



Southend Public Online Meeting

10th February 2021

PFCC Roger Hirst

DPFCC Jane Gardner

Ch/Insp Ian Hughes

Carl Robinson Director of Public Protection

ECFRS Dave Barnard

Questions from the online audience

Q - We are hearing a lot about County Lines and the great results the past few weeks that Essex Police, Essex VVU and all others that are involved have done, with the County Lines and Op Raptor. What are the indicators and signs that a child or vulnerable person is being exploited into this criminal activity? If you think someone is being exploited into County Lines gangs who do you contact?

Ch/Insp Hughes - Gangs gain the trust of children by buying them things and gaining their trust. If you notice they come home with new trainers or a new phone or something they can't afford this can be a sign. They can also become more anxious and withdrawn, as well as being out late at night and unexplained disappearances. They may also have injuries. You can report your concerns to the police as their team are committed to working with children and families and will work with the child's best interest at heart.

The PFCC and the Violence and Vulnerability unit are also so doing a lot of preventative work around the violence and vulnerability with

	<p>young people to stop them becoming involved as well as helping those in gangs, break away from them.</p> <p>Southend Council is also running a campaign around see the signs which focuses on child exploitation.</p> <p>Ch/Insp Hughes – See the signs campaign is fantastic but also the SBC see the signs on their website has another reporting line which goes through the children services. It is very much about a partnership approach is really important.</p>
<p>Q Southend BC CCTV has done a fantastic job and helped the police and CSO's in Southend capture a lot of criminals, as someone who walks by herself everyday from Hadleigh to Southend along London Road and down Chalkwell Avenue, is the whole of Seafront and the main roads leading into Southend have CCTV coverage?</p>	<p>Carl Robinson - the seafront has CCTV coverage along it as has some of the main roads in and out of the town. The CCTV in Southend is exceptional and is used in crime prevention.</p>
<p>Q I've heard that the theft of push bikes on social media. What can bike owners do to prevent their bikes from being stolen.</p>	<p>Ch/Insp - the theft of push bikes is on the increase. People can try and prevent their bikes being stolen by investing in a good quality bike lock or securing their bikes inside a building wherever possible.</p>
<p>Q How are the fire service reaching children to give fire safety advice if they not attending school at the moment?</p>	<p>Dave Barnard - ECFRS have really stepped up and have an online education hub which is double badged and they deliver a wide ranging issues such as life skills, knife crims, fire safety and they are looking to engage their younger children so they can get them involved in discussion which also involves parents</p>
<p>Q I've been witnessing a real surge in anti social behaviour in my community in this current lockdown as kids are bored and have nothing to do. How do police deal with this and are parents being held responsible?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Hughes – ASB has definitely gone up due to Covid breaches and Essex Police have been working with partners to look at areas of anti-social behaviour. There is a new platform for tackling ASB where a group of partners meet every month and go through what can be done about preventing ASB, by looking at interventions and</p>

	<p>seeing how we can best service that need. There is also diversionary opportunities through the voluntary organisation 360. We try to work with young people and parents and explain why we want them to be safe and how this can lead into county line activity and result in young people being exploited. Working with partners is the way forward.</p> <p>The PFCC has been working with Citizens UK who do a lot of work in the community and by getting young people involved in shaping how police engage with them. We also have out-reach workers who liaise with young people through diversionary activities.</p> <p>Carl Robinson – I agree the partnership approach is really important. We share intel and share solutions. It is very challenging at present and they look to engage with groups as this approach works best.</p>
<p>Q Have the police and council issued fines to the people breaking lock down rules to visit the seafront in the past several weeks? It seems to be even busier than it is in the summer.</p>	<p>PFCC - you should not be visiting places that you have to travel to other than for work or appointments.</p> <p>Ch/Insp Hughes - from the seafront perspective there are lots of small pockets of people. When police engage with the people they often find they are family units and they are local. Wants to thank the community for their compliance as they have done a great job but if you are not compliant you need to think about your actions as this does put extra pressure on the police.</p> <p>It's all about engaging with people and taking measures to not encourage people to drive down to the seafront and leave it for local people to use.</p>

<p>Q At a Southend Public Meeting last year you committed to reducing the number of people begging and street drinking in Southend. Has any progress been made and has lockdown impacted on numbers?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Hughes - with lockdown this has resulted in a reduction of begging in the town but police and partners will continue to work with street drinkers and beggars to help them get off the streets.</p>
<p>Q I've seen some reports of rogue traders operating in Shoeburyness – are you able to give more details so we can share on facebook?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Hughes – this is not something that police have had reported to them. The best place to check is via Action Fraud and local trading standards.</p>
<p>Q Can I ask regarding Dog theft, this being on the increase, up by 175% according to Dog lost, what resources are being put into this desperately devastating crime. And what we would like to know is how this is being managed to ensure that the firstly - what is being done to find the stolen dogs and other than being given a crime reference number and secondly what Essex police are doing to ensure the increase of thefts does not get higher in our community.</p>	<p>It is important to have your dog chipped, not let them run too far away if off the lead. There are a lot of reports in the media, but they don't always relate to Essex and there has not been an increase in reports of animal thefts. But it is hugely important to report thefts when they happen so police can obtain an accurate picture.</p>
<p>I used to be able to see a very drilled down Police crime statistics site that detailed all crimes per area, road etc. It further showed various statistics on the actual crime breakdown, if perpetrator caught, if going to court, unsolved figures, cases not resolved and other details on reported crime. Is this site still available? I cannot seem to find it now.</p>	<p>PFCC – The statistics can be skewed as the question about high crimes around the police station. The best place to find accurate crime data is on the PFCC website and this will be updated monthly. https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/essex-police-performance-2-2/</p>
<p>I contacted Essex Police via the web to enquire about speeding and inconsiderate driving on Eastern Esplanade, citing several RTCs and many near-misses that I have witnessed. I said that it seemed that the road from the Kursaal to Thorpe Bay Corner is fast becoming a racetrack. I was told by way of a phone call from Stanway that there "were not enough Roads Policing resources to do anything about it!" Even now - in "lockdown" with reduced traffic volume - the amount of speeders is unbelievable. Could I ask if: - there really is a shortage of Roads Policing resources and if so, why is this the case? And would</p>	<p>PFCC - We know we need to invest more in policing and already have 500 more than we did two years ago and have another 170 arriving in the next year. We always need more police, but we are in a lot stronger position than we have ever been.</p> <p>Ch/Insp – there is a long stretch of road along the seafront and it is a popular and very busy route, it is patrolled heavily by the Town Centre Teams but often this activity happens late in the evening so</p>

<p>it be possible to carry out some monitoring and where necessary enforcement along the seafront, please?</p>	<p>they work with partners. Because they work with council and road policing team they can also look at traffic calming measures etc.</p> <p>Carl Robinson – there was driving related to anti-social behaviour nearby the seafront and they have introduced traffic calming measures so there is the potential to do that if there's an issue.</p>
<p>Q Could you comment on recent articles in The Echo naming Victoria Avenue and Sutton Rd as high crime areas please?</p>	<p>Ch/Insp Hughes - Victoria Avenue is where the police station is and if someone is taken into custody and have a weapon found on them that will be where the offence is noted as taking place which is why it will show up as a 'hot spot.'</p> <p>Southend has noticed a 12% decrease in offences which is higher than elsewhere in Essex.</p>
<p>Not a question but thankyou to the Police and the CSO's in Southend (and all other areas) for their continuous dedication, selflessness and courage throughout this virus. I have walked everyday by myself since April last year and seen their presence everyday, whether that is on foot or in vehicles which has made me feel so much safer, and for putting their own safety at risk to protect their community and keep them safe, even though some have been spat at, verbally abused etc</p>	