

## Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2020

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

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Vulnerable Groups Quarterly Report</b>
<b>Classification of Paper:</b>	<b>Official</b>
<b>Agenda Number:</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	<b>T/ACC Kevin Baldwin</b>
<b>Date Paper was Written:</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>
<b>Version Number:</b>	<b>V0.2</b>
<b>Report from:</b>	<b>Essex Police</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> November 2020</b>
<b>Author on behalf of Chief Officer:</b>	<b>Detective Inspector 1457 Paul Dibell</b>
<b>Date of Approval:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b>

#### 1.0. Purpose of Report

This report provides an overview of the work conducted within the Crime and Public Protection Command (C&PP) for Q2 2020/21 (1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020). The report contains core department data with comparative figures to the same reporting period from the previous year (2019/20), alongside references where beneficial to the previous quarter.

In addition, the Rape Prevention Strategy five-year plan formalised in early 2020 has been updated. This sets out key achievements highlighted throughout this report and key activity achieved in the last quarter.

#### 2.0. Recommendations

There are no specific recommendations within this report, but the board are invited to note the key areas of performance highlighted.

#### 3.0. Executive Summary

This report provides a broad assessment of the work being undertaken within Crime and Public Protection. It details core performance and crime data, outcomes, achievements, issues and outlines ambitions for future work.

The report provides updates on some of the improvement programmes identified in the last report and includes detail on new work being conducted within the command.

#### **4.0. Introduction/Background**

C&PP is responsible for investigating some of the most serious crimes against the most vulnerable in our communities and tackling offenders posing the highest risk.

The eight main departments are:

- **Public Protection Investigation Units (PPIU):** There are three PPIUs aligned to the Local Policing Areas of Essex Police; North, South and West. Each PPIU is overseen by a DCI and includes Adult Sexual Abuse Investigation Teams (ASAIT) and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (CAIT).
- **Quest:** Investigate cases of non-recent child sexual abuse where the victim is now an adult, including inter-familiar abuse, peer on peer abuse within an institutional or educational establishment, and, where the suspect held a position of public prominence or had responsibility over the child.
- **The CSE Investigation Team:** Investigate the most serious, complex and organised Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), proactively targeting suspects who are prolific abusers and protecting victims.
- **Management of Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO):** Consists of five teams based across the county with responsibility for Managing Registered Sex Offenders, Managing Violent Offenders and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA).
- **Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT):** One team with responsibility for investigations across the county into offences involving indecent images of children and paedophilia material held on a computer. This unit respond to referrals from other agencies (most significantly the National Crime Agency) and provide a pro-active capability utilising systems to detect those people in Essex viewing and distributing indecent images of children via the internet.
- **Operations Centre:** Based at headquarters, provide support to the whole Force and are comprised of:
  - Adult, Child and CSE Triage Teams who receive, process and respond to referrals from partner agencies;
  - Assessment Team who review and provide intelligence for all reported incidents handled by the Force Control Room that relate to any of the 14 strands of vulnerability;
  - Central Referral Unit (CRU) providing specialist safeguarding services to victims of High-Risk Domestic Abuse and Honour Based Abuse in support of LPA based Domestic Abuse Investigation Teams (DAIT).
- **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Unit:** One team comprising 52 Police Staff. DBS responsibility for completing all DBS applications referred to the Force made by those seeking to work in regulated activity with children and/or vulnerable adults. DBS

Unit also complete all Barring referral requests, providing information regarding an individual for consideration to exclude them from working within the Child, Adult or both sectors.

- **Strategic Centre:** Based at headquarters, provide strategic capacity and capability for the command whilst supporting the whole Force around the 14 strands of vulnerability. Each strand has a subject matter expert responsible for maintaining relevant policies and procedures; coordinating responses to national and local reports, reviews and inspections through the delivery of local action plans; and, sharing learning and best practice obtained through attendance at post incident statutory partnership reviews such as Domestic Homicide Reviews and Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

## 5.0. Current Work and Performance

### 5.1. Public Protection Investigation Units (PPIUs)

#### Core performance

Crimes recorded:

ASAIT RECORDED	Q2 2019/20	Q2 2020/21	Total YTD 2020/21
Rape	354	288	531
Other Sexual Offences	33	52	104
Other Offences	67	66	135
Non-Crimes	140	145	269
CAIT RECORDED	Q2 2019/20	Q2 2020/21	Total YTD 2020/21
Rape	111	162	278
Other Sexual Offences	177	173	308
Other Offences	342	330	628
Non-Crimes	135	169	309

Crime outcomes:

ASAIT SOLVED	Q2 2019/20	Q2 2020/21	Total YTD 2020/21
Rape	4	4	17
Other Sexual Offences	0	7	11
Other Offences	6	16	33
CAIT SOLVED	Q2 2019/20	Q2 2020/21	Total YTD 2020/21
Rape	11	9	18
Other Sexual Offences	17	12	30
Other Offences	24	24	47

ASAIT's case load is 7.2% lower in Q2 2020/21 when compared with Q2 2019/20. (This is overall across the sum of all crime types listed; Rape, Other sexual offences, Other offences, Non-crimes). Volume wise this equates to 551 offences in Q2 2020/21 compared to 594 in Q2 2019/20. Year to date 2020/21 there have been 1,039 offences compared with 1,189 over the same period in 2019/20, an overall reduction of 12.6%.

Of all crime types, Rape accounted for the largest proportion of all investigation types in Q2 2020/21 accounting for 52.3% of investigations compared to all other types of investigation combined. This is a decrease from 2019/20, where Rape accounted for 59.6% of investigations compared to all other types of investigation combined. Year to date there has been 531 reported rape offences compared with 682 in the same period 2019/20, a reduction of 22.1%.

Looking at criminal offences investigated by ASAIT, Rape had the sharpest decrease between Q2 2019/20 and Q2 2020/21 with an 18.6% reduction when compared to other sexual offences which saw an increase by 57.6%. Year to date there has been a 28.4% overall rise in other sexual offences compared with the same period in 2019/20.

Other offences investigated by ASAIT decreased by 1.5% in Q2 2020/21 compared to Q2 2019/20. Year to date this is a decrease of 12.6% compared to the same period in 2019/20.

Non-Crimes rose by 3.6% in Q2 2020/21 compared to Q2 2019/20. Year to date however this equated to an overall reduction of 1.8% compared to the same period in 2019/20.

Anticipated to be associated to COVID-19, crime levels were noted to have fallen across most crime types, including rape and other sexual offences during national lockdown, the decrease in crime reported was experienced nationally throughout the same quarter.

Crime outcomes suggest that the overall solved rate for all offences in the ASAIT case load increased in Q2 2020/21 (6.7%) when compared with Q2 2019/20 (2.2%). Volume wise, 10 crimes were solved in Q2 2019/20 compared with 27 in Q2 2020/21. Year to date the overall solved rate is 7.9% compared with 2.7% for the same period 2019/20.

CAIT case load has increased 9.0% in Q2 2020/21 when compared with Q2 2019/20. Year to date there is an 8.25% decrease compared to the same period last year. (This is overall across the sum of all crime types listed Rape, Other sexual offences, other offences, non-crimes). Volume wise there have been 1,523 offences year to date.

Other offences<sup>1</sup> account for the largest proportion of all investigation types in Q2 2020/21, accounting for 39.6% of CAIT's total workload, this is a decrease of 5.1%, from 44.7% in Q2 2019/20. Year to date 2020/21 Other offences equate to 41.2% of CAIT's total workload.

There has been an increase of 45.9% in the number of Rapes recorded in Q2 2020/21 compared to Q1 2019/20. Year to Date CAIT has seen a 19.8% increase in recorded rape.

With Non-Crimes increasing by 25.2% in Q2 2020/21 compared to Q2 2019/20.

---

<sup>1</sup> Including offences such as physical abuse and neglect

Crime outcomes suggest that the overall solve rate for all offences in the CAIT caseload in Q2 2020/21 was 6.7% decreasing by 1.6% compared with Q2 2019/20 at 8.3%. Volume wise, 52 crimes were solved in Q2 2019/20 compared with 45 in Q2 2020/21. The overall solved rate year to date is 7.8% compared with 6% for the same period 2019/20.

Force Crime Tree data for the rolling 12 months to September 2020 continues to highlight an improving trend in respect of solved outcomes. For all sexual offences there were 454 solved outcomes in the 12 months to September 2020, an increase of 198 solved outcomes compared to the 12 months to September 2019. Specifically, there were 41 more rape solved outcomes, 95.3% increase, and 157 more 'other sexual offences' solved outcomes.

### Key achievements

The Force, with CJ partners were tasked with implementing Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 (YJCEA) from August 2020. This allows all vulnerable and intimidated witnesses who have given their evidence by way of Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interview to video record their cross-examination before trial. Embedding the new process internally and with partners was required within tight timescales. Implementation of the Section 28 process development included internal training being developed and delivered prior to go-live.

Project Goldcrest<sup>2</sup> has had its first success story, with the first young person engaged with the process and is now reported to be thriving, fully engaging with services and has now enrolled in college.

Significant cases of note during Q2 which evidence the contribution of the PPIUs to the risk reduction across the county in bringing offenders to justice and protecting people from harm include: cases where convictions were secured for offences of Rape/Sexual assault with the offenders awaiting anticipated significant custodial sentences, as well as cases where recent charges by CPS for multiple rape offences have been secured.

There continues to be emphasis on continuing professional development contributing to quality of service across the Force and positive outcomes. In Q2, a number of notable training packages were produced, delivered and/or attended by the C&PP Command, including CPD Webinar's relating to: disclosure training; Child Death training; RASSO file completion; anticipated not guilty plea (NGAP) and anticipated guilty plea (GAP) file completion; and, Autism Spectrum Disorders/Asperger's Syndrome training.

## **5.2. Quest**

Where many areas within C&PP Command experienced a decline in new reported crimes and referrals associated to COVID-19 and lockdown, the workload for Quest increased. It is anticipated this may be directly connected to victims of historic offences having an opportunity to reflect, considering the effect of the abuse they experienced as children on their lives and seeking support and criminal justice action.

---

<sup>2</sup> The project is aimed at young people at risk of or currently victim of child sexual exploitation (CSE) who do not want to engage with Police or support an investigation, providing them the opportunity to anonymously report abuse and provide forensic samples.

In Q2, Quest secured charges against three suspects, the cases are now within the courts system. There are currently a further 10 individuals on separate investigations at the stage of files being prepared to present to CPS for charging.

### 5.3. CSE Proactive Investigation Team

The CSE Proactive Investigation Team go-live date was delayed due to COVID-19 contingencies, however, went live 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

The CSE Proactive Investigation Team currently holds 8 ongoing investigations. Two of the suspects appear on the Force's repeat suspect programme, Operation Ratify, and are subject to additional oversight through the governance board and force tasking. With one suspect identified as the subject of multiple previous allegations with uncooperative victims, resulting in the re-opening of those cases following additional evidence being established and the identification of supportive victims and witnesses. Officers have worked hard to build up a rapport with the victims involved in these investigations, conducting multiple evidential interviews, enabling multi-agency safeguarding and engaging with victims that previously declined to cooperate with police.

### 5.4. MOSOVO

#### Core performance

Crimes recorded:

MOSOVO RECORDED <sup>3</sup>	Q2 2019/20	Q2 2020/21	Total YTD 2020/21
All offences	148	153	296
Non-Crimes	86	49	103

Crime outcomes:

MOSOVO SOLVED	Q2 2019/20	Q2 2020/21	Total YTD 2020/21
All Offences	38	46	91
No. of Outcome 10s	96	62	150

MOSOVO are currently managing 1682 Registered Sex Offenders (RSO) in the community, which is an increase of 22 since the last quarter. 386 Low Risk RSOs are subject of Intelligence Led Management. There are 94 (60 medium, 34 low) active/overdue visits, this equates to 5.6% of the overall number of RSOs being managed by MOSOVO, this is an increase of 8 visits (0.4%) compared to the last quarter. None of these active/overdue visits are High or Very High risk.

<sup>3</sup> MOSOVO recorded offences are all recorded notifiable crimes investigated by MOSOVO and do not just relate to notification offences.

MOSOVO solved 46 offences in Q2 2020/21 compared to 38 in Q2 2019/20. The solve rate in Q2 2020/21 is 30% compared to 25.7% for the same period last year.

In Q2 2020/21, there was a 35.4% decrease in offences disposed of as Outcome 10<sup>4</sup> compared to the same period last year. Outcome 10 is considered when there is sufficient evidence to prosecute, however, police make the decision it is not in the public interest to do so for minor breaches.

### Key achievements

During Q2 2020/21, some excellent joint working between MOSOVO and Stansted Airport officers commenced, under Op Barbershop. This saw the Force work with the airports, foreign law enforcement, ACRO Criminal Records Office, the Prisoners Abroad charity and Force Solicitors, receiving dangerous sexual and violent offenders at Stansted who had been deported from Australia and the United States following the end of their sentences. Ensuring they are served with Notification orders, register in this country as an RSO and work with charities to provide housing.

In order to ensure effective Intelligence Led Management, MOSOVO now have 1 FTE dedicated DC assigned to focus on this cohort enabling greater understanding of risk and clearer ownership. MOSOVO also deployed Op Anchor, an unannounced 'Health check' of the Intelligence Led Management RSO cohort.

MOSOVO have continued with notable enforcement work in the last quarter, including the arrest and remand of offenders relating to Exposure, Breaching Sexual Harm Prevention orders (SHPOs), Indecent Images of Children (IIOC) and child contact offences. Alongside continuing to protect the public from harm through the application and extension of Sexual Risk Orders (SROs) for RSOs.

In Q2, MOSOVO conducted 19 polygraph tests, of which 7 resulted in a significant response (failed) and improved understanding of risk, including disclosures regarding concealed tablets kept in alternative locations, drug use, undisclosed partners, partaking in violent (consensual) sexual relationships, and, undisclosed contact with or concerning behaviours around children.

In support of other C&PP Teams and enabling joint working with Community Policing Teams, MOSOVO continue to increase attendance at District tasking meetings and are sharing their skills, knowledge and expertise in respect of Civil Orders with other departments, resulting in an increase in Sexual Offenders subject to MOSOVO by the use of these prohibitive orders.

MOSOVO were successful in securing Home Office funding, totalling £105,911 for a number of technological solutions and training to improve the knowledge of staff and assist with conducting RSO visits, particularly around electronic devices.

---

<sup>4</sup> There are only two types of offences for which MOSOVO record outcome 10: notification offences and breach of civil orders, such as Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPOs) and Sexual Risk Orders (SROs). Outcome 10 is not used as a standard means of disposal, each case is assessed based on threat, harm, risk and previous offending.

## 5.5. POLIT

### Core performance

Crimes recorded:

POLIT RECORDED	Q2 2019/20	Q2 2020/21	Total YTD 2020/21
All Offences	88	81	180
Non-Crimes	1	3	5

Crime outcomes:

POLIT SOLVED	Q2 2019/20	Q2 2020/21	Total YTD 2020/21
All Offences	52	87	152

Referrals:

	NCA/CEOP	Proactive System	UCOL	Other forces / storm)	Total referrals	Warrants executed	No. children safeguarded <sup>5</sup>
July-20	11	0	4	1	16	28	34
August-20	9	0	2	1	12	18	15
Sept-20	21	5	2	4	32	21	28

In Q2 2020/21, POLIT received a total of 60 referrals, of which 41 were NCA CEOP referrals. Over this period POLIT executed 67 warrants and safeguarded 77 children.

As a result of COVID-19 in the early part of 2020 a number of POLIT low risk warrants were postponed resulting in a relatively substantial backlog. Once the initial lockdown restrictions reduced, Operation Wensleydale was initiated to deal with the outstanding warrants, enabled by financial support via the tasking process. All of those outstanding warrants have now been actioned as a result.

### Key achievements

Significant POLIT cases of note over the last quarter include: the conviction and 2 and half year custodial sentence of a recidivist RSO for image offences; a joint investigation with Southend CID for image and CSE related offences resulting in a 6 year custodial sentence; securing of a guilty plea from a UCOL investigation where the suspect travelled to meet a 12 year old girl for sexual purposes awaiting sentencing; and, a suspect already on bail for making and distributing indecent images of children identified as being responsible for inciting an 8 year girl to perform a sexual act was charged and remanded in custody.

<sup>5</sup> POLIT child safeguarding numbers refer to the number of PP57 referrals made to social services. These are made as a result of POLIT having established suspects have contact with children in some capacity and a need to reduce the risk.



The use of polygraph examinations are now back to pre-COVID-19 levels with the aid of appropriate social distancing measures. The use of pre-charge polygraph testing within POLIT continues to be a useful tool to aid the risk assessment process. In Q2, POLIT conducted five polygraph tests, of which three resulted in a significant response (failed) and all five made disclosures ranging from undisclosed child contact, sexual communications with children in a chat room, sexual thoughts of children, filming of children showering at a local sports facility and sharing of indecent images of children.

Key achievements during Q2 also include securing £30,000 Home Office funding to provide specialist equipment and training regarding mobile phone extractions and cloud storage examinations. This will significantly improve POLIT's ability to secure digital evidence held remotely which could otherwise be inaccessible once officers leave the scene.

In August 2020, POLIT worked closely with the Essex Safeguarding Children's Board regarding content for inclusion in the online exploitation and safety media campaign.

## 5.6. Operations Centre

### Core performance

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	Jul - 20	Aug -20	Sept - 20	YTD AVERAGE
<b>Adult Triage</b>				
Referrals received	273	221	263	287
Current open referrals workload	92	113	132	103
Meetings requested	3	4	6	1
% of meetings attended	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>CSE Triage</b>				
Referrals received	42	29	32	35
Current open referrals workload	99	85	68	109
Meetings requested	42	22	35	29
% of meetings attended	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Child Triage</b>				
Referrals received	226	296	372	193
Current open referrals workload	129	239	209	135
Strategy discussions / meetings requested	70	56	66	147
% of discussions / meetings attended	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q2 2020/21, saw 757 Adult triage referrals compared with 945 in Q1 2020/21, a decrease of 188. There were 103 CSE triage referrals in Q2 2020/21 compared with 90 in Q1 2020/21, an increase of 13, and 894 child triage referrals Q2 2020/21, an increase of 343, compared to 551 in Q1 2020/21.

Again, in the last quarter 100% of Strategy Meetings were either attended by the Operations Centre Triage Team or suitably transferred to another force or another member

of Essex Police if more appropriate. In respect of meetings requests, adult triage meetings requested rose from 5 in Q1 2020/21 to 13 this quarter. CSE triage meetings requested increased from 79 last quarter to 99 in Q2 2020/21, and child triage meetings requested decreased from 481 last quarter to 304 Q2 2020/21.

### Key Achievements

In September 2020, Op Innerste, a national programme aimed at delivering a multi-agency response to missing unaccompanied Migrant Children, formally went live in Essex and the Force operating process established. The final aspects under development are the circulation of a memorandum of understanding for each of the respective local authorities children's services along with wider Force-wide awareness raising.

Force-wide virtual training re-commenced in September 2020, including a focus on Op Consider designed to increase officers practical knowledge and awareness to 'considering' the use of Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders (DVPN/O) when responding to any incident of Domestic Abuse. Fantastic progress continues safeguarding domestic abuse victims through this approach with continuing evidence of an increase in Essex of officers utilising this protection power. In Q2, 80 DVPOs were granted, an increase of 32 (66.6%) DVPOs compared to same quarter the previous year. Equally important to highlight is the successful conversion from DVPN to DVPO supported and authorised by the Courts, which for Q2 equated to a conversion rate of 94.1%. A supporting training video link has been made available for all front-line officers and a bespoke C&PP intranet page created as a central resource providing access to relevant information and process related material. The Central Referral Unit now maintain contact with all associated victims and support each District in respect of breach notifications.

## **5.7. DBS Unit**

### Core performance

	Jul -20	Aug -20	Sep-20
<b>DBS Applications</b>			
Work in Progress (Open DBS Applications at Force)	2082	1999	1495
<b>DBS 'Aged' Applications</b>			
26 – 44 Days	52	87	44
45 – 60 Days	32	20	37
61+ Days	100	103	90
<b>Total 'Aged' Work</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>DBS Barring</b>			
<b>Barring Referral Requests Received</b>	23	32	32

<b>Barring Referral Requests Closed</b>	14	31	15
---	----	----	----

### Key Achievements

In Q2, DBS Essex volume intake remains almost 13.5% less than original pre-COVID-19 forecast volumes. The Unit continues to make progress in reducing backlogs and the total number of DBS applications open in the department decreased by 587 applications in Q2.

In Q2 2020/21, DBS made a total of 46 disclosures. This includes applicants currently being dealt with or convicted for offences including Sexual Assaults, Indecent Images of Children (IIOC), Neglect, Theft from vulnerable adults, Robbery and Drug related.

Following successful recruitment campaigns, staff vacancies in DBS Essex have reduced from 15.54 FTE in May to 3.06 FTE in October 2020, following the recruitment and socially distanced / virtual training of 12 new DBS starters. Staff absence through sickness has also reduced significantly, down 35% compared to the same period last year. This improvement is largely thought to be as a result of the team transitioning to home working as a result of COVID-19.

### **5.8. Strategic Centre**

In Q2 2020/21, the Strategic Centre were pivotal in supporting the Force in respect of preparation for the Criminal Justice Joint Inspection (CJJI) Rape Thematic Inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSP) through collation of the pre-inspection document collection return, alongside supporting the drafting of the strategic presentation.

In addition, the team also supported the broader Force return of the HMICFRS COVID-19 inspection, compiling the document collection return as well as completion of the 'Investigations' and 'Protecting Vulnerable People' self-assessments, to help explore how forces are responding to COVID-19, what is working well and what is being learnt.

The Strategic Centre enabled the review and re-publication of 5 policies and procedures in Q2, across the strands of missing, child abuse, rape and serious sexual offences, and, protecting vulnerable people, with further policy and procedure reviews underway. This process includes incorporating guidance from College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP), alongside setting out clear local Force direction and processes.

In Q2, the team dealt with three benchmarking requests and one FOI request as well as attending partnership meetings and completing four scoping requests and in respect of Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR), Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) and Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs).

The team coordinated the delivery of training by The Children's Society to officers and staff across the Force focussed on supporting young BAME people. As well as drafting a section of the national training package for College of Policing regarding child death legislation. The team have also been responsible for working with partners in respect of Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm, particularly bereavement support for families and process

development regarding the provision of real time police data to support increased understanding of the extent and nature of the issue in the county.

The C&PP webpages and support for improved internal comms within the command continues to be an area of focus by the Strategic Centre. In Q2, the team enabled an internal C&PP staff survey to gather feedback in this area.

## **6.0. Implications (Issues)**

Current issues continue to relate to the effect of COVID-19 on the C&PP Command. The issues and measures reported last quarter remain.

The Command having effectively implemented new and virtual practices, including use of videoconferencing and Microsoft Teams, enabling staff to carry out daily business and ensuring continued effective engagement with partners.

The Force have also begun a programme of COVID recovery focusing on what process and policy changes worked well under COVID and considering those we should retain within the Force in future years to enable increased efficiencies. C&PP Command are actively engaged in the programme leading on the review of the policy decision around the Manual of Guidance for managing Investigations to enable Chief Officers to determine if we should continue with this COVID adapted approach in the future. As well as actively participating in the COVID recovery agile working group.

Specifically, COVID-19 restrictions created obstacles to investigations for Quest due to elderly or vulnerable suspects, alongside a proportion of suspects residing in areas under enhanced restrictions, delaying the interview process and preventing them being dealt with.

In addition, the collection and viewing of historic Third-Party Material continues to be a significant issue for investigators. However, the advice and support of CPS lawyers specialising in this area has been incredibly helpful in guiding investigations.

For POLIT, there has been a clear knock-on effect of a change in working practices at the NCA leading to more noticeable variances in the number of referrals month to month, to address this POLIT supervisors have been focussing on the high priority cases. The number of POLIT cases continues to increase and appropriate targets have been set for the team to tackle the most prolific offenders. POLIT are recruiting for the uplift vacancies of three DCs which will allow the team to undertake more proactive work and give them greater resilience to deal with the increase in referrals which is currently being experienced.

Work continues with the Digital File Unit in respect of opportunities to reduce lengthy target dates resulting delays to investigations. Specifically work in the West PPIU focussing on submissions with suspects on bail has enabled a more consistent approach.

## **7.0. Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

The work of the Public Protection Command links to the following priorities in the Police and Crime Plan:

Priority 3 – Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Abuse

Priority 4 – Reverse the Trend in Serious Violence

Priority 5 – Tackle Gangs and Organised Crime

Priority 6 – Protecting Children and Vulnerable People from Harm

## **8.0. Demand<sup>6</sup>**

ASAIT have seen a decrease of 2.3% (43 offences) in the number of investigations compared to Q2 of 2019/20. There were 551 offences in Q2 2020/21 from 594 offences in Q2 2019/20.

CAIT have seen an increase 9.0% (69 offences) in the number of investigations compared to Q2 2019/20. Demand has risen this quarter with 834 offences in Q2 2020/21 an increase from 765 offences in Q2 2019/20.

MOSOVO have seen a decrease of 13.7% (32 offences) in the number of investigations compared to Q1 and Q2 2019/20. There were 202 offences in Q2 2020/21 a decrease from 234 offences in Q2 2019/20.

POLIT have seen a decrease of 5.6% (5 offences) in the number of investigations compared to Q2 2019/20. There were 84 offences in Q2 2020/21 a decrease from 89 offences in Q2 2019/20.

## **9.0. Risks/Mitigation**

There are three risks currently recorded on the management level Risk Register which are overseen by the C&PP Command.

## **10.0. Equality and/or Human Rights Implications**

There are no identified issues in relation to Equality or Human Rights.

## **11.0. Health and Safety Implications**

There are no identified issues in relation to Health and Safety.

## **12.0. Consultation/Engagement**

This report has been written in consultation with the Crime and Public Protection Command Team. Data has been provided by the Performance Analysis Unit and individual C&PP teams for information held locally.

## **13.0. Actions for Improvement**

---

<sup>6</sup> Demand figures include rape, other sexual offences, other crimes and also non crimes which all place demand on the specific departments responsible.

The Criminal Justice Joint Inspection (CJJI) Rape Thematic Inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSP) took place w/c 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Early feedback received by the force at the end of the week was positive. The final report is due to be published in April 2021 when force will be able to review and monitor progress against any resulting national areas for improvement or recommendations.

#### **14.0. Future Work/Development and Expected Outcome**

##### **PPIUs**

The first Victim Feedback Panel is scheduled to sit in January 2021, utilising victim commissioned services within rape crisis, domestic abuse and witness care to provide bespoke feedback to frontline teams, capturing the victims voice and identifying recurring themes to enable the Force to learn and shape future services.

In addition, PPIU will be attending the Hutton Daily Bread cafe that provides food packages to families in need from Brentwood, Thurrock, Basildon and Chelmsford, supporting engagement with vulnerable and hard-to-engage residents attend, on a bi-monthly basis. Alongside, delivering presentations at the Colchester and Southend campuses at the University of Essex around consent in September 2020.

The on-going focus on continuing professional development continues into the next quarter, with a CPD day for rapid response to child death for Detective Inspectors, Child Abuse training, and multi-agency webinars alongside Social Care.

##### **MOSOVO**

Future work in MOSOVO includes rollout of the national CAID (Child Abuse Image Database) training to all MOSOVO staff, alongside rollout of a new modular MOSOVO training package being developed between Essex and Kent MOSOVO and L&D Crime Training. MOSOVO currently utilise Active Citizens, however, the intention is to extend their numbers and ensure reach across all five MOSOVO hubs.

##### **POLIT**

POLIT have been working alongside the Force's Health and Wellbeing services and Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to develop a bespoke welfare pathway for officers who view indecent images of children. A report will be compiled and presented to Chief Officers with the findings and suggestions for future developments required.

POLIT have a number of courses planned to train MOSOVO and other Public Protection staff to become Nationally Accredited to grade indecent images of children. This will ensure consistency in this field and provide inexperienced staff with the confidence to undertake this difficult area of work.

Renewed focus is being placed on Prevent work conducted by POLIT and a plan generated to set out at short and long-term engagement projects. These include development of a pilot between StopSo, POLIT and the Anglian Ruskin University looking at the promotion of

early intervention therapy and funding to support the project. Short term projects will focus on emerging trends within specific community groups and the distribution of IIOC.

The re-location of POLIT to Chelmsford Police Station is still on track and the specific needs of the team in terms of space and security for the specialist equipment have been identified and agreed.

One final area to note as a result of Essex and other forces testing, the Home Office have decided to end development of the Qumodo Digital Media Examiner (DME) for the time being due to development issues. The constructive feedback provided by the Essex POLIT has been well received and is helping to shape the development of a product that will hopefully be rolled out across the country. POLIT are in discussions regarding further programme testing/piloting opportunities.

### **Operations Centre**

Funding has been secured from the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner in support of Project Papillion, a pilot utilising Conditional Cautions for specific Domestic Abuse cases. A paper will be presented to the Chief Constable and Director of Public Prosecutions in November 2020 for approval for Essex to become the 5<sup>th</sup> force in the country to be part of this national pilot. Support has also been secured from Essex County Council Public Health to underwrite the cost of a formal evaluation of this project.

Street-Weeks will recommence in Essex between 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020, coinciding with this year's National Safeguarding Awareness Week. The Central Referral Unit are leading this year, contributing with a bespoke Adult Safeguarding deployment in Thurrock/Grays with partners, volunteers, the Community Policing Team and our media department to maximise safeguarding opportunities in the area.

### **Strategic Centre**

In Q3 2020/21, a focus of the Strategic Centre will be on the development of the C&PP policies and procedures review that remain outstanding.

The Learning the Lessons initiative continues, with a bulletin expected to be launched in Q3 to share with the wider Force around the response to rape and serious sexual offences. Alongside the development of a Missing Factsheet to share with relevant staff key messages regarding opportunities around the use of TextSafe to support vulnerable missing people.

The Strategic Centre are responsible for collating and returning a response to the College of Policing in respect of a consultation on *Recognising and Responding to Vulnerability Related Risks Guidelines*, gathering cross-command views prior to submission.

The team will be focussing on the rescheduling of the Missing CPD day focussed on Missing Person Liaison Officers (MPLOs), the partnership Mental Health event and safeguarding vulnerable adult's awareness raising.