Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2021/22

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

Title of Report:	**Use of Force/Stop & Search – Q3 2021/22**
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Author on behalf of Chief Officer:	**Dan Youngman 42078817**
Date of Approval:	**03/02/2022**

1.0 Purpose of Report

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

2.0 Recommendations

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

3.0 Executive Summary

Use of Force

There were 5,686 instances of Use of Force recorded in Essex during Q3 2021/22. This is an increase of 996 (21.2%) additional forms completed, compared to the same quarter for the 2020/21, and a 3.8% decrease on the previous quarter.

3,793 forms (66.7%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

27 forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, a decrease of five from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 14 separate incidents (five fewer than the previous quarter).

117 uses of Taser that have been recorded as a first tactic in this quarter (75 fewer than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 88 separate incidents (seven more than the previous quarter).

80.5% of subjects on Use of Force records were male. 51.2% of all subjects are male and in the 18-34 age range, with the average age being 33 years old.

The proportion of subjects from Ethnic Minorities continues to be higher than the proportion within the population of Essex as a whole. 8.3% of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 6.1 percentage points higher than the 2.2% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2019 ONS mid-year estimate).

54.1% of reasons for the use of force are to prevent harm to people or property. Alcohol and Drugs continue to be high impact factors but have been joined by Mental Health.

The tactics most likely to cause injury to subjects are Dog Bite (66.7% for minor injury) and Baton Used (50%), Taser as a tactic is unlikely to cause injury to the subject (6.1%), however this rises to 57.1% if the Taser is actually fired.

Stop and Search

There were 4,199 stops recorded in Quarter 3 of 2021/22. This is an increase of 11.7% (439 records) on the previous quarter and a 21.3% decrease (1,139 records) on the equivalent quarter last year. It is possible that the downward trend of the last five quarters has now steadied.

According to the SMSR survey[1] 76.1% of respondents agree that Essex Police use Stop Search powers fairly and respectfully. This falls to 67.4% for respondents from Ethnic Minorities.

97.8% (3,927) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops. There were 16 Section 60 Stops in Q3.

The peak age range for those stopped is 18-24, equating to 1,293 stops in the last quarter (30.8% of subjects) with 87.0% of subjects being male.

There were 3.5 Stops per 1000 people on individuals from Ethnic Minorities in Essex last quarter, this compares to 1.6 Stops per 1000 for White individuals. This means that an individual from an Ethnic Minority is over twice as likely to be stopped than a white individual.

For Q3 2021/22, 25.7% of Essex outcomes were positive which is 1.4 percentage points lower than the MSG average. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on individuals from Ethnic Minorities were 0.8 percentage points higher than for White individuals.

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[1] The latest results are for Q2 of 2021/2022.

4.0   Introduction/Background

This report discusses the Use of Force forms and stop searches submitted for incidents occurring between 1st October 2021 and 31st December 2021.

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

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

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

Data from the 2021 Census is due to be published by the ONS on July 13th 2022.

For the purposes of this report, the term Ethnic Minorities is used to describe all minorities other than White minorities. White minorities are included in White.

5.0 Current Work and Performance

Use of Force
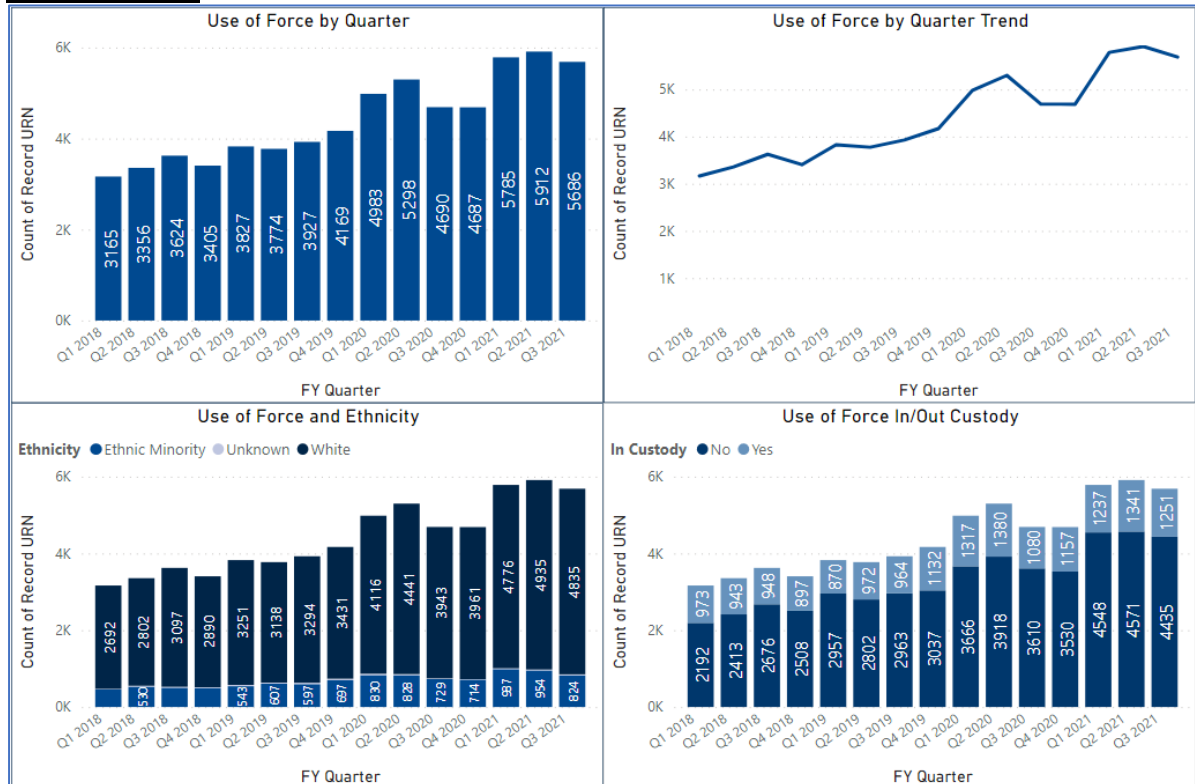
There were 5,686 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q3 2021/22. This is an increase of 996 (21.2%) additional forms completed, compared to the same quarter for the 2020/21, and a 3.8% decrease on the previous quarter. The proportion of force being used in custody remains stable. In the last quarter it was 22.3% compared to the 8-quarter average of 24.2%.

The below table details the tactics employed with each Use of Force in Q3 2021/22. It details the first eight tactics employed (not necessarily the most severe), and more than one will have been used in most incidents. The MobileFirst app allows for the inputting of up to 20 Tactics for one incident, there was one form in this quarter in which more than eight tactics were detailed.

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

In 78 reports, Tactical Communications (Tac Comms) were the only method employed, suggesting further training on the app may be required, as a form is not required when Tac Comms are the only method. This is 11 reports more than the previous quarter.

74.2% of forms did not state that Tac Comms were used as a first tactic. It is unlikely that this is the case, it is inferred that officers simply did not enter Tac Comms as a tactic used.

3,793 forms (66.7%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

27 forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, a decrease of five from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 14 separate incidents (five fewer than the previous quarter).

| Tactic	Tactic 1	Tactic 2	Tactic 3	Tactic 4	Tactic 5	Tactic 6	Tactic 7	Tactic 8	Tactic Count	%age of Tactics
Compliant Handcuffing	1731	479	80	26	9	2	1	0	2328	21.80%
Tactical Communication	1543	407	139	47	19	4	3	0	2162	20.24%
Unarmed skills	538	589	234	89	38	9	2	0	1499	14.04%
Ground Restraint	556	388	244	89	15	5	0	1	1298	12.15%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	653	422	318	50	17	5	0	0	1465	13.72%
Other / improvised	292	314	146	83	38	16	1	2	892	8.35%
Limb / Body Restraints	175	197	122	62	26	5	3	0	590	5.52%
Taser	117	94	7	4	5	1	0	0	228	2.13%
Baton drawn	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0.10%
Spit guard	11	25	31	17	4	3	0	0	91	0.85%
Dog Deployed	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	0.10%
CS PAVA drawn	12	11	4	1	0	0	0	0	28	0.26%
CS PAVA used	9	7	7	4	2	0	0	0	29	0.27%
Firearms	27	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	0.32%
Baton used	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.02%
Shield	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.06%
Dog Bite	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.06%

117 uses of Taser that have been recorded as a first tactic in this quarter (75 fewer than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 88 separate incidents (seven more than the previous quarter).

Since Spit Guards were introduced in 2018/19, levels of use have been generally steady. As can be seen from the below charts, there seems to be a correlation between Spit Guard use and Officers Spat at and this is expected. Statistical analysis shows a correlation of 0.87 which is a very strong positive correlation.
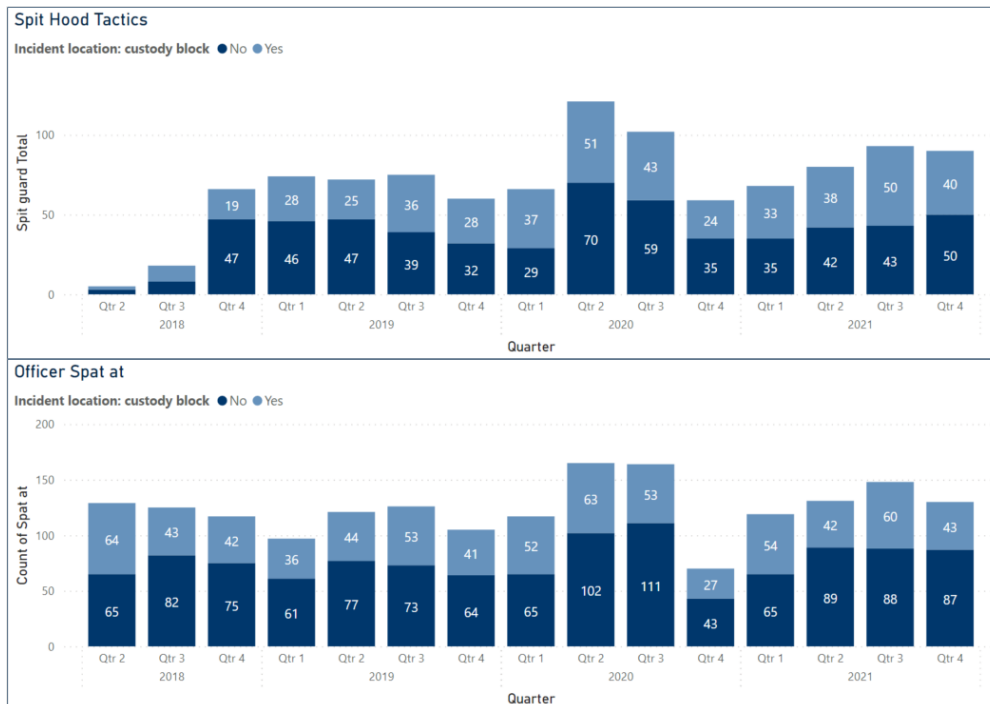
Historically Colchester, Basildon, Southend, Thurrock, Chelmsford, Harlow and Tendring are the districts that account for most use of force. These seven districts accounted for the location of 80.9% of all force used. The proportions of location by LPA remain fairly consistent.

When looking at which Commands use force the most[2], the Local Policing Areas and OPC account for 94.6% of all forms recorded in the past quarter. Since the inception of Use of Force forms on Mobile First, all three LPAs have shown an upward trend in the volume of forms submitted by officers, this is a reflection on how technology has improved the ease of reporting in this area and, as a result, improved data quality.
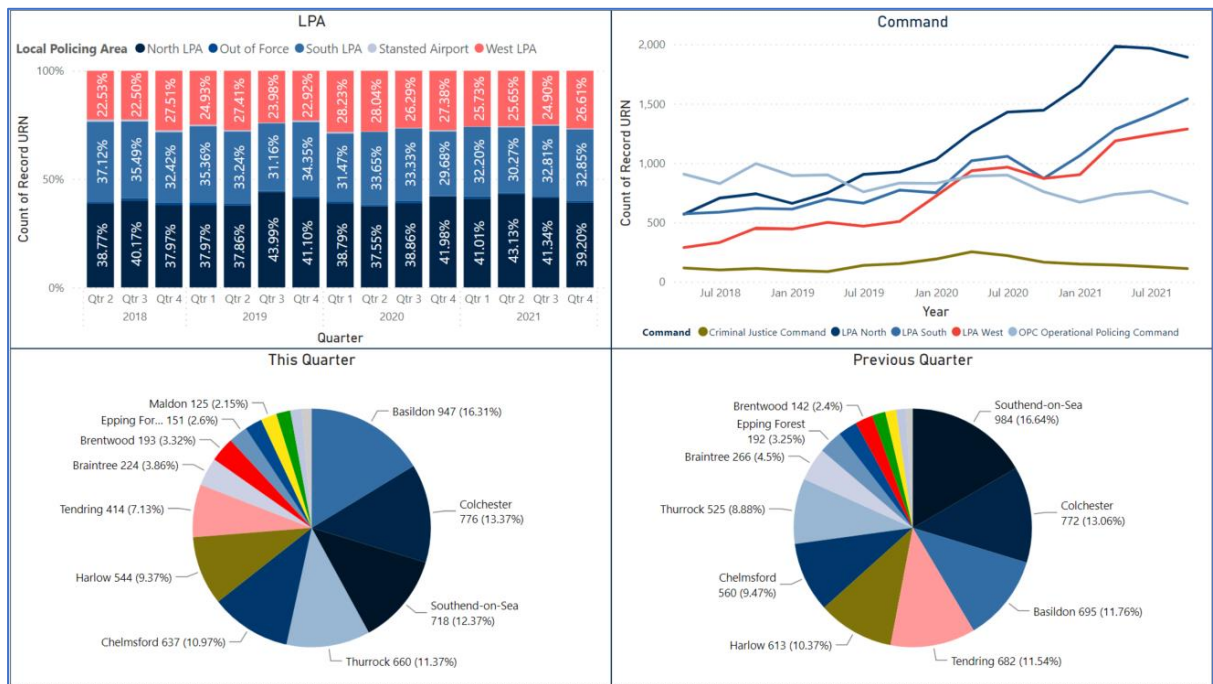
80.5% of those subjected to Use of Force were identified by officers as male, 19.4% were identified as female; 11 subjects were identified as transgender. This is a slightly lower proportion of Female subjects than the last quarter (21.4%).

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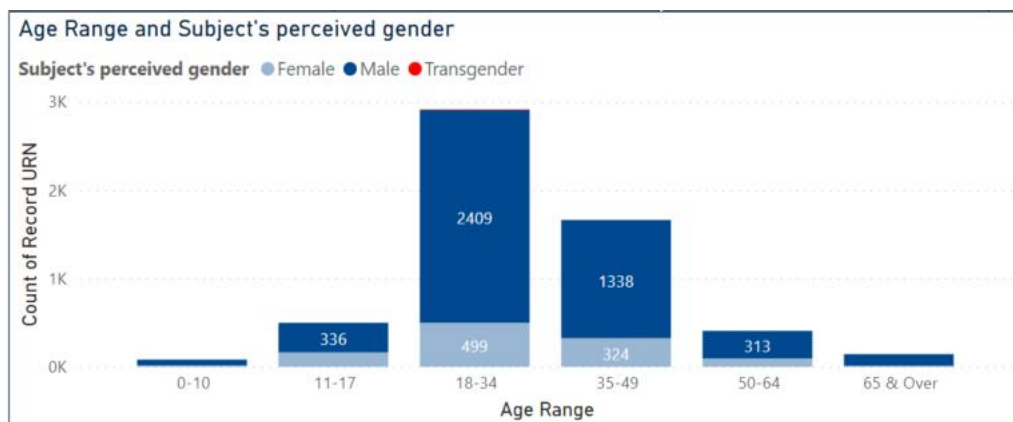
[2] In order to do this, the Collar Number is looked up on a snapshot of serving officers taken each month. The caveat here is that all figures are based upon where an officer CURRENTLY serves.

33 was the average age for subjects (where a date of birth was given/stated), for males the average is 33 and for females the average age is 31. The mode (age most recorded) is 17 for female subjects and 31 for males. Males with a perceived age between 18-34 years were the most common gender and age band in the review period.

85.2% of subjects were White, this is 7.2 percentage points lower than the proportion of White residents of Essex.

8.3% of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 6.1 percentage points higher than the 2.2% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2019 ONS mid-year estimate).

	Use of Force per 1000 population						Ratio to White				
	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities
LPA North	2.52	3.06	2.88	17.49	4.33	5.61	1.21	1.14	6.94	1.72	2.23
Braintree	1.37	0.43	2.36	1.17	6.92	3.14	0.31	1.72	0.85	5.05	2.29
Chelmsford	3.29	4.96	2.85	15.69	6.55	6.17	1.51	0.87	4.77	1.99	1.88
Colchester	3.77	1.99	2.06	20.5	2.8	5.5	0.53	0.55	5.44	0.74	1.46
Maldon	1.86	8.17	0	24.54	0	6.47	4.39	0.00	13.19	0.00	3.48
Tendring	2.64	2.86	3.36	35.49	0	6.85	1.08	1.27	13.44	0.00	2.59
Uttlesford	0.77	4.25	8.91	3.6	14.05	6.52	5.52	11.57	4.68	18.25	8.47
LPA South	3.2	4.26	2.04	15.21	11.46	6.83	1.33	0.64	4.75	3.58	2.13
Basildon	4.68	7.13	0.93	18.43	21.39	9.76	1.52	0.20	3.94	4.57	2.09
Castle Point	1.39	1.75	0.93	14.58	14.93	5.15	1.26	0.67	10.49	10.74	3.71
Rochford	1.18	1.66	2.08	8.06	0	2.85	1.41	1.76	6.83	0.00	2.42
Southend	3.66	3.09	2.37	11.87	6.47	5.09	0.84	0.65	3.24	1.77	1.39
LPA West	2.95	2.68	3.03	7.24	9.02	4.9	0.91	1.03	2.45	3.06	1.66
Brentwood	2.12	4.12	4.13	18.85	0	6.49	1.94	1.95	8.89	0.00	3.06
Epping	0.97	0	1.05	7.72	2.06	2.17	0.00	1.08	7.96	2.12	2.24
Harlow	5.75	7.04	4.65	12.41	24.89	8.61	1.22	0.81	2.16	4.33	1.50
Thurrock	3.49	2	3.51	5.22	11.47	4.54	0.57	1.01	1.50	3.29	1.30
Force	2.86	3.38	2.83	11.52	7.84	5.83	1.18	0.99	4.03	2.74	2.04

A clearer method to show the ethnic disproportionality for Use of Force is looking at the number of Forms per 1000 population in Essex. From this it is possible to see that individuals from Ethnic Minorities are twice as likely to have force used upon them than White individuals. This rises to four times more likely for Black or Black British individuals based solely on ONS residence data.

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

Reason for Force	Q3 2021/22	%age Reasons	%age Forms
Prevent Harm	2790	13.75%	47.19%
Effect Arrest	2938	14.48%	49.70%
Protect Self	2778	13.69%	46.99%
Protect Other Officers	2642	13.02%	44.69%
Prevent Escape	2540	12.51%	42.96%
Protect Subject	1607	7.92%	27.18%
Prevent Offence	1419	6.99%	24.00%

Effect Search	1236	6.09%	20.91%
Protect Public	1154	5.69%	19.52%
Remove Handcuffs	391	1.93%	6.61%
Secure Evidence	403	1.99%	6.82%
Other	333	1.64%	5.63%
Method Of Entry	65	0.32%	1.10%

Combining the reasons that encompass preventing harm as a whole[3], we can say that 54.1% of reasons are to prevent harm.

Impact Factor	Q3 2021/22	%age all Factors	%age Forms
Alcohol	2460	19.96%	52.49%
Mental Health	2172	17.62%	46.34%
Size/Gender/Build	1934	15.69%	41.26%
Drugs	1722	13.97%	36.74%
Prior Knowledge	1511	12.26%	32.24%
Other Factor	1156	9.38%	24.66%
Weapon	619	5.02%	13.21%
Crowd	484	3.93%	10.33%
Acute Behavioural Disorder	267	2.17%	5.70%

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

Mental Health is an impact factor in 46.3% of forms (up 25 percentage points from the previous quarter) whereas 8.1% of subjects are reported as having an officer perceived Mental Disability.

There has clearly been a huge rise in the use of Mental Health as an Impact Factor in Use of Force forms, however the reason for this is not currently clear.

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

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

| Q4 2020/21	207	1		Q4 2020/21	236	5
Q1 2021/22	240	6		Q1 2021/22	338	8
Q2 2021/22	245	4		Q2 2021/22	294	6
Q3 2021/22	205	2		Q3 2021/22	302	5

In the last quarter, Staff have been injured in 5.3% of incidents and Subjects have been injured in 3.6% of incidents. These proportions have remained steady since the last quarter.

By calculating the number and severity of injuries that have occurred after each tactic type and then dividing that by the total use of each tactic, it is possible to ascertain the likelihood that the use of each tactic will result in either minor or severe injury.

Tactic	Likelihood of Leading to Minor Injury	Likelihood of Leading to Severe Injury
Dog Bite	66.7%	0.0%
Baton used	50.0%	0.0%
CS PAVA used	20.7%	0.0%
Baton drawn	18.2%	9.1%
Shield	16.7%	0.0%
Spit guard	16.5%	0.0%
Ground Restraint	11.8%	0.3%
Limb / Body Restraints	11.5%	0.0%
CS PAVA drawn	10.7%	0.0%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	10.0%	0.0%
Unarmed skills	9.5%	0.1%
Dog Deployed	9.1%	0.0%
Other / improvised	8.9%	0.1%
Tactical Communication	8.2%	0.1%
Taser	6.1%	0.4%
Compliant Handcuffing	2.1%	0.0%
Firearms	0.0%	0.0%

As can be expected, Dog Bite and Baton used are highly likely to have caused injury in the last quarter. It is important to note the very low likelihood of Taser and Firearms tactics of causing injury. There were 14 forms that detailed a Taser being fired and these led to eight minor injuries, therefore the likelihood of Taser firing leading to injury is 57.1%.

Stop and Search
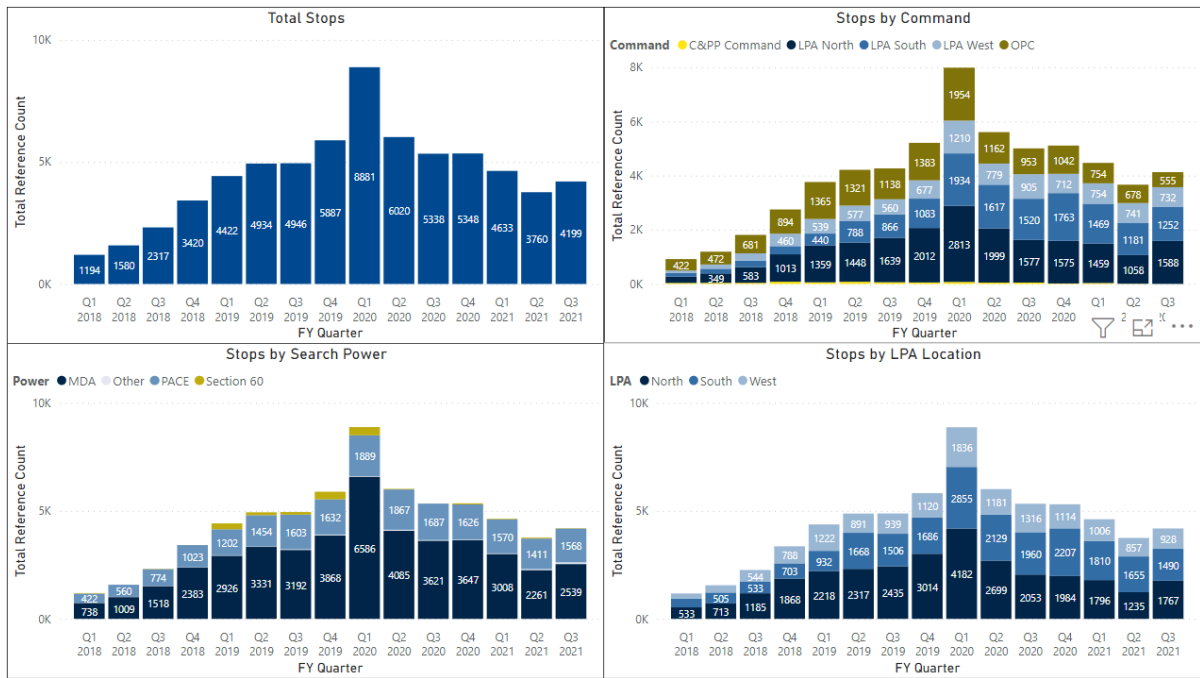
There were 4,199 stops recorded in Quarter 3 of 2021/22. This is an increase of 11.7% (439 records) on the previous quarter and an 21.3% decrease (1,139 records) on the equivalent quarter last year. It is possible that the downward trend of the last five quarters has now steadied.

97.8% (3,927) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops. There were 16 Section 60 Stops in Q3.

LPA	District Name	2019/20			2020/21				2021/22		
		Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	864	713	818	1148	576	567	516	489	307	455
	Colchester	789	911	1233	1972	1167	815	671	579	406	507
	Tendring	261	430	591	538	514	322	442	427	226	261
	Uttlesford / Braintree	403	381	372	524	442	349	355	301	296	544
South	Basildon	476	605	738	1423	1133	1033	1223	964	636	851
	Castle Point/Rochford	448	360	345	368	263	451	272	261	194	163
	Southend	744	541	603	1064	733	476	711	585	825	476
West	Brentwood / Epping	337	310	443	733	514	639	532	458	296	356
	Harlow	330	274	404	643	359	360	228	258	245	269
	Thurrock	224	355	273	460	308	317	355	290	316	303
	Stansted Airport	58	66	67	8	11	9	43	21	13	14

LPA	District Name	2019/20			2020/21				2021/22		
		Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	17.5%	14.4%	13.9%	12.9%	9.6%	10.6%	9.6%	10.6%	8.2%	10.8%
	Colchester	16.0%	18.4%	20.9%	22.2%	19.4%	15.3%	12.5%	12.5%	10.8%	12.1%
	Tendring	5.3%	8.7%	10.0%	6.1%	8.5%	6.0%	8.3%	9.2%	6.0%	6.2%
	Uttlesford / Braintree	8.2%	7.7%	6.3%	5.9%	7.3%	6.5%	6.6%	6.5%	7.9%	13.0%
South	Basildon	9.6%	12.2%	12.5%	16.0%	18.8%	19.4%	22.9%	20.8%	16.9%	20.3%
	Castle Point/Rochford	9.1%	7.3%	5.9%	4.1%	4.4%	8.4%	5.1%	5.6%	5.2%	3.9%
	Southend	15.1%	10.9%	10.2%	12.0%	12.2%	8.9%	13.3%	12.6%	21.9%	11.3%
West	Brentwood / Epping	6.8%	6.3%	7.5%	8.3%	8.5%	12.0%	9.9%	9.9%	7.9%	8.5%
	Harlow	6.7%	5.5%	6.9%	7.2%	6.0%	6.7%	4.3%	5.6%	6.5%	6.4%
	Thurrock	4.5%	7.2%	4.6%	5.2%	5.1%	5.9%	6.6%	6.3%	8.4%	7.2%
	Stansted Airport	1.2%	1.3%	1.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.8%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%

North LPA had most stops in the last quarter. Basildon has the highest volume of records this quarter with 851 followed by Uttlesford & Braintree with 544. This is the largest number of stops completed on Uttlesford & Braintree for over two years.
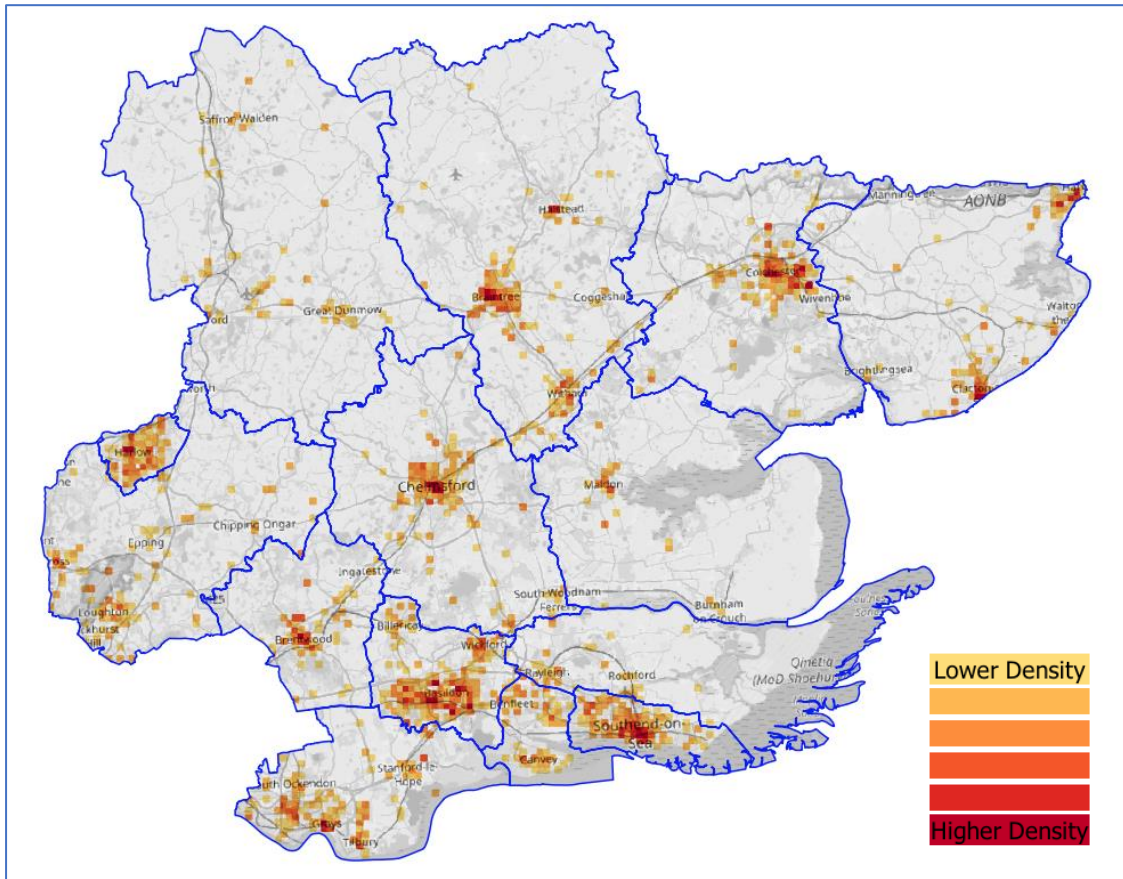
The majority of stops occurred in the main population centres of the county.

85.1% of all stops last quarter were carried out by officers attached to the LPA Commands and a further 13.2% were carried out by officers from Operational Policing Command (OPC).
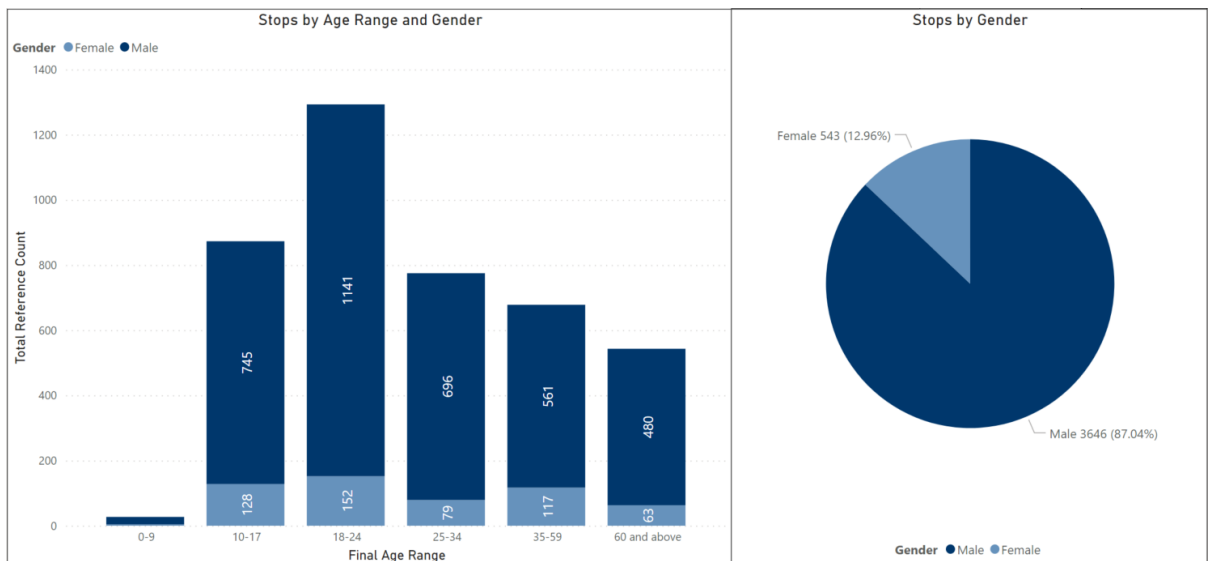
During Quarter 3 of 2021/22 and where there is age and gender data, 87.0% of subjects stopped were male with 18 – 24 being the most prevalent age group for both male and female subjects. The Modal age for male subjects is 18 and female subjects is 16.

|	Stops per 1000 population						Ratio to White				
	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities
LPA North	1.58	2.42	2.17	10.70	3.78	3.88	1.53	1.37	6.77	2.39	2.46
Chelmsford/Maldon	1.32	1.48	1.78	8.33	3.64	3.03	1.12	1.35	6.31	2.76	2.30
Colchester	1.76	2.21	1.51	13.13	3.26	4.04	1.26	0.86	7.46	1.85	2.30
Tendring	1.56	0.00	1.35	2.09	13.16	3.55	0.00	0.87	1.34	8.44	2.28
Uttlesford/Braintree	1.72	2.66	4.62	12.35	2.00	4.95	1.55	2.69	7.18	1.16	2.88
LPA South	1.88	3.55	3.19	8.02	5.46	4.76	1.89	1.70	4.27	2.90	2.53
Basildon	3.15	4.67	3.45	11.38	8.91	6.76	1.48	1.10	3.61	2.83	2.15
Castle Point/Rochford	0.71	1.27	0.49	5.92	0.00	1.86	1.79	0.69	8.34	0.00	2.62
Southend	1.79	3.71	3.76	4.12	5.39	3.92	2.07	2.10	2.30	3.01	2.19
LPA West	1.26	1.59	1.76	3.42	2.43	2.41	1.26	1.40	2.71	1.93	1.91
Brentwood/Epping	1.10	1.55	1.82	7.24	1.53	2.76	1.41	1.65	6.58	1.39	2.51
Harlow	1.80	3.08	1.86	6.49	6.79	3.88	1.71	1.03	3.61	3.77	2.16
Thurrock	1.18	0.89	1.61	1.80	1.77	1.61	0.75	1.36	1.53	1.50	1.36
Force	1.60	2.49	2.33	6.00	3.80	3.54	1.56	1.46	3.75	2.38	2.21
Force (Essex Residents)	0.92	1.23	0.82	2.08	1.66	1.35	1.34	0.89	2.26	1.80	1.47
Force (Essex Non-Residents)	0.10	0.38	0.73	1.26	0.59	0.78	3.80	7.30	12.60	5.90	7.80

Looking at the ethnic breakdown of Stop Searches for Q3 2021/2, an individual from an Ethnic Minority is 2.2 times more likely to be stopped than a White individual, this is a slight improvement on the last quarter (2.6 times more likely). The above table shows a breakdown of stops per 1000 population and of the ratio of various ethnicities to White across the force. Black to White disproportionality is highest in the South LPA and lowest in the West LPA.

For records in which it is possible to ascertain that the subject is an Essex resident[4], the disproportionality ratios fall by an average of 30.1%. An Essex Resident from an Ethnic Minority is 1.5 time more likely to be stopped than a White Resident compared to 2.2 times for all individuals stopped.

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[4] This is done by matching the town of residence or postcode with lists of towns and postcodes in Essex. Whilst the quality of the data is not perfect and subject to input errors, it is unlikely that the error is significant.
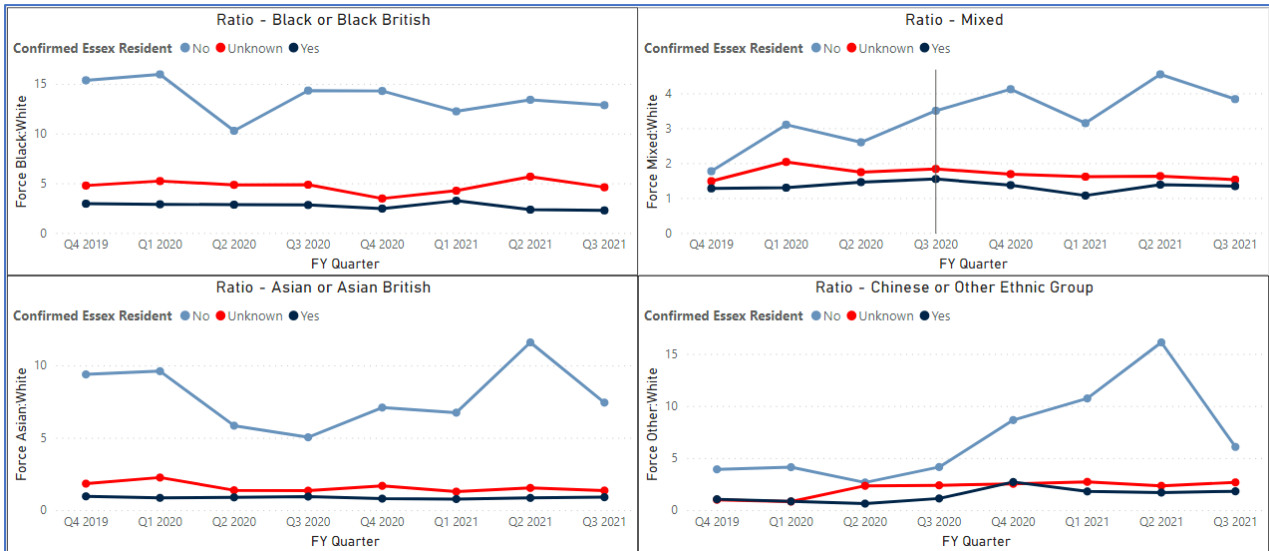
The Ethnicity to White ratio can be tracked over the ratio for Essex residents is consistently beneath that for non-residents and for those who did not provide details.
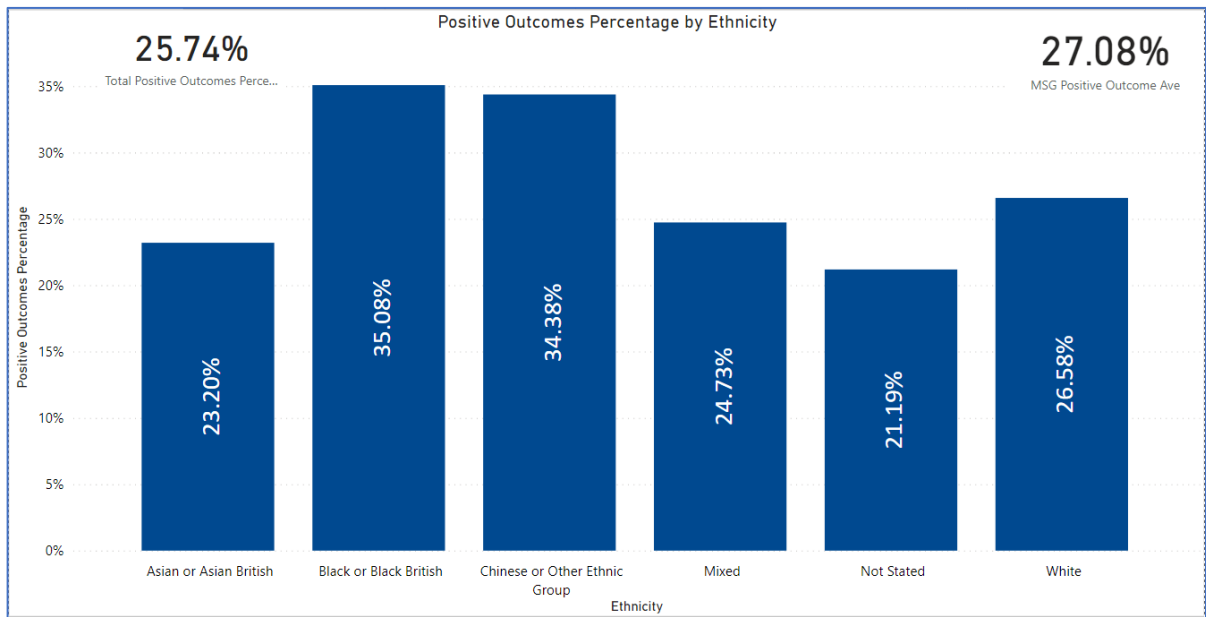

Whilst there is no country-wide definition as to what counts as a Positive outcome for Stop Search, Police.uk uses all outcomes apart from "A no further action disposal[5]." Using this method, it is possible to measure the performance of Essex with regards to its Most Similar Group[6] of forces. The above chart shows data for Q3 broken down by ethnicity.

For Q3 2021/22, 25.7% of Essex outcomes were positive which is 1.4 percentage points lower than the MSG average. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on individuals from Ethnic Minorities were 0.8 percentage points higher than for White individuals.

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[5] This now includes the outcomes "Other", "Verbal Warning" and "Article found - detailed outcome unavailable"
[6] Avon &Somerset, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Staffordshire, Sussex and Essex.
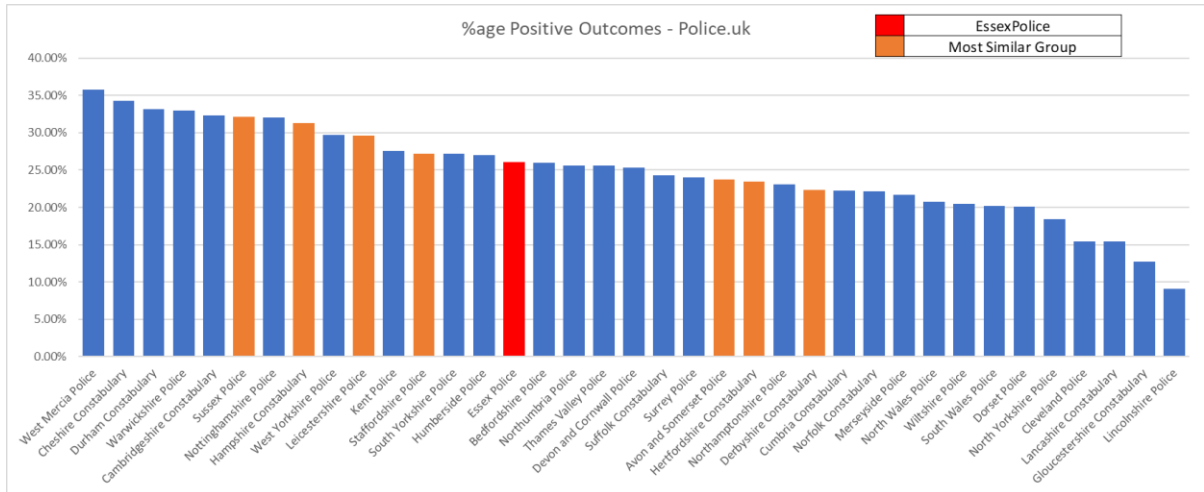
The above chart shows the position of Essex Police against the other forces in England and Wales that publish data to Police.uk (Jun-Nov 2021).
Results for the SMSR survey generally have a lag of a quarter, therefore the most up to date results are for Q2 2020/21.
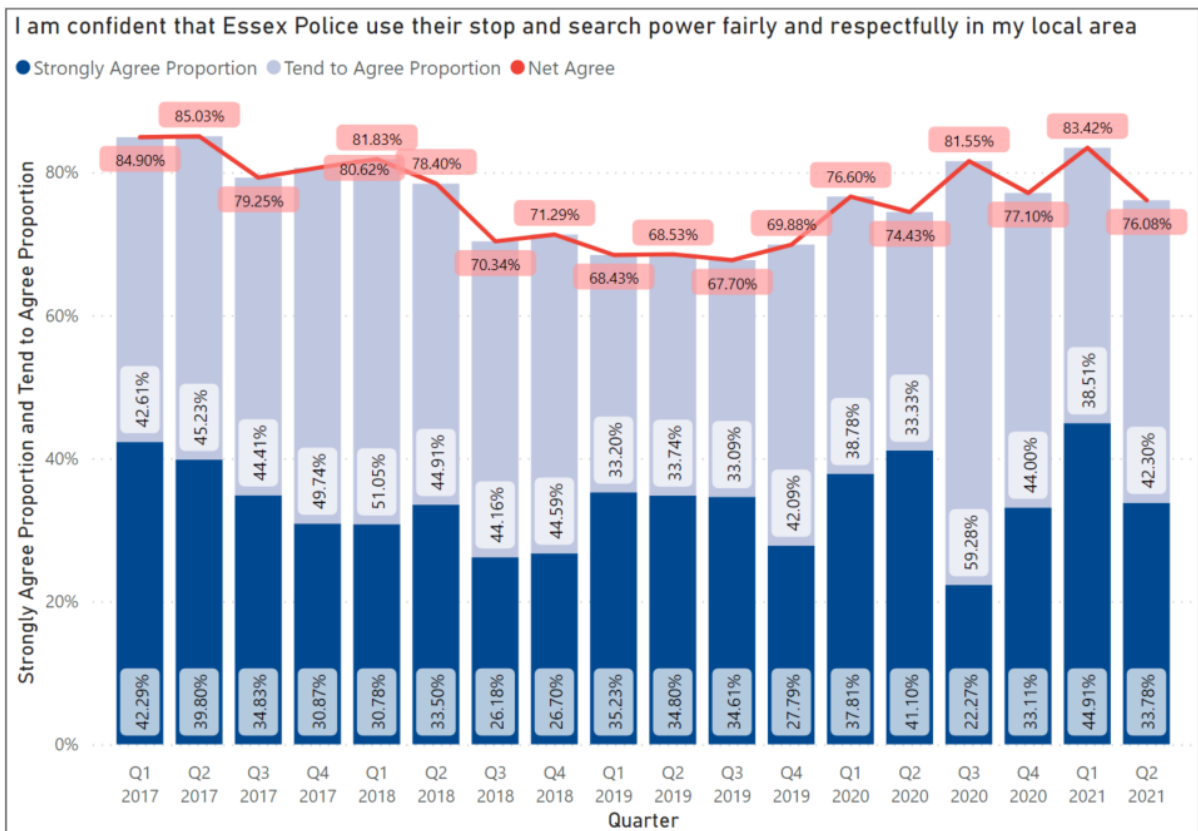
Since October 2019, there has been an upward trend amongst respondents to the SMSR survey who consider that stop search powers are used fairly. The net agreement proportion of 76.1% in Q2 is lower than the previous quarter, but above the 74.4% of the same quarter last year. Results for respondents from Ethnic Minorities shows a drop to 67.4% agreement. The proportion of Ethnic Minority respondents who actively disagree with the statement has also risen from 14.8% to 24.5% quarter-on-quarter.

6.0   Implications (Issues)

The large rise in Mental Health as an impact factor suggests a process change in the way that officers are recording this on forms, although it is not yet clear why this has occurred.

Although the disproportionality between White and Ethnic Minorities that are subject to stop and search is a concern, the gap has narrowed in the previous quarter which shows signs of improvement. It is important that Essex Police understands and is able to articulate the reasons behind this data.

6.1   Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities

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

6.2   Demand

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

6.3   Risks/Mitigation

Use of force is monitored by the 'Use of Force Board' chaired by T/ACC Glen Pavelin. These meetings are held on a quarterly basis. This group is a force-wide focus group facilitated and organised by the Operational Policing Command (OPC) and is intended to provide formal scrutiny and consultative feedback on the use of force and all its associated issues. The Use of Force Board focuses on enabling the force to examine and improve on statistical data-gathering and its analysis, and transparency with the public in order to improve confidence and trust in Essex Police.

Representation within the Use of Force Board comprises a number of disciplines, as detailed in the below structure:
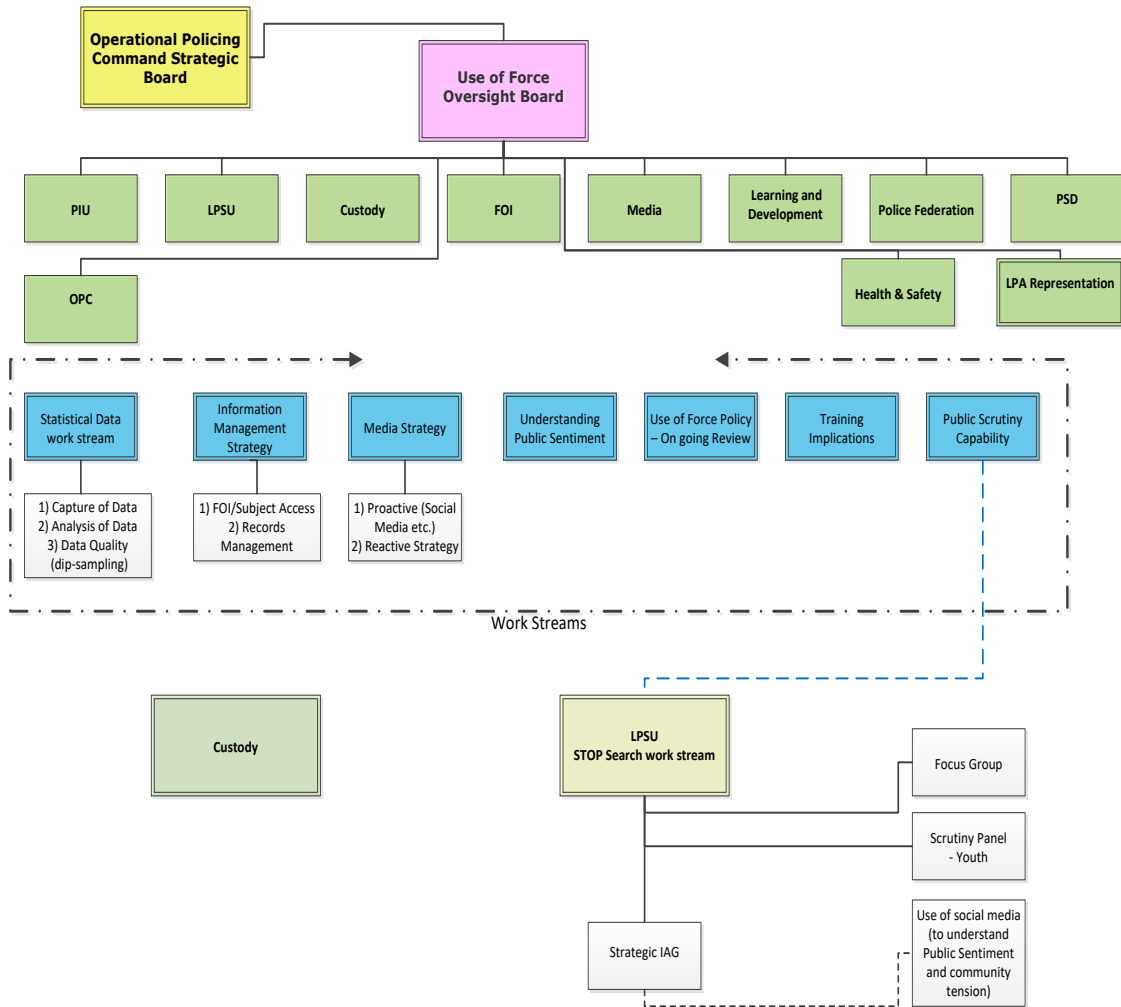
6.4 Equality and/or Human Rights Implications

The above analysis indicates an ethnic disparity in both Use of Force and Stop Search. Recently, ONS have released 2019 mid-year estimates and this is the first version of this report that uses that data.

Subjects from Ethnic Minorities are twice as likely to be stopped than White subjects.

Essex Police has established a Stop and Search / Use of Force Review Panel made up of members of the public representing a number of diverse communities. This Panel reviews Body Worn Video (BWV) footage of Stop and Searches as well as incidents where force is used. Feedback from the Panel is provided to the officers and their line managers.

Each of the Local Policing Areas and Operational Policing Command review BWV footage of their officers carrying out Stop and Searches and / or Use of Force.

6.5 Health and Safety Implications

The appropriate use of force and the level of threat faced by operational officers and staff have health and safety implication for those involved including subjects, the

police and the public. Any patterns or concerns are discussed and acted upon at the Use of Force Board.

7.0   Consultation/Engagement

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

8.0   Actions for Improvement

9.0   Future Work/Development

•   External media campaign to be used to increase the confidence of the public in our use of stop and search powers. This campaign will not only highlight why and how we use our powers but also the work of the Independent BWV Review Panel which provides community scrutiny and feedback on officers stop and search activity.
•   The Essex Police Refreshed Approach to Stop and Search training is being delivered to all LPT officers across the force during the 2022 FLEX training and this is designed to improve the communication skills of our officers when conducting stop and search; treating people fairly, with respect and ensuring each stop and search interaction is closed in a positive manner.
•   The Procedural Justice Framework is delivered to Student Officers as part of the stop and search training however a more bespoke package is being developed as part of a trial project. Procedural Justice is about making fair decisions and treating people with respect which dovetails with our Refreshed Approach to Stop and Search training.