

Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2020/21

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

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Author on behalf of Chief Officer:	Dan Youngman 42078817
Date of Approval:	06/05/2021

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 4,687 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q3 2020/21. This is an increase of 518 (12.4%) additional forms completed, compared to the same quarter for the 2019/20, and a 0.1% decrease on the previous quarter.

3,048 forms (65.0%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

12 forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, an increase of one from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 12 separate incidents (four more than the previous quarter).

102 uses of Taser that have been recorded as a first tactics in this quarter (12 fewer than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 148 separate incidents (seven fewer than the previous quarter).

78.2% of subjects on Use of Force records were male. 41.9% of all subjects are male and in the 18-34 age range, with the average age being 31 years old.

The proportion of BAME¹ subjects continues to be higher than the proportion of BAME within the population of Essex as a whole. 9.9% (456) of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 7.7 percentage points higher than the 2.2% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2019 ONS mid-year estimate).

66.6% (7,699) of reasons for the use of force are to prevent harm to people or property. Alcohol and drugs continue to be high impact factors but have been joined by Size/Build/Gender.

Stop and Search

There were 5,232 stops recorded in Quarter 4 of 2020/21. This is a decrease of 1.6% (87 records) on the previous quarter and a 11.1% decrease (653 records) on the equivalent quarter last year.

According to the SMSR survey² 81% of respondents agree that Essex Police use Stop Search powers fairly and respectfully. This falls to 65% for BAME respondents.

98.6% (5,158) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops.

The peak age range for those stopped is 18-24, equating to 1,891 stops in the last quarter (36.7% of subjects) with 85.1% of subjects being male.

There were 4.3 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 under twice as likely to be stopped than a white individual.

For Q4 2020/21, 34.4% of Essex outcomes were positive which is 4.6 percentage points greater than the MSG average. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on BAME individuals were 14.7 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 Government guidance regarding writing about ethnicity has recently changed, the next quarterly update will reflect this guidance against describing ethnic minorities.

² 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 January 2021 and 31st March 2021.

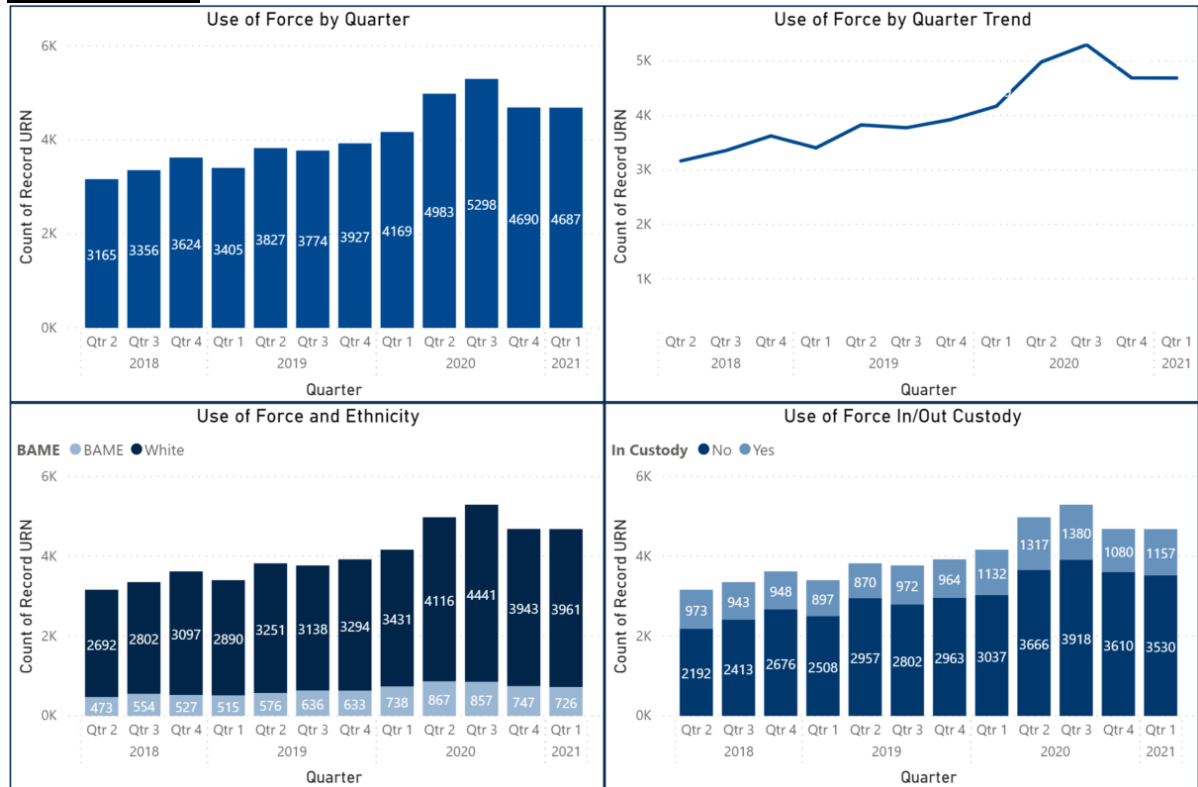
The Use of Force data analysed in this report contains duplicates, as one form should be submitted per officer for each use of force. Therefore, if three officers use force against one subject in relation to the same incident, three forms should be submitted, and the subject would appear three times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

The Office of National Statistics has released 2019 mid-year population estimates with enough granular detail to be used for disproportionality at District level. This is the first report that uses that data instead of the 2011 Census.

5.0 Current Work and Performance

Use of Force



There were 4,687 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q3 2020/21. This is an increase of 518 (12.4%) additional forms completed, compared to the same quarter for the 2019/20, and a 0.1% decrease on the previous quarter. The proportion of force being used in custody remains stable. In the last quarter it was 24.7% compared to the 10-quarter average of 25.3%.

The below table details the tactics employed with each Use of Force in Q4 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 three 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 51 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 24 reports fewer than the previous quarter.

12 forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, an increase of one from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 12 separate incidents (four more than the previous quarter).

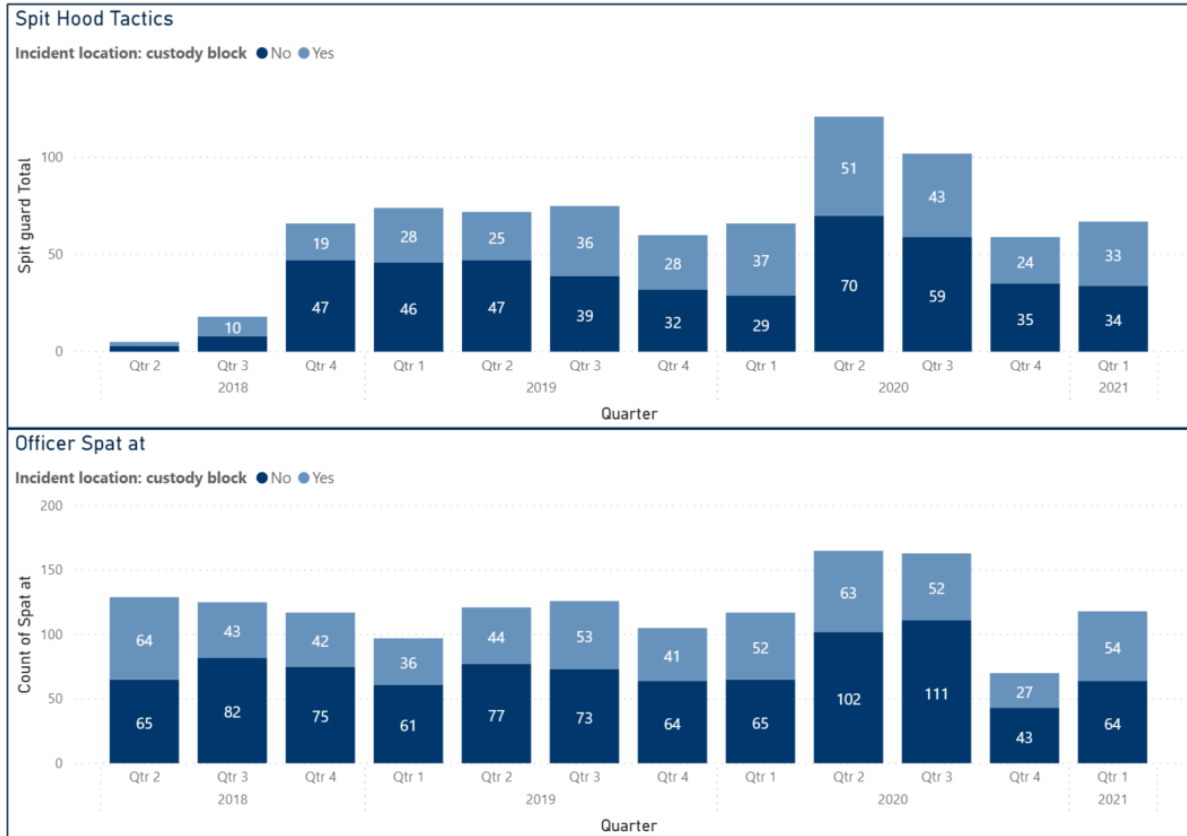
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102 uses of Taser that have been recorded as a first tactics in this quarter (12 fewer than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 148 separate incidents (seven fewer than the previous quarter).

Tactic	Tactic 1	Tactic 2	Tactic 3	Tactic 4	Tactic 5	Tactic 6	Tactic 7	Tactic 8	Tactic Count	%age of Tactics
Compliant Handcuffing	1469	389	133	17	4	1	0	0	2013	23.67%
Tactical Communication	1165	346	86	37	15	6	1	1	1657	19.48%
Unarmed skills	520	395	175	64	23	10	1	1	1189	13.98%
Ground Restraint	471	316	170	53	17	5	1	2	1035	12.17%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	439	346	176	50	16	5	3	0	1035	12.17%
Other / improvised	233	192	109	57	18	11	4	1	625	7.35%
Limb / Body Restraints	160	157	108	63	12	6	0	0	506	5.95%
Taser	102	87	3	2	0	0	0	0	194	2.28%
Baton drawn	83	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	87	1.02%
Spit guard	4	16	24	16	5	0	1	0	66	0.78%
Dog Deployed	7	11	0	0	1	0	0	0	19	0.22%
CS PAVA drawn	10	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	18	0.21%
CS PAVA used	4	2	4	3	0	0	1	0	14	0.16%
Firearms	12	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	22	0.26%
Baton used	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.11%
Shield	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	10	0.12%
Dog Bite	2	3	0	1	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 and Q4 volumes 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.

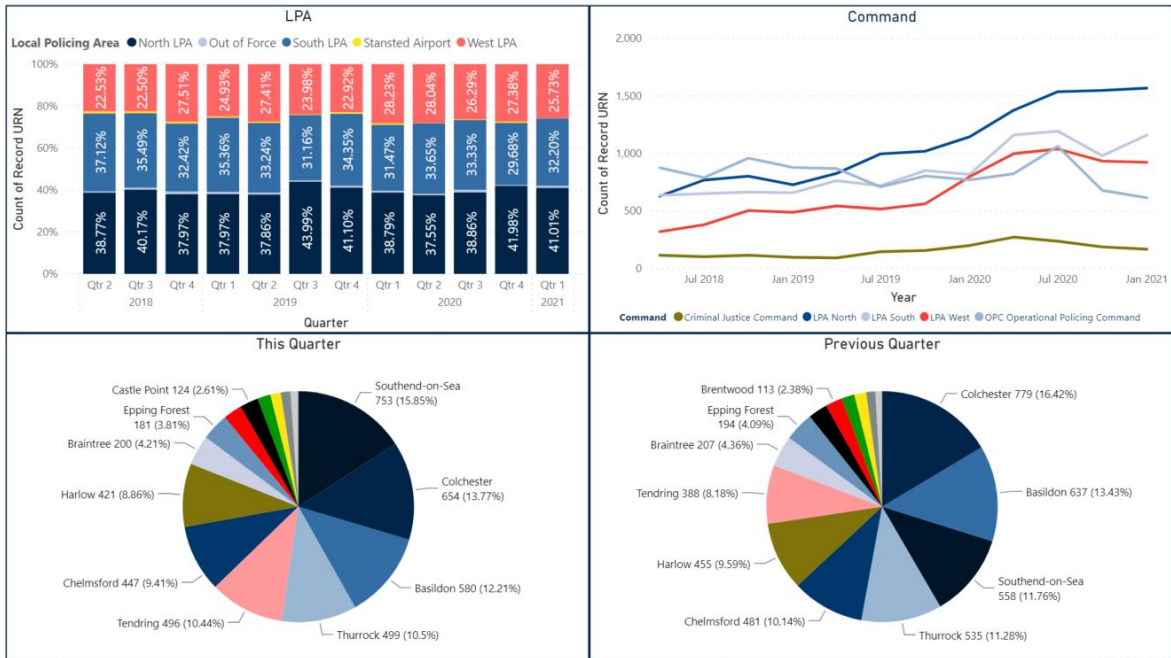
As can be seen from the below charts, there seems to be a correlation between Spit Guard use and Officers Spat at and this is expected. Statistical analysis shows a correlation of 0.86 which is a very strong positive correlation.



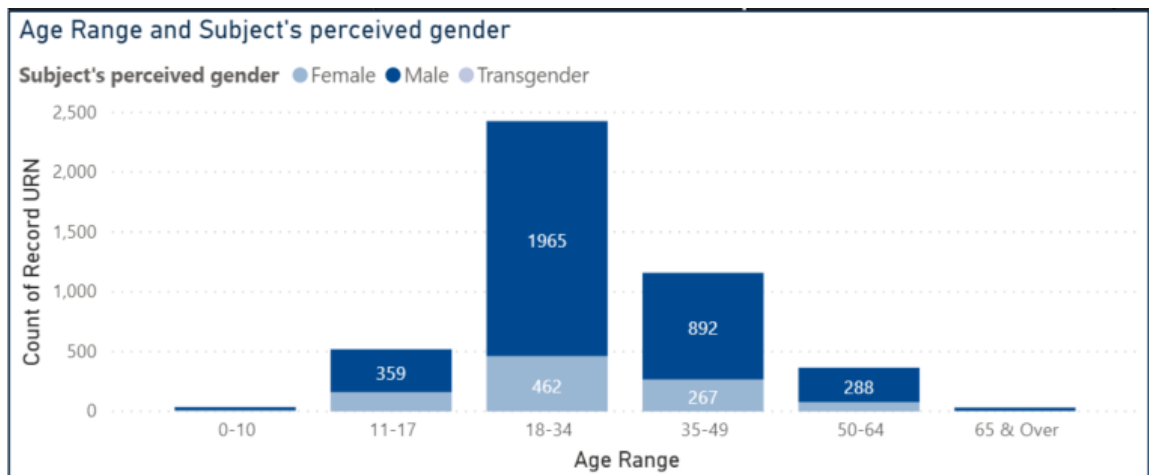
Historically Colchester, Basildon, Southend, Thurrock, Chelmsford and Harlow are the districts that account for most use of force. In Q4 these districts have been joined by Tendring with 10.4% (up from 8.2% last quarter). These seven districts accounted for the location of 81.0% of all force used. The proportions of location by LPA remain fairly consistent. The increase in force used by Tendring is being carefully monitored, at this stage no wider pattern or concern has been identified.

When looking at which Commands use force the most³, the Local Policing Areas and OPC account for 94.3% of all forms recorded in the past quarter. Since the inception of Use of Force forms on Mobile First, all three LPAs have shown an upward trend in the volume of forms submitted by officers, this is a reflection on how technology has improved the ease of reporting in this area and, as a result, improved data quality.

³ 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.



78.2% of those subjected to Use of Force were identified by officers as male, 21.6% were identified as female; 7 subjects were identified as transgender. This is a slightly higher proportion of Female subjects than the last quarter (18.6%).



31.5 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 20 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.

84.0% of subjects were White, this is 9.7 percentage points lower than the proportion of White residents of Essex.

9.9% (456) of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 7.7 percentage points higher than the 2.2% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2019 ONS mid-year estimate). 15.7% (723) of subjects were from ethnic minorities.

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	Use of Force per 1000 population						Ratio to White				
	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total BAME	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total BAME
LPA North	2.02	2.84	2.06	18.27	7.03	5.56	1.41	1.02	9.04	3.48	2.75
Braintree	1.21	2.13	4.72	5.09	3.46	3.66	1.76	3.90	4.21	2.86	3.02
Chelmsford	2.17	3.79	1.78	22.9	14.42	7.24	1.75	0.82	10.55	6.65	3.34
Colchester	2.61	3.98	1.23	18.26	4.66	5.5	1.52	0.47	7.00	1.79	2.11
Maldon	1.04	1.63	0	0	0	0.72	1.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69
Tendring	3.18	1.15	5.38	50.1	17.54	9.65	0.36	1.69	15.75	5.52	3.03
Uttlesford	0.71	0.71	0.74	0	0	0.57	1.00	1.04	0.00	0.00	0.80
LPA South	2.58	2.84	1.36	10.6	7.09	4.65	1.10	0.53	4.11	2.75	1.80
Basildon	3.06	1.72	1.45	5.06	5.35	2.93	0.56	0.47	1.65	1.75	0.96
Castle Point	1.35	0.87	0	1.46	0	0.64	0.64	0.00	1.08	0.00	0.47
Rochford	0.96	0.83	0	4.03	6.94	1.42	0.86	0.00	4.20	7.23	1.48
Southend	3.57	4.74	1.67	20.35	9.71	7.49	1.33	0.47	5.70	2.72	2.10
LPA West	2.25	2.43	2	8.2	7.64	4.8	1.08	0.89	3.64	3.40	2.13
Brentwood	1.43	1.76	1.13	10.91	9.01	3.51	1.23	0.79	7.63	6.30	2.45
Epping	1.15	1.15	1.65	8.82	2.06	2.96	1.00	1.43	7.67	1.79	2.57
Harlow	4.43	6.16	1.63	14.66	9.05	7.29	1.39	0.37	3.31	2.04	1.65
Thurrock	2.39	1.78	2.93	6.44	11.47	5.04	0.74	1.23	2.69	4.80	2.11
Force	2.26	2.73	1.9	11.04	7.49	5.14	1.21	0.84	4.88	3.31	2.27

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 BAME individuals are 2.3 times more likely to have force used upon them than White individuals. This rises to 4.9 times more likely for Black or Black British 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 whole⁴, we can say that 66.6% of reasons are to prevent harm.

Reason for Force	Q4 2020/21	%age Reasons	%age Forms
Effect Arrest	2183	15.15%	46.58%
Prevent Harm	2166	15.04%	46.21%
Protect Self	1980	13.75%	42.24%
Protect Other Officers	1925	13.36%	41.07%
Prevent Escape	1887	13.10%	40.26%
Protect Subject	1034	7.18%	22.06%
Effect Search	987	6.85%	21.06%
Prevent Offence	827	5.74%	17.64%
Protect Public	594	4.12%	12.67%
Secure Evidence	347	2.41%	7.40%
Remove Handcuffs	227	1.58%	4.84%
Other	194	1.35%	4.14%
Method Of Entry	54	0.37%	1.15%

⁴ Protect Self, Prevent Harm, Protect Other Officers, Protect Subject and Protect Public

Impact Factor	Q2 2020/21	%age all Factors	%age Forms
Alcohol	1578	19.18%	33.67%
Size/Gender/Build	1378	16.75%	29.40%
Drugs	1305	15.86%	27.84%
Other Factor	1080	13.13%	23.04%
Prior Knowledge	1027	12.48%	21.91%
Mental Health	777	9.45%	16.58%
Weapon	496	6.03%	10.58%
Crowd	293	3.56%	6.25%
Acute Behavioural Disorder	292	3.55%	6.23%

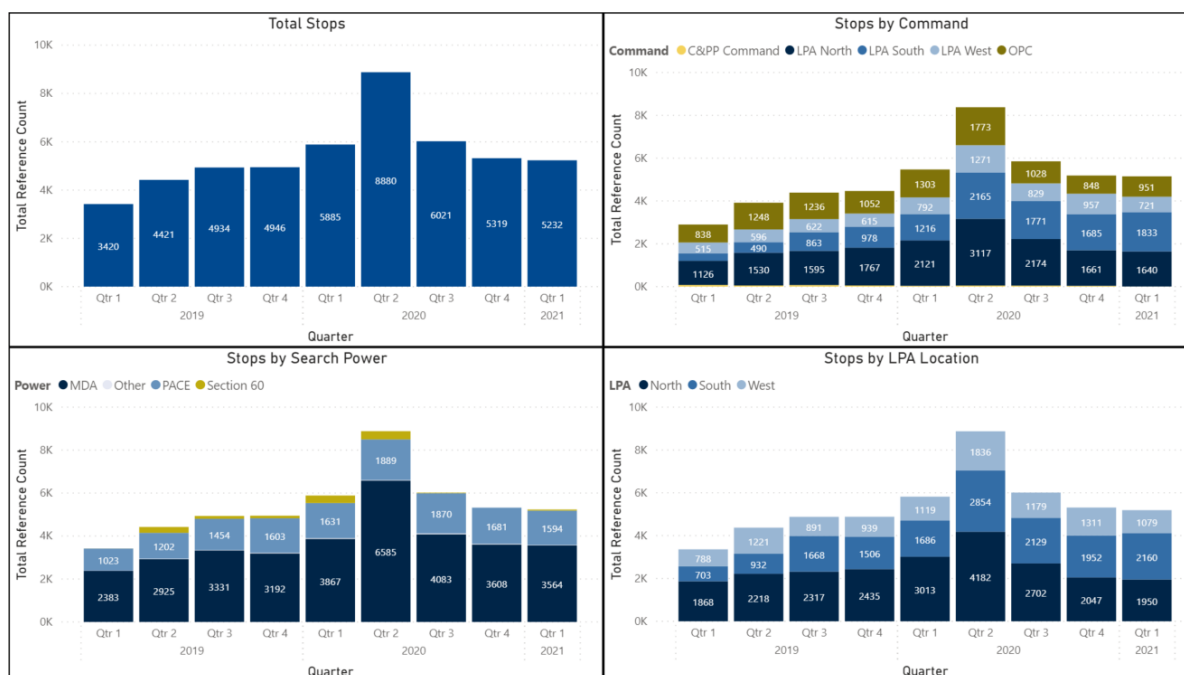
Each Use of Force form can have multiple impact factors, the table above shows the proportion of each impact factor in the total number of forms for the last quarter. Alcohol remains the highest factor by volume, closely followed by Size/Build/Gender and Drugs.

Mental Health is an impact factor in 16.6% of forms (down 9.4 percentage points from the previous quarter) whereas 9.8% 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
Q4 2020/21	207	1	Q4 2020/21	236	2

In the last quarter, Staff have been injured in 4.4% of incidents and Subjects have been injured in 5.1% of incidents. These proportions have remained steady since the last quarter.

Stop and Search



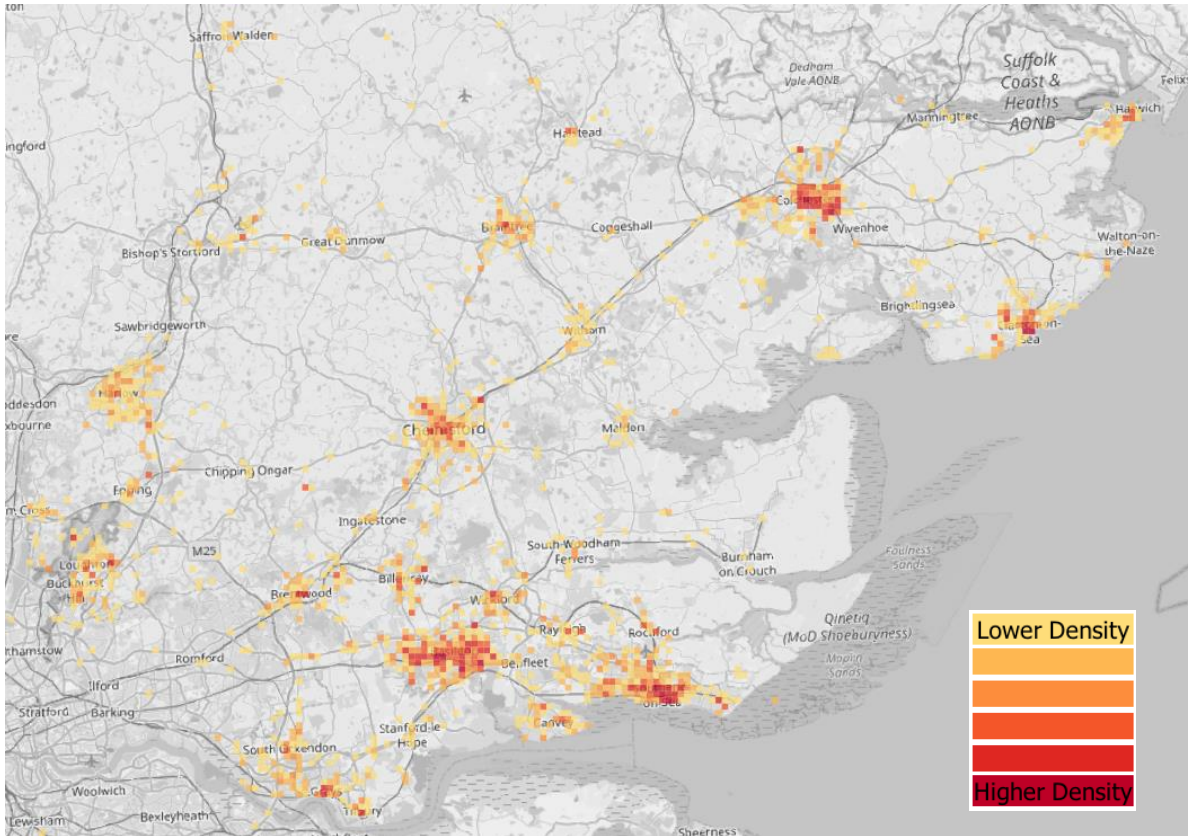
There were 5,232 stops recorded in Quarter 4 of 2020/21. This is a decrease of 1.6% (87 records) on the previous quarter and a 11.1% decrease (653 records) on the equivalent quarter last year. Whilst it is possible to see the influence of the increase in stops during the first COVID lockdown, this has not been replicated in subsequent lockdowns.

98.6% (5,158) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops. There were 50 Section 60 Stops in Q4.

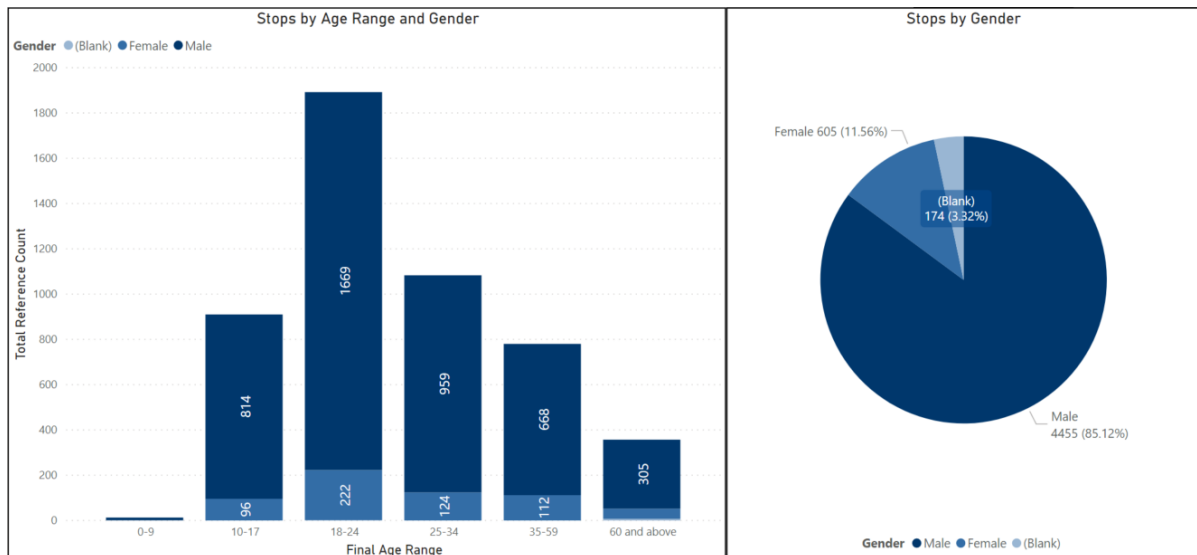
LPA	District	2018/19	2019/20				2020/21			
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	726	745	864	713	818	1148	576	567	506
	Colchester	385	684	789	911	1232	1972	1170	813	662
	Tendring	541	462	261	430	591	538	514	322	438
	Uttlesford / Braintree	216	327	403	381	372	524	442	345	344
South	Basildon	296	321	476	605	738	1423	1133	1029	1199
	Castle Point/Rochford	121	169	448	360	345	368	263	449	264
	Southend	286	442	744	541	603	1063	733	474	697
West	Brentwood / Epping	218	333	337	310	442	733	512	636	520
	Harlow	316	551	330	274	404	643	359	358	218
	Thurrock	254	337	224	355	273	460	308	317	341
Stansted Airport		61	50	58	66	67	8	11	9	43

LPA	District	2018/19	2019/20				2020/21			
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	21.23%	16.85%	17.51%	14.42%	13.90%	12.93%	9.57%	10.66%	9.67%
	Colchester	11.26%	15.47%	15.99%	18.42%	20.93%	22.21%	19.43%	15.28%	12.65%
	Tendring	15.82%	10.45%	5.29%	8.69%	10.04%	6.06%	8.54%	6.05%	8.37%
	Uttlesford / Braintree	6.32%	7.40%	8.17%	7.70%	6.32%	5.90%	7.34%	6.49%	6.57%
South	Basildon	8.65%	7.26%	9.65%	12.23%	12.54%	16.02%	18.82%	19.35%	22.92%
	Castle Point/Rochford	3.54%	3.82%	9.08%	7.28%	5.86%	4.14%	4.37%	8.44%	5.05%
	Southend	8.36%	10.00%	15.08%	10.94%	10.25%	11.97%	12.17%	8.91%	13.32%
West	Brentwood / Epping	6.37%	7.53%	6.83%	6.27%	7.51%	8.25%	8.50%	11.96%	9.94%
	Harlow	9.24%	12.46%	6.69%	5.54%	6.86%	7.24%	5.96%	6.73%	4.17%
	Thurrock	7.43%	7.62%	4.54%	7.18%	4.64%	5.18%	5.12%	5.96%	6.52%
Stansted Airport		1.78%	1.13%	1.18%	1.33%	1.14%	0.09%	0.18%	0.17%	0.82%

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 1,199 followed by Southend with 697. Basildon has been increasing in prevalence since Quarter 1 2019/20, rising from 7.4% to 22.9% of all Stops. The majority of stops occurred in the main population centres of the county.



81.4% of all stops last quarter were carried out by officers attached to the LPA Commands and a further 18.5% were carried out by officers from Operational Policing Command (OPC).



During Quarter 2 of 2020/21 and where there is age and gender data, 85.1% 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.

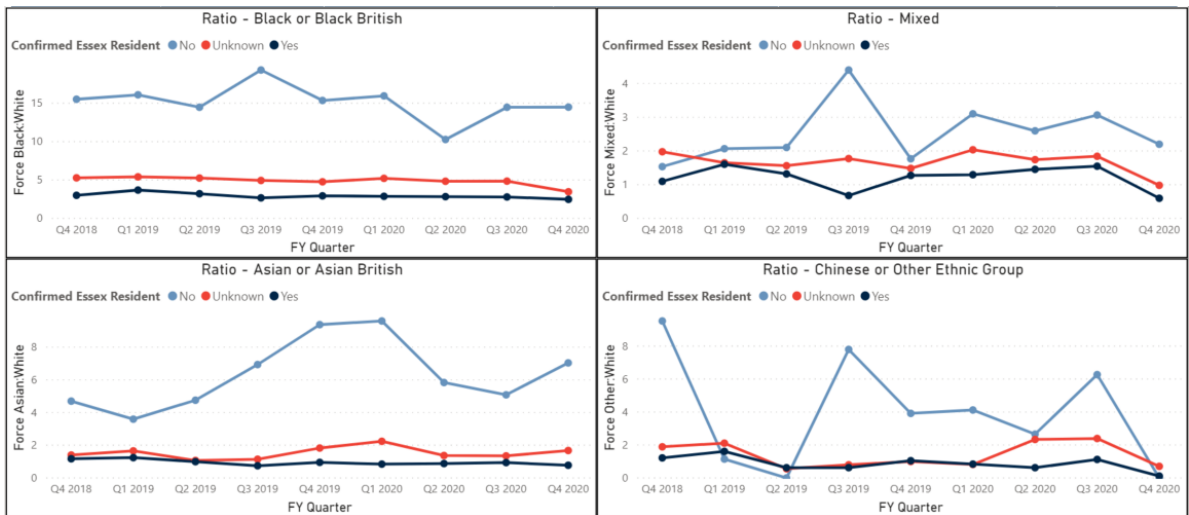
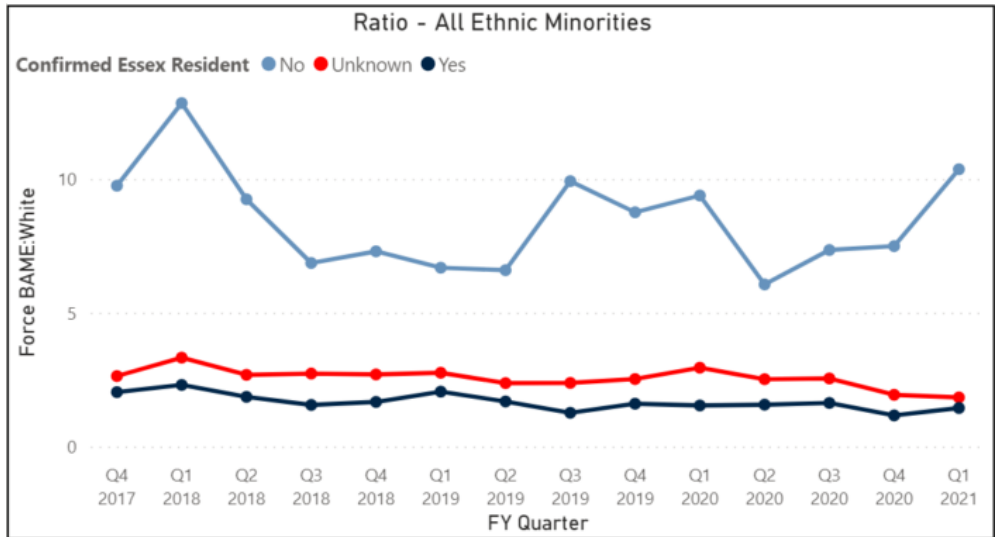
	Stops per 1000 population						Ratio to White				
	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total BAME	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total BAME
LPA North	1.91	1.56	2.77	14.49	0.54	4.24	0.82	1.45	7.59	0.28	2.22
Chelmsford / Maldon	1.54	1.48	3.24	19.04	0.00	5.46	0.96	2.10	12.36	0.00	3.55
Colchester	2.68	1.77	1.92	12.17	0.47	3.57	0.66	0.72	4.54	0.18	1.33
Tendring	2.60	1.15	0.67	25.05	4.39	4.82	0.44	0.26	9.63	1.69	1.85
Uttlesford / Braintree	1.26	0.80	4.62	8.45	0.00	3.45	0.63	3.67	6.71	0.00	2.74
LPA South	2.93	2.48	4.41	10.97	0.55	5.51	0.85	1.51	3.74	0.19	1.88
Basildon	4.90	4.18	4.72	13.01	1.78	7.40	0.85	0.96	2.66	0.36	1.51
Castle Point/Rochford	1.16	1.70	2.46	7.61	0.00	3.04	1.47	2.12	6.56	0.00	2.62
Southend	2.74	1.44	4.74	9.21	0.00	4.62	0.53	1.73	3.36	0.00	1.69
LPA West	1.63	1.59	2.98	4.03	1.39	3.03	0.98	1.83	2.47	0.85	1.86
Brentwood / Epping	1.65	0.77	3.32	10.99	2.30	4.04	0.47	2.01	6.66	1.39	2.45
Harlow	1.87	4.40	1.63	5.36	2.26	3.50	2.35	0.87	2.87	1.21	1.87
Thurrock	1.48	1.11	3.37	2.06	0.00	2.14	0.75	2.28	1.39	0.00	1.45
Force	2.17	1.88	3.36	7.84	0.83	4.13	0.87	1.55	3.61	0.38	1.90
Force (Essex Residents)	1.03	0.62	0.80	2.57	0.12	1.23	0.60	0.78	2.50	0.12	1.19
Force (Not Essex Resident)	0.12	0.27	0.86	1.77	0.00	0.92	2.25	7.17	14.75	0.00	7.67

Looking at the ethnic breakdown of Stop Searches for Q4 2020/21, a BAME individual is 1.9 times more likely to be stopped than a White individual, this is a considerable improvement on the last quarter (3.7 times more likely).

The reduction in disproportionality over the last 9 to 12 months coincides with a very strong focus from the force on this issue. The areas with the highest levels of disproportionality (NLPA and OPC) report on a quarterly basis with their latest result, alongside a wider force effort to adopt a more targeted approach to Stop & Search by proactive teams such as Operation Raptor.

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.

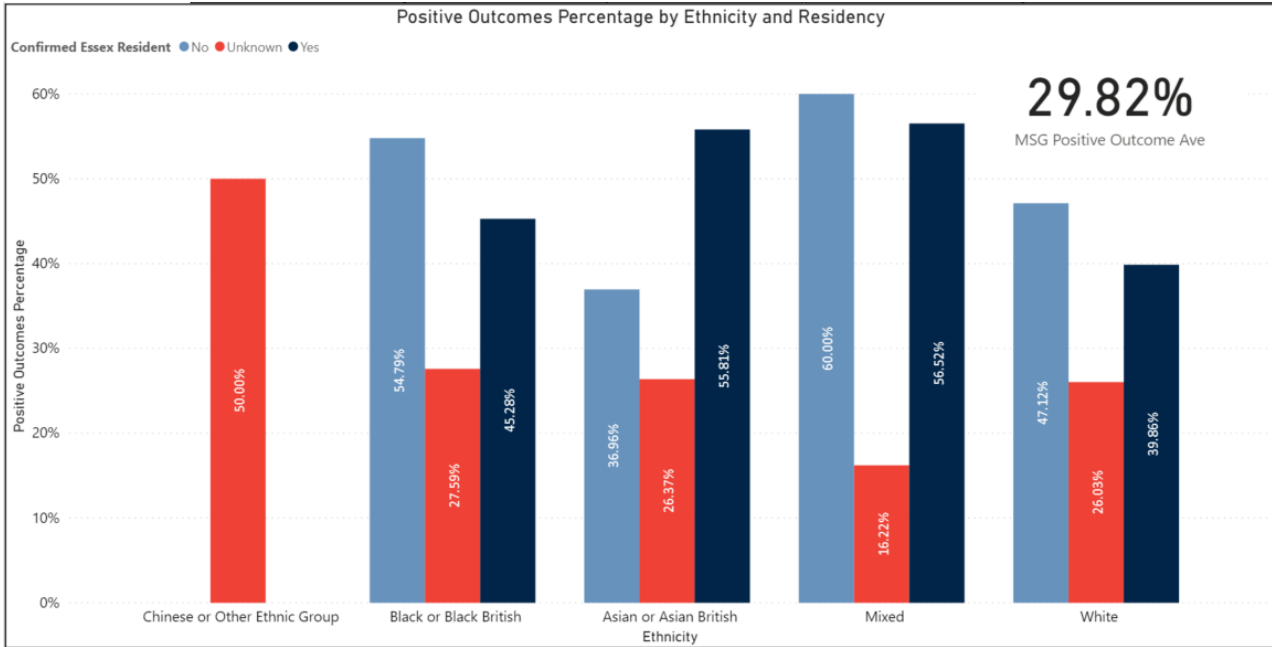
For records in which it is possible to ascertain that the subject is an Essex resident, the disproportionality ratios fall by an average of 43%.



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.

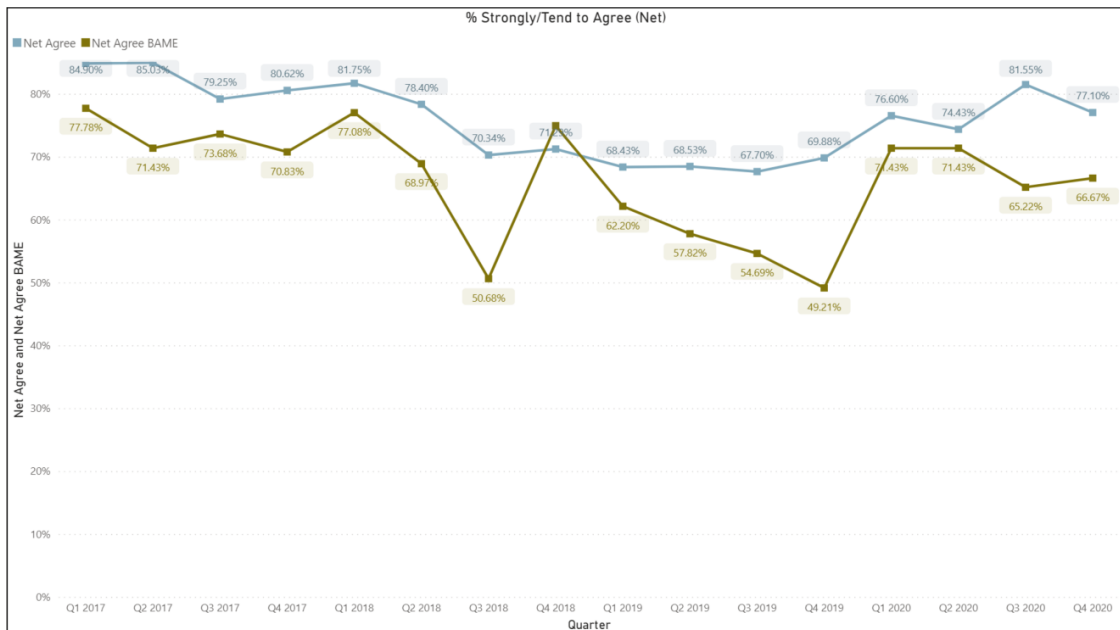
Ethnicity	Essex Resident	
	No	Yes
White	10.56%	89.44%
Mixed	30.30%	69.70%
Asian or Asian British	51.69%	48.31%
Black or Black British	40.78%	59.22%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	0.00%	100.00%
Total BAME	42.72%	57.28%
Not Stated	20.71%	79.29%

Where there is data for Q4, 89.4% of White individuals stopped were Essex Residents, whereas this falls to 57.2% for BAME individuals. Asian or Asian British is the only ethnicity in which more individuals were not Essex residents than were.



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 Group⁵ of forces. The above chart shows data for Q4 broken down by ethnicity and residency.

For Q4 2020/21, 34.4% of Essex outcomes were positive which is 4.6 percentage points greater than the MSG average. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on BAME individuals were 14.7 percentage points higher than for White individuals.



⁵ Avon & Somerset, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Staffordshire, Sussex and Essex.

There has been an upward trend amongst respondents to the SMSR survey who consider that stop search powers are used fairly, although the result for Q4 is four percentage points lower than the previous quarter, it is still seven percentage points higher than the same quarter last year.

Whilst the confidence level for respondents from ethnic minorities is lower (at 67%), this is six slightly higher than the previous quarter and 17.5 percentage points higher than the same quarter last year.

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.

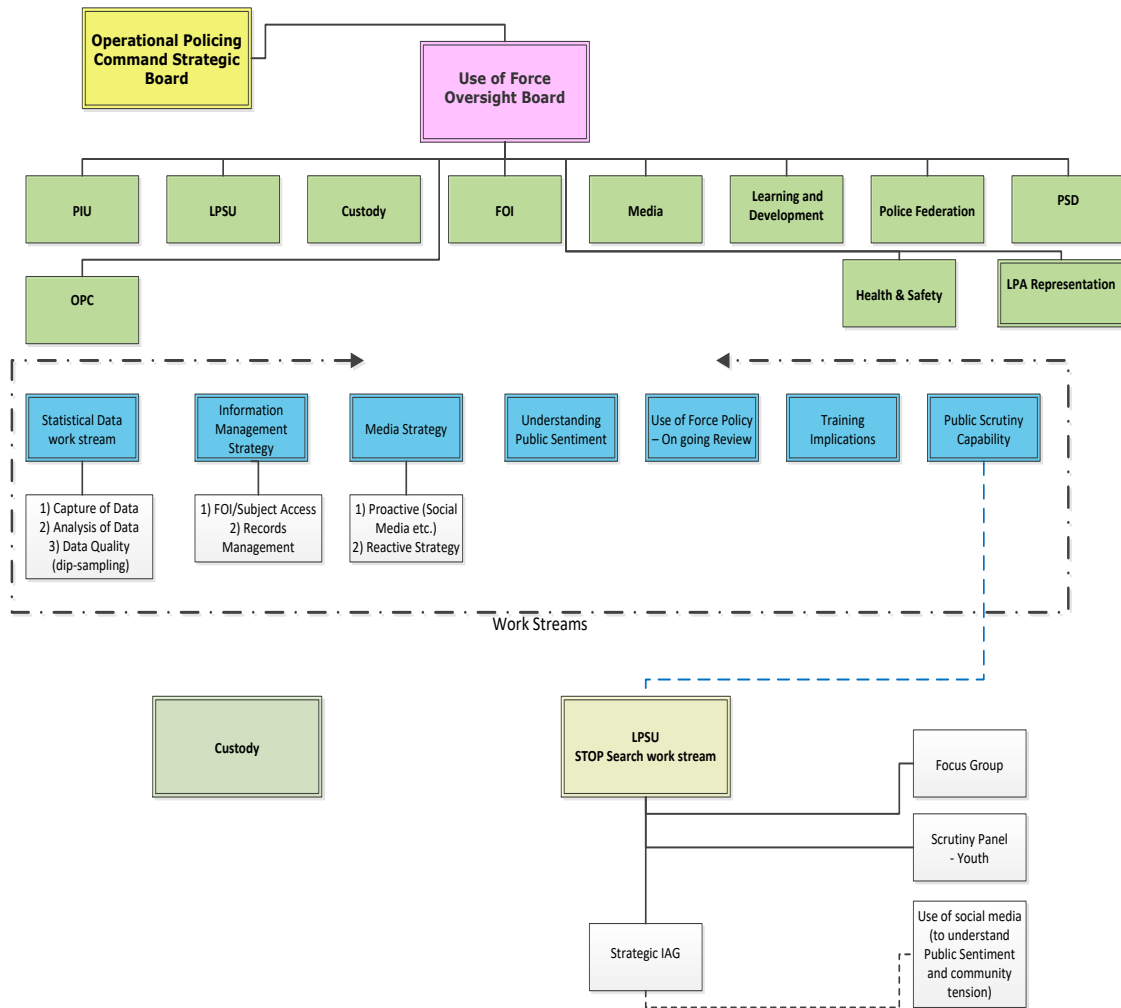
6.2 Demand

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. Recently, ONS have released 2019 mid-year estimates and this is the first version of this report that uses that data.

BAME subjects are nearly twice as likely to be stopped that 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 implication 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.

The Performance Analysis Unit is starting to explore using Risk Based Disparity to measure disproportionality in Stop & Search.

For the seven key districts with the highest violence saturation, a proposed blend of approaches will take place, including targeted Stop & Search and knife crime proactivity. This will be supported by the Violence and Vulnerability Unit and Safer Essex.