

Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2020/21

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

Title of Report:	Use of Force/Stop & Search – Q3 2020/21
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Author on behalf of Chief Officer:	Dan Youngman 42078817
Date of Approval:	04/02/2021

1.0 Purpose of Report

To provide a quarterly update on Essex Police's use of force and stop and search powers.

2.0 Recommendations

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

3.0 Executive Summary

Use of Force

There were 4,690 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q3 2020/21. This is an increase of 763 (19.4%) additional forms completed, compared to the same quarter for the 2019/20, but a 11.5% decrease on the previous quarter.

2,926 forms (62.3%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

11 forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, a drop of 47 from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 8 separate incidents (21 fewer than the previous quarter).

114 uses of Taser that have been recorded as a first tactics in this quarter (8 fewer than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 155 separate incidents (15 fewer than the previous quarter).

81.4% of subjects on Use of Force records were male. 43.5% of all subjects are male and in the 18-34 age range, with the average age being 32 years old.

The proportion of BAME subjects continues to be higher than the proportion of BAME within the population of Essex as a whole. 9.4% of subjects were Black (or Black British) compared to 2% of the population who were Black or Black British (as measured at the last census).

65.5% (6,753) of reasons for the use of force are to prevent harm to people or property. Alcohol and drugs continue to be the high impact factors.

Stop and Search

There were 5,266 stops recorded in Quarter 3 of 2020/21. Whilst this is a decrease of 12.5% (756 records) on the previous quarter, it is a 6.4% increase (316 records) on the equivalent quarter last year.

According to the SMSR survey¹ 81% of respondents agree that Essex Police use Stop Search powers fairly and respectfully. This falls to 65% for BAME respondents.

99.4% of searches (5,236) were carried out under PACE or the Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA).

The peak age range for those stopped is 18-24, equating to 1,910 stops in the last quarter (36.3% of subjects) with 84.3% of subjects being male.

There were 7.9 Stops per 1000 people on BAME individuals in Essex last quarter, this compares to 2.2 Stops per 1000 for White individuals. This means that a BAME individual is just over three times more likely to be stopped than a white individual.

For Q2 2020/21, 34.6% of Essex outcomes were positive which is 5.9 percentage points greater than the MSG average. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on BAME individuals were 4.5 percentage points higher than for White individuals.

4.0 Introduction/Background

This report combines the Use of Force and Stop Search reports into one in order to have the two reports discussed at the Essex Police Use of Force board in one document for ease of reference. The report structure uses the PFCC template to avoid duplication of work.

¹ The latest results are for Q3 of 2020/2021.

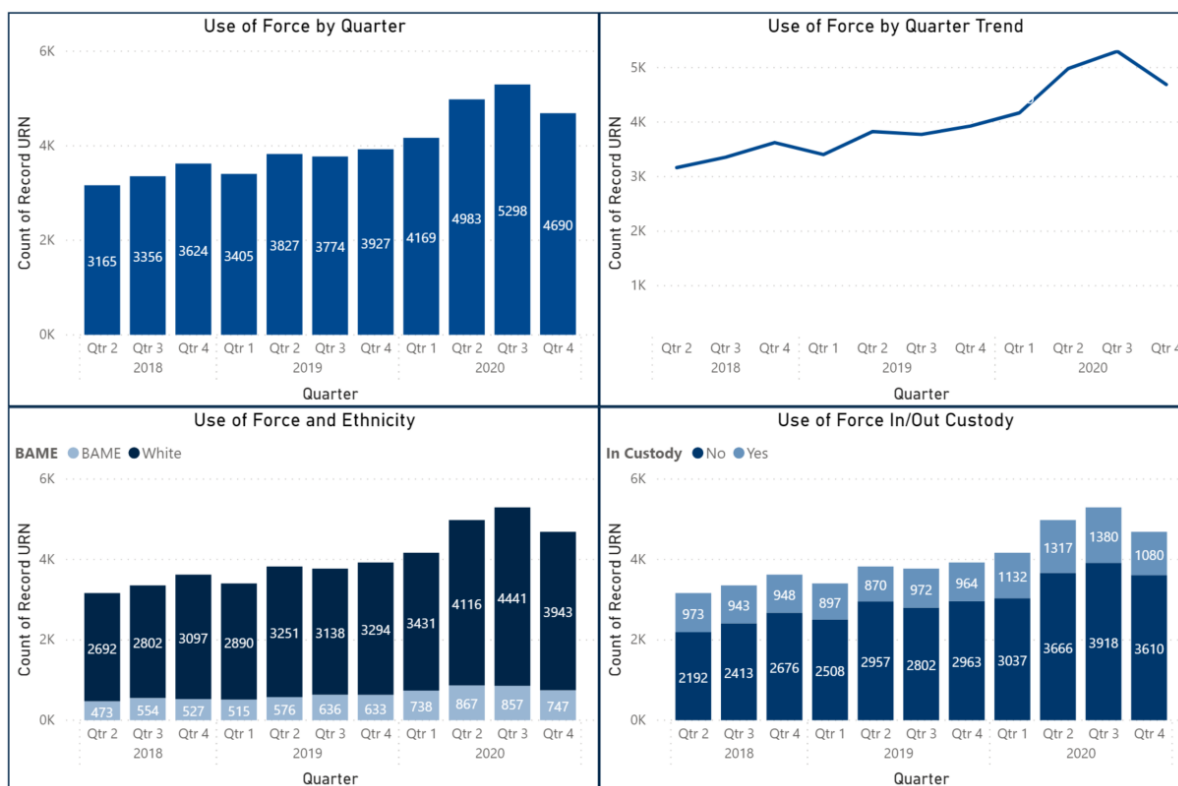
This report discusses the Use of Force forms and stop searches submitted for incidents occurring between 1st October 2020 and 31st December 2020.

The Use of Force data analysed in this report contains duplicates, as one form should be submitted per officer for each use of force. Therefore, if three officers use force against one subject in relation to the same incident, three forms should be submitted, and the subject would appear three times in the data (for that one incident).

Stop Searches are now recorded on two separate databases, the Stops Database that has been used up to now and the MobileFirst system (which is also used for the Use of Force data).

5.0 Current Work and Performance

Use of Force



There were 4,690 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q3 2020/21. This is an increase of 763 (19.4%) additional forms completed, compared to the same quarter for the 2019/20, but a 11.5% decrease on the previous quarter. The proportion of force being used in custody remains stable. This may signal the end to the steady volume rise that has been seen since April 2018 and the establishment of a “normal” level of Use of Force.

In the last quarter it was 23.0% compared to the 10-quarter average of 25.6%.

The below table details the tactics employed with each Use of Force in Q3 2020/21. It details the first eight tactics employed (not necessarily the most severe), and more than one will have been used in most incidents. The MobileFirst app allows for the inputting of up to 20 Tactics for one incident, there were no forms in this quarter in which more than eight tactics were detailed.

Compliant Handcuffing continues to be the most commonly used tactic both overall and in the first used tactic.

In 75 reports, Tactical Communications (Tac Comms) were the only method employed, suggesting further training on the app may be required, as a form is not required when Tac Comms are the only method. This is 9 reports fewer than the previous quarter.

73.8% of forms did not state that Tac Comms were used as a first tactic. It is unlikely that this is the case, it is inferred that officers simply did not enter Tac Comms as a tactic used.

2,926 forms (62.3%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

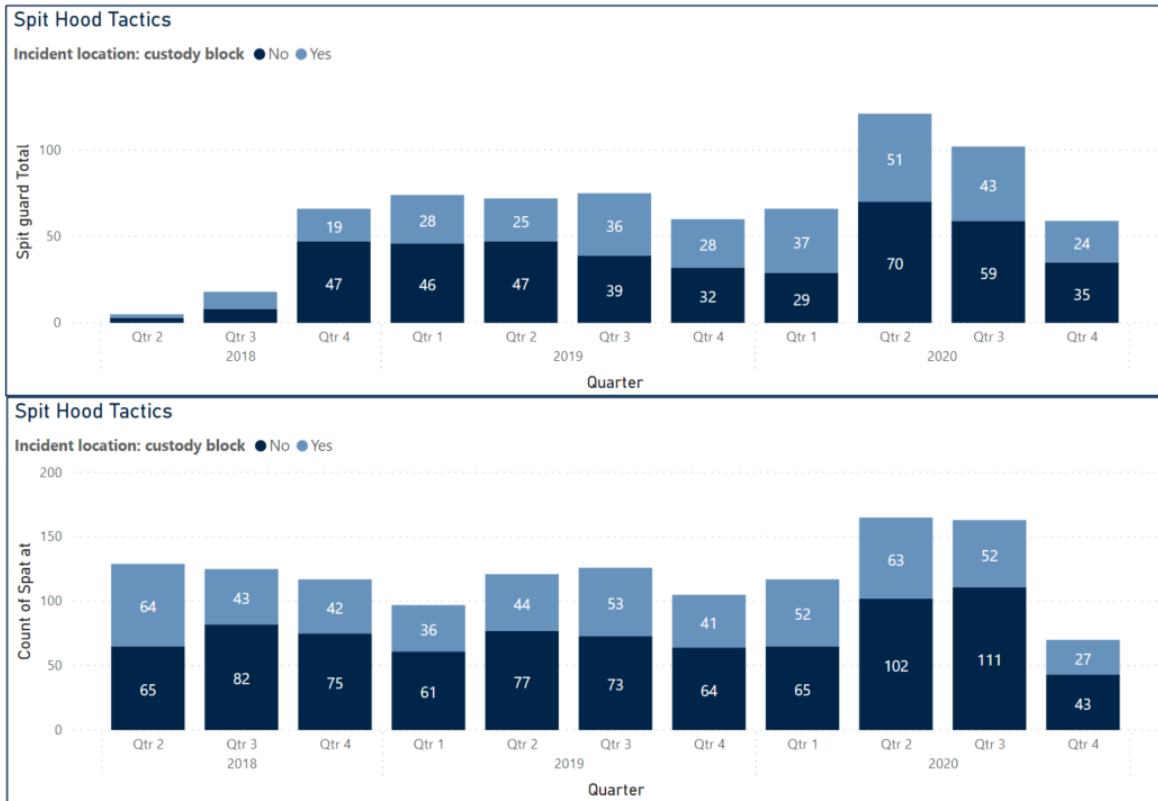
11 forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, a drop of 47 from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 8 separate incidents (21 fewer than the previous quarter).

114 uses of Taser that have been recorded as a first tactics in this quarter (8 fewer than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 155 separate incidents (15 fewer than the previous quarter).

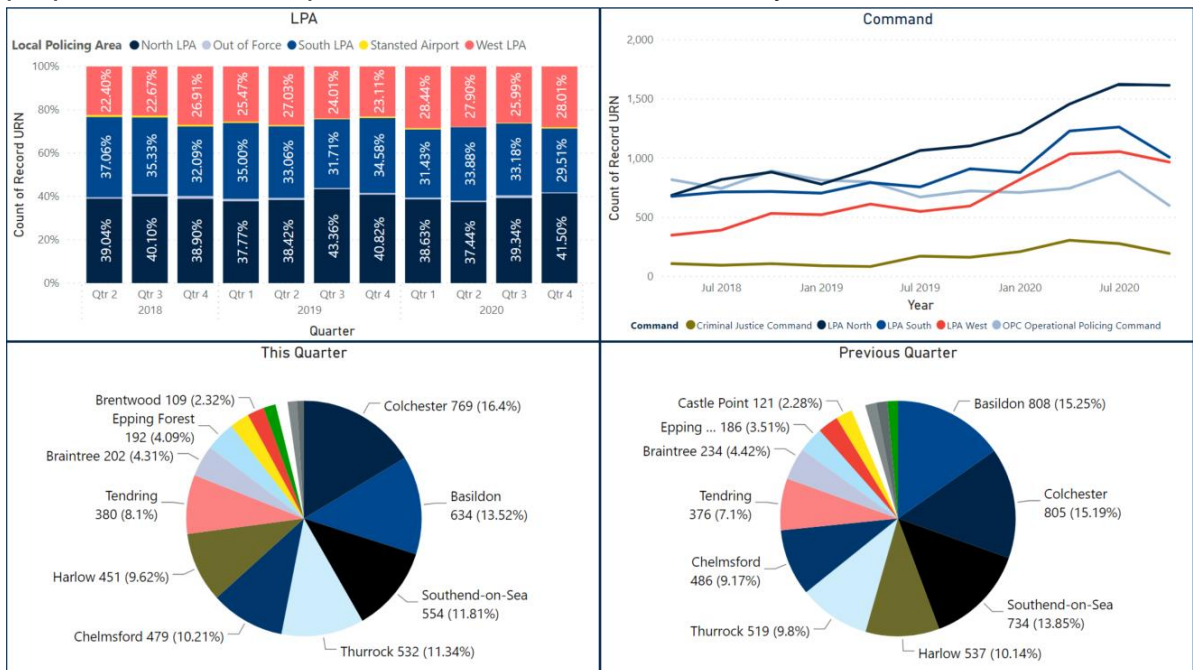
Tactic	Tactic 1	Tactic 2	Tactic 3	Tactic 4	Tactic 5	Tactic 6	Tactic 7	Tactic 8	Tactic Count	%age of Tactics
Compliant Handcuffing	1513	363	151	13	3	2	1	0	2046	23.60%
Tactical Communication	1228	370	97	24	14	4	0	0	1737	20.03%
Unarmed skills	470	392	185	68	33	5	0	0	1153	13.30%
Ground Restraint	439	346	185	85	20	5	1	1	1082	12.48%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	404	352	176	64	23	1	1	0	1021	11.77%
Other / improvised	242	252	120	53	12	8	0	0	687	7.92%
Limb / Body Restraints	132	143	100	51	13	6	0	0	445	5.13%
Taser	114	80	12	3	0	0	0	0	209	2.41%
Baton drawn	103	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	117	1.35%
Spit guard	5	21	20	14	4	0	0	1	65	0.75%
Dog Deployed	14	17	0	0	1	0	0	0	32	0.37%
CS PAVA drawn	7	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	20	0.23%
CS PAVA used	8	4	4	3	0	0	0	0	19	0.22%
Firearms	11	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.16%
Baton used	5	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	10	0.12%
Shield	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.09%
Dog Bite	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	6	0.07%

Since Spit Guards were introduced in 2018/19, levels of use have been generally steady. There was a rise in use in the first two quarters of the financial year, however in Q3 levels have fallen back to previous levels. Since this rise peaked in June and July, it does not seem likely that the rise was related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As can be seen from the below charts, there seems to be a correlation between Spit Guard use and Officers Spat at and this is expected. Statistical analysis shows a correlation of 0.87 which is a very strong positive correlation.



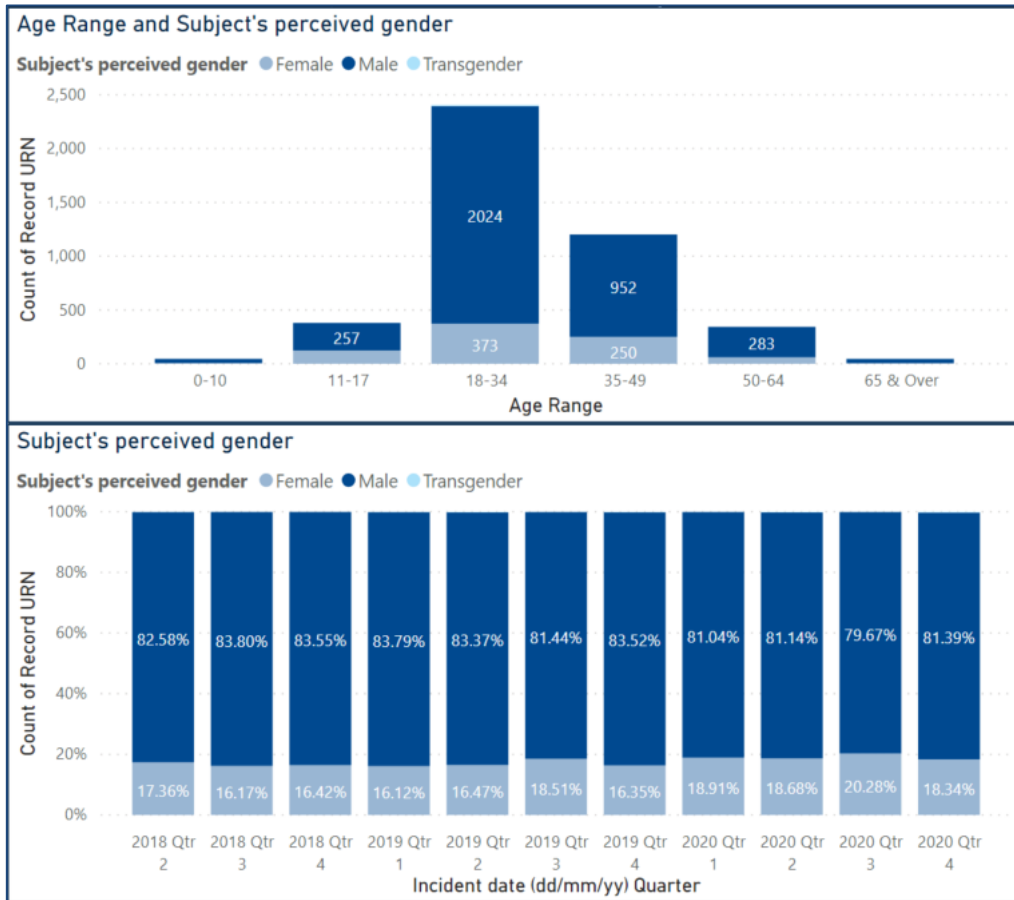
Colchester, Basildon, Southend, Thurrock, Chelmsford and Harlow continue to be the districts within which force was most used. These districts account for 72.8% of the locations in which force was used. Whilst there are fluctuations over time, the proportions of force split between LPAs remains steady.



When looking at which Commands use force the most², the Local Policing Areas and OPC account for 93.7% of all forms recorded in the past quarter.

² In order to do this, the Collar Number is looked up on a snapshot of serving officers taken each month. The caveat here is that all figures are based upon where an officer CURRENTLY serves.

81.4% of those subjected to Use of Force were identified by officers as male, 18.3% were identified as female; 12 subjects were identified as transgender.



32 was the average age for subjects (where a date of birth was given/stated), this is true for both male and female individuals. The mode (age most recorded) is 36 for female subjects and 34 for males. Males with a perceived age between 18-34 years were the most common gender and age band in the review period.

83.5% of subjects were White, this is 9.7 percentage points lower than the proportion of White residents of Essex.

9.7% of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 7.7 percentage points higher than the 2.0% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2011 census data).

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Use of Force per 1000 pop.						Ratio to White			
	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group
LPA North	2.19	3.12	3.09	23.09	6.59	1.42	1.41	10.54	3.01
Braintree	1.16	2.18	4.5	16.43	0	1.88	3.88	14.16	0.00
Chelmsford	2.47	1.89	3.83	27.79	7.49	0.77	1.55	11.25	3.03
Colchester	3.32	4.12	2.52	23.69	2.97	1.24	0.76	7.14	0.89
Maldon	1.22	0	1.78	7.19	18.07	0.00	1.46	5.89	14.81
Tendring	2.55	7.5	2.35	32.26	24.39	2.94	0.92	12.65	9.56
Uttlesford	0.65	0	1.78	7.19	18.07	0.00	2.74	11.06	27.80
LPA South	2.31	4.19	2.6	12.62	6.61	1.81	1.13	5.46	2.86
Basildon	3.15	5.54	2.94	12.38	12.45	1.76	0.93	3.93	3.95
Castle Point	1.24	2.2	3.95	7.56	12.99	1.77	3.19	6.10	10.48
Rochford	0.85	3.31	1.14	2.31	0	3.89	1.34	2.72	0.00
Southend	2.74	3.83	2.33	14.97	3.34	1.40	0.85	5.46	1.22
LPA West	2.53	3.1	2.79	8.5	8.74	1.23	1.10	3.36	3.45
Brentwood	1.29	1.67	0.85	15.63	3.44	1.29	0.66	12.12	2.67
Epping	1.18	3.02	1.35	15.39	3.68	2.56	1.14	13.04	3.12
Harlow	4.84	6.85	5.09	12.94	18.92	1.42	1.05	2.67	3.91
Thurrock	3.05	1.61	3.54	5.52	10.79	0.53	1.16	1.81	3.54
Force	2.33	3.47	2.88	12.60	7.46	1.49	1.24	5.41	3.20

A clearer method to show the ethnic disproportionality for Use of Force is looking at the number of Forms per 1000 population in Essex. From this it is possible to see that Black or Black British individuals are 5.4 times more likely to have force used upon them than White individuals. This does not suggest that there is any actual bias in Police actions as officers must react to the situation in which they find themselves.

Effecting Arrest was the most used reason entered for officers using force, followed by Preventing Harm, Protecting Oneself and Preventing Escape. Please note, that more than one reason can be entered when justifying a Use of Force.

Combining the reasons that encompass preventing harm as a whole³, we can say that 65.5% of reasons are to prevent harm.

Reason for Force	Q3 2020/21	%age Reasons	%age Forms
Arrest	2219	15.82%	47.31%
Prevent Harm	1992	14.20%	42.47%
Protect Self	1920	13.69%	40.94%
Prevent Escape	1835	13.08%	39.13%
Protect Officers	1787	12.74%	38.10%
Protect Subject	979	6.98%	20.87%
Search	964	6.87%	20.55%
Prevent Offence	842	6.00%	17.95%
Protect Public	675	4.81%	14.39%
Secure Evidence	317	2.26%	6.76%
Remove Handcuffs	255	1.82%	5.44%
Other	191	1.36%	4.07%
Method of Entry	48	0.34%	1.02%

³ Protect Self, Prevent Harm, Protect Other Officers, Protect Subject and Protect Public

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Impact Factor	Q2 2020/21	%age all Factors	%age Forms
Alcohol	1578	19.18%	33.65%
Size/Gender/Build	1378	16.75%	29.38%
Drugs	1305	15.86%	27.83%
Other Factor	1080	13.13%	23.03%
Prior Knowledge	1027	12.48%	21.90%
Mental Health	777	9.45%	16.57%
Weapon	496	6.03%	10.58%
Crowd	293	3.56%	6.25%
Acute Behavioural Disorder	292	3.55%	6.23%

Each Use of Force form can have multiple impact factors, the table above shows the proportion of each impact factor in the total number of forms for the last quarter. Whilst Alcohol remains the factor cited most often, Drugs slipped below Size/Gender/Build by volume in Q2 and has remained there for Q3.

Mental Health is an impact factor in 25.1% of forms (down 8.5 percentage points from the previous quarter) whereas 7.6% of subjects are reported as having an officer perceived Mental Disability.

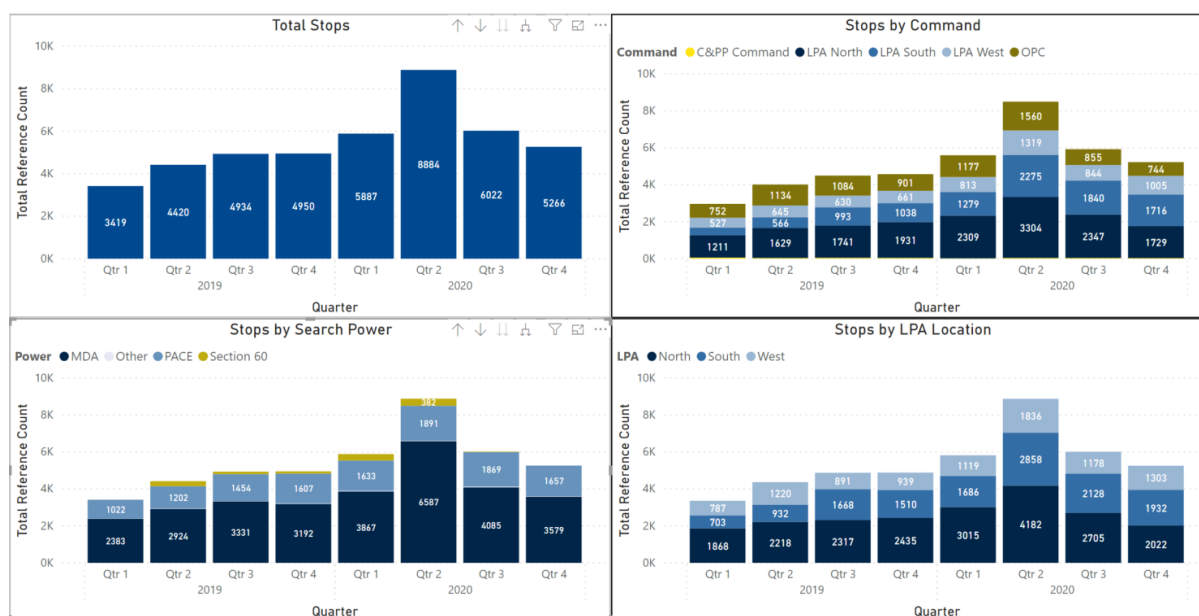
Qtr	Staff - injury level		Qtr	Subject - nature of injury	
	Minor	Severe		Minor	Severe
Q1 2018/19	187	2	Q1 2018/19	247	2
Q2 2018/19	173	0	Q2 2018/19	226	2
Q3 2018/19	200	8	Q3 2018/19	240	5
Q4 2018/19	170	2	Q4 2018/19	203	6
Q1 2019/20	206	2	Q1 2019/20	236	5
Q2 2019/20	162	2	Q2 2019/20	240	4
Q3 2019/20	177	0	Q3 2019/20	213	1
Q4 2019/20	178	2	Q4 2019/20	210	1
Q1 2020/21	218	5	Q1 2020/21	288	3
Q2 2020/21	290	5	Q2 2020/21	307	6
Q3 2020/21	178	5	Q3 2020/21	249	5

In the last quarter, Staff have been injured in 3.9% of incidents and Subjects have been injured in 5.4% of incidents. These proportions have remained steady since the last quarter.

There was one incident in which force was used and the subject subsequently died in custody.⁴

⁴ Incident EP-20201111-0225

Stop and Search

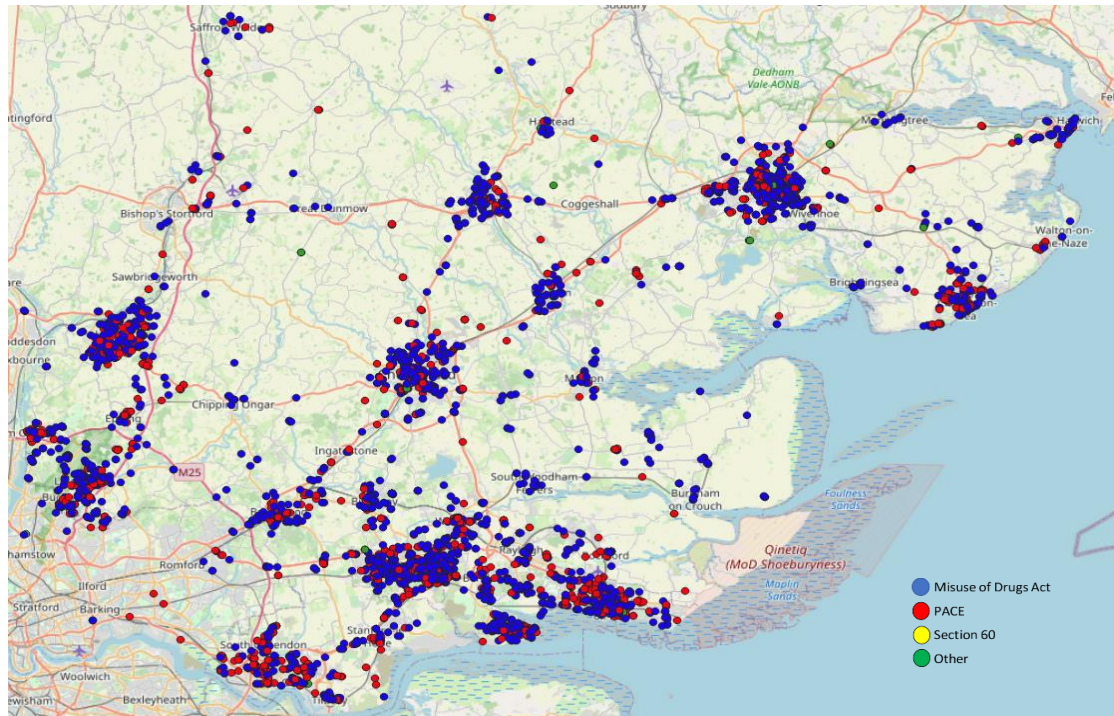


There were 5,266 stops recorded in Quarter 3 of 2020/21. Whilst this is a decrease of 12.5% (756 records) on the previous quarter, it is a 6.4% increase (316 records) on the equivalent quarter last year. It is now easy to see the effect of the first COVID lockdown on Stop Search figures that was mentioned in previous reports. It is possible that a similar effect may produce inflated Stop Search figures for the final quarter of the financial year, although the influence of a higher level of penalty notices given since 01/01/2021 cannot yet be ascertained.

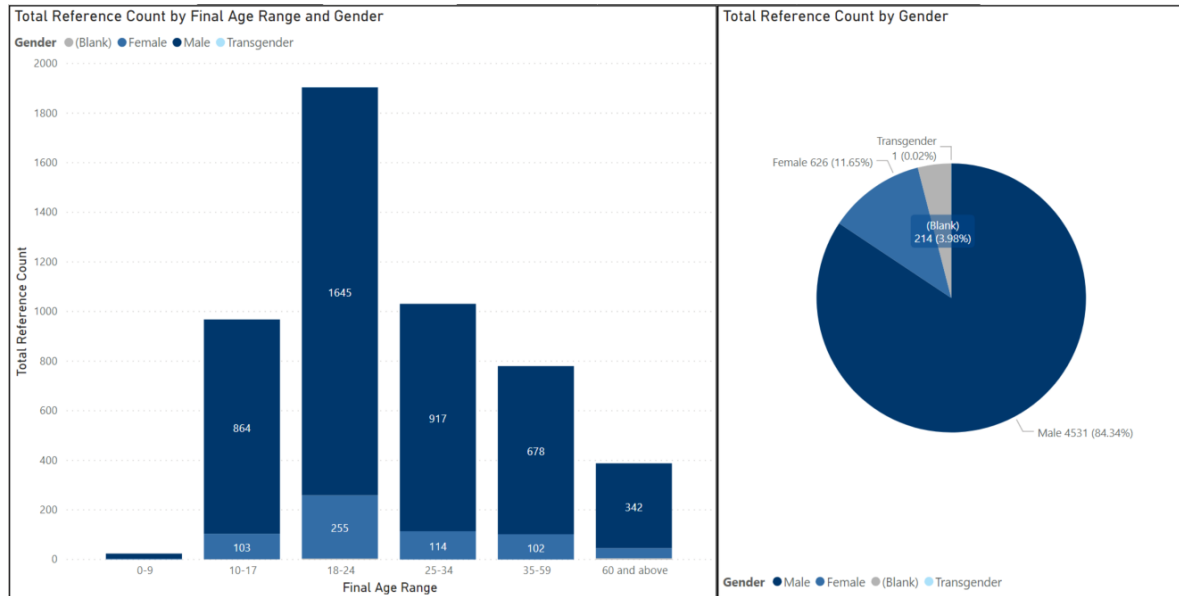
99.4% (5,236) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops. This is greater than previous quarters due to fewer Section 60 stops. No Section 60 stops were made in the last quarter.

LPA	District Name	Q3 18/18	Q4 18/19	Q1 19/20	Q2 19/20	Q3 19/20	Q4 19/20	Q1 20/21	Q2 20/21	Q3 20/21
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	488	726	745	864	713	818	1148	576	560
	Colchester	276	385	684	789	911	1234	1971	1173	801
	Tendring	325	541	462	261	430	591	539	514	318
	Uttlesford / Braintree	96	216	327	403	381	372	524	442	343
South	Basildon	249	296	321	476	609	738	1424	1132	1014
	Castle Point/Rochford	85	121	169	448	360	345	371	263	446
	Southend	199	286	442	744	541	603	1063	733	472
West	Brentwood / Epping	145	218	332	337	310	442	733	511	631
	Harlow	157	315	551	330	274	404	643	359	355
	Thurrock	242	254	337	224	355	273	460	308	317
Stansted Airport		55	61	50	58	66	67	8	11	9
LPA	District Name	Q3 18/18	Q4 18/19	Q1 19/20	Q2 19/20	Q3 19/20	Q4 19/20	Q1 20/21	Q2 20/21	Q3 20/21
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	21.06%	21.23%	16.86%	17.51%	14.40%	13.90%	12.92%	9.56%	10.63%
	Colchester	11.91%	11.26%	15.48%	15.99%	18.40%	20.96%	22.19%	19.48%	15.21%
	Tendring	14.03%	15.82%	10.45%	5.29%	8.69%	10.04%	6.07%	8.54%	6.04%
	Uttlesford / Braintree	4.14%	6.32%	7.40%	8.17%	7.70%	6.32%	5.90%	7.34%	6.51%
South	Basildon	10.75%	8.66%	7.26%	9.65%	12.30%	12.54%	16.03%	18.80%	19.26%
	Castle Point/Rochford	3.67%	3.54%	3.82%	9.08%	7.27%	5.86%	4.18%	4.37%	8.47%
	Southend	8.59%	8.37%	10.00%	15.08%	10.93%	10.24%	11.97%	12.17%	8.96%
West	Brentwood / Epping	6.26%	6.38%	7.51%	6.83%	6.26%	7.51%	8.25%	8.49%	11.98%
	Harlow	6.78%	9.21%	12.47%	6.69%	5.54%	6.86%	7.24%	5.96%	6.74%
	Thurrock	10.44%	7.43%	7.62%	4.54%	7.17%	4.64%	5.18%	5.11%	6.02%
Stansted Airport		2.37%	1.78%	1.13%	1.18%	1.33%	1.14%	0.09%	0.18%	0.17%

North LPA has the highest volume of Stops recorded consistently over time; this is to be expected from the LPA with the highest overall population. Basildon has the highest volume of records this quarter with 1,014 followed by Colchester with 801. Basildon has been increasing in prevalence since Quarter 1 2019/20, rising from 7.4% to 19.3% of all Stops. The majority of stops occurred in the main population centres of the county.



84.9% of all stops last quarter were carried out by officers attached to the LPA Commands and a further 14.2% were carried out by officers from Operational Policing Command (OPC).



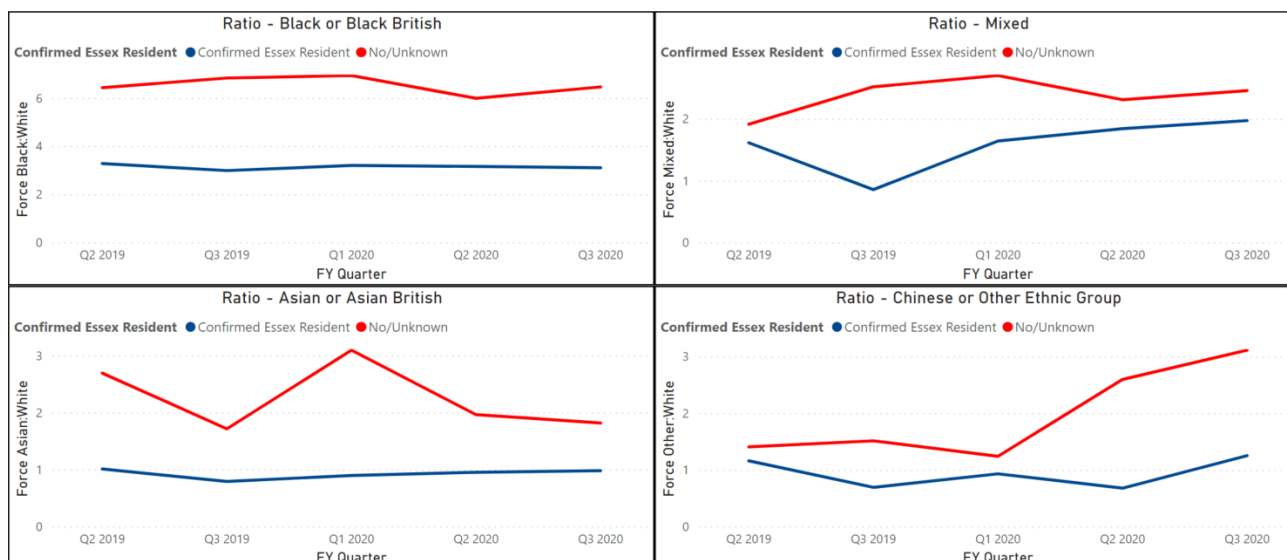
During Quarter 2 of 2020/21 and where there is age and gender data, 84.3% of subjects stopped were male with 18 – 24 being the most prevalent age group for both male and female subjects. The Modal age for male subjects and female subjects is 19.

	Stops per 1000 pop.					Ratio to White			
	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group
LPA North	2.06	4.63	3.77	22.48	4.61	2.25	1.83	10.91	2.24
Chelmsford/Maldon	1.87	4.12	4.04	20.45	5.19	2.20	2.16	10.94	2.78
Colchester	3.31	7.39	3.62	31.07	1.19	2.23	1.09	9.39	0.36
Tendring	2.06	0	2.35	27.65	19.51	0.00	1.14	13.42	9.47
Uttlesford/Braintree	1.33	3.2	4.17	7.52	9.64	2.41	3.14	5.65	7.25
LPA South	2.82	6.1	3.13	12.62	4.21	2.16	1.11	4.48	1.49
Basildon	4.35	8.66	2.94	15.8	4.15	1.99	0.68	3.63	0.95
Castle Point/Rochford	2.15	6.61	4.75	11.88	10.53	3.07	2.21	5.53	4.90
Southend	1.96	3.83	2.33	8.77	2.23	1.95	1.19	4.47	1.14
LPA West	2.13	4.83	3.23	7.05	6.66	2.27	1.52	3.31	3.13
Brentwood/Epping	2.08	6.5	3.51	20.3	7.23	3.13	1.69	9.76	3.48
Harlow	3.41	5.71	3.75	9.71	10.81	1.67	1.10	2.85	3.17
Thurrock	1.27	2.26	2.53	2.84	4.31	1.78	1.99	2.24	3.39
Force	2.31	5.17	3.41	11.48	5.21	2.24	1.48	4.97	2.26
Force (Essex Residents)	1.02	2.03	1.04	3.2	1.27	1.99	1.02	3.14	1.25

Looking at the ethnic breakdown of Stop Searches for Q3 2020/21, a BAME individual is 3.7 times more likely to be stopped than a White individual. The above table shows a breakdown of stops per 1000 population and of the ratio of various ethnicities to White across the force. Black to White disproportionality is highest in the North LPA and lowest in the West LPA.

For records in which it is possible to ascertain that the subject is an Essex resident⁵, the disproportionality ratios fall by an average of 31%.

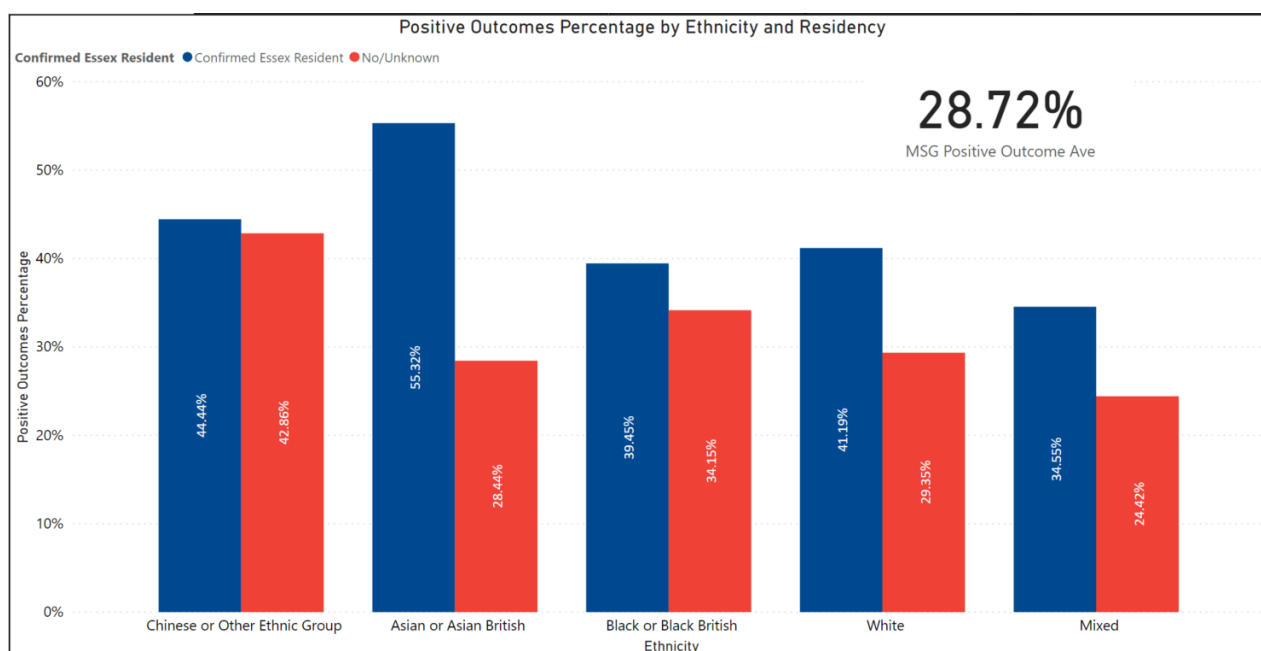
⁵ This is done by matching the town of residence or postcode with lists of towns and postcodes in Essex.



The Ethnicity to White ratio can be tracked over the ratio for Essex residents is consistently beneath that for non-residents and for those who did not provide details.

Category	BAME	White
Essex Resident	16.02%	83.98%
Essex Non-Resident	51.34%	48.66%

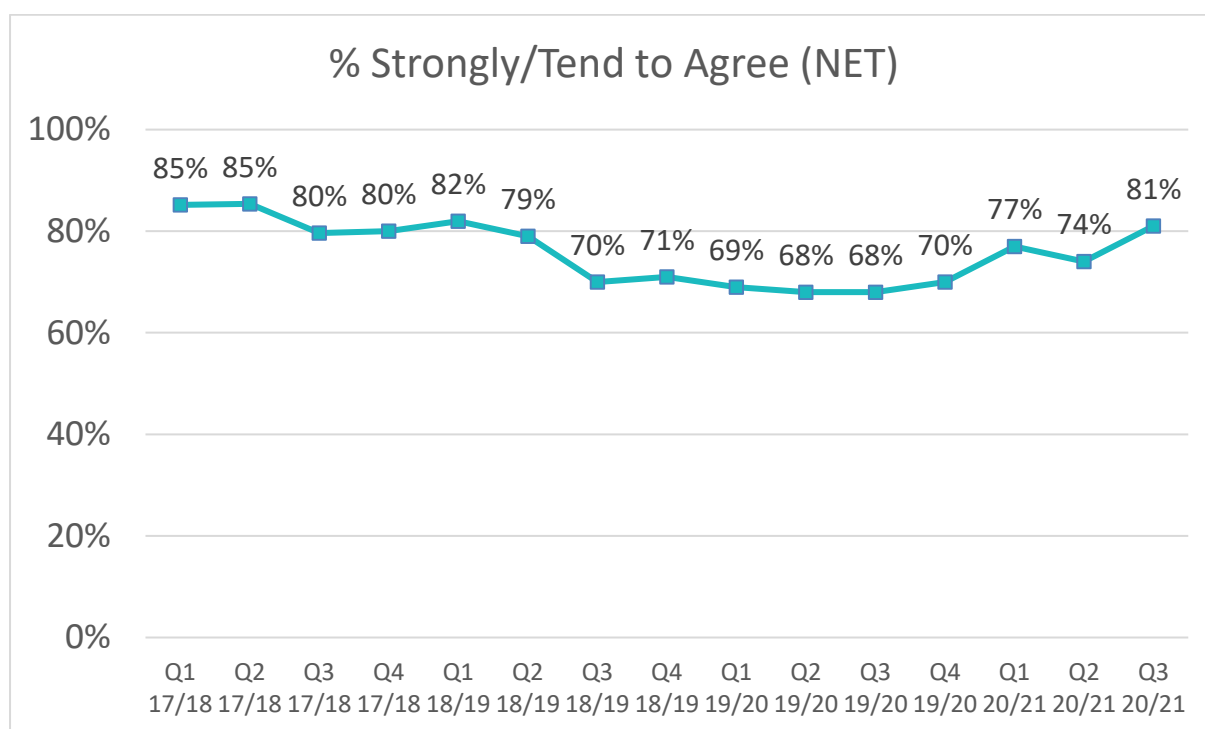
Those individuals who are Essex residents, 16.0% are BAME whereas for non-Essex residents, this rises to 51.3%.



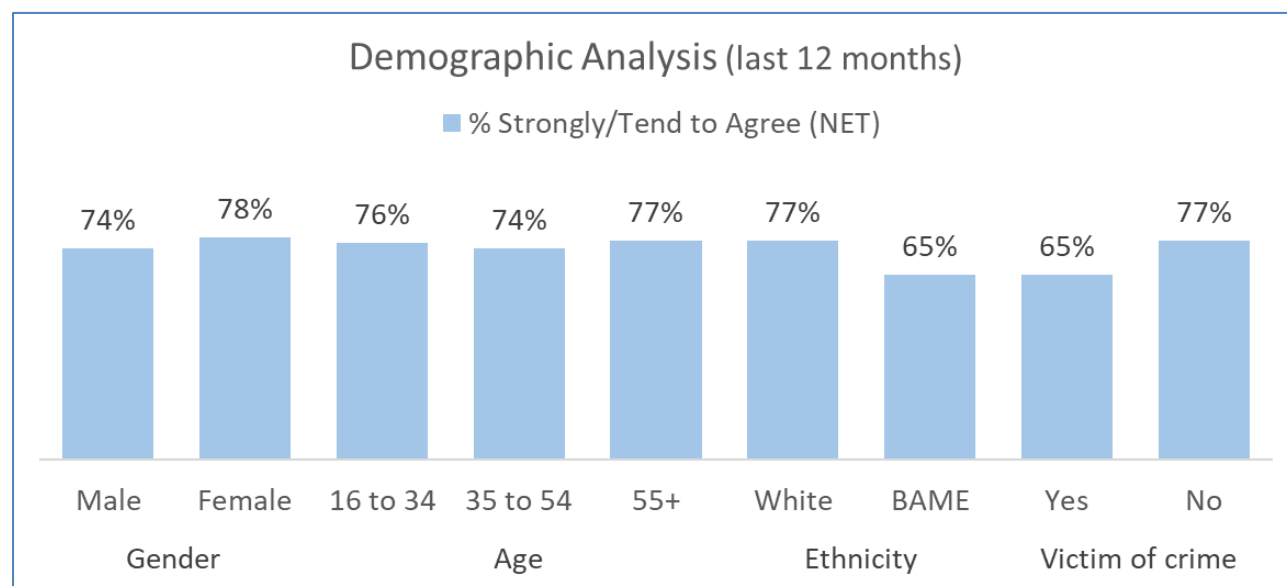
Whilst there is no country-wide definition as to what counts as a Positive outcome for Stop Search, Police.uk uses all outcomes apart from “A no further action disposal.” Using this method, it is possible to measure the performance of Essex with regards to its Most Similar Group⁶ of forces. The above chart shows data for Q3 broken down by ethnicity and residency.

⁶ Avon & Somerset, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Staffordshire, Sussex and Essex.

For Q2 2020/21, 34.6% of Essex outcomes were positive which is 5.9 percentage points greater than the MSG average. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on BAME individuals were 4.5 percentage points higher than for White individuals.



There has been an upward trend amongst respondents to the SMSR survey who consider that stop search powers are used fairly. The net agreement proportion of 81% in Q3 is the highest since Q1 2018/19. However, this drops to 65% for BAME respondents.



6.0 Implications (Issues)

Nothing to note.

6.1 Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities

The use of force is a cross-cutting issue that impacts on many areas in the Police and Crime Plan.

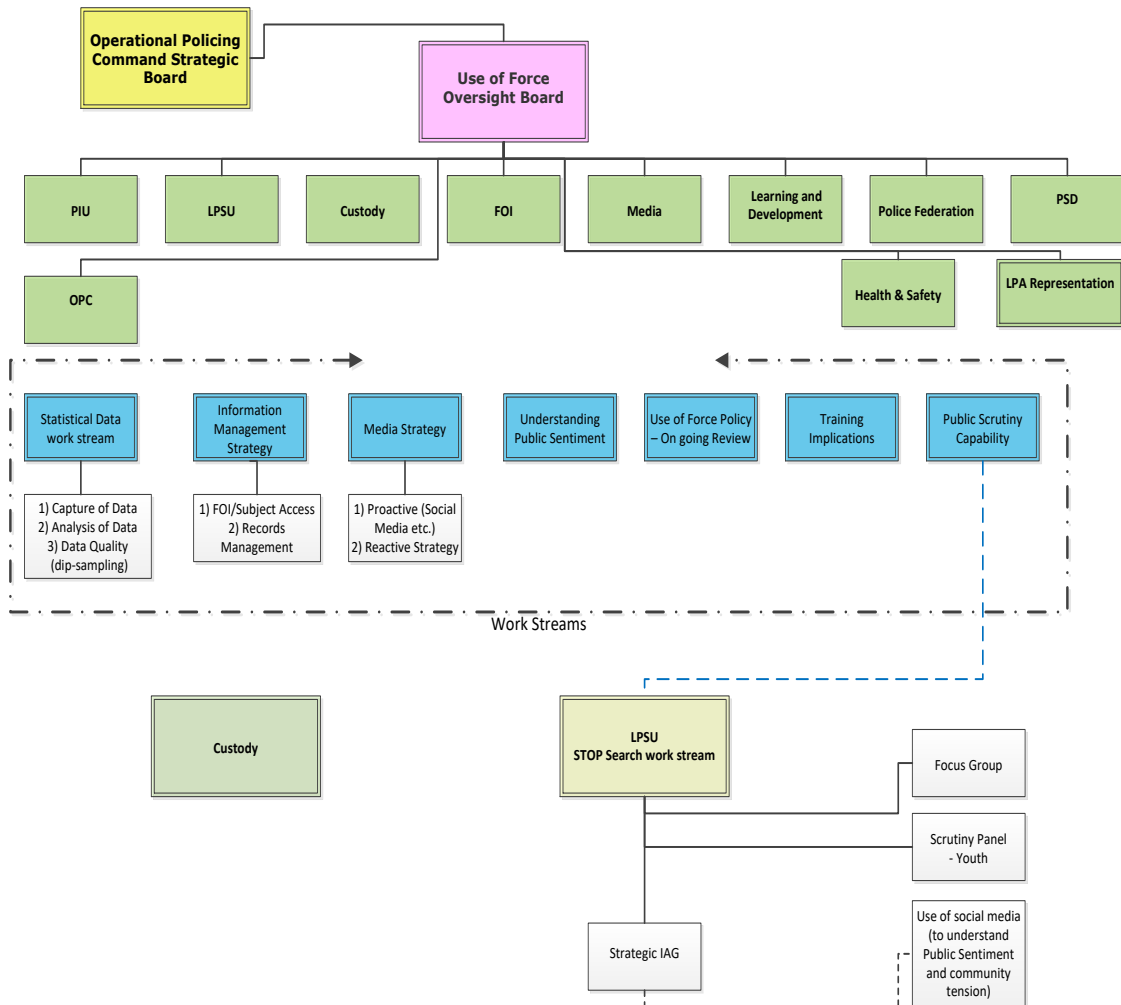
6.2 Demand

The trends in volumes of use of force and stop & search have been described throughout the paper.

6.3 Risks/Mitigation

Use of force is monitored by the 'Use of Force Board' chaired by ACC Andy Prophet. These meetings are held on a quarterly basis. This group is a force-wide focus group facilitated and organised by the Operational Policing Command (OPC) and is intended to provide formal scrutiny and consultative feedback on the use of force and all its associated issues. The Use of Force Board focuses on enabling the force to examine and improve on statistical data-gathering and its analysis, and transparency with the public in order to improve confidence and trust in Essex Police.

Representation within the Use of Force Board comprises a number of disciplines, as detailed in the below structure:



6.4 Equality and/or Human Rights Implications

The above analysis indicates an ethnic disparity in both Use of Force and Stop Search. Whilst it is recognised that the 2011 census is now nine years out of date, it is still the benchmark from which Essex will be judged by its peers, Central Government and the general public.

BAME subjects are 3 times more likely to be stopped than White subjects.

6.5 Health and Safety Implications

The appropriate use of force and the level of threat faced by operational officers and staff have health and safety implications for those involved including subjects, the police and the public. Any patterns or concerns are discussed and acted upon at the Use of Force Board.

7.0 Consultation/Engagement

Nothing to note beyond the fact that the force continues to share and discuss use of force and stop and search data with the various IAGs around the county.

8.0 Actions for Improvement

None at this time

9.0 Future Work/Development

Stop Search is now on the MobileFirst platform. Further work needs to be carried out by HCL in order to provide more fields in the data download.