

Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2022

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

Title of Report:	Deep Dive: Police and Crime Plan Priorities Priority: Protecting Rural & Isolated Areas
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Chief Officer	ACC Nolan
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1.0 Purpose of Report

This paper provides a deep dive into the progress of Essex Police against the Crime and Policing Plan priority of protecting rural and isolated areas. The purpose is to inform the PFCC of performance and progress against the plan and undertake a forward look into how Essex Police will continue to deliver in this area.

2.0 Recommendations

There are no recommendations, the Board is asked to note the contents, key issues and opportunities identified.

3.0 Executive Summary

There is no set definition for Rural crime, however it is generally accepted to be any crime or anti-social behavior occurring in rural areas. It's important to note that Essex has a wide mix of rural and urban areas with pockets of smaller rural areas located within large urban areas.

When looking at the percentage of rural postcodes the county is split as:

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Table 1

Group	District(s)
More than 75% Rural	Uttlesford
50-74% Rural	Maldon
25-49% Rural	Tendring, Braintree, Colchester, Brentwood, Epping
10-24% Rural	Chelmsford, Rochford, Thurrock
Less than 1% Rural	Basildon, Castle Point, Harlow, Southend

In addition, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) provide broad classifications regarding the Rural-Urban Classification (RUC) of Local Authority Districts. They classify Uttlesford, Maldon, Braintree and Tendring as being 'Predominantly Rural' and as such Braintree and Tendring will be considered alongside Uttlesford and Maldon. However, it is worth noting that they have around 39% rural postcodes whereas Maldon is 59.7% and Uttlesford is 79.3%.

Whilst the picture of rural crimes would tend to be associated with rural farming communities, it's important to identify that rural crime also occurs in rural locations within significantly urban districts and this contributes to the crime picture. These areas may have very different concerns and needs from rural policing.

The long-term trend for Rural Crime offences indicates that they have been increasing since 2017. However, more recently the number of Rural Crime offences has stabilised and trends from January 2020 indicate a slight decline in the number of offences. This will be strongly influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic during which record low levels of offences were recorded in Essex, in both Rural and Urban areas.

44.3% of Rural Offences are Violence against the Person, with the majority of this being Violence without Injury (35.1% of all Rural Crime offences). 26.0% of Rural Crime offences are Theft Offences, mostly recorded as Vehicle Offences (8.9%) and All Other Theft Offences (8.0%).

Since March 2017, solved outcomes for rural offences have seen a slight downward trend¹ this may be partly associated to the increase in confidence leading to reporting more crime which would have previously been unreported.

The Rural Engagement Team have undertaken both attending and delivering to colleagues a series of training sessions since 2017. This work has been on a wide range of subjects and issues which impact on rural communities, such as management of unauthorised encampments, fly tipping, promoting cohesion between settled and travelling communities. They have also connected with rural communities in person at agricultural shows, young farmer events and the rural crime forum. In addition, they have grown their twitter following to over 4,964² followers, sending on average 40 tweets per month receiving on average 49.9 likes per tweet.

There are two districts³ in Essex which have more than 50% of their population living within a rural postcode and a further two⁴ which the Office of National Statistics (ONS)

¹ See Page 11, Chart 4

² @EP_Rural – Follower count as of 15 March 2022

³ Uttlesford and Maldon

⁴ Braintree and Tendring

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consider to be “predominantly rural”⁵. These all saw an increase in satisfaction between 2017/18 to 2020/21. For Uttlesford the percentage of people surveyed who believe the police are doing a good or excellent job increased from 52% to 82%, in Maldon it went from 69% to 79%. In Braintree the increase was from 68% to 82% whilst in Tendring it went from 71% to 80%.

Unauthorised traveller encampment incidents had been decreasing each year however data for the 12 months to February 2021 indicate that this trend was reversed. It is hypothesised that this may be a result in changing behaviour because of COVID-19 restrictions, international travel was limited on several occasions for a significant portion of the year. Travelling communities may have opted to travel within the UK rather than visit overseas locations resulting in an increase of unauthorised encampments in Essex. More recent data suggests that the number of recorded unauthorised encampments has decreased in the 12 months to February 2022.

Hare Coursing incidents are rising slightly; however, it continues to be below levels seen in the 12 months to February 2021. In the 12 months to February 2021 there were 487 Hare Coursing Incidents, this has reduced by 25.5% year on year to 363 incidents in the 12 months to February 2022 (124 fewer offences). Throughout 2020 the increase in Hare Coursing is likely to have been driven by efforts of the RET to encourage reporting as well as the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fly tipping has reduced since 2017 with a strong downward trend being seen. However, despite the 12 months to March 2021 being lower than the 12 months to March 2018 it is important to note that when compared to the 12 months to March 2020 there had been an increase in fly tipping. It is hypothesised that this may be linked to restrictions put in place to tackle COVID-19 which resulted closure of the official waste sites across the country for a significant period.

4.0 Performance

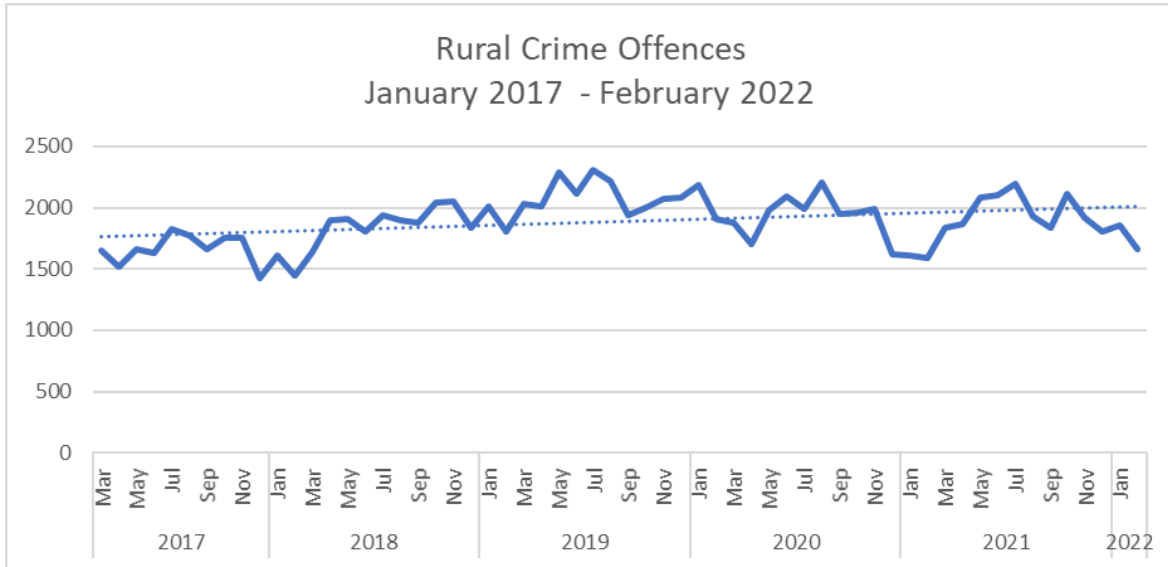
Rural Offences⁶

The long-term trend for Rural Offences indicates that they have been increasing since 2017.

⁵ This is being used as a proxy measure as a full survey of the rural community has not been conducted.

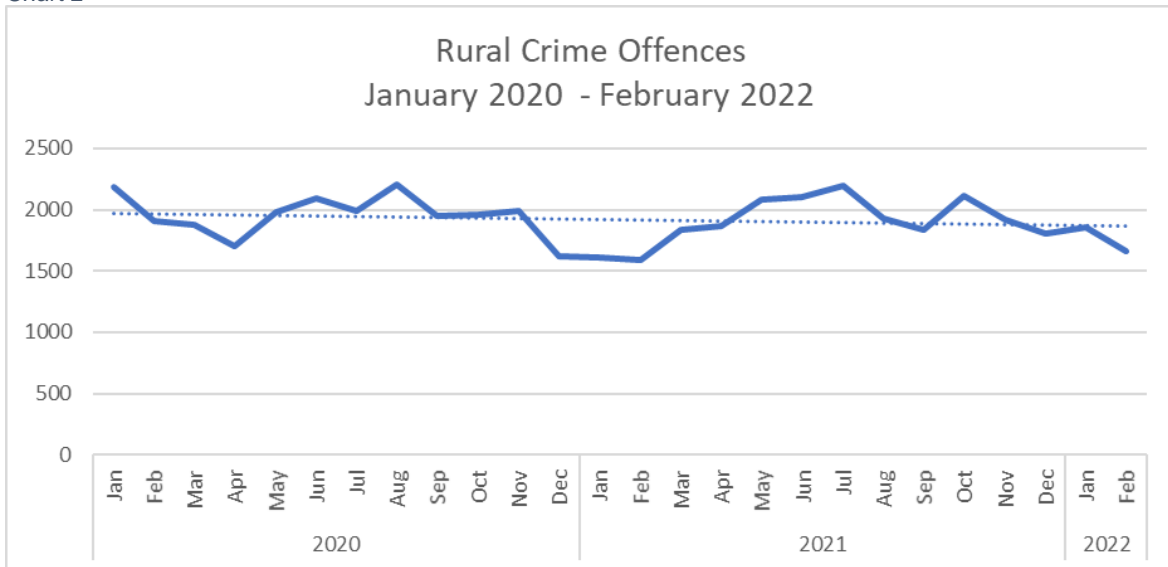
⁶ NB: Please note for crime comparisons, five postcodes have been removed. These were for Stansted Airport (CM24 1QW, CM24 1RW), Birchanger Services (CM23 5QZ), Colchester Campus (CO4 3SQ) and Oak Tree Mental Health Hospital (CO16 0BX) as these establishments generate crime and distort the figures.

Chart 1



However, more recently the number of Rural Crime offences has stabilised and trends from January 2020 indicate a slight decline in the number of offences.

Chart 2



In 2022 there were 23,217 Rural Offences, an increase year-on-year of 2.9% (664 more offences). However, it is worth noting that offences in the 12 months to February 2022 remain lower than the 12 months to February 2020 which is the last period prior to the COVID-19 pandemic².

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Table 2

District	Offences					2022 vs 2021		% 2022 Total
	12m Feb 2018	12m to Feb 2019	12m to Feb 2020	12m to Feb 2021	12m to Feb 2022	# Diff	% Diff	
Tendring	3519	3841	4098	3699	3740	41	1.1	16.1
Uttlesford	2968	3392	3883	3488	3579	91	2.6	15.4
Braintree	2249	2557	2899	2632	2897	265	10.1	12.5
Epping Forest	2345	2780	3120	2629	2845	216	8.2	12.3
Colchester	1985	2349	2435	2098	2158	60	2.9	9.3
Chelmsford	1855	2113	2390	2149	2013	-136	-6.3	8.7
Maldon	1498	1795	2114	2093	1990	-103	-4.9	8.6
Thurrock	1455	1643	1871	1542	1771	229	14.9	7.6
Brentwood	1109	1375	1485	1221	1293	72	5.9	5.6
Rochford	482	632	638	675	661	-24	-3.6	2.8
Basildon	234	206	228	252	200	-52	-20.6	0.9
Harlow	10	34	31	42	41	-1	-2.4	0.2
Not Recorded	4	13	18	30	32	2	6.7	0.1
Southend-on-Sea	2	3		3	7	4	133.3	0.0
Grand Total	19715	22733	25166	22553	23217	664	2.9	100.0

Tendring and Uttlesford have a 16.1% and 15.4% share of the total number of Rural Offences in the 12 months to February 2022. Three districts have less than 1% of the share of Rural Crime offences (Basildon, Harlow, and Southend on Sea), these are the three most urban districts in Essex.

44.3% of Rural Offences are Violence against the Person, with the majority of this being Violence without Injury³. 25% of Rural Offences are Theft Offences, mostly recorded as vehicle offences (8.9%) and All Other Theft Offences (8.0%).

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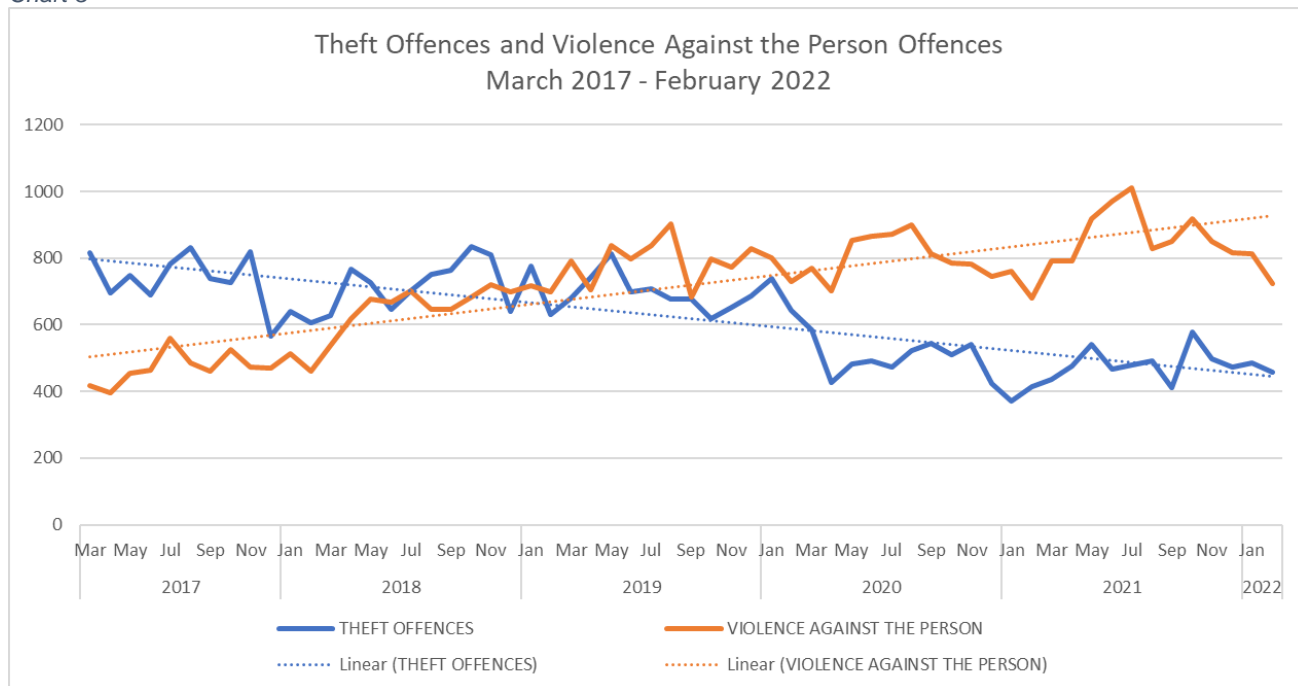
Table 3

MISC Crime Tree Lv	HMIC Crime Tree Lv 3	Offences					2022 vs 2021		%2022 Total
		12m Feb 2018	12m to Feb 2019	12m to Feb 2020	12m to Feb 2021	12m to Feb 2022	# Diff	%Diff	
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	3772	5983	7317	7528	8147	619	8.2	35.1
	VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	1897	2030	2169	1994	2131	137	6.9	9.2
	HOMICIDE	7		5	4	2	-2	-50.0	0.0
	Total	5676	8013	9491	9628	10280	764	7.9	44.3
THEFT OFFENCES	VEHICLE OFFENCES	2515	2642	2688	2005	2057	52	2.6	8.9
	ALL OTHER THEFT OFFENCES	2396	2496	2266	1738	1853	115	6.6	8.0
	BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL	1939	1872	1689	897	834	-63	-7.0	3.6
	SHOPLIFTING	542	557	829	558	534	-24	-4.3	2.3
	BURGLARY - BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY	1085	934	708	447	398	-54	-12.1	1.7
	BICYCLE THEFT	136	119	100	91	75	-16	-17.6	0.3
	THEFT FROM THE PERSON	89	56	51	49	48	-1	-2.0	0.2
	Total	8882	8876	8331	6785	6784	9	0.2	25.0
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	1282	1717	2130	2488	2669	80	3.8	11.0
DAMAGE AND ARSON OFFENCES	CRIMINAL DAMAGE	2322	2315	2515	2301	2220	-81	-3.5	9.6
	ARSON	109	98	290	223	161	-62	-27.8	0.7
	Total	2431	2413	2905	2524	2381	-143	-5.7	10.3
SEXUAL OFFENCES	OTHER SEXUAL OFFENCES	368	370	411	414	513	99	23.9	2.2
	RAPE	182	203	266	207	355	148	71.5	1.5
	Total	550	573	677	621	868	247	39.8	3.7
DRUG OFFENCES	POSSESSION OF DRUGS	316	348	628	688	472	-216	-31.4	2.0
	TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS	67	96	102	112	121	9	8.0	0.5
	Total	383	444	730	800	593	-207	-25.9	2.5
MISC CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	MISC CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	610	589	803	697	618	-79	-13.2	2.2
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES	138	182	166	142	131	-11	-7.7	0.8
ROBBERY	ROBBERY - PERSONAL	88	128	132	85	85	0	0.0	0.4
	ROBBERY - BUSINESS	15	18	12	4	8	4	100.0	0.0
	Total	103	148	144	89	93	4	4.6	0.4
FRAUD OFFENCES	FRAUD OFFENCES		1				0	-	0.0
Grand Total		19716	22733	26168	22563	23217	654	2.9	100.0

The five-year trends for Violence Against the Person and Theft Offences for Rural Offences are indicative of why the five-year trend for all Rural Offences is increasing. Theft offences in this period have been declining, with a significant decline seen in Theft offences since March 2020. Converse to this is Violence Against the Person which has been steadily increasing over the five-year period.

As these two offence groups are the highest contributors to Rural Offences the changes for these will have the most impact in the overall trends for Rural Offences.

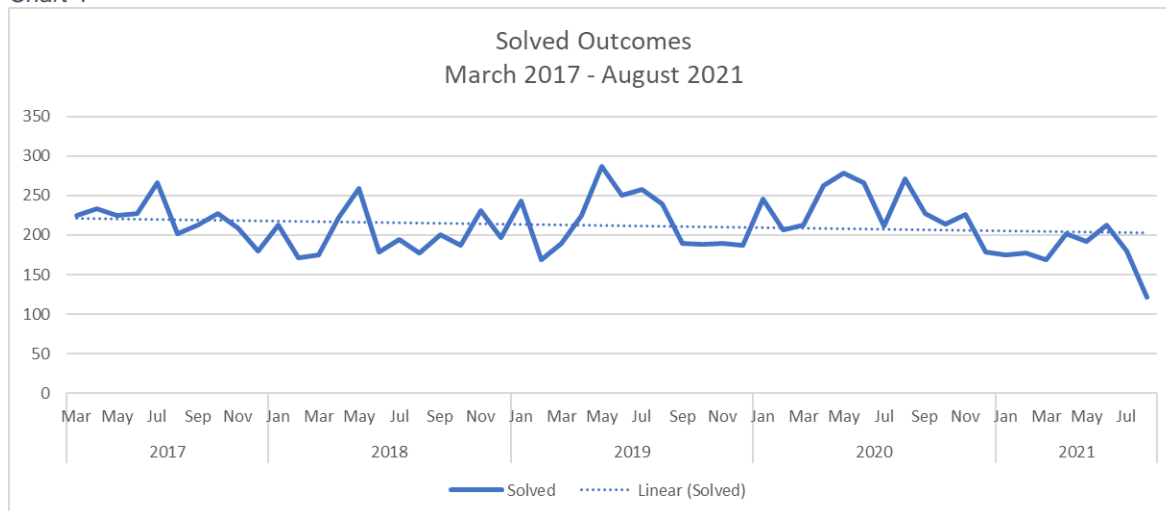
Chart 3



Rural Offences - Solved⁷

Since March 2017 there has been a slightly downward trend in the number of offences being given a Solved outcome⁸

Chart 4



434 fewer solved outcomes recorded in the 12 months to August 2021 vs August 2020, a reduction of 16.0%. The solved rate in the 12 months to August 2021 was 10.0, this is lower than the solved rate seen for the force in the same period⁹.

⁷ Solved Offences are categorised as Outcomes 1-8 (minus 5).

⁸ Outcome data is to August 2021 to accommodate that more recent offences may still be under investigation.

⁹ Solved Rate 13.6 – Crime Tree Data 12 months to August 2021 for Distribution.

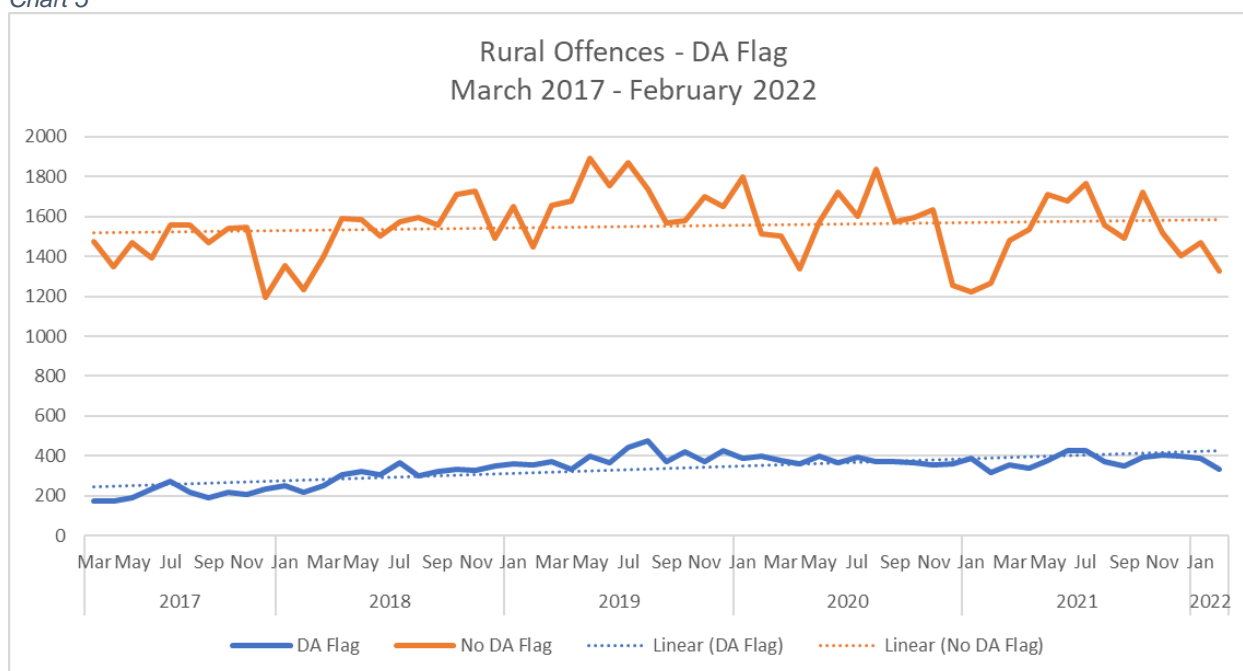
Table 4

Rural Crime	# Investigations				2022 vs 2021	
	12m August 2018	12m August 2019	12m August 2020	12m August 2021	# Diff	% Diff
Offences	20755	24612	24034	22726	-1308	-5.4
Solved	2421	2676	2710	2276	-434	-16.0
Solved Rate	11.7	10.9	11.3	10.0	-1.3	-

Rural Domestic Abuse

Since March 2017 the trendlines for Rural Crime offences with the Domestic Abuse (DA) flag applied have been slightly increasing.

Chart 5



19.6% of all Rural Offences in the 12 months to February 2022 had the DA flag applied. This is an increase of 6.6% pts from the 12 months to February 2017 when only 13.0% of offences had the DA Flag applied.

Table 5

HMIC Crime Tree Level 2	12m Feb 2018		12m to Feb 2019		12m to Feb 2020		12m to Feb 2021		12m to Feb 2022	
	DA Flag	No DA Flag	DA Flag	No DA Flag	DA Flag	No DA Flag	DA Flag	No DA Flag	DA Flag	No DA Flag
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	36.5%	63.5%	38.8%	61.2%	39.9%	60.1%	37.1%	62.9%	35.0%	65.0%
SEXUAL OFFENCES	16.4%	83.6%	15.0%	85.0%	22.2%	77.8%	24.2%	75.8%	26.7%	73.3%
MISC CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	10.4%	89.6%	17.1%	82.9%	15.4%	84.6%	13.4%	86.6%	14.3%	85.7%
DAMAGE AND ARSON OFFENCES	7.6%	92.4%	11.2%	88.8%	11.0%	89.0%	11.1%	88.9%	11.4%	88.6%
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	7.2%	92.8%	9.1%	90.9%	8.5%	91.5%	8.5%	91.5%	7.3%	92.7%
ROBBERY	1.0%	99.0%	2.1%	97.9%	2.8%	97.2%	4.5%	95.5%	5.4%	94.6%
THEFT OFFENCES	0.8%	99.2%	2.0%	98.0%	2.8%	97.2%	3.0%	97.0%	3.2%	96.8%
POSSESS WEAPON OFFENCES	0.7%	99.3%	1.2%	98.8%	1.3%	98.7%	0.0%	100.0%	1.5%	98.5%
DRUG OFFENCES	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.1%	99.9%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
FRAUD OFFENCES			0.0%	100.0%						
Grand Total	13.0%	87.0%	17.2%	82.8%	18.9%	81.1%	19.6%	80.4%	19.6%	80.4%

Violence against the Person offences had the highest proportion of DA flags applied to offences with 35% in the 12 months to February 2022 followed by Sexual Offences with 26.7% of offences having the DA flag applied. The increase in Rural Offences with a DA flag applied appears to be driven by Sexual Offences, which has risen by 10.3% pts from the 12 months to February 2018 to the 12 months to February 2022.

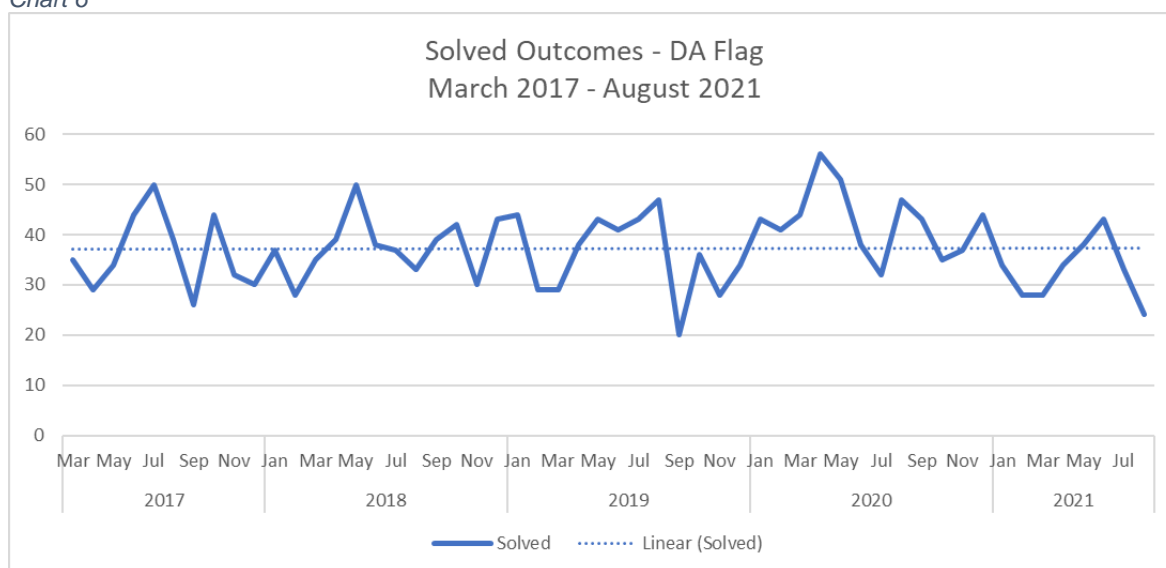
Table 6

HMIC Crime Tree Level 2	HMIC Crime Tree Level 3	12m to Feb 2018		12m to Feb 2019		12m to Feb 2020		12m to Feb 2021		12m to Feb 2022	
		DA Flag	No DA Flag	DA Flag	No DA Flag	DA Flag	No DA Flag	DA Flag	No DA Flag	DA Flag	No DA Flag
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	34.7%	65.3%	38.9%	61.1%	39.9%	60.1%	42.5%	57.5%	40.2%	59.8%
	VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	37.5%	62.5%	38.8%	61.2%	39.9%	60.1%	35.6%	64.4%	33.7%	66.3%
	HOMICIDE	14.3%	85.7%			20.0%	80.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Total	36.5%	63.5%	38.8%	61.2%	39.9%	60.1%	37.1%	62.9%	35.0%	65.0%
SEXUAL OFFENCES	RAPE	37.4%	62.6%	33.0%	67.0%	44.4%	55.6%	51.2%	48.8%	48.7%	51.3%
	OTHER SEXUAL OFFENCES	6.0%	94.0%	5.1%	94.9%	7.8%	92.2%	10.6%	89.4%	11.5%	88.5%
	Total	16.4%	83.6%	15.0%	85.0%	22.2%	77.8%	24.2%	75.8%	26.7%	73.3%

Rural Domestic Abuse – Solved Outcomes

Since March 2017 the number of Solved outcomes for Rural Offences with a DA Flag has remained broadly stable.

Chart 6



49 fewer solved outcomes were recorded in the 12 months to August 2021 when compared to 2020, a reduction of 10.4% year-on-year. The solved rate in the 12 months to August 2021 was 9.5, this is slightly lower than the overall solved rate for Domestic Abuse¹⁰.

Table 7

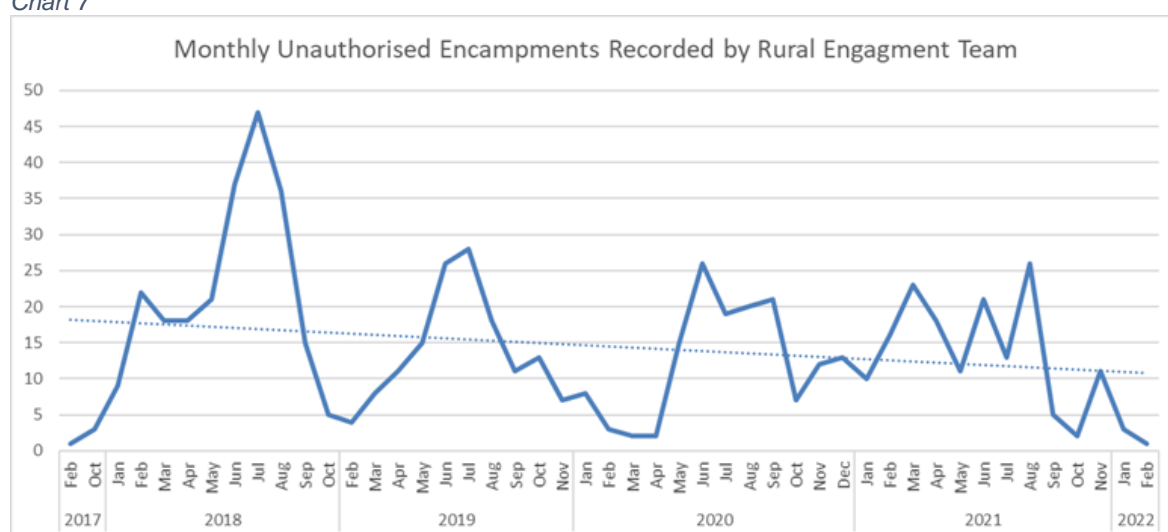
Rural Crime - DA Flag	# Investigations				2022 vs 2021	
	12m August 2018	12m August 2019	12m August 2020	12m August 2021	# Diff	% Diff
Offences	3164	4440	4648	4451	-197	-4.2
Solved	429	468	470	421	-49	-10.4
Solved Rate	13.6	10.5	10.1	9.5	-0.7	-

¹⁰ Solved Rate 10.4 – Crime Tree Data 12 months to August 2021 for Distribution.

Unauthorised Encampments

Unauthorised Encampments have continued to decline. In the 12 months to Feb 2022 there were 202 recorded Unauthorised Encampment incidents¹¹, this is an average of 16.8 per month. Year on year incidents had been falling until February 2021 going from 530 in the 12 months to February 2018 to 244 in the 12 months to February 2020. However, in the 12 months to February 2021 the number of recorded Unauthorised Encampment incidents increased to 306. The increase in the 12 months to February 2021 is likely linked to changes in behaviors because of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which there were limitation on the ease and availability of international travel.

Chart 7



The increase in the 12 months to March 2021 may be linked to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For significant periods of time there were restrictions on international travel which may have impacted on the travel plans of members of the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller (GRT) Communities. Equally COVID-19 restrictions during 2019-2020 may have resulted in a more settled status of the transient GRT communities further reducing the number of unauthorised encampments than would have been expected with the gradual decline seen.

There is a seasonal pattern to unauthorised encampment incidents, the below table compares the number of incidents in the High Season (April – August) vs the Low Season (September - March)¹².

Table 8

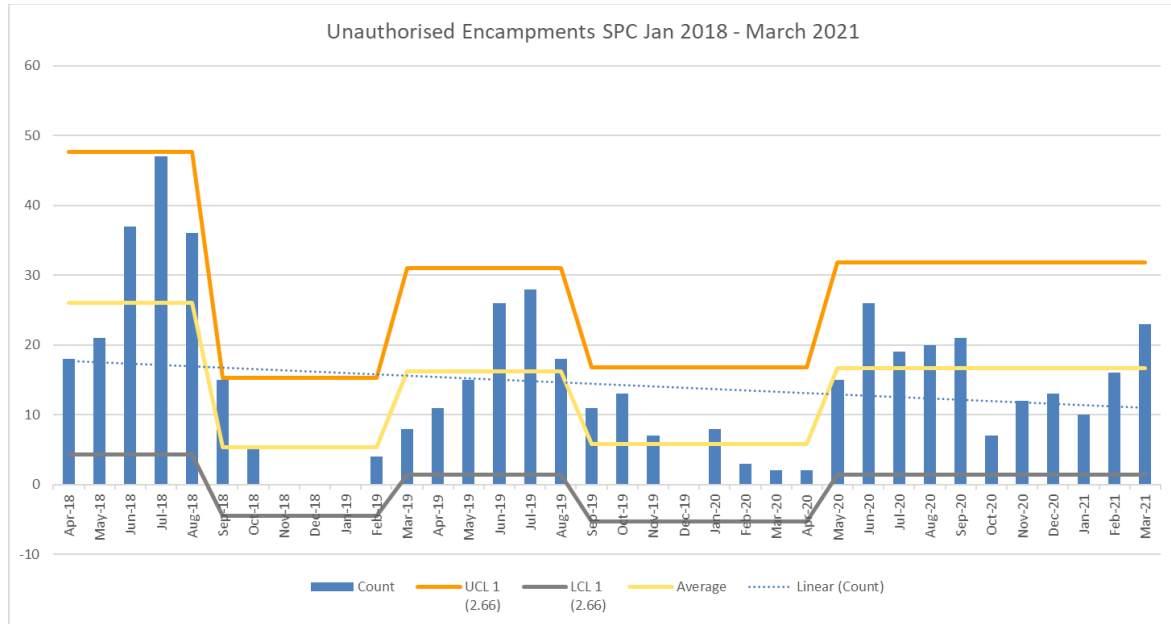
Unauthorised Encampments High vs Low Season Average Incidents				
	12m to March 2018	12m to March 2019	12m to March 2020	12m to March 2021
High Season	73.4	58.2	31.4	32.6
Low Season	24.1	10.6	10.0	25.9

¹¹ Incidents recorded on STORM with the final call type 'Unauth CMP'

¹² See table 17 in Appendix I for seasonality table.

The Rural Engagement Team maintain a spreadsheet of all Unauthorised Encampments as they routinely attend each location. The below data has used this spreadsheet as its data source and covers from April 2018 to March 2021.

Chart 8



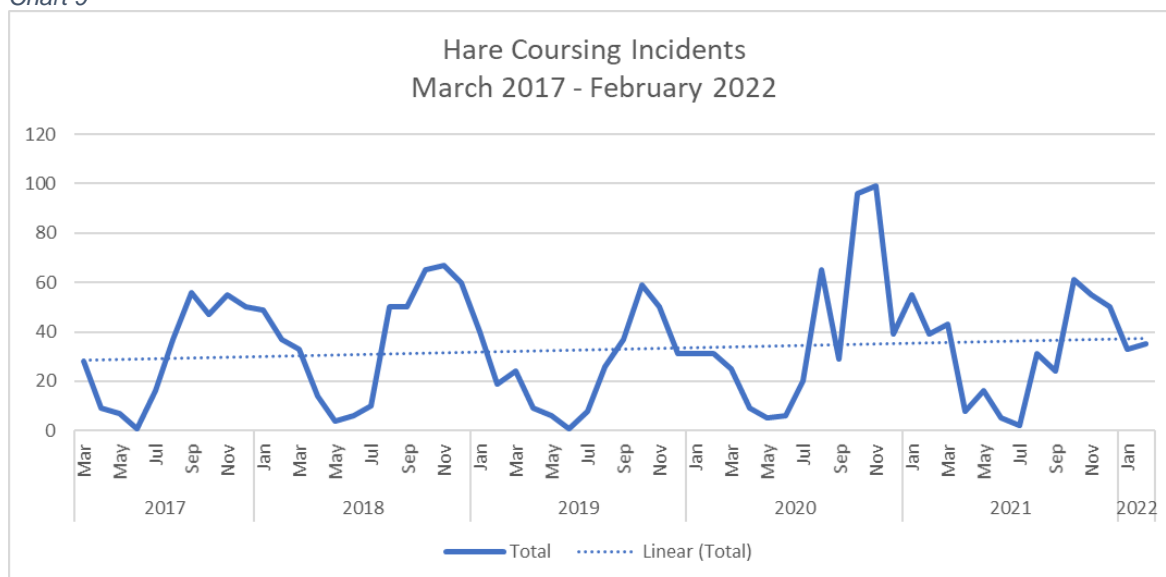
Since April 2018 it has broadly followed the same pattern as the number of recorded incidents and it also shows the same seasonality.

The number of unauthorised encampments fell from the 12 months to February 2019 (201) to the 12 months to February 2020 (148) by 53 before increasing by 15 for the 12 months to February 2021 (184). Since then, the number of unauthorised encampments has decreased to 134 for the 12 months to February 2022.

Hare Coursing

Hare Coursing is highly seasonal. However, the trendline for the five years to February 2022 indicates that Hare Coursing is rising slightly. 2020 saw a significant rise in incidents which decreased to normal levels in 2022. This year is likely the cause of the slight upward trend.

Chart 9



363 Hare Coursing incidents were recorded in the 12 months to February 2022, a 25.5% decrease year-on-year (124 fewer incidents).

36.4% of Hare Coursing Incidents in 2022 were recorded in Uttlesford. Braintree recorded 15.4% of Hare Coursing incidents whilst Maldon recorded 12.7%.

Table 9

District	# Hare Coursing Incidents					2022 vs 2021		2022 % of total
	12m Feb 2018	12m Feb 2019	12m Feb 2020	12m Feb 2021	12m Feb 2022	# Diff	% Diff	
Uttlesford	163	149	140	179	132	-47	-26.3	36.4
Braintree	71	94	66	106	56	-50	-47.2	15.4
Maldon	45	48	21	53	46	-7	-13.2	12.7
Epping	21	15	16	32	38	6	18.8	10.5
Chelmsford	30	33	21	22	31	9	40.9	8.5
Rochford	5	6	4	11	15	4	36.4	4.1
Brentwood	14	11	3	16	12	-4	-25.0	3.3
Not Recorded	15	13	9	12	12	0	0.0	3.3
Tendring	15	19	16	17	10	-7	-41.2	2.8
Thurrock	3	10	5	18	8	-10	-55.6	2.2
Colchester	4	7	4	6	1	-5	-83.3	0.3
Basildon	5	10	5	12	1	-11	-91.7	0.3
Harlow		1	2	1	1	0	0.0	0.3
Castle Point		1		1		-1	-100.0	-
Stansted Airport				1		-1	-100.0	-
Southend	1					-	-	-
M11		1	1			-	-	-
Grand Total	392	418	313	487	363	-124	-25.5	100.0

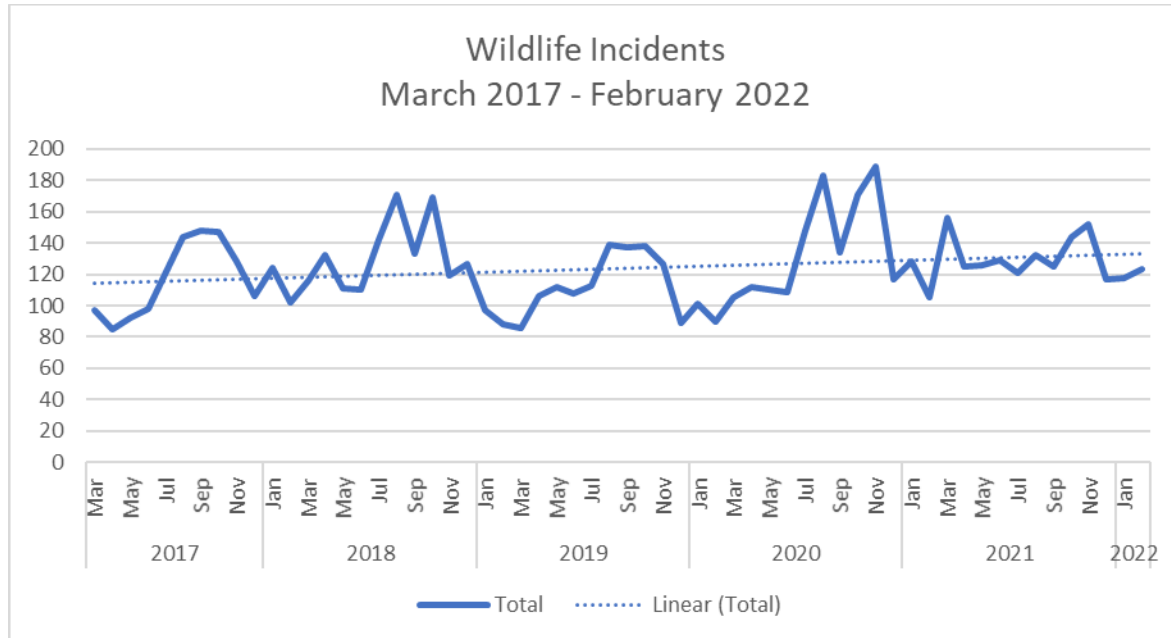
Five districts each recorded less than 0.5% of Hare Coursing incidents, likely due to them being considerably more urban in nature and with limited suitable land available for Hare Coursing.

Wildlife Crime

Wildlife crime is any action which contravenes current legislation governing the protection of the UK's wild animals and plants. Within Essex, analysis also includes other animal related incidents such as dangerous dog related offences which are not strictly wildlife crime. 44% of the analysis below relates to strictly wildlife crime with the remainder attributed to dangerous or banned dog incidents.

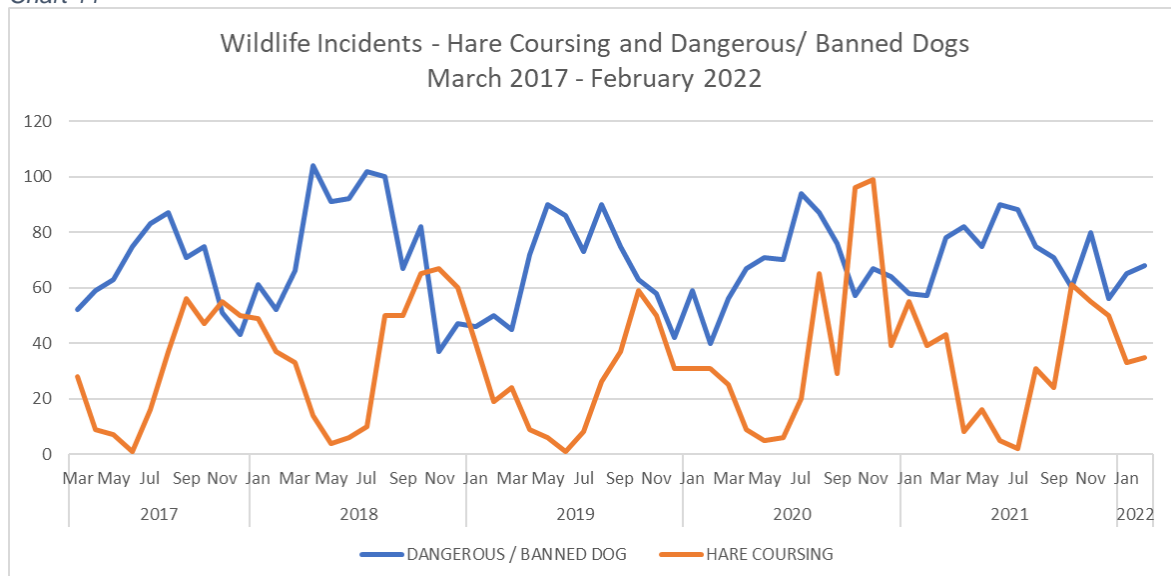
The overall trend for Wildlife and dog Incidents¹³ since March 2017 indicates that they have been increasing. However, there is significant variation between the different types of incidents which contribute to the total.

Chart 10



Two of the incident types are very seasonal with Hare Coursing peaking in the Autumn and Dangerous/ Banned Dog incidents peaking in the Spring and Summer likely the result of more people spending time outside.

Chart 11



There were 1,568 Wildlife and dog related incidents in the 12 months to February 2022, a 2.7% decrease year-on-year (43 fewer offences). However, within this overall decrease there was an increase in Dangerous/ Banned Dog incidents year-on-year (64 more incidents, 7.8% increase), this increase was offset by the decrease in Hare Coursing.

¹³ These figures are based on all wildlife incidents reported in Essex, not just those classified as rural.

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Table 10

Final Call Type	# Incidents					2022 vs 2021	
	12m Feb 2018	12m Feb 2019	12m Feb 2020	12m Feb 2021	12m Feb 2022	# Diff	% Diff
DANGEROUS / BANNED DOG	772	884	793	824	888	64	7.8
HARE COURSING	382	418	313	487	383	-124	-25.5
TRESPASS	206	188	210	256	284	28	10.9
POACHING	23	19	23	41	31	-10	-24.4
ATTACK ON ASSISTANCE DOG		6	7	3	2	-1	-33.3
Grand Total	1393	1515	1346	1611	1588	-43	-2.7

Uttlesford recorded the most Wildlife and dog incidents with 10.8% of the total recorded in the 12 months to February 2022, it also had a decrease of 66 incidents. Epping, Braintree, and Chelmsford each had between 9-10% of incidents. Rochford and Harlow recorded the least incidents, each with a less than 3% share of the total number of incidents. 4161

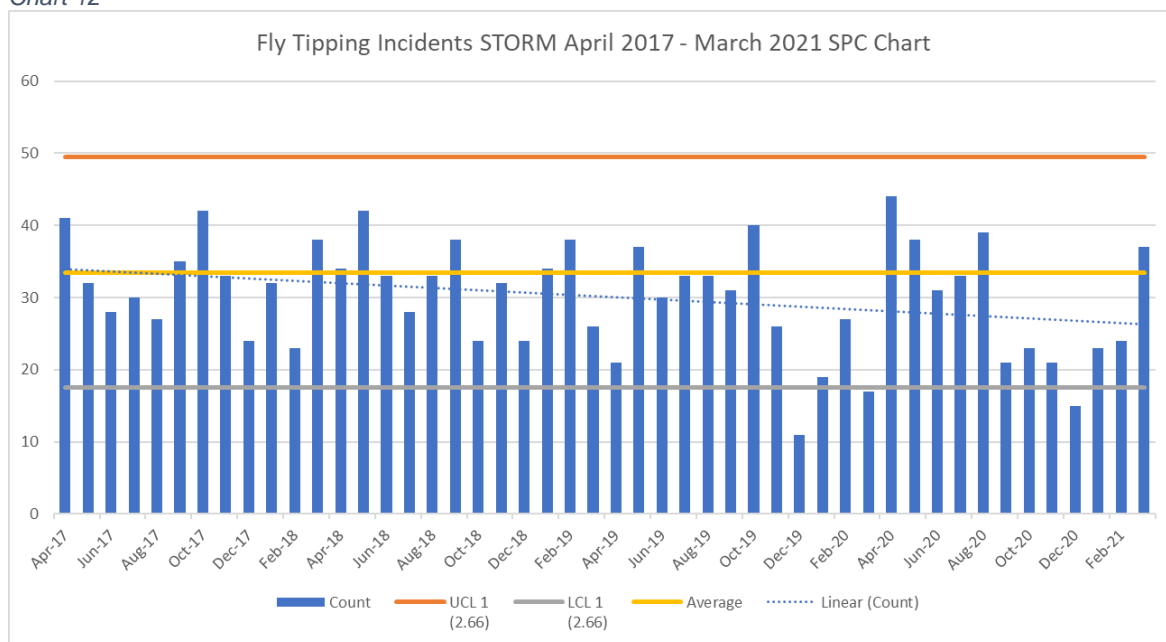
Table 11

District	# Wildlife Incidents					2022 vs 2021		2022 % of total
	12m Feb 2018	12m Feb 2019	12m Feb 2020	12m Feb 2021	12m Feb 2022	# Diff	% Diff	
Uttlesford	215	194	188	236	170	-66	-28.0	10.8
Epping	107	89	109	127	151	24	18.9	9.6
Braintree	134	173	121	225	149	-76	-33.8	9.5
Chelmsford	101	120	115	113	145	32	28.3	9.2
Colchester	107	142	124	118	136	18	15.3	8.7
Basildon	93	108	108	116	135	19	16.4	8.6
Tendring	141	126	121	140	121	-19	-13.6	7.7
Thurrock	86	115	109	125	110	-15	-12.0	7.0
Southend	105	116	84	80	96	16	20.0	6.1
Maldon	84	91	72	97	95	-2	-2.1	6.1
Brentwood	45	46	39	60	64	4	6.7	4.1
Harlow	61	66	52	56	61	5	8.9	3.9
Rochford	41	52	35	54	57	3	5.6	3.8
Castle Point	40	40	37	34	46	12	35.3	2.9
Not Recorded	31	35	31	28	32	4	14.3	2.0
Stansted Airport	1	1		2		-2	-100.0	-
M11	1	1	1			-	-	-
Grand Total	1393	1515	1346	1611	1588	-43	-2.7	100.0

Fly Tipping

From April 2017 to March 2021 Fly Tipping incidents had been decreasing slightly. In the 12 months to March 2018 there were 385 recorded incidents, an average of 32.1 per month. By the 12 months to this had reduced to 325 or an average of 27.1 per month. In the 12 months to March 2021 there were 349 incidents, or an average of 29.1 per month. The 12 months to March 2021 saw an increase year on year however this is likely due to the influence of the COVID-19 restrictions which closed official waste sites across the country for significant periods of time, the chart below shows that the period April 2020 – August 2020 recorded higher number of incidents than normally seen at that time of year. The average monthly incidents for April – August 2020 was 37, in previous years this had been as low as 30.8 but averages 32.1.

Chart 12



Fly Tipping is not always reported to the police, often it will be reported to other agencies as such this is not a complete picture of Fly Tipping in Essex.

Heritage Crime

Heritage crime is any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings. It is not possible to comprehensively analyse performance on heritage crime due to its broad definition and recording methods make it difficult to accurately differentiate heritage crimes.

Rural Crime Severity Score

The Rural Crime Severity Score measure was 7.5 in the 12 months to Jan 2021 increasing slightly to 8.5 in the 12 months to Jan 2022. Given that rural crime has seen a general decrease, it is hypothesised that this increase in severity score is driven by the increase in reports of incidents of rape which carries a high severity score.

Public Confidence and Engagement

Confidence in rural policing from the independent survey commissioned by Essex Police was 82.9% in the 12 months up to December 2021. This has been a 4.5% increase over the previous 12-month period.

While Essex Police do not conduct satisfaction surveys with specific rural communities it is possible to gauge changes in satisfaction by using the data for districts with higher proportions of Rural Postcodes.

Table 12

Group	District(s)
More than 75% Rural	Uttlesford
50-74% Rural	Maldon
25-49% Rural	Tendring, Braintree, Colchester, Brentwood, Epping
10-24% Rural	Chelmsford, Rochford, Thurrock
Less than 1% Rural	Basildon, Castle Point, Harlow, Southend

Changes to satisfaction in districts such as Uttlesford and Maldon are more likely to represent the views of rural communities.

In addition to the Office of National Statistics (ONS) provide board classifications regarding the Rural-Urban Classification (RUC) of Local Authority Districts. They classify Uttlesford, Maldon, Braintree and Tendring as being 'Predominantly Rural' and as such Braintree and Tendring will be considered alongside Uttlesford and Maldon. However, it is worth noting that they have around 39% rural postcodes whereas Maldon is 59.7 and Uttlesford is 79.3¹⁴.

The key question asked by Essex Police when surveying the community to gain an understanding of satisfaction is

“Q13b Taking everything into account, how good a job do you think the police in this area are doing?”

Table 13 below shows the results of this question as an annual trend from 2017/18 to 2020/21

Table 13

	Annual Trend				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	% change
Harlow	74%	73%	64%	89%	+25% ↑
Rochford	72%	65%	60%	86%	+26% ↑
Uttlesford	52%	62%	70%	82%	+12% ↑
Braintree	68%	73%	69%	82%	+13% ↑
Southend	71%	64%	67%	82%	+15% ↑
Colchester	73%	75%	66%	81%	+15% ↑
Tendring	71%	65%	71%	80%	+9% ↑
Maldon	69%	66%	60%	79%	+19% ↑
Brentwood	69%	60%	66%	78%	+12% ↑
Basildon	64%	64%	65%	77%	+12% ↑
Epping Forest	66%	58%	69%	77%	+8% ↑
Chelmsford	74%	70%	71%	76%	+5%
Thurrock	67%	68%	55%	74%	+19% ↑
Castle Point	66%	59%	58%	73%	+15% ↑

More than 50% Rural Postcode and ONS RUC Classification "Predominantly Rural"

ONS RUC Classification "Predominantly Rural" only

↑ significant increase ↓ significant decrease

¹⁴ See Table 20 on page 32

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In Uttlesford there has been an increase in the percentage of people who think local police are doing a good or an excellent job since 2017/18 with the most recent year on year change being a 12% pt. increase to 82%.

In Maldon however between 2017/18 and 2019/2020 there had been a decline in the percentage of people who think local police are doing a good or excellent job with the most recent year on year change reversing this trend and having an increase of 19% pt. leaving Maldon with a result of 79% who think local police are doing a good or an excellent job. In 2017 the Police Station in Maldon closed when officers moved to the Council offices which may have been a factor in the decline in satisfaction. The previous police station maintained a prominent visible location in the town.

In Braintree there has been an overall increase of 13% pts. from 2019/20 to 2020/21 so that 82% think local police are doing a good or an excellent job, despite the overall increase from 2017/18 it was not a consistent rise with 2019/2020 being lower than 2018/19.

Tendring has had a 9% pt. increase from 2019/20 with the result that 80% of people think local police are doing a good or an excellent job.

National data is not available in respect of crimes committed in rural areas, so it is not possible to measure against an MSG average.

Historically significant under-reporting has occurred with rural crime. The Rural Engagement Team have conducted an intensive campaign to tackle under-reporting and explain to communities the reasons and benefit of reporting incidents. This has been a key activity for the team to establish an accurate picture of rural crime across Essex and improve analysis.

5.0 Assessment of the Priority Area

Work against this priority involves a holistic approach undertaken across a wide range of teams within Essex Police. Whilst the LPSU and Rural Engagement Team undertake specific responsibility for rural policing, much activity around rural policing is undertaken across the whole of Essex Police particularly from Local Policing Teams, Community Policing Teams and teams involved in investigation and safeguarding such as CID and Domestic Abuse.

The Rural Engagement Team focus on six priorities derived from the Rural Crime Strategy 2017-2021

- Hare Coursing & Poaching
- Wildlife and Heritage Crime
- Fly Tipping and large-scale waste
- Trespass and Unauthorised Encampments
- Quality policing to Rural and GRT communities
- Theft of major equipment and plant

The Rural Engagement Team provide a consistent and specialist response to providing rural policing whilst Local and Community Policing Teams provide the backbone of Rural Policing and the initial and ongoing response to many rural incidents. Other policing teams provide specialist or complex investigation support.

The Rural Engagement Team – Staffing

Essex Police is one of only 15 forces who have dedicated Rural Policing Teams and continues to be one of the largest dedicated teams. The Rural Engagement Team establishment is two Sergeants and eleven PC's, one of which is a dedicated Wildlife and Heritage Crime Officer. Four special constables are also fully embedded into the team. Current team strength consists of one Sergeant, eight PC's and three special constables with intentions to recruit into the team to full strength. Current staffing gaps are the result of one officer awaiting medical redeployment, one officer on a secondment, one officer with recuperating from injury and two vacancies. Delivery of the Rural Crime Strategy is overseen by the LPSU Chief Inspector and LPSU Inspector with the Rural Engagement Team delivering much of the activity.

During 2019/2020 the Rural Engagement Team saw an increase in staffing, however this coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic and longer-term analysis will be required to understand the impact of the increase in staffing as incidents and crime return to normal levels.

Hare Coursing

Significant impact has been had around tacking Hare Coursing with a 25.5% reduction in the 12 months to February 2022. The likely impact of this reduction is greater due to the significant efforts to increase reporting. There are also anecdotal indications that Hare Coursers who travel around the region are perceiving Essex as a no-go area for coursing due to targeted disruptions achieved.

The Rural Engagement Team have delivered significant activity around Hare Coursing prevention and detection. Awareness and training sessions have been delivered by the Rural Engagement Team to Local and Community Policing Teams to improve knowledge and improve the response to incidents. Hare Coursing reporting cards have been distributed to rural communities to encourage reporting and gathering of early evidence. There are many drivers behind Hare Coursing, within some isolated communities it is culturally considered an acceptable sporting activity where gambling takes part - often at significant cost.

In 2021 the Rural Engagement Team undertook a social media campaign with Crime stoppers aimed at encouraging intelligence around those involved in Hare Coursing. This had minimal impact and results. Hare Coursers travel significant distances in the pursuit of their activities and is deeply rooted in some communities. It is difficult to predict the location of future incidents as Hare Coursers quickly move from one area to another over the course of a day. Hotspot analysis has enabled officers and staff to target the most prevalent locations. Work has been done with farming communities to design out access to fields, but this is not always viable given the scale of some land.

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The Rural Engagement Team seek to attend wherever possible all Hare Coursing incidents. When unable to attend, incidents are attended by local and community policing teams as well as other uniformed resources. Incidents which are not attended by the team are subsequently reviewed and more complex investigations are undertaken by a single officer within the team improving consistency and standards. The team have signed up to a seven-force collaborative approach around the use of Community Protection legislation for those involved in Hare Coursing. This has resulted in closer joined up working with neighbouring forces around intelligence and enforcement of offenders. All intelligence is shared between the regional forces on Athena and PNC bolstering this collaborative approach,

Wildlife & Heritage Crime

The Rural Engagement Team have a dedicated Wildlife and Heritage Crime Officer following a successful succession planning process. This has resulted in the officer becoming experienced and skilled to take on the role when the previous post holder retired. The Wildlife and Heritage Crime Officer is involved in partnership and engagement work with various Wildlife & Heritage Groups. They have run training sessions with groups such as the Badger Trust and Historic England for the Rural Engagement, Local and Community Policing Teams upskilling colleagues in these key areas. Additionally, the Wildlife and Heritage Crime Officer undertakes complex investigations into Wildlife and Heritage matters. Recently, public and media interest has been increased around illegal fox hunting. The team have strong engagement with both sides of the fox hunting subject and particularly have grown improved relations with anti-hunt groups in order to strengthen impartiality and confidence.

Unauthorised Encampments

Across Essex the number of unauthorised encampments continues to decrease over the longer term with an increase in 2021 likely attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rural Engagement Team attend all unauthorised encampments, and this has resulted in a consistent approach to action and enforcement in line with the NPCC guidance. The team have developed good engagement with landowners and members of the GRT community who regularly frequent Essex. This has led to a positive relationship when it comes to both voluntary compliance and enforcement. The Rural Engagement Team has two officers who previously worked in Domestic Abuse Investigation Teams. The team have used this opportunity to deliver initiatives such as Operation Ani raising awareness and signposting women around the signs of domestic abuse within GRT communities.

The LPSU Chief Inspector, LPSU Inspector and Rural Engagement Sergeant are engaged in the national working group on amendments to the legislation on aggravated trespass. An Initial whole Essex working group was formed in 2021 by LPSU and they will continue to play a key part in planning and implementing the new legislation and guidance across the county. The team will continue to work with partners around supporting their responsibilities in relation to transit sites.

Fly Tipping

Fly Tipping continues to be under-reported with many reports solely being made to local authorities and as such analysis of police data does not provide an accurate representation of the scale of the problem. The Rural Engagement Team carry out operational activities under the banner of Operation Fume. This Operation focuses on partnership days of action with Local Authority Enforcement Officers and the Environment Agency combining the range of enforcement powers available. The Rural Engagement Team regularly carry out joint patrols with partners to better share intelligence. Fly tipping is driven by the high costs associated with the legitimate disposal of waste and profitability of illegal waste collection. This coupled with restrictions on waste types that can be disposed of at local public refuse sites.

Theft of machinery and plant

The Rural Engagement Team undertake investigations into organised and complex thefts of major equipment and plant. Recently the team undertook a complex organised crime investigation using a wide range of technical tactics available. This resulted in linking the theft of seventeen Tractor GPS systems across the county. Subsequently this led to an arrest and charge for conspiracy to steal.

The Rural Engagement Team have an officer trained in forensic vehicle identification number (VIN) recovery and plant and machinery identification. The team also have access to 'Datatag' and 'Tracker' which is equipment for identifying and tracking plant. Theft of machinery and plant remains low in Essex and the Rural Engagement Team continue to raise awareness to improve crime prevention through engagement with the farming community. The ambition of the Rural Engagement Team is to continue to upskill and train wider teams in the investigation of rural crimes as well as grow the capacity to investigate internally, complex, and high impact crimes across rural communities.

Community Engagement

The Covid-19 pandemic reduced physical, organised community engagement over the past two years. This is identified as an opportunity for further growth for the Rural Engagement Team. Within the team, each officer has been assigned a geographical responsibility across the county. This is intended to enable local, accountable rural policing. The team have undertaken community engagement through dog engagement events with fourteen collaborative events in 2021. The team undertook three days at the Doe Show in Ulting in February 2022, which is one of the largest agricultural events in the region. This provided an opportunity to engage with farming communities and promote the work of the team to tackle the various priorities. In March 2022, the team carried out community engagement at a village primary school in Dedham again broadening the variety of collaborative work into rural road safety. This showcases some of the areas of engagement. Plans are underway to grow local engagement events organised in each officer's area of responsibility as well as continue large engagements such as the Tendring Show later this year.

Utilising social media, the Rural Engagement Team have grown a strong audience with 4,952 followers on Twitter. This platform has continued to grow. The team use this to

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showcase the activity and results of the team. Equally the team use social media to seek community feedback and suggestions such as the #yousaidwedid where reports of rural speeding locations are requested and acted upon. The Rural Engagement Team continue to produce a monthly newsletter. This showcases the activity of the team over the previous month and provides crime prevention and guidance on emerging issues. The newsletter is currently distributed to 53 organisations, groups, and individuals many of whom distribute it further. Understanding that many of our rural communities may not use social media there is a need to improve the circulation of the monthly newsletter and identify a mechanism to understand the reach and impact of the circulation to evaluate its effectiveness.

The team have developed good relationships with both local significant members of the rural community such as Dengie Feeds or the Audley End Estate as well as organisations such as the Essex Rural Partnership, local parish councils and the Rural Community Council of Essex. This has enabled the improvement of sharing of information and community engagement such as the team newsletter.

The Rural Crime Forum brings together Police, key partners, and the rural community to look at key issues affecting these areas and identify actions to address them. This continues to be a valuable opportunity to reflect on the performance of the Rural Engagement Team and adjust where necessary.

The Rural Engagement Team continue to consistently encourage reporting of crime with communities. This is a possible explanation for the significant increase in repeat victims with 2,503 repeat victims recorded in the 12 months to March 2017, this has increased to 4,931 in the 12 months to March 2021. The team explain the benefits and reasons for reporting to communities which has challenged historic underreporting. The Rural Engagement newsletter and relationships with partners such as those documented above have contributed to the promotion of the need to report crime.

Furthermore, new analytical products have been developed to identify hotspots for key priorities such as Hare Coursing. Monthly hotspot data is used to inform an evidence base for targeted patrols and equally demonstrate to rural communities by sharing this as an explanation as to why they should be reporting all incidents.

Tri-Service Rural Community Officer (Pilot)

Following the Strategic Governance Board (SGB) on the 2 March 2020 it was agreed to implement a 15-month pilot of a Tri-Service Rural Community Officer (TSRCO) working in the Dengie Peninsula. The pilot has been overseen and implemented by the LPSU Chief Inspector and is currently within its evaluation period before with closing report completed and timetabled for SGB at the end of March 2022.

The collaborative role included functions of new community engagement and prevention role for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) and Essex Police (EP), and additional response to medical emergencies like a Community First Responder supporting the East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST).

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Primarily the concept was about one person representing three services, however going forward there is scope for there to be additional benefits for the Local Authority and Health.

This initiative supports a more locally focused Prevention role to enable the delivery of a highly visible resource to the public, which previously has not been easily achievable in remote communities on the Dengie Peninsula.

The pilot outcomes are aligned to the following Service objectives.

Table 14

Fire and Rescue Plan
Prevention, protection, and response - We will plan and provide effective and efficient prevention, protection, and response activities, so the public continue to have trust and confidence in us.
Collaborate with our partners - We will work together with our partners to provide a more efficient and effective service for the public.
Develop and broaden the roles and range of activities undertaken by the Service
Improve safety on our roads - Reduce the personal, social, and economic impact of road traffic incidents
Help the vulnerable to stay safe - To help vulnerable people to be safer in Essex
Make best use of our resources - To save lives, prevent harm and protect our communities by developing and broadening our roles and partnerships.

Table 15

Police and Crime Plan
More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing - ensure that crime prevention is based in the community, that victims come first, and that you know what is happening in your neighbourhood.
Crack down on Anti-Social Behaviour - keep our communities safe across the whole of Essex, reducing the disruption and distress anti-social behaviour causes people.
Protecting Children and Vulnerable People from Harm - ensure children and vulnerable people are appropriately safeguarded and that they receive the help and support they need.
Improve Safety on Our Roads - reduce harm on the roads and promote safer driving.

Table 16

EEAST Corporate Strategy
Be an exceptional place to work, volunteer and learn
Provide outstanding quality of care and performance.
Be excellent collaborators and innovators as system partners.
Be an environmentally and financially sustainable organisation.

As previously mentioned, the pilot is ending with a paper being presented to SGB at the end of March 2022 with recommendations on next steps.

What are the drivers of crime types which are specific to rural areas? If these are different according to crime type, please give detail about the variations.

Crime types in rural areas are broad across much of the reported crime classifications. The biggest crime types by proportion of offences are violence without injury, criminal damage, violence with injury and vehicle offences making up 62.8% of rural crime in the 12 months to February 2022. Of these, 44.3% of all rural crime was violence with or without injury.

How is Essex Police engaging with rural communities? How has this changed over the last three years?

Engagement with rural communities is undertaken in a broad range of methods. The Rural Engagement Team and Community Policing Teams utilise social media to raise awareness of local issues and highlight the policing activity in rural areas. This growth in social media continues to provide a visible platform to reach large sections of rural communities. Understanding that social media is only one platform, the Rural Engagement Team began a monthly newsletter in 2021 which continues to provide updates on policing activities and invite comment and contact from local communities. This is distributed through partners both digitally and physically. The COVID-19 pandemic saw a reduction in physical engagement events. This engagement has been reinvigorated with the reduction in restrictions and officers from the Rural Engagement Team have been assigned specific geographical responsibilities. Large events have started up again and been attended such as the Doe Show and plans for the Tendring Show later in 2022. Rural Strategy engagement events have been popular and seen a healthy attendance to discuss the new strategy.

How is Essex Police working with partner agencies to address rural crime and share information? How effective are these relationships?

The Rural Engagement Team have close working relationships with local authorities and community organisations such as the Rural Community Council of England and Essex Rural Partnership. The effectiveness is demonstrated through the frequent requests to present and attend local meetings organised by partners. Equally, the team work closely with other enforcement agencies such as Environmental Health, BT, Openreach and local authority enforcement officers when tackling joint problems such as cable theft and fly tipping.

How is Essex police working with ECFRS to protect people in rural and isolated settings through joint advice and support? Please provide an update on the Tri-Service Rural Community Officer pilot.

The Local Policing Support Unit (LPSU) Chief Inspector has overseen the Tri-Service Rural Community Officer Pilot¹⁵ This fifteen-month pilot was setup to carry out the functions of community engagement, prevention activities and act as a first responder to medical incidents in the Dengie area. The pilot is drawing to a close and a full evaluation is due at the end of March 2022.

¹⁵ See page 27

Which rural crime types are increasing and what is the biggest area of concern for rural crime in the next three years?

Of the twenty-one crime types reported upon, the most statistically significant increases have been in Violence with and without injury which has seen a 7.9% increase, Rape 71.5%, Other sexual offences 23.9%, Further exploration into the data behind these specific increases would be required as some of these increases may relate to specific investigations or bulk reports.

What activity is planned to address rural crime in the next three years?

The Rural Crime Strategy is currently under consultation. Once agreed, it will form the basis of activity for rural policing and set the delivery plan of the Rural Engagement Team. Through the quarterly Rural Crime Forum, analysis is completed to understand current and forecasted trends. The Rural Engagement Team, subject to the renewed strategy will continue to focus on

- Hare Coursing & Poaching
- Wildlife and Heritage Crime
- Fly Tipping and large-scale waste
- Trespass and Unauthorised Encampments
- Quality policing to Rural and GRT communities
- Theft of major equipment and plant

What activities are proven to be working well? What impact have they had? Is there scope to expand on these?

Activity to tackle Hare Coursing has had a continued success. Despite significant activity to increase reporting which was anticipated to see an increase in Hare Coursing incidents, reports have declined. In the 12 months to February 2022 a 25% decrease year-on-year (124 incidents) was reported. The consistent approach to managing unauthorised encampments has continued to drive the decline in this area. The Rural Engagement Team will continue to focus on these two activities.

If you had additional resource, how would you deploy it and what difference would it make?

Further resourcing within the Rural Engagement Team would be used to increase capacity throughout the week and bolster capability to respond to rural crimes. The current staffing and working structure broadly provide two officers on duty on day and late shifts, seven days a week. This does create a resourcing challenge to have capacity to respond across the whole county or to multiple incidents. An increase in investigative capacity of the team would enable the team to increase in problem solving and investigating further county wide crime series.

What interventions could be put in place to prevent hare coursing activity taking place?

In July 2021, a seven-force collaborative approach was undertaken. This approach utilises anti-social behaviour legislation to prohibit those suspected involved in Hare Coursing being away from their home location with dogs in any of the seven forces. The consistency in taking this approach will show overtime its effectiveness. The upcoming increase in Hare Coursing sentencing is expected to have an impact with greater penalties coming into force. The Rural Engagement Team overseeing Hare Coursing investigations has been successful. Where evidence of Hare Coursing has been challenging, utilising a wide range of legislation from motoring offences to criminal damage has led to recent convictions.

What is the data telling us about Domestic Abuse in rural areas? How is this different to urban areas and what approach is being taken to reduce Domestic Abuse in rural Essex?

19.6% of all Rural Offences are classified as domestic abuse related vs 18.9% across the county. This is an increase of 6.6% pts from the 12 months to February 2017. The increase in Rural Offences with a DA flag applied appears to be driven by Sexual Offences, which has risen by 10.3% pts from the 12 months to February 2018 to the 12 months to February 2022.

How is drug dealing activity different in rural areas? What examples are there of success in reducing drug activity in rural areas? What activity could help to prevent and reduce drug activity in rural areas?

Further work is required to understand the breakdown of drug supply between urban and rural areas to understand the causes and challenges to tackle and whether they differ in rural areas. It has not been possible to address this question at this time.

6.0 Forward Look

The renewed Essex Rural Crime Strategy is currently under consultation. Public engagement events have been held and have been popular showing the desire from rural communities to be involved in the future of rural policing. The renewed strategy will ensure that the rural crime priorities reflect the views of all rural communities and tackle the emerging issues.

Looking forward, to protect rural and isolated areas a continued focus will need to be sustained in the areas of success notably – Hare Coursing and Unauthorised Encampments. Our approach will need to be developed to understand the data behind and tackle emerging trends such as the rise in violence without injury.

Risks & Vulnerabilities

- Not understanding and focusing on new and emerging crime trends (e.g. violence without injury and increase in rural sexual offences)
- Moving away from areas where sustained crime decrease has been seen leading to re-emergence of the issue. (e.g. Hare Coursing and Unauthorised Encampments)

As outlined in this report, the view of what 'rural crime' is can appear conflicting. Whilst some areas of work such as hare coursing and plant and machinery theft paint the picture of rural crime, other matters such as domestic abuse within rural communities remain a significant issue. Furthermore, consideration around prioritising resourcing in rural areas and the direction of focus needs to be undertaken in line with the new strategy. The districts of Uttlesford and Maldon are the most significantly rural districts, however using ONS classifications which are used in performance data, rural parts of generally urban areas contribute to performance but have very different local issues and community needs. It needs to be clearly defined the geographical areas and communities that will be prioritised through rural engagement to sustain the most impact.

The change in Unauthorised Encampment legislation is anticipated to be enacted through 2022. This will bring new challenges around police action and enforcement providing wider powers of enforcement. Whilst this will be subject to NPCC guidance, Essex has no transit sites and as such will present a challenge with the anticipated increase in directions to leave. This will also have an impact on vulnerable persons notably those with medical needs, disabilities, and children within GRT communities. The Rural Engagement Team are fully engaged in the national and local working groups to be in the strongest position to understand and prepare for the upcoming changes

Further resourcing within the Rural Engagement Team would be used to increase capacity throughout the week and bolster capability to respond to rural crimes. The current staffing and working structure broadly provide two officers on duty on day and late shifts, seven days a week. This does create a resourcing challenge to have capacity to respond across the whole county during times of demand. An increase in investigative capacity of the team would enable the team to increase in problem and investigating further county wide crime series.

7.0 Impact Implications

Most unauthorised encampments involve members of the GRT community. The imminent change in legislation around aggravated trespass has identified concerns from GRT groups that the legislation will result in unfair treatment to members of the GRT community who are treated as an ethnic group under the equality act. Within Essex there are no current transit sites and as such no lawful stopping provisions for those who partake in the GRT way of life. Whilst the legislation is subject to its own equality impact it is expected that there will be a further process to understand the legislation and to devise NPCC guidance on the issue before implementation.

With reference to the Police approach to unauthorised encampments, a positive outcome has been the consistency of response that the Rural Engagement Team provide ensuring that a fair, balanced, proportionate, and justified approach is taken before any enforcement.

Contributors

Katie Roberts - Business Crime Analyst
Jemma Slaney – Performance Analyst

Appendix – Data Tables

I. Unauthorised Encampments

Table 17

Unauthorised Encampment Incidents Seasonality					
	12m to March 2018	12m to March 2019	12m to March 2020	12m to March 2021	Average 2017 - 2021
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
January					
February					
March					

The Red- Blue scale above is used to indicate seasonality. The darker the red the higher than the average the number of recorded incidents. The darker the blue indicates the lower than the average number of recorded incidents.

II. Fly Tipping

Table 18

	12m to March 2018	12m to March 2019	12m to March 2020	12m to March 2021
Total Incidents	385	386	325	349
Average Monthly	32.1	32.2	27.1	29.1

Table 19

Month	2017	2018	2019	2020
April	41	34	21	44
May	32	42	37	38
June	28	33	30	31
July	30	28	33	33
August	27	33	33	39
Average	31.6	34	30.8	37

Table 20

District	% Rural Postcodes	Group	
Uttlesford	79.3	1	More than 75% Rural
Maldon	59.7	2	More than 50% Rural
Tendring	39.9	3	25-50% Rural
Braintree	39.2		
Colchester	31.4		
Brentwood	30.3		
Epping	29.9		
Chelmsford	22.5	4	10-24% Rural
Rochford	19.8		
Thurrock	12.2		
Basildon	0.9	5	Less than 1% Rural
Castle Point	0.0		
Harlow	0.0		
Southend	0.0		
Stansted Airport		N/A	