

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:	06/03/2022

1.0 **Purpose of Report**

This report provides an update for Q3 (October-December 2021) in relation to the progress of the Essex Crime Prevention Strategies. The Strategy for 2021-25 (herein 'the Strategy') was launched on 29th November 2021. Therefore, this quarters report relates to both the 2018-21 and the 2021-25 strategies.

2.0 **Recommendations**

No recommendations

3.0 **Executive Summary**

The Strategy prioritises crime prevention activity in 14 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. Q2 2021/22 took us through the government roadmap to a stage where all restrictions were lifted. This move, whilst extremely positive, brings with it policing challenges.

With the introduction of the new strategy, and in line with the partnership approach to crime prevention 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 14 strands of the Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-25:

- **Insights** to show/illustrate data insights for rolling 12 months
- **Delivery achieved October-December 2021:**
- **Delivery scheduled January-March 2021:**

The report also includes updates in relation to any significant issues/challenges faced which do not sit within the 14 strands of the strategy but are of relevance and therefore worthy of note.

5.0 **Current Work and Performance**

One of the most significant tools available to us to prevent crime is communication. Work is currently ongoing within LPSU in relation to the following:

- Crime prevention training package creation for LPT/NPT officers and PCSOs covering all 14 thematic strands
- Collaborative work with our media dept to enhance crime prevention advice circulated to members of public on social media
- Collaborative work with ECFRS to ensure the education packages presented to primary and secondary school pupils are informative and fit for purpose
- Crime prevention package for dissemination to partners

- Pilot project in Tendring using the ECFRS Safe and Well Scheme to provide crime prevention advice to members of public who are considered vulnerable and unable to access online crime prevention advice

Delivery Plan progress across the 14 thematic strands can be summarised as:

	Total Strands	Complete	Ongoing/In progress	At risk
Knife Crime	20	12	8	0
Rape	27	7	20	0
Night-time Economy	24	13	11	0
County Lines and Exploitation	29	18	11	0
Serious Organised Crime	24	15	9	0
Cybercrime and Fraud	42	8	27	0
Child Abuse /Child Sexual Exploitation	25	6	19	0
Domestic Abuse	41	21	20	0
Drugs and Alcohol	40	8	32	0
Mental Health	36	14	22	0
Places	10	2	8	0
Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery	83	42	41	0
Prevent	14	5	9	0
Hate Crime	78	24	54	0
Total	493	202	291	0

Thematic Strand Updates:

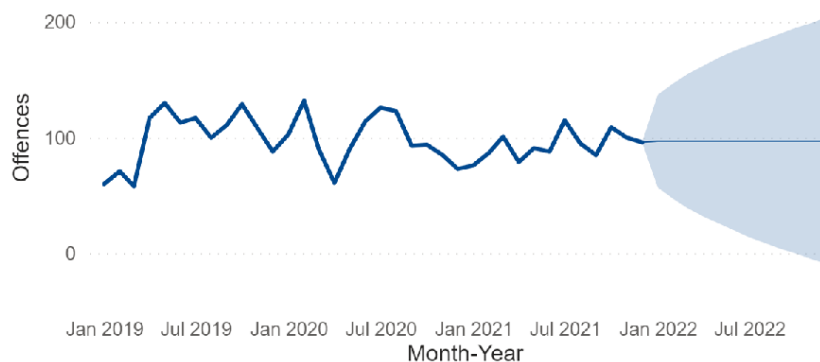
5.1 Serious Violence

5.1.1 Knife Crime

Insights:

Knife Crime rates remain stable in the county in Q3. There was an 11.5% decrease (205 fewer) in the number of Knife-enabled crime offences in the 12 months to November 2021 compared to the 12 months to November 2020.

Knife Enabled Crime: Monthly Trend and Forecast



Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Op Grip is Essex Police’s ‘place’ strategy to reduce community violence. 67 Harm spots have been identified in 7 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. In Quarter 3, there

continues to consistently be over 500 interactions in those harm spots each week.

- 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 PPP team are regularly engaging with cohort identified in order to put in mitigating actions or safeguarding. This is a long-term approach to reducing knife crime and harm caused by the criminal use of knives.

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- County wide schools competition for new livery and relaunch of knife bins in Essex, with a knife amnesty planned for Q1 2022/23.
- Utilisation of Home Office funding to progress Op Grip and develop with more partner interventions in hot spot areas.
- Multi-agency public health data is being developed to enable police to identify locations and other pertinent information from those entering healthcare settings with possible knife injuries.

5.1.2 Rape

Insights:

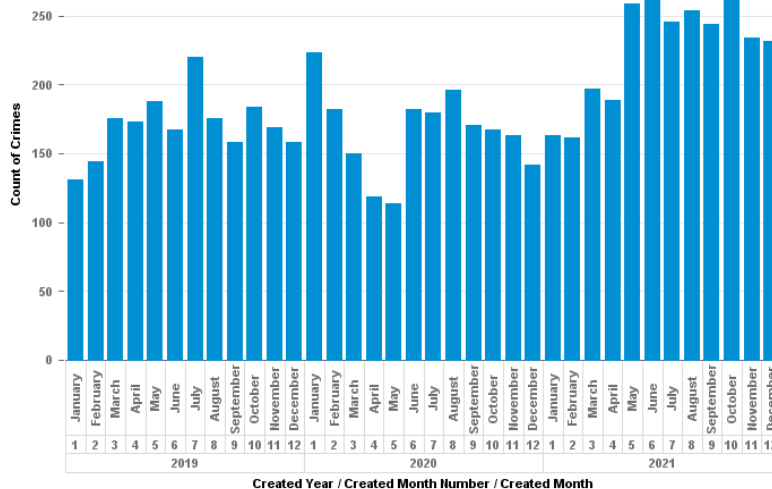
Data for 12 months to end of December 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending December 20	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
1989	2708	719	+36.1%

Table comparing data to previous 'pre-Covid' year e.g.

12 Month ending December 19 (pre-Covid19)	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
2044	2708	664	+32.5%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Policing as a whole has seen a continued backlash in the wake of the murder of Sarah Everard and several other high-profile investigations of Police Officers. Public

confidence has been undermined and these stories may affect the number of disclosures of rape and other sexual violence.

A new agreement is in place with commissioned services to share reports of sexual violence made to them, and not to Police, thereby allowing us to better understand a truer picture of offending in Essex, and the gap between those crimes reported to us, and those reported only to support services.

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- First Community Engagement Group held, key representatives from minority support agencies across Essex met with Police, CPS and commissioned support services.
- Victims feedback pilot continues throughout the North enabling us to understand the victim’s journey and identify any blockers.
- The first responder project¹ is being held up as national best practice. Funding has also been secured for a pilot scheme where additional ISVA’s will provide more bespoke and targeted engagement to victims who are more likely to disengage from the criminal justice process.

Delivery scheduled January-March 2021:

- The concept of an offender-centric approach has been relaunched with the updated supervisor and a series of training webinars being shared across the Command from the Op Soteria Bluestone Project.
- Op Gerberra deploys Project Servator trained officers to NTE venues in the South to disrupt criminality, targeting in particular, those who intend to spike drinks or inject a substance.
- Op Ratify and PAU provide data of High Harm offenders whereby finite resources can target dangerous individuals and disrupt their offending.

5.1.3 Night-time Economy (NTE)

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Stuart Weaver

Insights:

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

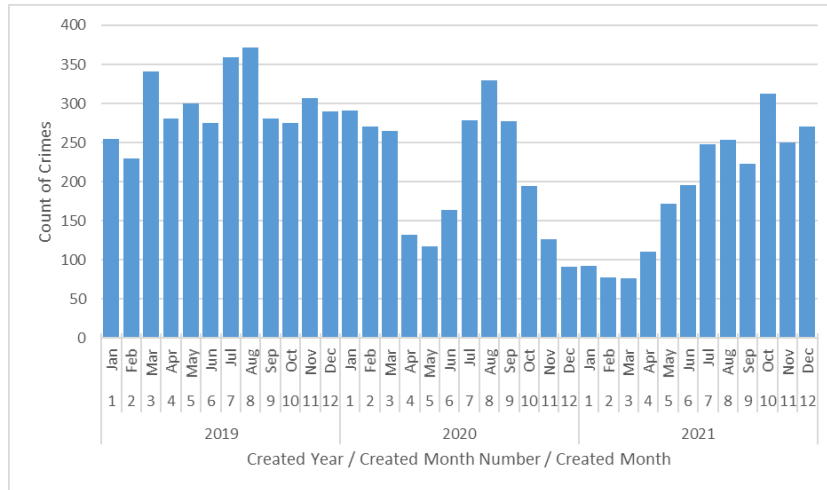
12 Month ending December 20	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
2537	2284	-253	-10.0%

Table comparing data to previous ‘pre-Covid’ year e.g.

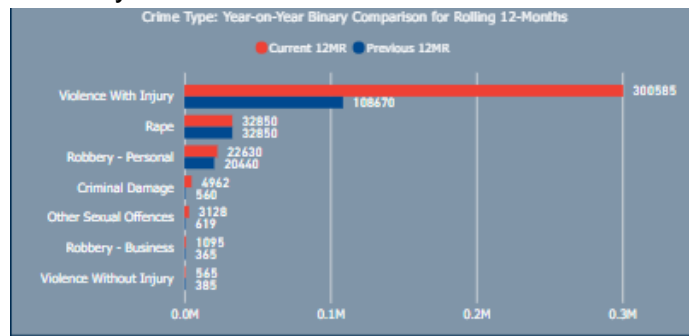
12 Month ending December 19 (pre-Covid19)	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
3566	2284	-1282	-36.0%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:

¹ where an ISVA will contact a victim within 24 hours of report



NTE crimes have started to level out following our exit from Covid restrictions, with figures still lower than pre-Covid. Harm remains concentrated spatially, repeat victimisation rare and risky behaviours most linked to alcohol harm.



Year on year comparison shows a concerning increase in a number of offence areas. Violence with Injury, Robbery and Other sexual offence show a significant increase in offences.

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- All key NTE area 4P plans have been updated.
- Operation Monaco² led to two premises in Colchester being closed down and a number of arrests for drugs supply offences and significant cash recovery.
- License premises being engaged with around drink spiking incidents. Bennison checks sitting at 55% compliance which is an increase on previous months
- NLPA Braintree trialling new drug prevention “spray”³

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- Operational plans to be developed for key NTE areas (Southend / Colchester) targeted at reducing VAWG⁴
- Improved use of the NTE Dashboard to inform local policing priorities and intelligence led operations. This will now also form part of the local and Force tasking process.

² Covert operation

³Sprayed onto surface to absorb powdered substance and prevent use

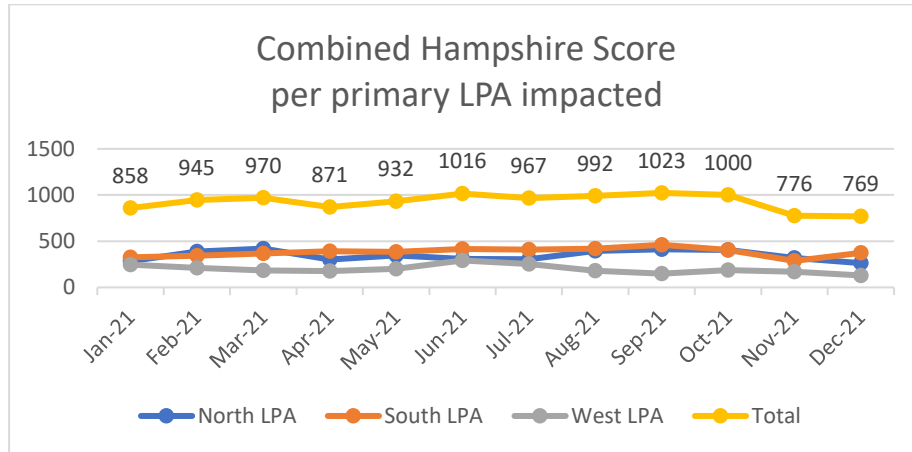
⁴ By using various tactics including covert/overt assets, engagement with licensed premises, targeting predatory behaviour, drink spike awareness

5.2 Organised Crime
5.2.1 County Lines/Exploitation

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Rob Kirby

Insights:

County lines⁵ have reduced in Q3. The Hampshire score⁶ has reduced dramatically. This is as a result of significant enforcement activity that took place in Q3



Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Op Vietnam April 2021 – Nov 2021: This operation was designed to create a process of rapid acceleration of enforcement against the County Lines and Gangs operating in the South of Essex, along the A13 corridor, suppressing the lines and associated violence for a sustained period making the area extremely hostile for them to operate. This also maximised safeguarding and enforcement opportunities for those that are most vulnerable within our communities and being exploited by these criminal gangs. This operation demonstrates the way in which Raptors can operate at many different levels.

Arrests	Charge & RIC	Charge & Bail	Police Bail	RUI	NFA	Total Sentences	Weapons Seized
164	119	5	0	20	20	+91 years (still on-going)	41

- Op Monaco June 2021-Nov 2021⁷: This investigation resulted in the closure of two licenced premises used by individuals to supply the cocaine where the premises were not proactive enough in stopping that taking place.

Delivery scheduled for January-March 2022:

- Utilising investigative techniques acquired within the Raptor teams to assist the wider force. This will include the introduction of 'drugs desks' in January 2022 which will offer investigative advice to officers on local policing teams who may be investigating lower level drug dealing offences to maximise the opportunity for a charge on the first day of arrest. The impact of this will be less people released under investigation and reduced risk that poses in terms of further offending and violence.
- Formalisation of the forces approach to reports of Cuckooing which is heavily linked to exploitation. The Triple P team will review all reports of Cuckooing to ensure they have

⁵ now rephrased as drug lines to incorporate the changing nature of drug use

⁶ which measures the risk drugs lines pose

⁷ This investigation in Colchester focused on harm caused as a result of cocaine use. Whilst this might not naturally cause as much overt harm, it is important in the context of how that cocaine use might affect night time economy violence or domestic abuse incidents.

been appropriately responded to. This will include a review of how these reports are recorded. It will enable links between incidents to be made and focus on extended safeguarding and longer-term diversion. The impact of these will be a reduced risk to these vulnerable people.

- To align the safeguarding officers embedded within the Raptor teams to the Triple P team (January 2022). This will ensure the Force's approach to safeguarding is consistent and in line with national strategies. One critical impact of this will be for the safeguarding leads to 'introduce' the Triple P team who can develop the safeguarding into diversion solutions in sustaining a longer term relationship with the individual.

5.2.2 Serious Organised Crime

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Lee Morton

Insights:

Essex Police Serious Organised Crime Unit completed a large amount of activity across Q3 linked to the disruption of Organised Crime groups; the total results are as follows:

- 89 arrests
- 59 warrants executed
- 43 charges
- 34 suspects remanded in custody
- 24.2Kg of class A drugs seized
- 39.5Kg of class B drugs seized
- £677,000 cash seized
- 9 Firearms recovered
- 24 people safeguarded, one of which was a child

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Review of crime prevention strategy for SOC and refresh of the 4P plan for the new strategic tasking period, this has resulted in a move away from simply identifying OCGs and more focus on the full management process from identification through to lifetime offender management.
- Enhanced understanding from work with ERSOU into the exploitation categories seen in Essex as COVID measures changed. This led to large enforcement in December to tackle labour exploitation.
- Launch of the new department to tackle Organised Immigration Crime

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- Enhanced engagement through Essex Prevent & Protect now that the COVID restrictions have reduced which has allowed 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, date set for May 2022 with partnership planning focus Jan-March.

5.2.3 Cybercrime and Fraud

Thematic Lead: Detective Chief Inspector Andy Clarkson

Cybercrime

Insights:

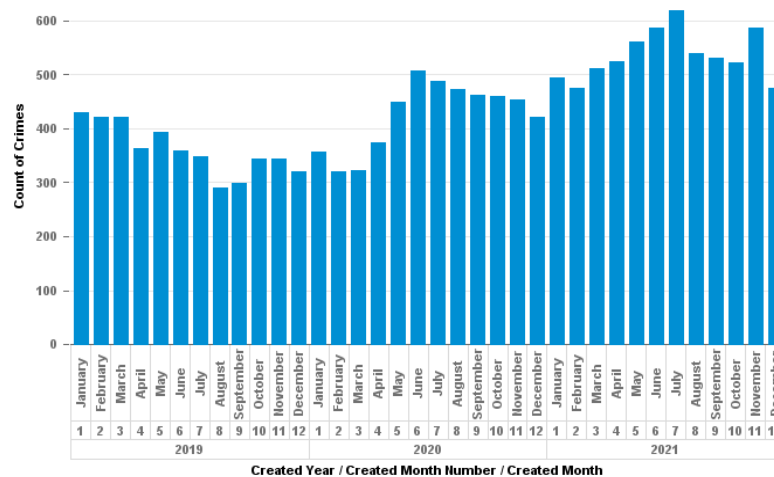
Data for 12 months to end of December 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending December 20	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
5080	6423	1343	+26.4%

Table comparing data to previous 'pre-Covid' year e.g.

12 Month ending December 19 (pre-Covid19)	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
4332	6423	2091	+48.3%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Following a rise in cyber crimes recorded through 2020-21, the reporting is now fairly consistent month to month. This is reflected in national cyber crime figures. It is believed that cyber offending is now being more widely recognised/reported as the impacts of cyber offending are increasing – i.e. cyber criminality is becoming more sophisticated with more significant impacts on both individuals and businesses. That said, it is still the case that cyber crimes remain largely under-reported.

The COVID-19 pandemic saw criminality moving more online, as communities were more home-based and use of digital media increased. Cyber criminals seem to be maintaining this mechanism of committing crime, rather than returning to more standard methods.

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Q3 is notoriously difficult for business engagement due to them seeking to minimise impacts over the Christmas period. However, Essex P&P have continued to heavily engage with Essex businesses with 92 businesses visited for cyber security advice and 10 public events attended.

- Essex continues to support the Regional CRC⁸. The CRC is now fully set-up and recruiting businesses. Essex P&P continue to offer the service as part of their daily work, seeking to strengthen businesses against the risk of cyber attack.
- Essex P & P continue to work with Essex Chamber of Commerce to ensure cyber messaging and prevention advice is circulated to businesses most vulnerable to cyber attack. This includes the use of cyber volunteers to provide specialist advice as required.

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- Essex P&P will be working with local universities to reach students around cyber security. This will also be an opportunity to identify those who may be seeking to use cyber for the purpose of crime.
- Essex P&P will work with the Chamber of Commerce at ‘upskilling events’ during the lead up to summer. This will involve discussions with business leaders, providing support/advice around minimising their vulnerability to cyber attack.

Fraud Insights:

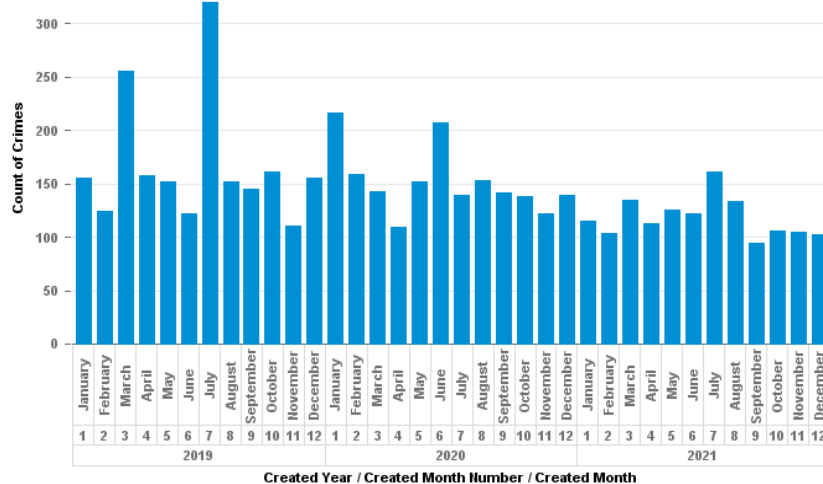
Data for 12 months to end of December 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending December 20	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
1819	1418	-401	-22.0%

Table comparing data to previous ‘pre-Covid’ year e.g.

12 Month ending December 19 (pre-Covid19)	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
2011	1418	-593	-29.5%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Following some increases during the early stages of the COVID pandemic, fraud reporting has plateaued and, on occasion, seen a fall in the number of recorded

⁸ Cyber Resilience Centre- a joint project between policing and commerce aimed at assisting SME’s around cyber attack.

offences (albeit, this is not reported nationally, who have recorded continued increases to fraud reports).

It is assessed that, as the public return to a level of normality, the opportunities for fraudsters to target them has become more difficult i.e. sections of society left vulnerable through isolation during the pandemic, in particular the elderly, are now becoming better protected as they re-engage with family and other support networks, thereby becoming a harder group to target.

Furthermore, continued changes to the way people carry out their banking business, with online banking becoming more commonplace, there is less potential for them to fall victim of fraud.

Investment fraud continues to be a challenging area of business, recognised by the City of London through their intensification periods focusing on this type of fraud.

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Essex now run ‘Fraud Friday Alerts’ – these are public messages through social media providing educational updates around certain fraud issues. On the run up to Christmas they ran the ‘12 Scams of Christmas’ messaging which was highly successful with a high reach through social media.
- Essex P&P have supported the Fraud Co-ordinators in 357 visits to vulnerable victims, with bespoke support measures being put in place. This response far exceeds that of other regional forces.
- Essex continues to engage with all victims of fraud, with support messages seeking to avoid re-victimisation. During this period, over 2500 Essex resident victims have been contacted.

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- In line with the City of London’s national operation, Essex will be targeting investment fraudsters through an ‘intensification period’. This will involve identifying subjects who commit investment fraud and looking at alternative methods of restricting their opportunities for offending, including ‘cease and desist’ visits.

5.3 Complex Needs

5.3.1 Child Abuse/Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Thematic Lead: Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Packer

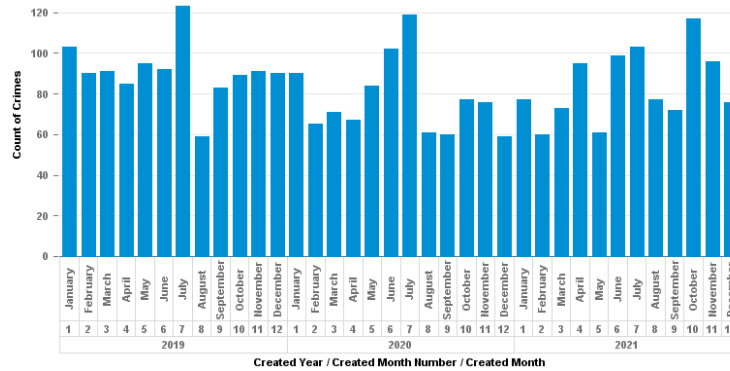
Data for CSE offences 12 months to end of December 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending December 20	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
931	1006	75	+8.1%

Table comparing data to previous ‘pre-Covid’ year e.g.

12 Month ending December 19 (pre-Covid19)	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
1091	1006	-85	-7.8%

Bar chart showing CSE offences recorded each month:



Insights:

The national NCA threat assessment indicates an increase in risks to children through the criminal use of technology which offenders have developed the better use of during the COVID pandemic. A presentation is being delivered to C&PP SLT to consider options for response. Talks are ongoing with Learning & Development to design and develop a child abuse dedicated section of the Virtual Crime Academy.

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- POLIT delivered 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)

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- Proposed publication of a CSE tool kit, incorporating criminal, civil and partnership powers to tackle CSE and repeat offending. Intelligence analyst creating CSE appraisal during pandemic to share with partners.
- Op Henderson-highlighting and educating public around CSE at transport hubs due to take place at end of this quarter-day of action with partner agencies.
- CPD event scheduled for March 2022, for all CAIT and associated teams, to better understand child abuse concerns, spotting signs of neglect and better cohesion with children’s social care, with a whole day dedicated to social care thresholds and requirements.
- A new CSE disruption toolkit is with the graphics department with a target completion date of May 2022 which will equip officers across all commands with the tools needed to disrupt, deter and investigate cases of CSE.
- A vulnerability guide for officers and staff is being developed for an online platform to enable front line practitioners instant access to advice and guidance in dealing with child abuse and related incidents.

5.3.2 Domestic Abuse

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Matt Cornish

Insights:

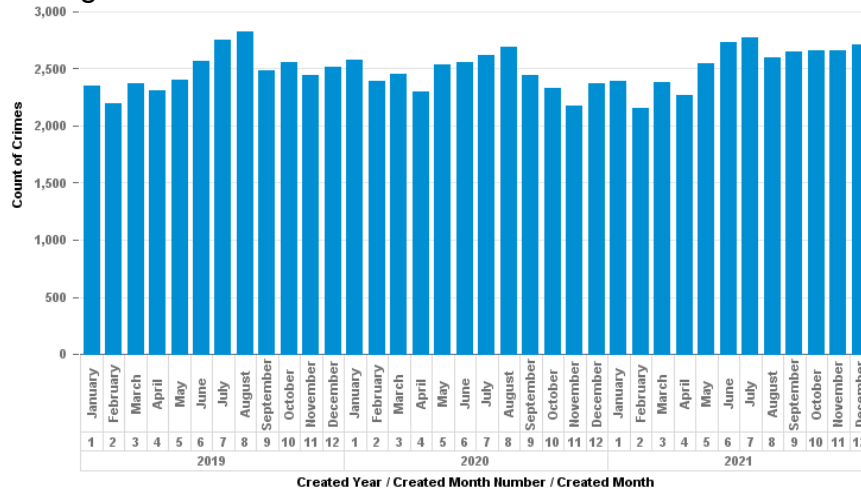
Data for 12 months to end of December 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending December 20	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
29382	30494	1112	+3.8%

Table comparing data to previous 'pre-Covid' year e.g.

12 Month ending December 19 (pre-Covid19)	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
29745	30494	749	+2.5%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Domestic Abuse reporting within Essex has increased, which is similar to the national position showing a 3% increase in reporting. Essex has seen the number of 'High Risk' DA incidents increase by 29%, from 2443 up to 3163 over the same reporting period.

Delivery achieved Oct-Dec 2021:

- Domestic Abuse Force Tasking utilising the RFG⁹ methodology identifying the Top 10 victims and suspects for each LPA, refreshed every 6 weeks to ensure additional support from our DAIT/DAPST.
- Force Performance Framework in place measuring the effect of the DAPST work on victim safety and perpetrator harm.
- DA Flex training concluded in October refreshing Frontline Officer and specialist department DA Knowledge.

Delivery scheduled for Jan-Mar 2022:

- Research and Review of data to identify and target highest threat DA perpetrators with the Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Teams (DAPST).
- Start of 'Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment' (DARA) Project. This will move Essex Police from the DASH risk assessment model, currently used to assess the threat of a Domestic Abuse incident, to the DARA model. This model was designed by the College of Policing and key stakeholders, and is evidenced to reduce Domestic Homicides by focusing the risk assessment more towards coercive and controlling type behaviours.

5.3.3 Drugs and Alcohol

Thematic Lead: Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow

⁹ Recency v Frequency v Gravity

Insights:

As identified within the interim Drugs Market Profile¹⁰, the signs indicate that within Essex the lockdown measures implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19 and the subsequent unemployment, stress, physical distancing and related isolation and boredom, combined with changes in the availability of certain substances, have contributed to some minor changes in drug use behaviour. Lock down increased the usage of Cannabis and Cocaine, although the use of MDMA reduced. The price of drugs increased during the pandemic, as did the use of the Dark Web to acquire them. Since lock down ended, drug use returned to pre-lock down levels.

The Night-time Economy aspect of this thematic area is commented on within section 5.1.3. Aspects of this thematic areas also overlap with County Lines and Exploitation, and Knife Crime. Both are commented on within sections 5.2.1 and 5.1.1 respectively.

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Drug and Alcohol Strategy refreshed to reflect the Government’s “From Harm to Hope” strategy and NPCC strategy.
- DAPST, LPT and OMT officers have completed SETDAB e-learning to increase awareness of substance misuse within the domestic abuse setting and appropriate interventions
- Alcohol Abstinence Monitoring Requirements (AAMR)¹¹ –. Following liaison with Probation and CPS Essex Police has introduced a new process to better identify where such a requirement might be appropriate.

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- Developing Operation Novice in Basildon which is a proof of concept in relation to out of court disposal for children found in simple possession of cannabis, supported by the Children’s Society
- Risk Avert training, within which risks related to drugs and alcohol is included, is scheduled to be provided to CYP officers across Essex Police. Further work is being developed with the Violence and Vulnerability Unit and ECC to map schools in hot spot areas where this programme needs to be prioritised.
- Roll out of wider training in Identification and Brief Advice to DAPST and Offender Management Team across the county. This training will allow practitioners to more confidently discuss alcohol use with victims and perpetrators and then signpost or refer for appropriate treatment and interventions.

5.3.4 Mental Health

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Natalia Ross

Table comparing Mental Health Incidents data to previous year e.g.

12 Month ending December 20	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
14318	17732	3414	+23.8%

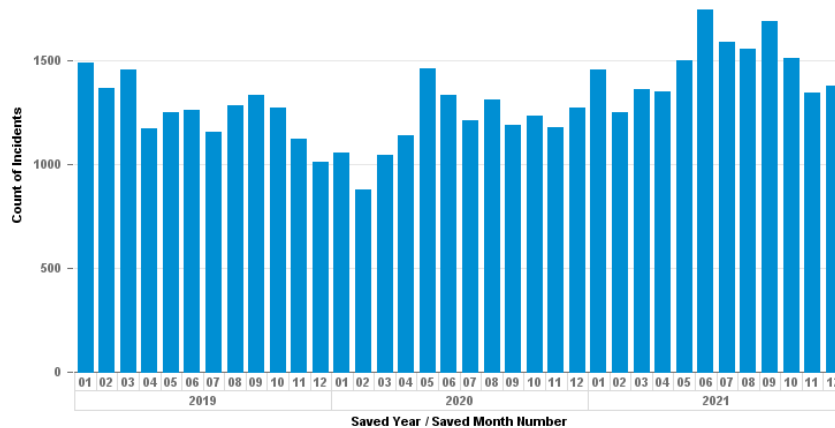
¹⁰ published January 2022

¹¹ This is a post-conviction requirement recommended to the court by Probation

Table comparing Mental Health Incidents data to previous 'pre-Covid' year e.g.

12 Month ending December 19 (pre-Covid19)	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
15178	17732	2554	+16.8%

Bar chart showing Mental Health Investigations (Detention under S136 MHA) recorded each month:



Insights:

There has been a clear increase in the volume of mental health (MH) incidents in all areas recorded from 2020-2021. A new force lead for MH has now been appointed, and a restructure of the force strategy around MH is now ongoing focusing on Investigations, Response and Prevention. There is a focus on improved data collection, collaboration, and joint training with partners in EPUT, NHS, EEAST, Social Services, ECFRS and non-profit charities, as well as ongoing work with partners around the national shortage of beds for those detained under S.136 MHA.

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Linked into the Homicide Prevention Work was action “Identify intervention opportunities for Licenced Firearm holders with Mental Health concerns”. OPC started monthly sessions with GPs, training GPs on firearms licencing and importance of GPs highlighting to FSEL when someone reports a condition. Further to this it was made mandatory in November 21 for anyone applying or renewing their firearms certificate, to obtain a GP report at point of application, without this report the applicant cannot continue with the process.

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- Development of the new force MH strategy, linking in to both the national strategy and the force plan. This will set out our aims, priorities, and main effort around MH, including better working with partners, being data driven, looking at the long term effect of COVID, VOTC, predictors of serious violence and homicide within mental health, work around CJ and those suffering with MH in custody and improving services for victims with MH in line with the DEI strategy.
- Work is underway to identifying predictors of serious violence and homicide within Mental Health based on historic DHR & SCR’s, as well as both academic data and data held by partners (EPUT) under a newly developed ISA. With these

predictors identified, we will be able to create a PAU product that will enable us to identify a cohort of individuals who present the highest risk in these areas and allow us to put mitigating actions through a multi-agency approach, which will enable us to better protect the public from harm.

5.4 Vulnerabilities

5.4.1 Places

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Richard Melton

Insights:

This is a new thematic entry for the Crime Prevention Strategy and focusses on the safety of streets in Essex, with enhanced focus on VAWG and areas that require partnership focus to ensure they feel safer. Safer Essex, CSP's and objectives supported by wider Essex Partnerships are rightly focussed in this area and all strategic boards now discuss Safer Spaces on their agendas'.

Project Minerva is a key Essex initiative that looks to collate all relevant partnership, survey and incident data to provide an innovative mapping tool that focusses where main efforts should be made to tackle VAWG (and will also include Hate Crime & ASB reduction). Project Minerva is also supported by academic rigour from Nottingham Trent University to ensure that mapping locations are suitable for enhanced partnership activity.

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Successful STAR bid from the Home office provided to Essex following STAR bid in June 2021. This will cover the cost of the project, data provision, Nottingham Trent University support and build of mapping tool.
- Safer Essex will provide the partnership governance and Essex Police will retain operational responsibility for ensuring partnership activity remained focussed through the CSP's.

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- Data Sharing agreements are now in place and the final Data Provision Contract is being agreed with Nottingham Trent University. Mapping build is scheduled to take place in March 2022 and a go live of 'Minerva Zones' anticipated in April/May 2022.

5.4.2 Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery

Thematic Lead: Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow

Insights:

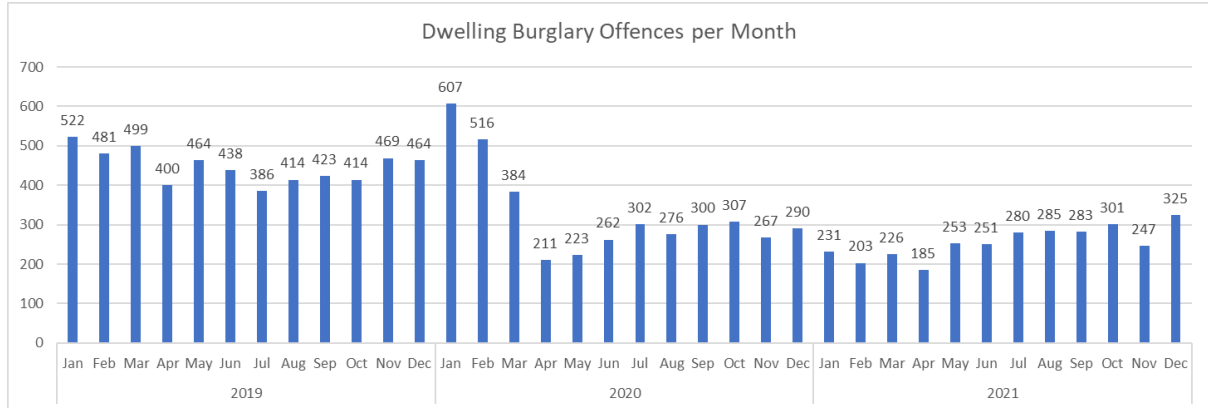
Data for 12 months to end of December 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

Offence Type	12 Month ending December 20	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
Dwelling Burglary	3945	3064	-881	-22.3%
Street Robbery	1256	1207	-49	-3.9%

Table comparing data to previous 'pre-Covid' year e.g.

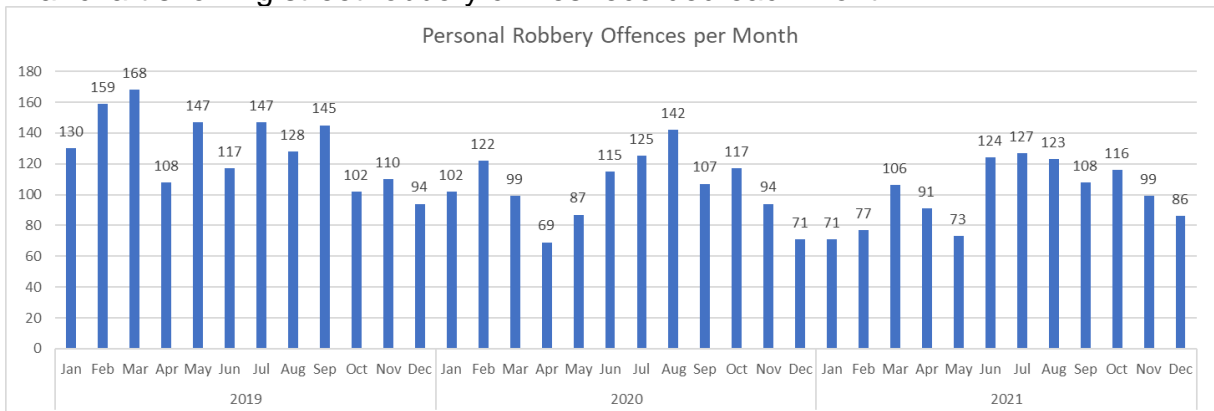
Offence Type	12 Month ending December 19 (pre-Covid19)	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
Dwelling Burglary	5364	3064	-2300	-42.9%
Street Robbery	1566	1207	-359	-22.9%

Bar chart showing dwelling burglary crimes recorded each month:



Burglary Residential Dwelling offences have increased slightly from Q2 (July to September 2021) to Q3 (October to December 2021), with an increase of 25 offences, a smaller increase than that of Q1 (April to June 2021) to Q2, which was 159 offences. The volume remains significantly lower than pre-COVID levels and is around the same level as the same quarter in 2020, with only 9 more offences. Burglary offences increased from April 2021 to December 2021, with a drop in November 2021. Since restrictions ended in June 2021, the number of dwelling burglary offences has increased by 29% to December 2021. The pattern and number of offences in 2021 remains relatively similar to that of 2020, and the numbers have not returned to pre-COVID levels, despite COVID restrictions having been mostly absent since June.

Bar chart showing street robbery crimes recorded each month:



Personal Robbery offences have been decreasing since June 2021. In Q2 (July to September 2021) there were 358 offences, compared to 301 offences in Q3 (October to December 2021). They have however increased since Q3 2020, which saw 282 personal robbery offences, an increase of 7%. Q3 2021 has had more personal robbery offences than Q3 2019 (306 offences), before COVID restrictions were put in place. Overall, 2021 has followed the same pattern as 2020, with a peak in the summer months, dropping as winter arrives, potentially due to the cold weather keeping people

inside. If the pattern continues, we can expect to see a rise in offences as we move into 2022.

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Op Reassure is now being trialled in Southend – This is an operation in partnership with Victim Support Service to provide home crime prevention visits to victims of house burglary who are struggling to recover from the effects of an offence because of feeling unsafe in their homes. Should this be successful in Southend, this can be rolled out countywide.
- Op Meteor tactical advice paper produced and shared with the College of Policing, as well as being shared locally and regionally
- New Burglary Procedure agreed and circulated

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- Op Oryx – This is an operation based in Southend to target street robberies occurring, as Southend sees 26% of all Essex personal robberies offences in the district.
- Work being carried out between CID and intelligence teams to improve the working relationship and sharing of information – The DCI's will be approached to help facilitate this.
- The areas with the highest rate of burglaries per 1000 population have been identified – this will be compared to current Neighbourhood Watch schemes to see if further promotion of Neighbourhood Watch is needed in the high burglary locations.

5.4.3 Prevent

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Richard Melton

Insights:

100 referrals have been made across the region with 22 referrals made by Essex in Q3. This is on par with Q2 and sees referrals made by the following agencies:

- Education 7
- Police 5
- Community Groups 5
- Partnership Groups 4
- Local Government 1
- Health 1

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Prevent awareness questionnaire being completed across Essex to highlight/identify officers awareness of when referrals should be made and how to accomplish referrals in a timely manner. Essex completion rate of this questionnaire is second highest across the Eastern Region.
- New Force Prevent lead now Supt Naomi Edwards. Prior to leaving the role, Supt Melton Identified
- Further Prevent Champions being identified across range of commands LPT, CPT, CID, DAIT, all OPC teams, FCR, Media, Executive Support, PSD. External Prevent Champions identified for training in Q3 across a range of partners Local Authority, Children Services, Health, CRC, NPS, Education (schools, FE & HE), Community Safety Partnership Managers, Housing.

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- Further PREVENT Champion Training has been arranged for 24th Feb 2022 (41 to be trained currently enlisted) – Advertised on Essex Force Intranet. Specials PREVENT Champion Training has been arranged with Essex Special Constabulary for 26th March 2022. There are 100 internal and external PREVENT champions currently without the training scheduled.
- Specials PREVENT Champion Training has been arranged with Essex Special Constabulary for Saturday 26th March 2022 (139 so far enlisted from other forces and Pc Sam Pateman will be chasing up for Essex Specials)

5.4.4 Hate Crime

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Richard Melton

Insights:

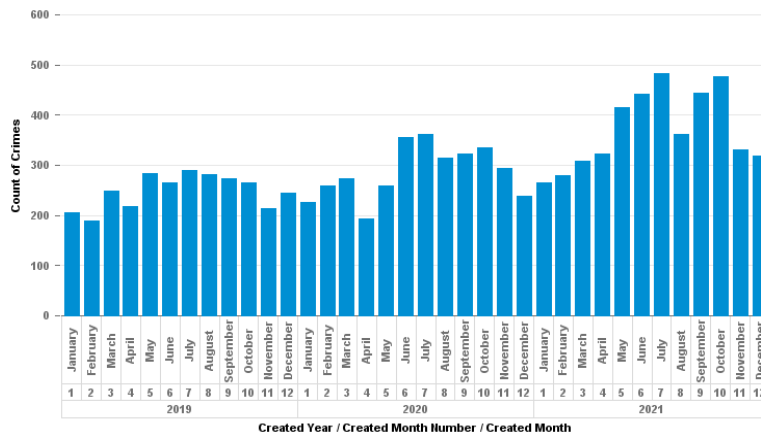
Data for 12 months to end of December 2021, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending December 20	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
3432	4443	1011	+29.5%

Table comparing data to previous 'pre-Covid' year e.g.

12 Month ending December 19 (pre-Covid19)	12 Month ending December 21	Diff.	% Diff.
2982	4443	1461	+49.0%

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%) closely 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] and Colchester [182] continue to have the highest number of hate crimes. The combined total of EFD & Brentwood [149] place them in 5th position.

Delivery achieved October-December 2021:

- Creation of PowerBI / analytical tool that is far more intuitive in how it gives a narrative on hate offending in respect of protected character types.
- Consistency of IAG Agenda items to include hate crime as a standing item has been achieved across all IAG's held in Essex.

Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:

- 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 the HC4 Investigation template and closer liaison with the CPS to deliver better investigation outcomes for victims.
- A new Strategic VAWG partnership oversight board has been set up with representation from OFPCC, ECC, and Essex Police to ensure that all activity in this space is effectively tracked and monitored to avoid duplication. This board will feed into Safer Essex and have oversight of Project Minerva.

5.5 Delivery/challenges by exception

5.5.1 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.

As referred to in 5.3.2, Essex has seen the number of 'High Risk' DA incidents increase by 29% in Q3. If we continue to experience increases of this scale, this could become problematic for partners in the MARAC processes. This is being monitored.

6.0 Implications (Issues)

There are no strands at risk across nine thematic strands

6.1 Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities

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

- Further investment in crime prevention
- Reducing drug driven violence
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reducing violence against women and girls

- Preventing business crime, fraud and cybercrime
- Increasing collaboration

6.2 Demand

Not applicable

6.3 Risks/Mitigation

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.
Knife Crime – Detective Superintendent Rob Kirby
Rape – Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Packer
Night-Time Economy – Superintendent Stuart Weaver
County Lines and Exploitation – Detective Superintendent Rob Kirby
Serious and Organised Crime – Detective Chief Inspector Lee Morton
Cyber Crime and Fraud – Detective Chief Inspector Andy Clarkson
Child Abuse and CSE – Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Packer
Domestic Abuse – Superintendent Matt Cornish
Drugs and Alcohol – Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow
Mental Health – Detective Superintendent Natalia Ross
Places – Superintendent Richard Melton
Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery – Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow
Prevent – Superintendent Richard Melton
Hate Crime – Superintendent Richard Melton

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.

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. Work is ongoing via Safer Essex to enhance our partnership working/reporting.