 the bodies of 39 Vietnamese nationals were discovered in a lorry trailer in Grays. This tragic incident is reflected in the Homicide numbers. This has created a statistical exception, and at this time will impact the solved rate.*

There is no aspiration for Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI), or for Homicide offences.

4.0 Introduction/Background

In September 2017, a paper was submitted to the OPFCC identifying the joint Essex Police and PFCC priorities, which may benefit from setting a future ambition. This involved using comparative rankings of Essex's Most Similar Group (MSG) of police forces, and commentary from command leads. In August 2018, command leads refreshed these aspirations, along with their rationale.

In this report – which is a quarterly update to accompany the PFCC quarterly report – Essex was re-reviewed against its MSG for percentage change, and for its overall rate. For crime, this is measured by offences per 1,000 of the population; other areas have different metrics, as well as different reporting periods.

It is important to note that as forces within an MSG are intended to be 'similar', there is frequently no significant difference between the top and bottom ranked forces, therefore inferences from relative positions are not always possible. In addition, crime rates are affected by multiple variables (such as economic cycles, substance misuse rates, weather, societal attitudes and behaviours, legislation, global pandemics etc); many of which are not within the ability of the police to influence. Further complicating comparisons at this particular time are the differing levels of crime data accuracy amongst forces with Essex Police recently graded as outstanding - one of very few forces nationally to achieve this level of accuracy at its first inspection by HMICFRS.

4.0 **Current Work and Performance**

The table below shows Essex's priority areas against performance (based on iQuanta data).

Essex's MSG Aspiration								
Priority Area	Available from iQuanta	Per 1000 pop. or Unit of Measurement		MSG Position Sparkline - Previous 12 Data Points (see notes below for data periods)	Change required to reach MSG Average	Change required to reach top quartile rank in MSG	Aspiration	Rationale
		MSG Position	Unit of Measurement					
Priority 1 - More local, visible and accessible policing	Public Confidence (CSEW)	8 (Last data to December 19)	46.60%		8.7% points	14.0% points	MSG Average	The percentage of people who say the police are doing an excellent or good job in their local area. Essex Police aim to achieve this through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the local level Engagement Plans (implemented in 2018) as part of the three Year Public Engagement Strategy adhere to the strategic guidance and deliver a consistent quality of mandatory public engagement activity across the county. Using the results of the public perception survey to evaluate local engagement activity, identifying differences between local areas and how we can improve performance and target initiatives. Using insight from public and victim feedback to increase satisfaction (which is a driver of public confidence). This will be monitored through the DCC-chaired Victim Focus and Public Confidence Board and included in performance updates at the Force SLT and Synergy meetings.
Deliver the best possible service that promotes satisfaction and confidence								
Priority 1 - More local, visible and accessible policing	All Crime Offences	8	89.64 per 1,000 pop.		-19,389 offences	-29,047 offences	4th in MSG	Preventing crime and protecting people is at the heart of the Essex Police mission and fundamental to good policing. The Force has invested heavily in to developing partnership arrangements focused on prevention; these include community safety hubs, street triage, and closer working with key partners in cases involving sexual abuse and offences against children. The Force has also launched a Crime Prevention Strategy which details nine key areas of focus, and is supported by a 4P action plan in relation to each.
Prevent crime and protect people from harm								
Priority 1 - More local, visible and accessible policing	All Crime Solved Rate	2	14.00%		N/A - already better than average.	N/A - already within top quartile.	Upper Quartile Rank	Whilst solving crime remains a key indicator of policing success, the new crime outcome codes better reflect the range of ways policing and others can deliver an appropriate sanction or intervention for offenders. The force has invested in training for supervisors to understand the different outcome categories and will soon be allowing sergeants to close crimes using a wider number of these outcomes. Work with partners is ongoing to develop the restorative justice approaches across the county which will include developments such as the creation of a Youth Justice Board, where evidence shows early intervention is the right way to resolve a crime and in the interests of long term prevention.
Solve crime and bring offenders to justice								
Priority 4 - Reverse the trend in serious violence	Violence with Injury Offences	4	8.17 per 1,000 pop.		-461 offences	-1,160 offences	4th in MSG	The Force's aspiration is to be in the upper quartiles and achieve 4th in its MSG. Essex Police aims to achieve this through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preventative action through targeting Domestic Abuse (DA) perpetrators and victims (Op. SHIELD). Preventative action through targeting Urban Street Gang-related criminality (Op. RAPTOR) Continued Night Time Economy analysis to identify and target hotspots. This will be monitored by the Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing and Crime and Public Protection.
Violence with Injury								
Priority 4 - Reverse the trend in serious violence	Violence with Injury Solved Rate	6	15.30%		1.91% points	3.8% points	Upper Quartile Rank	The Force's aspiration is to once again achieve an upper quartile ranking within its MSG through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the CARA model to provide greater focus on those offences that require fuller investigation. JUNO teams expanding their role to include medium and standard risk DA (currently in the South LPA only) to increase the number of solved DA outcomes. This will be monitored by the Assistant Chief Constable for Local Policing and Crime and Public Protection. The Force is focusing on the quality of crime investigation supervision and ensuring that sergeants work towards appropriate outcomes in key areas, specifically Violence with Injury.
Violence with Injury								
Priority 4 - Reverse the trend in serious violence	Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) data	5 (last data to Jun 2019)	1.171 Casualties per 100M veh kms		N/A	N/A	(Not just police dependent)	A number of challenges remain including concerns focused upon the significant increase in the number of drivers being arrested for drug driving. Analytical data also highlights cyclists remaining a vulnerable road user group alongside road traffic collisions involving cars being driven by young people (17-25). Two priority road safety campaigns are currently being prepared by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership: * Young Driver * "Street Spirit", focused on Moped riders. * Intelligence-led multi-agency operations focus on enforcing fatal 4 (speed, seatbelts, drink/drug driving/mobile phones) * "Extra Eyes" campaign continues to review average 320 incidents supported with footage per months prosecuting average 140 road users. * As a trial Maldon District Council Community Protection officers enforcing speed limits across the Maldon District Council area. PCSO staff enforcing speed limits across Tendring District with Braintree / Uttlesford to come on line shortly.
Improve safety on Essex's roads								
Priority 7 - Improve safety on our roads	Trafficking of Drugs - Offences	3	0.53 per 1,000 pop.		-54	-238 offences	2nd in MSG.	We are continuing to develop our approach to drugs and its links with Gangs. A "Pan Essex" approach is being developed which will see Essex Police working with a number of key partners to address this issue across Essex, focusing on key violence and vulnerability issues – ensuring an effective prevention and diversionary process is in place. This links in with the multi-disciplinary Violence and Vulnerability Unit.
Priority 5- Tackle gangs and organised crime								
Priority 4 - Reverse the trend in serious violence	Homicide Offences	8	0.034 per 1,000 pop.		-37	-47	(Small numbers)	Offences from the previous 12 months includes the tragic incident where 39 Vietnamese nationals were discovered in a lorry trailer in Grays. Other recent offences have also shown an increase in the number of crimes linked to drug supply lines and associated violence. Homicide suppression is challenging so focus is placed on motivation factors (alcohol misuse, domestic abuse, illicit drugs markets), and the force has a clear 4P plan around County Lines and Gangs and a Domestic Abuse Strategy to reduce both types of offending.
	Homicide Solved Rate	5	90.30%		N/A - already better than average.	10.7% points	Best in MSG	The solved rate is reflective of those investigations where a charge has been secured. This tends to be either a quick resolution - the offender is named or captured through early "Golden Hour" activity and the solved outcome is assigned within the reporting period - or the investigation has an unknown offender and is categorised as a category A or B offence, which requires more resourcing and complex investigation. The latter can go on for a long period of time and often the outcome is assigned outside of the reporting period. Due to this the solved rate can fluctuate greatly due to low numbers but also cross over annual reporting periods.
Reduce Absence	Percentage Sick (Police Officers)	5 (last data to March 2019)	4.4% of contracted hours lost		-0.2%	-1.5%	7th in MSG.	It remains the aspiration of the Force to ensure an effective, healthy and supported workforce. The bi-monthly DCC absence scrutiny boards remain a key aspect of the governance of the overarching improvement programme and the Performance Improvement Unit continue to be actively involved in the Absence Management Group processes, ensuring that support is provided and where specific issues are identified, scrutiny is applied with Senior Leadership Teams. Human Resources Advisors will continue with the proactive 'Days of Action' which allows for local engagement between the HR professionals and line managers. In addition the 'Feel Well Live Well' programme aims to promote personal resilience continues, introducing a programme specifically designed for supervisors and managers. This commenced in October 2018. The Feel Well Live Well refreshers are proving to be successful and continue to be rolled out to enable previous attendees to embed their learning and positive coping strategies.
	Percentage Sick (All Police Staff)	7 (last data to March 2019)	4.8% of contracted hours lost		-0.6%	-1.7%	5th in MSG.	

Key	
	Plan on a Page
	PFCC Priority
	Below Aspiration
	Met or Exceeded Aspiration

The table below shows priority areas against performance:

Essex's MSG Aspiration					
Priority Area	Available from iQuanta	Aspiration	January 2020 MSG Position	April 2020 MSG Position	Update April 2020 data
Priority 1 - More local, visible and accessible policing	Public Confidence (CSEW)	MSG Average	8	8	Essex remains eighth in its MSG. Confidence levels have also deteriorated between the last three data points and remain significantly below the expected range of our MSG. In order to reach the MSG average, confidence would need to improve by 8.7% points (8.8% points previously). To reach the top quartile rank, confidence would need to improve by 14.0% points (16.7% points previously).
Deliver the best possible service that promotes satisfaction and confidence			(Last data to September 19)	(Last data to December 19)	
Priority 1 - More local, visible and accessible policing	All Crime Offences	4th in MSG	8	8	Essex remains 8th in its MSG. Until all MSGs have comparable CDA rates to Essex it is almost certain that this position will not change. In order to reach the MSG average, crime would need to reduce by 19,389 offences (22,112 previously). To reach the top quartile rank, crime would need to reduce by 29,047 offences (34,801 previously) for the year.
Prevent crime and protect people from harm					
Solve crime and bring offenders to justice	All Crime Solved Rate	Upper Quartile Rank	4	2	Essex has improved to 2nd in its MSG. Possession of drugs offences have contributed to increasing the overall Solved Rate for the force. Drug offences involving possession of cannabis have increased significantly during the most recent data points. This is police generated demand solved resulting for stop and search.
Priority 4 - Reverse the trend in serious violence	Violence with Injury Offences	4th in MSG	4	4	Essex remains fourth in its MSG and has already reached the MSG average. To reach the top quartile rank, crime would need to reduce by 1,160 offences (previously 1,668) for the year.
Violence with Injury					
Priority 4 - Reverse the trend in serious violence	Violence with Injury Solved Rate	Upper Quartile Rank	5	6	Excluding Avon & Somerset, all Forces have a long-term deteriorating solved rate for VWI. Essex currently ranks 6th falling from 5th at the last report. In order to reach the MSG average, the solved rate would need to increase by 1.91% points (previously 1.41% points). To reach the top quartile rank the solved rate would need to be 3.8% points better (previously 2.7% points).
Violence with Injury					
Improve safety on Essex's roads	Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) data	(Not just police dependent)	6	5	Essex has improved in rank to 5th in its MSG.
Priority 7 - Improve safety on our roads			(last data to Dec 2018)	(last data to Jun 2019)	
Priority 5 - Tackle gangs and organised crime	Trafficking of Drugs - Offences	2nd in MSG.	6	3	Essex is currently third in rank. Rankings are volatile to extreme variability which are caused by the combination of low volumes and intermittent targeted efforts involving multiple offenders. To reach the top quartile rank, crime would need to reduce by 54 offences (previously 26 offences) for the year.
	Trafficking of Drugs - Solved Rate	3rd in MSG.	3	3	Essex remains third in its MSG but above the MSG average. To reach the top quartile rank the solved rate would need to be 6.4% points better (previously 1.1% points).
Priority 4 - Reverse the trend in serious violence	Homicide Offences	(Small numbers)	8	8	Essex has fallen to and remained 8th in its MSG. This is due to the tragic incident where 39 Vietnamese nationals were discovered in a lorry trailer in Grays. One male has been charged with 39 counts of manslaughter. It is certain that there will be no change in this position for 12-months.
	Homicide Solved Rate	Best in MSG	6	5	Essex has improved to 5th in its MSG. The solved rate is currently above the MSG average. To reach the top quartile rank the solved rate would need to be 100%.
Reduce Absence	Percentage Sick (Police Officers)	5th in MSG.	5	5	Essex has improved to fifth in its MSG. In order to reach the MSG average, % sickness would need to fall by 0.2% points. To reach the top quartile rank, sickness would need to fall by 1.5% points.
	Percentage Sick (All Police Staff)	5th in MSG.	7	7	Essex remain seventh in its MSG. In order to reach the MSG average, % sickness would need to fall by 0.6% points. To reach the top quartile rank, sickness would need to fall by 1.7% points.

Key	
	Plan on a Page
	PFCC Priority
MSG Position 4	Below Aspiration
MSG Position 4	Met or Exceeded Aspiration

Notes	
	The difference to the MSG average (or to any position in the MSG) calculation is only valid if all other Forces remain static.
	Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) data are measured per 100 million vehicle kilometres.
	Data are for the 12 months to January 2020, with the exception of:
	o Public confidence: quarterly (last data to December 2019).
	o KSI: monthly (last data to June 2019).
	o Sickness: yearly (last data to March 2019).

6.0 Implications (Issues)

The ranking of Most Similar Groups disregards the fact that there is no significant statistical difference between one force and the next; that improvements in the ranking position can be achieved by deteriorations in others performance; and that when performance deteriorates in real terms relative rank positions can still improve.

HMIC guidance states that inferences should not be drawn from relative positions for Most Similar Groups where all forces perform within the expected range.

6.1 Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities

The report details Essex Police's rank among similar forces for areas identified as priorities set out in the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan.

6.2 Demand

Commands were consulted about their aspirational MSG position. Their consequent rationale included the relative demand (current and likely future) facing their area of business, and therefore what aspiration was realistic and achievable.

6.3 Risks/Mitigation

Setting targets in policing can negatively skew officer behaviour.

Aspirational targets may cause dysfunctional behaviour when changes in rank are misinterpreted as declines in performance and result in unnecessary changes of focus and allocation of resources.

6.4 Equality and/or Human Rights Implications

No equality or human rights implications were identified in the process of writing this report.

6.5 Health and Safety Implications

No health and safety implications were identified in the process of writing this report.

7.0 Consultation/Engagement

Heads of Command (for example the Director of Strategic Change and the Head of Human Resources), and operational leads in the Local Policing Areas and the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, were consulted in the formation of the aspirations. The information/aspirations consequently formed were then agreed at Chief Officer-level.

8.0 Actions for Improvement

This report identifies how Essex ranks in comparison to its MSG.

9.0 Future Work/Development and Expected Outcome

This report is a quarterly agenda item.

10.0 Decisions Required by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

This report is for the information of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.