

Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2021**Report to: the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex**

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Author on behalf of Chief Officer:	Insp 1162 Nikki Metson
Date of Approval:	07/12/2021

1.0 **Purpose of Report**

This report provides an update in relation to the progress of the Crime Prevention Strategy 2018-21 (herein 'the Strategy') for Q2 (July-September 2021)

2.0 **Recommendations**

No recommendations

3.0 **Executive Summary**

The Strategy prioritises crime prevention activity in nine key areas. Each of these areas has a thematic force lead, responsible for appropriate oversight, review, and focus to ensure appropriate action takes place within each thematic area, working to improve our response and ultimately prevent crime.

Covid-19 has undoubtedly led to significant challenges within many areas of policing. Q1 2021/22 saw further challenges as we progressed through the government roadmap out of lockdown, and now that all restrictions have lifted it is likely that this will again bring further challenges.

There is one strand currently at risk in relation to fraud however work is ongoing to mitigate this risk (see Section 6.3).

With the new Crime Prevention Strategy launch on 29th November 2021 (see section 9.0) future reports will relate to the fourteen new thematic areas of crime causing the most harm to our communities, and in line with the partnership approach we, along with partners, will also be reporting to Safer Essex who have overall governance of the new strategy approach.

4.0 **Introduction/Background**

This report provides a structured update in relation to each of the nine thematic strands of the Crime Prevention Strategy 2018-2021:

- **Insights** to show/illustrate data insights for rolling 12 months
- **Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:**
- **Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:**

The report also includes updates in relation to any significant issues/challenges faced which do not sit within the nine strands of the strategy but are of relevance and therefore worthy of note.

5.0 **Current Work and Performance**

Delivery Plan progress across the 9 thematic strands can be summarised as:

	Total Strands	Complete	Ongoing/In progress	At risk
Domestic Abuse	37	13	24	0
Gangs and Knife Crime	43	30	13	0
Night-Time Economy (NTE)	24	12	12	0
Child Abuse and Exploitation	23	3	20	0

Extremism and Radicalisation	15	1	14	0
Hate Crime	35	16	19	0
Digital Crime and Fraud	43	27	16	1
Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery	81	33	48	0
Serious and Organised Crime	24	15	9	0
Total	325	150	175	1

Thematic Strand Updates:

Domestic Abuse

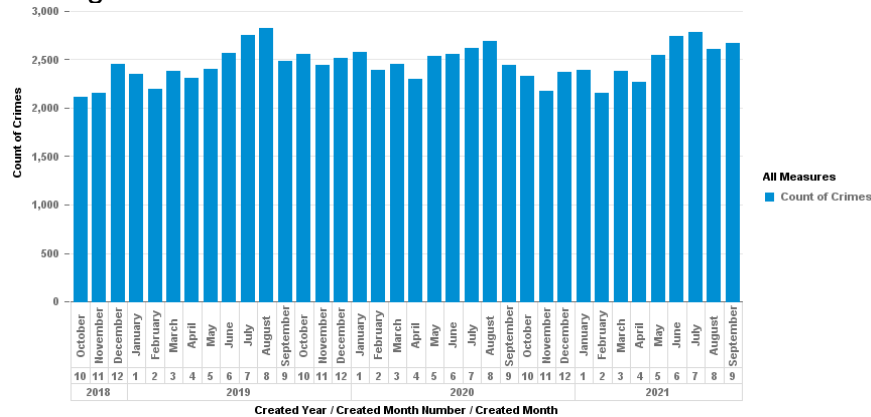
Thematic Lead: Chief Superintendent Tom Simons

Insights:

Data for 12 months to end of June 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 20	12 Month ending September 21	Diff.	% Diff.
30038	29391	-647	-2.2%

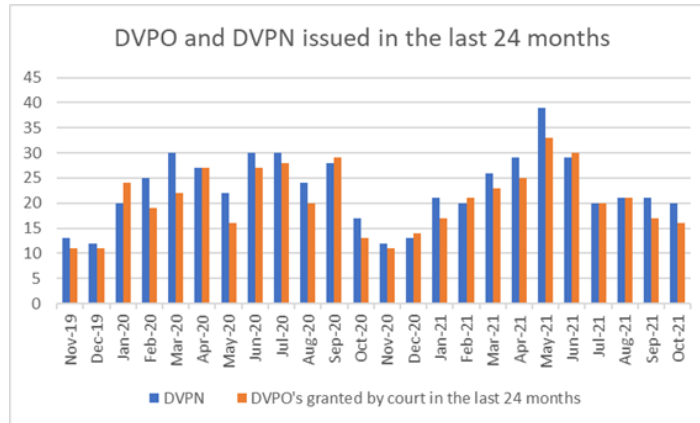
Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



As anticipated, Domestic Abuse has increased over the last quarter in line with seasonal demand, however a wider reduction across the 12 month period can be seen which is primarily attributable to lockdown restrictions as a result of COVID-19. Focus is now placed on maintaining our performance around Domestic Abuse more widely as calls for service increase. The force has recently launched DA today which provides additional focus and drive in order to ensure that attendance at Domestic Abuse incidents is expedited. The Force aims to attend all Domestic Abuse, where physically possible, within 24 hours of being reported (excluding calls graded as emergency or priority). Over the last 3 months, Essex Police has attended 88% of Domestic Abuse within 24hrs.

DVPOs

The below chart shows peaks and troughs throughout the last 2 years. There is a decrease of just 1.15% (6 less) in Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) and Protection Orders (DVPO) in the last 12 months compared to the previous 12 months. The conversion rate currently averages at 90.24%.



Outstanding Suspects

Overall, our outstanding suspects have followed the seasonal demand trend with performance improving across the last few months. This is likely attributed to the overall volume of Domestic Abuse incidents being reported decreasing, coupled with greater focus around violence at both a Force and local level. This is monitored through the DA Governance Board and DA Oversight Board.

	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2021
North LPA	243	187	178	232	229	264	294	295	290	279
South LPA	133	112	122	136	162	192	210	178	187	170
West LPA	203	180	170	195	165	186	198	183	188	202

Clear focus is placed, through our DA Problem Solving Teams, on supporting the most vulnerable victims (in partnership with MARAC and the Central Referral Unit), managing acute cohort offenders, order enforcement and partnership problem solving.

Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

- All frontline LPT staff and some specialist departments have now had refreshed Domestic Abuse Training
- The new definition for Domestic Abuse came into effect on the 1st October, Force wide notifications were sent out ensuring all colleagues were aware of the wider implications of the definition changing on recording Domestic Abuse.
- In North LPA, the DA Scrutiny Panel is fully underway – set up to understand where operational/procedural improvements can be made and improve outcomes for victims.

Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- The College of Policing have agreed the roll out of a new Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) which is currently being considered for implementation
- Work to better define focused cohorts for the DA Problem Solving Teams (DAPST) and Domestic Abuse Investigations Teams (DAIT) to work upon.
- A review of Domestic Abuse Foundation and Crime Training is being led by Learning and development.
- Work is being progressed around audio provision with personal attack alarms within the victim’s home, to improve evidence capture and associated outcomes for victims.

- The Tasking and Briefing App on Mobile First is being reviewed to include when DVPO's have been granted enabling them to be easier to access and readily available for frontline officers.

5.2 Gangs and Knife Crime

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Rob Kirby

Knife Crime

Insights:

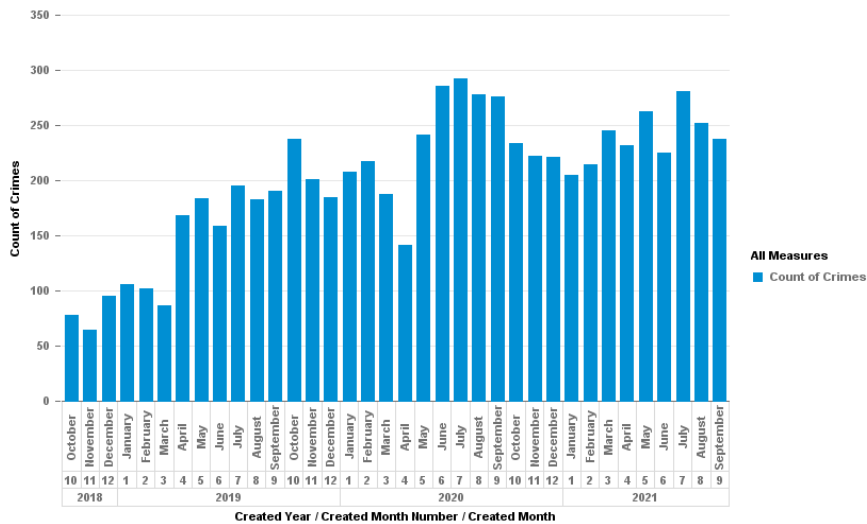
Data for 12 months to end of September 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 20	12 Month ending September 21	Diff.	% Diff.
2751	2832	81	+2.9%

Bar

showing crimes recorded each month¹:

chart

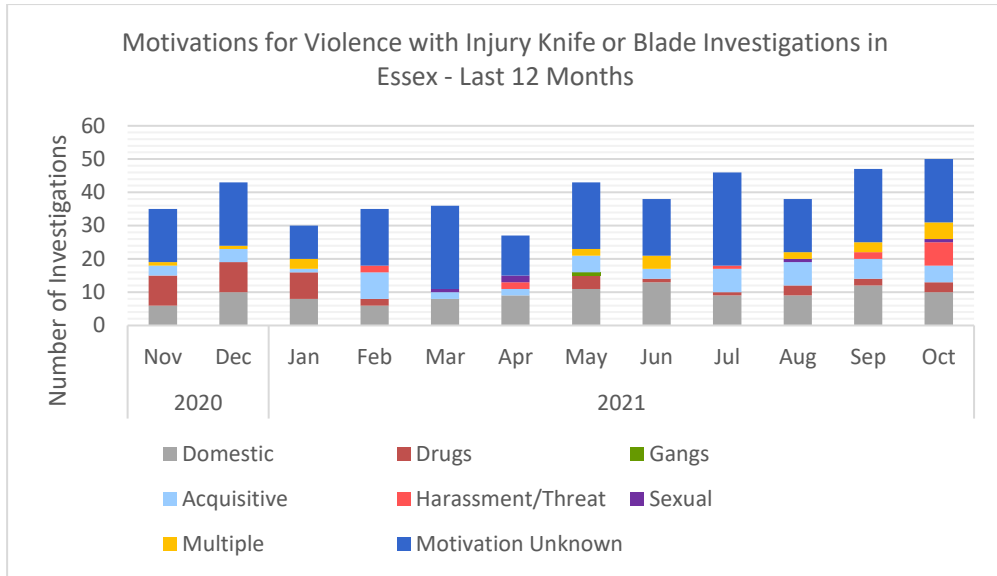


Knife crime continues to have significant focus within the force and remains as part of its focused control strategy and features at force tasking.

Knife enabled crime broadly followed the pattern of Covid lockdowns during early 2020 when it dipped sharply, followed by an increase in mid-2020 then followed by a decrease again during the end of 2020.

The chart below shows the motivations behind knife or blade investigations:

¹ figures include; all violence with and without injury, robbery, burglary that have a knife / sharp instrument keyword



Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

- **Op Grip** is Essex Police’s strategy to reduce community violence. 67 Harm spots have been identified in seven major towns across all parts of Essex. This has been achieved with academic research highlighting the areas where most street violence occurs. The purpose is to regularly enter these harm spots with activities such as business checks, routine and directed patrol, stop searches, quality of life improvements. This commenced in June 2021. There have consistently been over 500 interactions in those harm spots each week. This scheme is Home Office funded and is highlighted as a case study in the UK Governments Crime Plan.
- **Knife Crime Violence model** – A University of Essex verified model where 4 years of data is used to predict who is most likely to be involved in serious violence using a knife. The early signs of this trial are positive. People are engaging with the team and preventative and safeguarding measures being put in place. This is a long-term approach to reducing knife crime and harm caused by the criminal use of knives.
- **Prevent, Prepare, Protect Team (PPPT)** – Successfully introduced and are crucial in the long term approach of reducing harm and dependency within the drug and gang areas. These areas are commonly linked with the criminal use of knives.

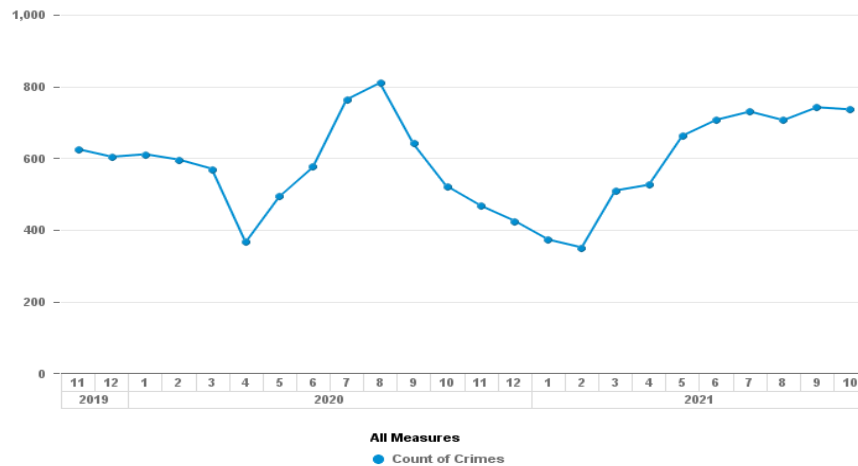
Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- Further development of the PPPT and analysis of what future functions they can carry out in the preventative landscape.
- Use of data to identify ‘at risk’ cohorts to create support and enforcement opportunities.
- Development of multi-agency public health data to identify locations and other information from those entering healthcare settings with possible knife injuries.

Gangs / County Lines

Insights:

Gangs and County lines in Essex remain a focus of the Serious Violence Unit. As society returns to normality, levels of community violence have increased. The chart below shows community violence levels. Q2 saw violence rise but remain steady. It should be noted that not all community violence is attributed to gangs and county lines.



Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

- During Q2 the Serious Violence Unit (SVU) achieved the following:
 - 131 arrests
 - 76 warrants executed
 - 80 suspects remanded in custody
 - £47,685 cash seized
 - 21 people safeguarded
- Suspects continue to be remanded in custody as a default position for the Raptor teams. Activity continues to be focused on those controlling drug lines and lines which cause the most harm to the communities.
- Further development of the PPPT within the SVU. This new team is now operational and have a focus on safeguarding and the diversion of children and adults away from gangs and county lines. This safeguarding and preventative work is integral to the longer term aims of reduction.
- Interim Gang injunctions obtained in previous quarters have been successfully granted into full gang injunctions. The work required to obtain these injunctions is significant but a necessary tool in tackling gangs.
- The North Raptor team have secured a human trafficking charge against a male who was using children to run his drugs line. This important step in the development of how investigations have progressed in recent years.

Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- Continued Serious Violence Unit focus on Gangs and County Lines, continually looking to pursue and dismantle targeting those who cause the most harm identified through intelligence. This includes cross force, regional and national liaison.
- Development internally will see growth in the Raptor teams and further realignment of safeguarding officers will bring more focus to the Prevent strand of the 4P’s.
- Large scale operations will show significant disruption to drugs lines in Q3.
- The introduction of an SVU advice/support system for other teams dealing with drug dealing offences will ensure that the most up-to-date investigative techniques are used ensuring early remands of those believed to be dealing drugs in our County.

5.3 Night-Time Economy (NTE)

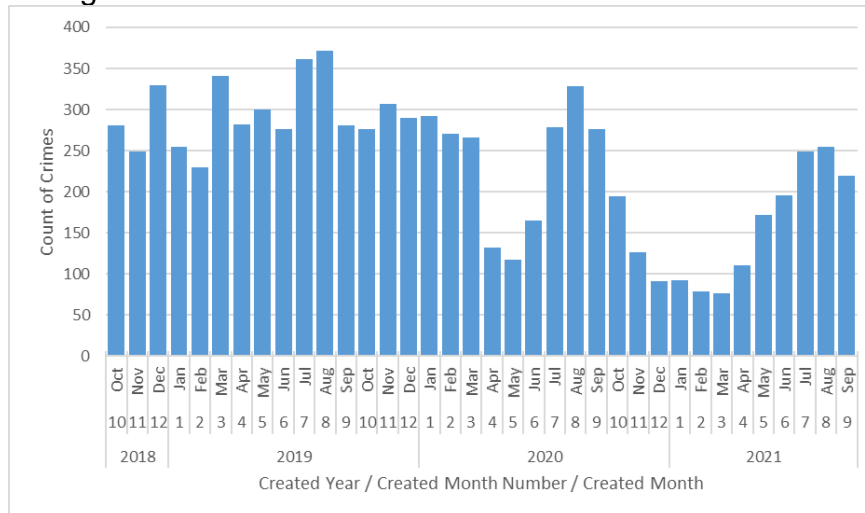
Thematic Lead: Superintendent Stuart Weaver

Insights:

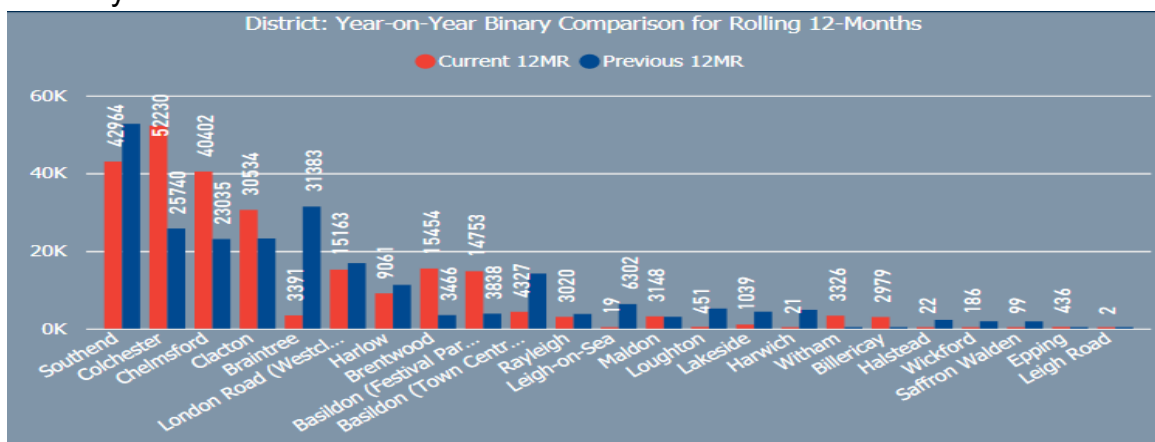
Data for 12 months to end of September 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 20	12 Month ending September 21	Diff.	% Diff.
2999	1863	-1136	-37.9%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



July and August 2021 show a rise in data as we continue to exit the previous COVID restrictions. However, it is positive to note that these increases are lower than the previous years' numbers.



The above table shows the year-on-year comparison for each district. Of note, Colchester and Chelmsford are showing a significantly higher comparison than last year.

Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

- Monitoring of data during COVID re-opening for flexible deployment plans as hot spots that have traditionally been stable have fluctuated significantly.
- Development of a dedicated media strategy to coincide with the full reopening of the NTE, focusing on alcohol moderation, responsible behaviour, journey planning and consequences of criminal activity.
- Operation Grip focus patrols aimed at the NTE areas of high harm.

Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- Review of NTE plans to understand effectiveness against the reopening of the NTE venues.
- Licencing work will continue to allow us to identify and deal with problem premises and take enforcement action as required.
- CPT and TCT engagement with licenced premises as required in the overarching NTE plan.
- Plan for test purchase operations 'post COVID' in all primary NTE areas
- NTE leads to receive training on data systems (Power Bi) to allow targeted enforcement and education
- The NTE plans for all districts have been reviewed and there is an expectation that vulnerable locations and identification of vulnerable members of the public will form part of the 'patrol plan'.

5.4 Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

Thematic Lead: Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Packer

Insights:

- Online Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)/Child Abuse contact increased during lockdown. For CSE this can be sharing of images and content and in Child Criminal Exploitation as a cyber enabled crime to exchange funds etc. Year on Year it has increased and in the last year CSE technologically based investigations increased by 16%.
- In Q2 2020 POLIT were getting 12-15 referrals from CEOP each month. In Q2 2021 this has now risen to an average of 25-30 a month. CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) part of the National Crime Agency (NCA) refer reports of online sexual abuse and communication to Forces.
- MOSOVO have seen an increase in the arrest/remand and convictions of registered sex offenders following identification of breaches from intelligence sharing and MAPPA meetings.

Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

- Restorative Justice & Mediation process – part of the Victim's Code of Practice, though not new, there has been a further push to use this service, when suitable, to bring victims of crime and ASB together with the person or people that has caused them harm. Encourages harmers to take responsibility for their actions, reduces reoffending and allows victims to feel empowered, have a voice, and be at the heart of the process.
- Section 28 Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act now being used and allows victims or witnesses that fit certain criteria to give pre-recorded evidence.
- Training is being delivered to all front-line officers, covering the identification of risk to children, supporting decision making and referral to the relevant Teams.
- Creation of Eastern Region Child Abuse Investigation Group on the Knowledge Hub site (Police sharing community) to allow mutual sharing of learning points and good practice within the Eastern Region Forces, overseen by Essex.
- During Q2 2021 POLIT executed 75 warrants compared to 67 in 2020, safeguarding 90 Children
- MOSOVO (Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders) are routinely deploying using technical advances on monitoring visits (Firefly/Detago) which are locating hidden harm victims forced into Rape and sexual assault.

- CSE team now attend monthly SET led Multi-Agency Child Exploitation meetings. They have taken on a total of 14 of these young people at high risk of CSE since attending in July.
- Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) Group set up to improve interview quality when dealing with most vulnerable.

Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- POLIT creating a guide for Officers to assist in the investigation of the most prevalent offences committed online involving children (Sexual Communication & Possession/Distribution/Production of Indecent Images)
- Development of an algorithmic led programme to target the most likely to cause violent crime.
- Further training for Officers regarding the impact of Domestic Abuse specifically on children, and its subsequent links to extra-familial abuse/exploitation (Gangs, County Lines)
- Development of a CSE tool kit, incorporating criminal, civil and partnership powers to tackle CSE and repeat offending.
- Intelligence Analysts creating a product to identify CSE offenders to be shared at Force Command. Top offenders identified for local tasking and 4P plans, owned by partnership DIs for command.
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Pro Active team has begun work on a “What to expect from professionals” video for victims of serious sexual violence.

5.5 Extremism and Radicalisation

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Richard Melton

Insights:

108 referrals have been received across all partner agencies in the region between July and September compared to Q1 of 144. This is a regional decrease of 25% but is undoubtedly linked to school holidays and fits with historical trend.

- Year on year volumes in Essex have remained strong and consistent with 23 Q2 referrals across Essex broken down as:
 - Education - 7
 - Police - 5
 - Community Groups - 5
 - Partnership Groups - 4
 - Local Government - 1
 - Health - 1

26% (6 referrals) progress into channel panels or PLP, 26% (6 referrals) are currently pending assessment at point of writing, and 48% (11 Referrals) were closed prior to case management.

Prevent Referrals by Ideology:

- Mixed Unclear and Unstable = 6
- No risk vulnerability or ideology =4
- Vulnerability present no ideology / CT risk 4
- Right wing Extremism = 4
- Islamist Extremism= 3

- Left, Anarchist, Single issue extremism= 2
(No Infographic available at Q2 of referral breakdown as CTLP not out until week commencing 22/11/21)

Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

Delivery of the Prevent Training Matrix as:

- Hate Crime awareness week gave opportunity for internal and external communication from both Essex and Kent on the PREVENT programme
- Sustained 98 internal and additionally 66 external Prevent Champions
- Further Prevent Champions being identified across a range of commands
- External Prevent Champions identified for training in Q3 across a range of partners including Local Authority, Children Services, Health, CRC, NPS, Education (schools, FE & HE), Community Safety Partnership Managers, Housing.

Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- Revised Prevent Delivery Group (PDG) ToR and meeting frequency. The PDG is now chaired by Spencer Clarke and has refreshed representation from tier 1 Local Authority partners.
- Planning for Op Geo pony (CT exercise) is underway with a plan to test in January
- Review of SET Channel Panels ToR and self-assessment against new Home Office Guidance continues through the PDG
- New Constable role within LPSU to support Hate Crime and PREVENT activity within Essex Police.

It is anticipated that the impact will lead to:

- increased opportunities to identify those at risk of radicalisation
- strengthened links to communities for proactive and reactive responses
- increased number of appropriate referrals across wider sources
- increase community cohesion/decrease tensions and hate crime

5.6 Hate Crime

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Richard Melton

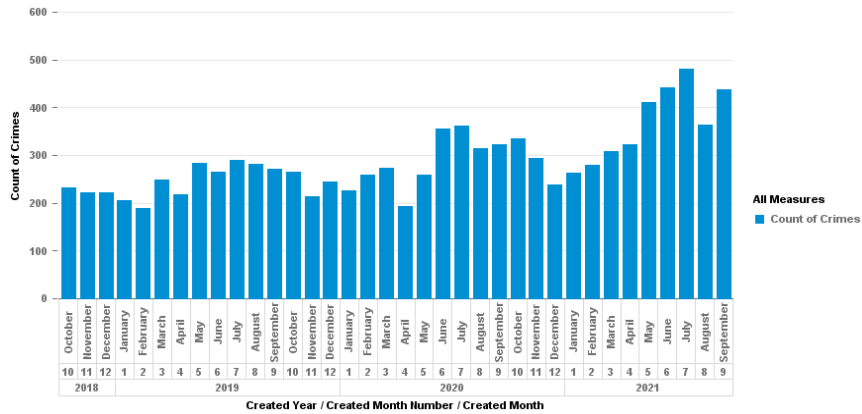
Insights:

Data for 12 months to end of September 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 20	12 Month ending September 21	Diff.	% Diff.
3291	4177	886	+26.9%

The increase we have seen in hate crime reported within Essex is slightly higher than the national picture and demonstrates that more victims have the confidence to come forward. Whilst this is positive, it is also clear that offending motivated by hatred/hostility is on the increase in Essex.

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Racially motivated offences continue to represent the most significant percentage of all recorded hate crime with 2447 out of the total hate crimes and incidents reported so far being classified as being racially motivated. This equates to 62.2% of the overall reported volume.

Disability hate crimes remain second highest in terms of volume with 591 offences recorded (15%), followed by Homophobic hate crime with 391 offences (13.2%).

An assessment has been made as to the locations of all Q1 hate offending and it consistently indicates that Southend (215), Basildon (196), Thurrock (193), Colchester (182) and Epping Forest/Brentwood (149) have the highest number of hate crimes.

Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

- This quarter saw the first figures in relation to offences motivated by sex/gender (71 sex/gender hate investigations (28 North, 26 South, 17 West)). When the figures were obtained it was prior to Hate Crime Awareness Week (HCAW) and the heightened publicity around sex/gender reporting. It is anticipated that significant public engagement via key media outlets should increase reporting.
- The Strategic Hate Crime Partnership board conducted a workshop to review the focus of hate crime. Ideas were shared regarding an increased focus on VAWG. This will be reviewed, and a draft circulated early next year.

Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- Gender based reporting will continued in Q3 and will now see Essex Police recording crimes that were motivated by gender hatred. Essex is one of only 11 other forces currently recording this level of detail with a view to better understanding violence, abuse and intimidation against women and girls across the county.
- A review of the Hate Crime procedure has been conducted and comprehensive changes to improve Essex Police response have been made. This includes the introduction of a hate crime investigation template and closer liaison with the CPS to deliver better investigation outcomes for victims.

5.7 Digital Crime and Fraud

Thematic Lead: Detective Chief Inspector Andy Clarkson

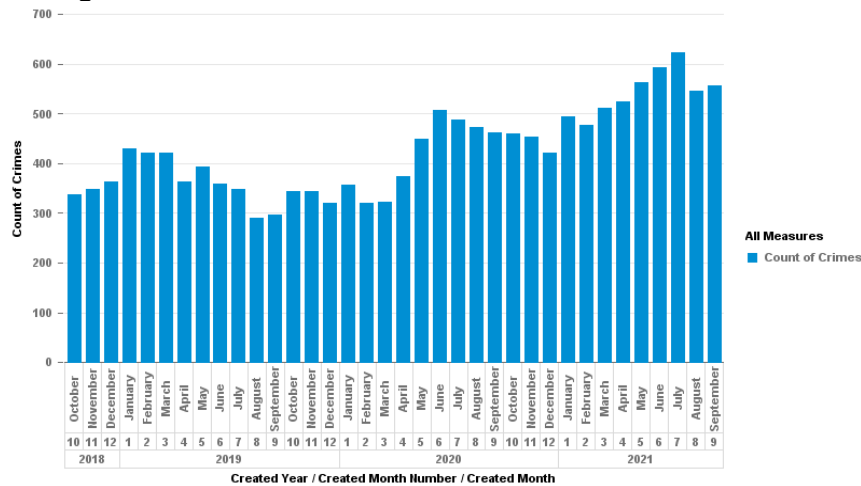
Cyber / Online Offences

Insights:

Data for 12 months to end of September 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 20	12 Month ending September 21	Diff.	% Diff.
4754	6220	1466	+30.8%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



July 2021 saw the highest levels of Cyber Crime and online offences recorded in Essex. Aug-Sep saw a reduction in reported offences although the general trend reflects the national picture, with Cyber Crime on a continual increase.

Essex remains one of the highest performing Cyber Crime Unit, both in terms of offenders brought to justice and innovation.

Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

- Essex Cyber Crime Unit (CCU) continues to develop a package which will help them achieve ISO accreditation. This work is supported and peer-reviewed by experts from the Digital Forensics Unit. Once accreditation is achieved, the CCU will be capable of maintaining and increasing its’ ability for digital forensic capture at scenes, not only for Cyber-related crime but the most serious of offences, including murder.
- In addition to the investigation of all cyber-dependant crime, the CCU has supported a number of specialist teams with training and the development of digital techniques, to assist with the management of registered sex offenders and other serious violence offenders.

Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- Enhanced training and support to other departments within Essex Police, specifically those involved in the investigating offences of sextortion. These offences are of low sophistication and widespread but the potential harm to victims is high and victim support at the earliest opportunity is a necessity.

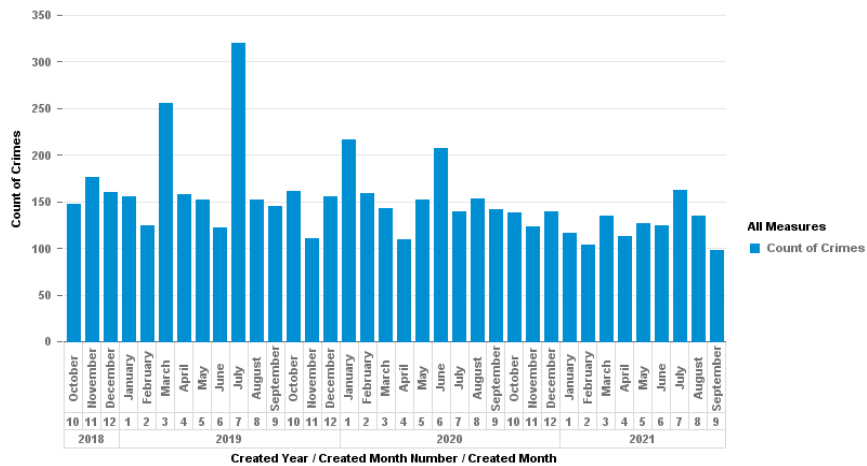
- On-going promotion of the national Cyber Alarm project through Prevent & Protect advice. This allows a proactive response to attempted cyber attacks on businesses.
- Enhanced level of regional and national enforcement, in partnership with ERSOU and other Forces. This continues the trend from the previous quarter and recognises the need for cross-border cooperation when dealing with cyber-related crime; rarely will both offender and victim reside in the same county and whilst this brings additional challenges, recent operations have resulted in significant arrests, unlikely to have been achieved without the assistance of partners.

Fraud Insights:

Data for 12 months to end of September 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 20	12 Month ending September 21	Diff.	% Diff.
1847	1514	-333	-18.0%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



The City of London (national lead force for fraud) continue to report increases nationally in the number of frauds being reported, in excess of 26% in 2020/2021.

Much fraud continues to move online, and this is reflected in the continued increase in Cyber crime offences reported to Essex Police in the same period.

Whilst the number of reported frauds has decreased, the level of sophistication and the demand this creates for investigative team, continues to increase.

Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

- SECU introduced proactive days (carried out at least monthly). SAR’s reports are utilised to direct activity and ‘cease and desist’ notices issued where appropriate.
- Under Operation Carriage, we have increased proactive operations relating to Cash-Based Money Laundering. These are joint operations with ERSOU and Border Force, primarily at Stansted Airport.

Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- Continued focus on Operation Otello activity as directed by City of London. This will include a review of all active romance fraud investigations in Essex, with a period of intensification on those cases.
- Essex Police has previously agreed to join the Level 1 service provided by the National Economic Crime Victim Care Unit (NEVCU), who under this agreement, take responsibility for the management of low-risk victims in Essex.
- Essex Police continues to focus on medium and high-risk victims.
- Essex Police continue to work with Trading Standards to develop a multi-agency working group tackling door-step fraud – rogue traders and courier fraud.
- Increased focus on Suspicious Activity Reports and Defence Against Money Laundering reports, led by the Primary Investigation Team, with assistance and guidance from the City of London Police.

5.8 Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery

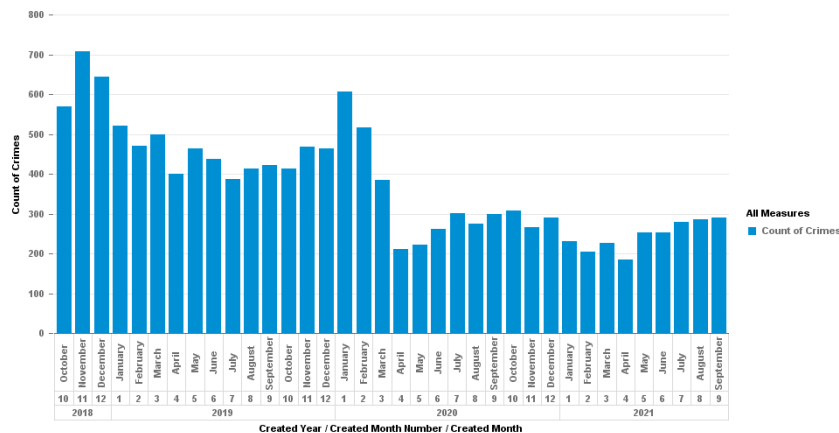
Thematic Lead: Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow

Insights:

Data for 12 months to end of June 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

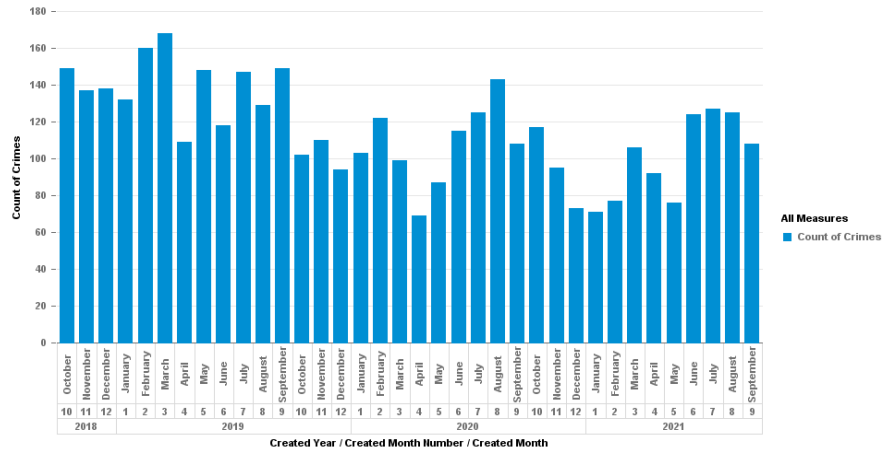
Offence Type	12 Month ending July 20	12 Month ending July 21	Diff.	% Diff.
Residential Burglary	6379	4658	-1721	-27.0
Personal Robbery	1269	1191	-78	-6.1

Bar chart showing dwelling burglary crimes recorded each month:



Dwelling burglary offences have increased slightly from Q1 to Q2, with an increase of 189 offences. The volumes remain significantly lower than pre-Covid levels but are slightly higher than the same quarter in 2020. Burglary offences increased by 25% from June 2021 (357) to July 2021 (445) - this was around the time that the government’s lockdown restrictions eased completely, and people were able to leave their homes freely. However, Burglary offences have since reduced by 13% between July and September 2021. This is very different to the trends of the previous years, where burglary offences have increased as the days get shorter, as seen in 2019.

Bar chart showing street robbery crimes recorded each month:



Personal Robbery offences have increased by 25% from Q1 to Q2. Offences in Q2 2021 have increased by 4% compared to Q2 in 2020. This coincides with the easing of restrictions, and more people leaving their homes more often. In July 2021 there were 127 offences recorded, similar to July 2020 when 125 offences were recorded. In September 2021 there were 109 robbery offences recorded, compared to 108 in September 2020. These figures are lower than pre-Covid numbers, with 149 personal robberies reported in September 2019, and are remaining relatively steady with 2020 levels.

Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

- Burglary CPA – a burglary problem profile has been produced indicating current trends in burglaries, which will assist in planning for preventative measures.
- Electronic monitoring – A trial has been introduced in Essex whereby adult offenders convicted of an acquisitive crime and having served a sentence of 12 months or over will be issued with a GPS tag – there are currently five offenders for burglary or robbery offences which have had tags fitted, and two have been found in close proximity to burglary offences, although have been discounted as suspects.
- Op Tigress (street robbery trigger plan) has been reviewed and refreshed
- National Best Practice – nationwide force data has been obtained on solved rates for dwelling burglary and personal robbery. Other forces have been contacted to establish if there are any investigative enquiries that could assist in improving the solved rate. Work is ongoing to review techniques currently practiced within Hertfordshire and bring any best practice to Essex.
- CSI attendance – Review taken place to establish the percentage of burglary offences attended by scenes of crime officers – this rate is remaining relatively steady across the force. A review of forensic hits that do not result in a charge is now underway.

Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- Op Reassure - An operation in partnership with Victim Support Service to provide home crime prevention visits to victims of dwelling burglary who are struggling to recover from the effects and feel unsafe in their homes. This will be trialled in Southend with the intention to see reduced repeat victimisation, improved victim satisfaction and improvements in wider public confidence.
- Burglary Victim Pack – a review has been carried out on the burglary pack to bring it up to date.

- The Darker Nights operation will be starting up again as nights are getting darker earlier, which will run throughout the winter, targeting hotspot areas
- Volunteers – Active Citizens will be utilised more frequently, assisting with operations as well as preventative activities. Special constables will be utilised to assist with burglary/robbery operations, including Op Matterhorn, an ANPR operation targeting vehicles involved in crimes
- Op Shot – this is a new operation commenced in Southend targeting child on child robbery offences
- Priority Offender Team – A review has been requested into the effectiveness of the offender management techniques, as 117 of the 148 offenders managed by the team are burglary or robbery suspects

5.9 Serious and Organised Crime

Thematic Lead: Detective Chief Inspector Lee Morton

Insights:

Essex Police Serious Organised Crime Unit completed a large amount of activity across period Sept 2020 - Sept 2021 linked to the disruption of Organised Crime groups; the total results are as follows:

- 82 arrests
- 47 warrants executed
- 53 charges
- 40 suspects remanded in custody
- 24.7Kg of class A drugs seized
- 50Kg of class B drugs seized
- £1,303,000 cash seized
- 9 Firearms recovered
- 51 people safeguarded, one of which was a child

Delivery achieved July-Sept 2021:

- Review of crime prevention strategy for Serious and Organised Crime and refresh of the 4P plan for the new strategic tasking period, resulting in a move away from simply identifying OCGs and more focus on the full management process from identification through to lifetime offender management.
- Briefing with CPS to share challenges faced by police through CPS protocols for Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) casework
- Following staff movement, assignment of new Local Responsible Officers (LRO's) for OCGs, and familiarisation with how a MoRiLE score works in order it will help identify the OCG's with a propensity for violence.
- Monitoring the intelligence picture to identify when the drugs market is nearing saturation, with this being a strong indicator of potential escalation in violence. This was seen prior to Op Union by the force and indeed post raptor work.
- Launch of the new department to tackle Organised Immigration Crime

Delivery scheduled Oct-Dec 2021:

- Enhanced engagement through Essex Prevent & Protect now that the Covid restrictions have reduced which has allowed more allowing for wider engagement to recommence

- It is vital that our understanding of the intelligence picture keeps pace with the OCGs adapting to the pandemic's impact
- Conference planned to engage partners further to enhance intelligence collection for MSHT

5.10 Delivery/challenges by exception

5.10.1 Covid recovery

The government roadmap out of lockdown has presented additional challenges across the force in relation to specific areas of business, not least the reopening of hospitality establishments. As predicted the lifting of restrictions has resulted in a rise in certain crime types which have benefited from lesser volumes during lockdown, e.g. NTE related offences.

The message during the economic recovery continues to be 'Essex is open for business but closed for crime'. The Business Crime Team has continually worked with partners, commercial premises including Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses to ensure an informed opening of trade in relation to regulations.

6.0 Implications (Issues)

There is one strand at risk across nine thematic strands (see 6.3)

6.1 Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities

The thematic strands deliver against the priorities identified within the Police and Crime Plan, namely:

- Breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Tackling gangs and serious violence
- Disrupting and preventing organised crime
- Protecting children and vulnerable people from harm

6.2 Demand

Not applicable

6.3 Risks/Mitigation

There is one Delivery Plan strand at risk across nine thematic strands and work is ongoing to address and mitigate that risk:

Fraud:

Identifying enforcement opportunities for ancillary orders (e.g. Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPO's)) – It is acknowledged that insufficient actions are currently being completed with regards to persons subject of SCPO's. However, this is being considered as part of the Intelligence Review which is ongoing.

Overall, if areas of the strategy are not delivered then there is potential risk of crime figures increasing in relevant areas, and ultimately potential risk to members of the public. This, in turn has a potential reputational risk to the organisation. Each thematic strand has a force lead responsible for their individual areas, enabling appropriate

oversight, review, and focus to ensure appropriate action takes place within each thematic area to identify and mitigate these risks, working to improve our response and ultimately prevent crime.

6.4 Equality and/or Human Rights Implications

There are no protected characteristics adversely affected by the strategy. Whilst there are no specific equality and/or human rights implications identified, any actions which take place in relation to the strategy will take account of such matters, ensuring compliance with relevant legislation and the force Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Strategy.

6.5 Health and Safety Implications

No Health and Safety Risks identified.

7.0 Consultation/Engagement

Thematic leads have all contributed to this report.
Domestic Abuse – Chief Superintendent Tom Simons
Gangs and Knife Crime – Detective Superintendent Rob Kirby
Night-Time Economy – Superintendent Stuart Weaver
Child Abuse and Exploitation – Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Packer
Extremism and Radicalisation – Superintendent Richard Melton
Hate Crime – Superintendent Richard Melton
Digital Crime and Fraud – Detective Chief Inspector Andy Clarkson
Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery – Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow
Serious and Organised Crime – Detective Chief Inspector Lee Morton

8.0 Actions for Improvement

There are no outstanding HMICFRS improvement plans or Areas for Improvement (AFIs) relating to the Crime Prevention Strategy.

9.0 Future Work/Development and Expected Outcome

See section 5 for overview of delivery scheduled for current quarter in relation to each thematic area.

Essex Police are committed to developing a new, stronger Crime Prevention Strategy (2021-25) which is being launched on 29th November 2021. The new Crime Prevention Strategy is based upon a whole system approach, with a strong focus on partnership working, using intelligence and evidence to predict the future challenges we face over the next five years, and prepares us for the anticipated increase in volume and complexity of crime within a significant political, economic and community recovery period post-Covid.