

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

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Crime Prevention Strategy Report Q4</b>
<b>Classification of Paper:</b>	<b>Official</b>
<b>Agenda Number:</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Chief Officer:</b>	<b>ACC Nolan</b>
<b>Date Paper was Written:</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b>
<b>Version Number:</b>	<b>V1</b>
<b>Report from:</b>	<b>Essex Police</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>
<b>Author on behalf of Chief Officer:</b>	<b>Insp 1162 Nikki Metson</b>
<b>Date of Approval:</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> June 2022</b>

## 1.0 Purpose of Report

This report provides an update for Q4 (January-March 2022) in relation to the progress of the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-25 (herein 'the Strategy') which was launched on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## 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 whilst Q3 saw the start of us facing post-lockdown challenges to policing. These challenges and our responses to those challenges continue into Q4.

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 January-March 2022**
- **Delivery scheduled April-June 2022**

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

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

	<b>Total Strands</b>	<b>Complete</b>	<b>Ongoing/In progress</b>	<b>At risk</b>
<a href="#">Knife Crime</a>	22	13	9	0
<a href="#">Rape</a>	110	78	32	0
<a href="#">Night-time Economy</a>	27	21	6	0
<a href="#">County Lines and Exploitation</a>	35	20	15	0

<a href="#">Serious Organised Crime</a>	24	15	9	0
<a href="#">Cybercrime and Fraud</a>	42	8	27	0
<a href="#">Child Abuse /Child Sexual Exploitation</a>	12	8	4	0
<a href="#">Domestic Abuse</a>	44	26	18	0
<a href="#">Drugs and Alcohol</a>	42	8	34	0
<a href="#">Mental Health</a>	57	23	34	0
<a href="#">Places</a>	4	1	3	0
<a href="#">Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery</a>	83	52	31	0
<a href="#">Prevent</a>	14	5	9	0
<a href="#">Hate Crime</a>	78	24	54	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>0</b>

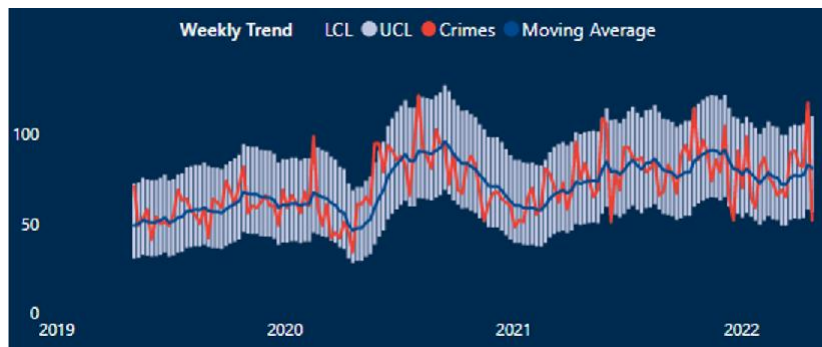
**Thematic Strand Updates:**

**5.1 Serious Violence**

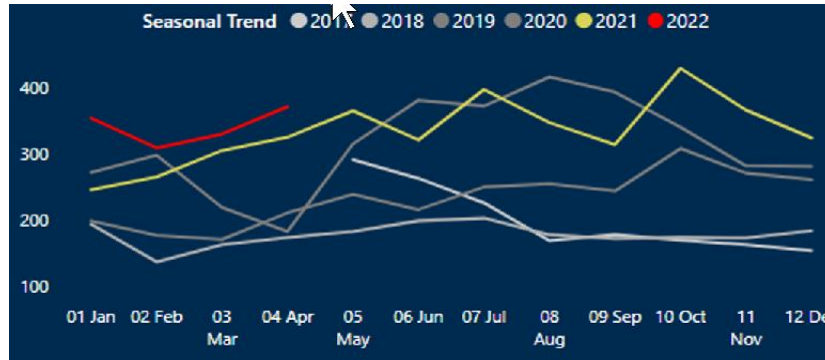
**5.1.1 Knife Crime**

**Insights:**

The chart below shows knife enabled crime (non-domestic related). A change in the way knife crimes were tagged and COVID has meant the historic graph is difficult to interpret – however since COVID restrictions have ended, average knife enabled crime in Q4 is steady (blue line). The red line (actual crimes) are mostly within the upper and lower control limits.



The chart below shows the first part of 2022 (red). When comparing this to 2021, it is following a similar trajectory. This chart allows for seasonal variations to be shown. As above, it is difficult to rely on previous years data due to changes in recording practices.



**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- Schools competition took place for new artwork to be placed on the knife bins in operation across the county. There is now a knife bin in every district.
- 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 4, there continued to consistently be over 500 interactions in those harm spots each week. This scheme was home office funded and is highlighted as a case study in the UK Governments Crime Plan. Funding for the next three years to continue this activity (in Q1 2022/23) is currently being negotiated.

**Delivery scheduled April-June 2022:**

- The national Sceptre intensification week takes place between 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> May where there will be operations countywide specific to knife crime, including the use of knife arch initiatives etc.
- Funding is in place for the delivery of the ‘Choices and Consequences’ workshop run by the Ben Kinsella Trust to educate 90 school pupils from three schools about the dangers of carrying a knife, before the end of the summer term.
- A county wide Knife amnesty runs from 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May which will include a relaunch of the knife bins, publicity to raise awareness of their presence.

**5.1.2 Rape**

**Insights:**

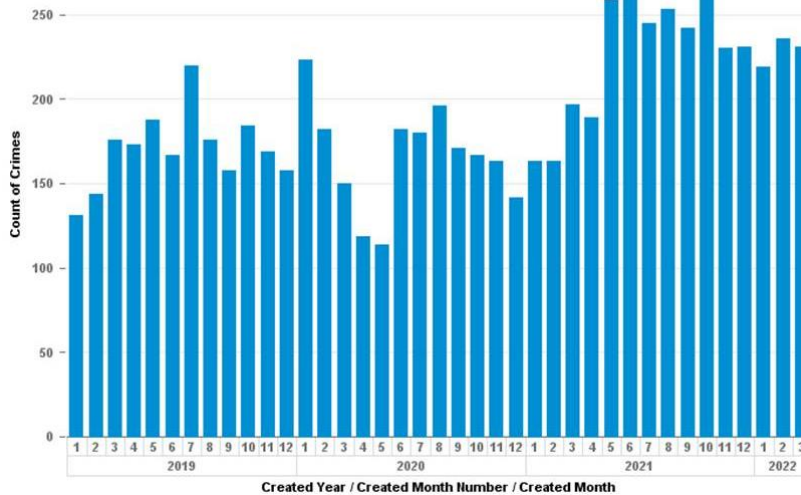
Data for 12 months to end of March 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2021	Diff.	% Diff.
2,833	1,935	898	+46.4

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

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2020	Diff.	% Diff.
2,833	2,148	685	+27.5%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Prevention activity for rape and sexual offences centres around public engagement and the continued success of the Community Engagement Group and the Victims' Feedback Panel, which has recently won national recognition at the VKPP awards. This is coupled with partnership work with local authorities and the CPS and carefully targeted engagement events, as below.

**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- CPS & police met to discuss the current trends with regards to the challenges of redaction and disclosure, plus a training package has been circulated in the short term to assist officers.
- In liaison with the education safeguarding officer at Essex County Council, a T/DI from the C&PP Ops Centre has given an input on Harmful Sexual Behaviours to teachers and partners in a secondary school, which was very well received and prompted a good deal of discussion.
- EP took part in the first Tactical Regional RASSO Group which includes DCI leads across the four regional forces & is chaired by CPS.
- We are working with ECFRS safeguarding officers to brief them on what to look out for when attending incidents in terms of signs of exploitation.
- Safer Streets event at South Essex College attended by C&PP to educate students around CSE, VAWG, drink spiking, rape and consent.
- POET team is now live and have conducted briefings to LPA and other commands across the county. Early identification of orders not being enforced.

**Delivery scheduled April-June 2022:**

- A Harmful Sexual Behaviour train the trainer course is scheduled which will be attended by EPC staff to disseminate to officers.

- A Professional Standards proactive team is being implemented.
- Basildon will be the first PPIU hub to pilot co-locating ISVAs at the station. We are currently exploring selected days/locations agreed for the ISVA to base themselves to have access to the teams, as well as another location to meet the victims.
- We are working with a theatre company (The London Bus Company) on drama sketches around the theme of consent.

### 5.1.3 Night-time Economy (NTE)

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Stuart Weaver

#### Insights:

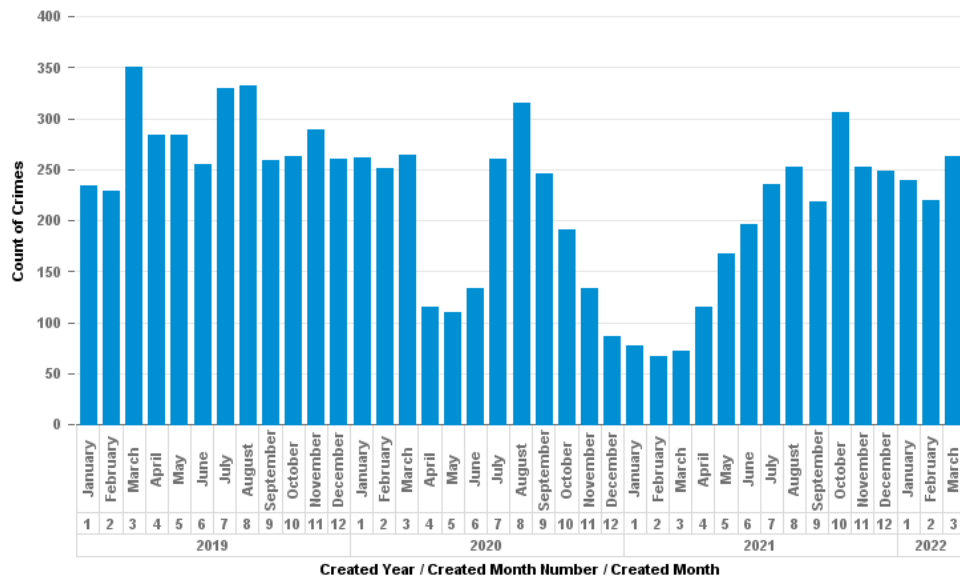
Data for 12 months to end of March 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2021	Diff.	% Diff.
2,714	1,806	908	+50.3%

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

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2020	Diff.	% Diff.
2,714	3,331	-617	-18.5%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



It is clear to see from the data sets above that we have returned to higher levels of NTE related offences post Covid-19. However, it is positive to see that we aren't at a level comparable to March 2020. As we enter the summer months and the weather improves, it is predicted that the offences will continue to rise. All of the Primary and

Secondary NTE areas have plans in place to deal with the summer demand, these are reviewed at the NTE Harm reduction group each quarter.

**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- Introduction of Op Lester to provide consistency of investigation for spiking offences.
- Dedicated NTE Deployments throughout the Force (including the use of knife arches, plain clothes patrols etc)
- Vulnerability Patrols – adapting the traditional NTE style of policing outside of premises to include the patrolling of vulnerable areas and identification of vulnerable people and/or potential offenders.

**Delivery scheduled April-June 2022:**

- Increasing the number and quality of Op Bennison checks with partners
- Expanding the ‘Drink Aware Crew’ project in the South LPA.
- Entering negotiations with LSAVI to consider rolling out this accreditation scheme throughout Essex.

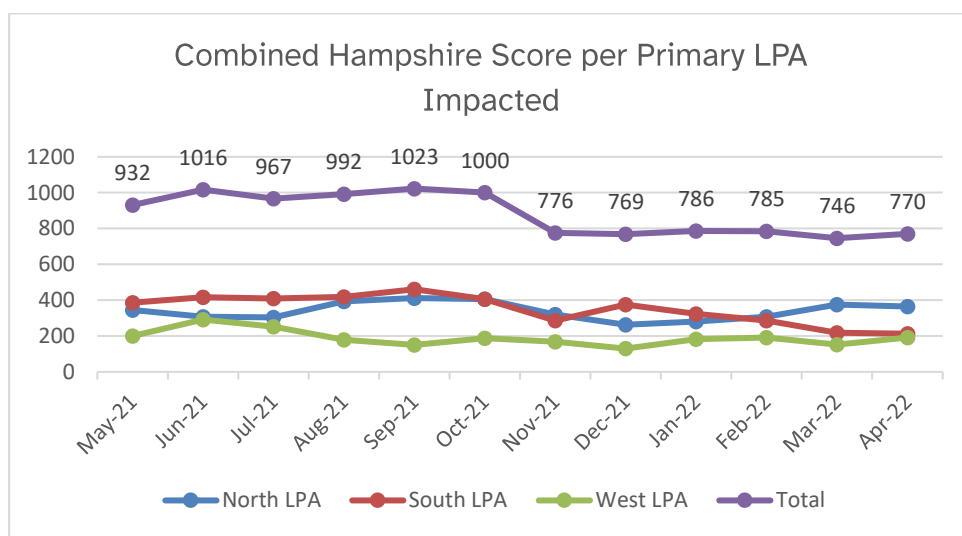
**5.2 Organised Crime**

**5.2.1 County Lines/Exploitation**

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Rob Kirby

**Insights:**

County lines<sup>1</sup> have continued to see the reduction initially seen in Q3. The Hampshire score (which measures the risk drugs lines pose) has stayed low.



**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

<sup>1</sup> now rephrased as drug lines to incorporate the changing nature of drug use

- Raptor Enforcement activity from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022 - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022
  - 73 different drugs lines targeted resulting in:
  - 153 searches of which 84 were warrants (rest were Sec 18, Sec 32)
  - 191 arrests (of which 121 were RIC – 63%)
  - 59 weapons seized
  - Over £129K seized
  - 66 referrals (NRM or another agency)
  - 1.4 kg of Class A seized
  - 34 phone lines seized – and therefore the closure of the line (over 2 week)
- Raptor teams are now seizing criminal assets (goods) during searches as well as cash. This has resulted in over £16,000 of assets being seized from two addresses.
- When drug lines cannot be attributed to a person, the teams will still enforce against the line with the use of a Drug Dealing Telecommunications Restriction Order (DDTRO). An example of this was in March 2022 against the ‘Stan Line’ in Southend.
- Serious Crime Prevention Orders are sought post-conviction when relevant. We have successfully obtained 23 of these to date, with more pending. These have powerful clauses surrounding their mobile phone use, the ability for police to inspect it, limits on cash they are allowed in possession and obligations to report addresses to police.

#### **Delivery scheduled for April-June 2022:**

- Formalisation of the forces approach to reports of Cuckooing. This will help EP and partners recognise those addresses being used for drug supply and puts in place a set of guidelines placing an emphasis on CPT’s, LPTS and Raptor to recognise the signs of cuckooing and respond positively. This will restrict the use of addresses by drug dealers and reduce violence and exploitation of the occupants and make target addresses in Essex less appealing. The impact of these will be a reduced risk to these vulnerable people. There will be heavy partner emphasis and sharing responsibility in this area. A training package (NCALT) has been commissioned for all LPT to understand cuckooing.
- To formalise the system in place to review reasons behind children going missing in Essex and children from other counties found in Essex. Investigative techniques exist to establish if these are linked to county lines. In turn, this helps to identify the lines posing the most risk/harm and informs the tasking process. The impact of this is to reduce missing episodes and risk to children. The PPP team will also work with regular missing persons who are being exploited or potentially exploited criminally.
- Continued focus on obtaining court enforceable Orders (such as gang injunctions) when appropriate to do so. Working with the CPS to ensure this important ‘add on’ to a conviction is considered. These orders assist in the dismantling of gangs and diversion of offenders from them.

#### **5.2.2 Serious Organised Crime**

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Lee Morton

#### **Insights:**



Essex Police Serious Organised Crime Unit activity across Q4 linked to the disruption of Organised Crime groups; the total results are as follows:

- 106 arrests
- 75 warrants executed
- 50 charges
- 39 suspects remanded in custody
- 1,845Kg of class A drugs seized
- 46.2Kg of class B drugs seized
- £1,308,651 cash seized
- 27 Firearms recovered
- People safeguarded 23

**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- Prevent and Protect engagement delivered across all scored OCG's , concentrating on vulnerable locations for MSHT and OIC
- Enhanced activity around Firearms supply within Essex. This has led to an OCG being dismantled with the primary offence being firearms supply and 18 handguns with 150 rounds of ammunition being seized .
- MSHT have now got scored OCG's and working closely with Partners to identify victims and safeguarding opportunities

**Delivery scheduled April-June 2022:**

- Support to the wider force with regards to OCG's that are causing the most harm and violence within the community
- Continued focus on firearms supply and understanding the business model with routes into the county/country

**5.2.3 Cybercrime and Fraud**

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Steve Jennings

**Cybercrime**

**Insights:**

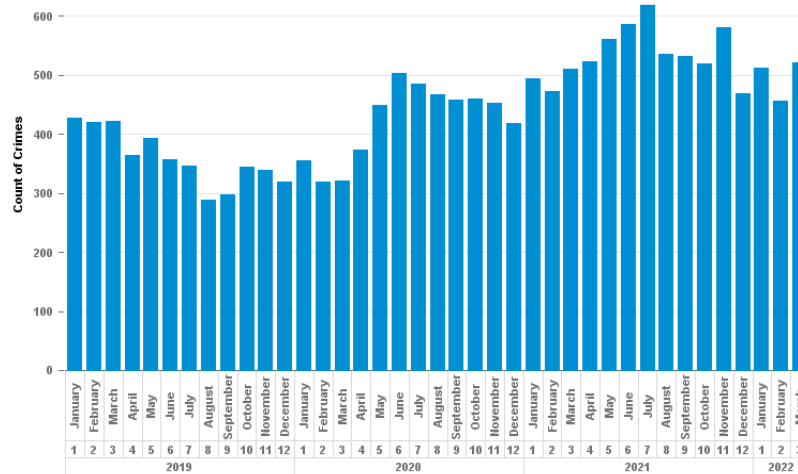
Data for 12 months to end of March 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2021	Diff.	% Diff.
6,417	5,547	870	+15.7%

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

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2020	Diff.	% Diff.
6,417	4,047	2370	+58.6%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Cyber dependant crime levels remain relatively unchanged with loss of social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) accounting for approximately 90% of all non-crime Action Fraud reports disseminated. The primary usage of accounts that have been taken over is to push cryptocurrency investment scams.

**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- Attendance at various Business networking groups in Essex to promote the Eastern Cyber Resilience Centre (ECRC) and Police Cyber Alarm (PCA)
- Review and implementation of a new process for the recording and dissemination of Action fraud reports to better assist in identifying repeat victims and trends/patterns of behaviour.
- Partnership built with the Business Crime Team (BCT) to provide a better offering to Businesses within Essex.

**Delivery scheduled April-June 2022:**

- Presentation packages to be delivered to vulnerable victim groups (including elderly and children) in relation to Cyber Safety and Hygiene.
- Delivery of virtual Cyber Surgeries for businesses in Essex covering business fraud and cybercrime.
- Deliver Cyber Cease & Desist (C&D) activity to individuals identified by the Prevent network.

**Fraud**

**Insights:**

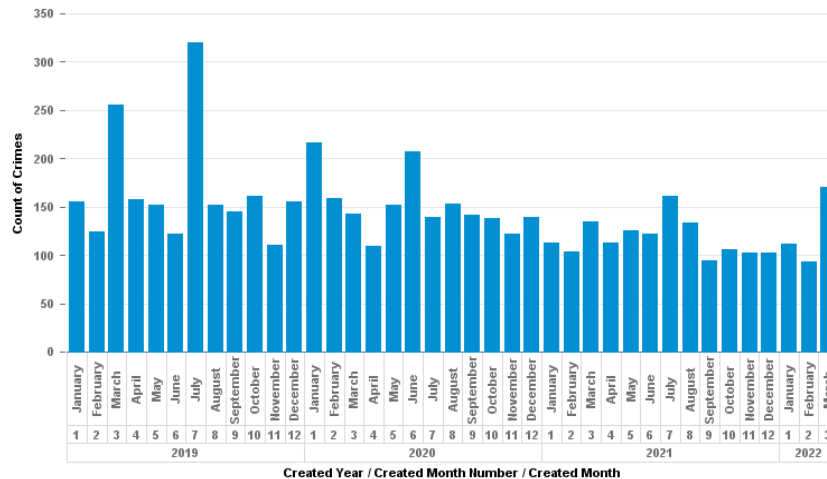
Data for 12 months to end of March 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2021	Diff.	% Diff.
1,436	1,653	-217	-13.1%

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

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2020	Diff.	% Diff.
1,436	1,994	-558	-28.0%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- Romance Fraud Peer Support Group – Partnership working with Victim Support Essex and Anglia Ruskin University to provide best care for vulnerable Victims of Fraud. There are currently 31 victims registered. Media are currently in talks with the BBC and ITV to highlight the work the Romance Fraud Peer Support Group are doing with vulnerable victims of Fraud.
- #FraudFriday – Partnership working with Essex Media Dept to help spread fraud awareness.
- QR Fraud Code - Points to <https://www.essex.police.uk/fraud> via <https://qrco.de/epfraud> which will measure the analytics.

**Delivery scheduled April-June 2022:**

- Joint Education Steering Group - To develop and share fraud awareness package for education officers and relevant staff, centred around Money Mules. This will produce a better product for delivery to all schools with the aim of raising awareness of fraud and potentially stopping them from becoming victims of crime.
- National Trading Standards – to have interactive “Friends Against Scams” package embedded directly onto your website or learner management system. Staff, PCSOs or cadets can then complete the Friends training directly.
- Develop and produce Op Signature Continuing Professional Development (CPD) package with Fraud Investigators Dept and Force trainers. To combine Prevent, Protect and Pursue approaches, ideas and techniques that will help Police Officers understand Fraud and manage their own learning.

**5.3 Complex Needs**

**5.3.1 Child Abuse/Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

Thematic Lead: Detective Chief Superintendent Andy Packer

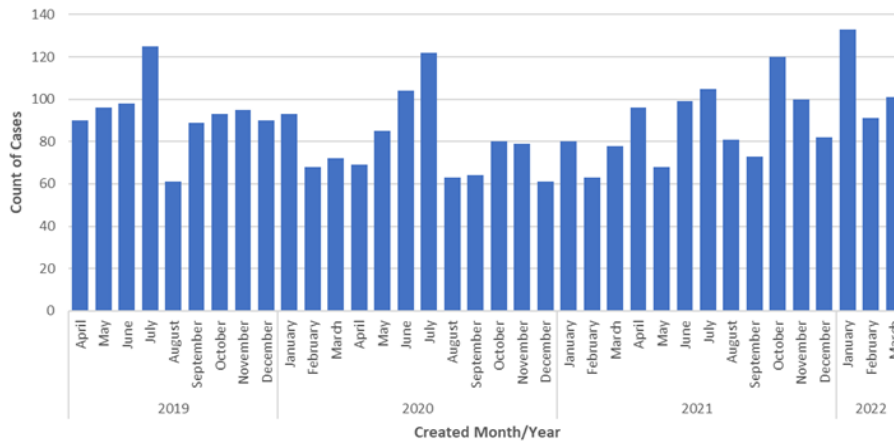
Data for CSE offences 12 months to end of March 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2021	Diff.	% Diff.
1,149	948	201	+21.2%

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

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2020	Diff.	% Diff.
1,149	1033	116	+10.6%

Bar chart showing CSE offences recorded each month:



**Insights:**

CSE prevention work centres around proactive partnership work delivered either in targeted operations such as Op Henderson (at transport hubs) and Op Makesafe (in hotels and B&Bs) or ad hoc targeted events, such as working with schools and colleges. MOSOVO has had key focus during the last quarter due to early HMIC feedback and as a result has been heavily resourced; and MOSOVO by its nature is targeted at preventing further CSE offences.

**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- MOSOVO have started their uplift of 14 officers from other departments to help meet demand.
- Op Henderson was actioned this quarter, whereby local outreach workers and community police engaged with passengers, businesses and young people at train and bus stations along identified key routes in Essex, raising awareness about the signs of exploitation and where to report concerns.
- In liaison with the education safeguarding officer at Essex County Council, C&PP Ops Centre has given an input on Harmful Sexual Behaviours to teachers and

partners in a secondary school. This was well received and prompted good discussion.

- Social media activity on the C&PP Twitter account publicising National Child Exploitation Awareness Day – including signs to look out for.
- SET procedures have just been updated and finalised with input from EP and are being published next quarter

**Delivery scheduled April-June 2022:**

- Meeting to be held between DFU, POLIT and MOSOVO around backlogs in device examination and technology solutions are being explored as alternative options for device examination to avoid future delays.
- Continued working with partners in schools to make children and parents aware of the dangers and thus prevent online child exploitation.
- Preventing and identifying CSE in hotels (Op Makesafe) by supporting partnership training/inspection.
- Publicising/preventing CSE through partnership working with more days of action in transport hubs.
- Continued use of our own social media to educate to prevent CSE and support partners’ campaigns.

**5.3.2 Domestic Abuse**

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Matt Cornish

**Insights:**

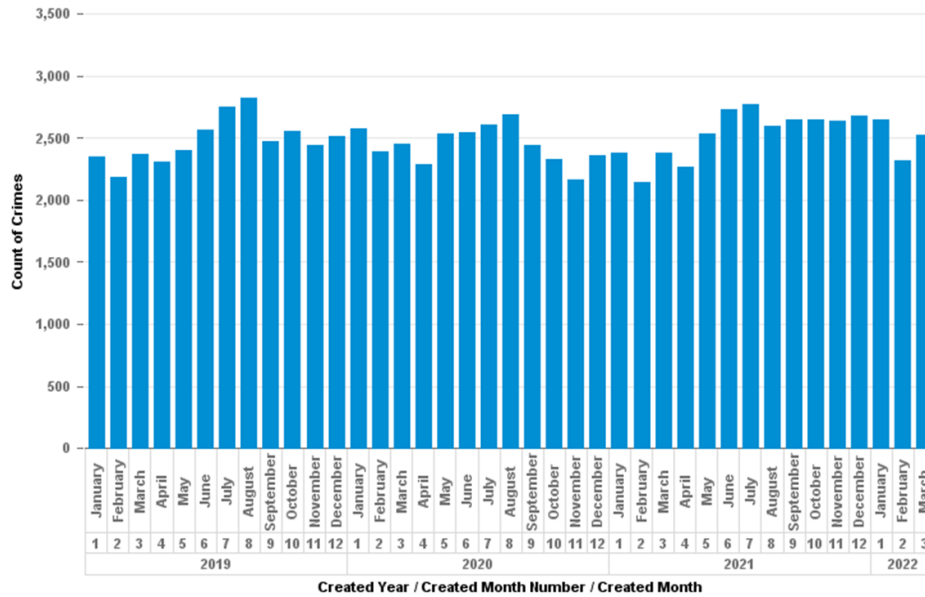
Data for 12 months to end of March 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2021	Diff.	% Diff.
30,984	28,845	2,139	+7.4%

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

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2020	Diff.	% Diff.
30,984	30,214	770	+2.6%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Domestic Abuse reporting within Essex has increased, albeit less the national average which is showing a 13% increase in reporting.

Of note, Essex has seen the number of ‘High Risk’ DA incidents increase by over 30%, If we continue to experience increases of this scale, this could become problematic for partners in the MARAC processes.

**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- Completion of Research and Review to identify and target highest threat DA perpetrators with the Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Teams (DAPST).
- DARA project team recruited, (D/Supt, 1 x DS and 2 x DC) and discovery phase started. Projected timeline for delivery of DARA risk assessment model 9-12 months.

**Delivery scheduled for April-June 2022:**

- Essex Police to submit application to the Home Office to become a Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) pilot site.
- Funding bid submitted to Home Office to enhance IDVA capacity for further collaborations with DAPST
- ‘Op Puffin Cohort’ perpetrators to be incrementally fed into DAPST for management. Ambition to have top 50 of 123 perpetrators being managed.

**5.3.3 Drugs and Alcohol**

Thematic Lead: Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow

**Insights:**

In February 2022 the Government released “From Harm to Hope”, a 10-year drug strategy aiming to prevent crime and save lives by reducing the supply and demand

for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system. There are a number of aspects of this strategy that are relevant for policing. These include rolling up county lines and tackling the retail market, increased focus on rehabilitation and recovery throughout CJS including through community sentences, tougher consequences for recreational users, wider use of drug testing on arrest, and developing out of court disposal schemes.

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. These are commented on within sections 5.2.1 and 5.1.1 respectively.

**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- Force Drug and Alcohol Strategy refreshed in February 2022 to reflect the Government’s “From Harm to Hope” Strategy and NPCC’s National Drugs strategy
- New SVU Support Desks were introduced in January 2022 - Officers dealing with PWITS, conspiracy or gang injunctions are now required to speak with the SVU to get a case action plan and support on the in-custody phase (and beyond) with the intention of increasing charge and remands.
- All DAPST and OMTs have completed Identification and Brief advice training, which allows them to more confidently discuss alcohol use with victims and perpetrators and then signpost or refer for appropriate treatment and interventions

**Delivery scheduled April-June 2022:**

- Governance: New tactical Criminal Justice System & Substance Misuse meeting being established (the ambition is for a SET-wide meeting, chaired by ECC), in addition the Essex Police force lead will attend a new Southend Strategic Partnership Board focused on delivery of treatment services.
- A drugs and alcohol newsletter will be circulated throughout the force, containing information that will assist officers in cases relating to drugs or alcohol
- Op Novice – this proof-of-concept operation in Basildon is aimed at young people found in simple possession of cannabis, diverting them into treatment and family support from the Children’s Society, with the aim of reducing substance misuse and related risk and offending.
- Implementation of a new ‘referral portal’ developed by Phoenix Futures to further streamline and increase referrals from policing for treatment, especially for those with multiple and complex needs.

**5.3.4 Mental Health**

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Natalia Ross

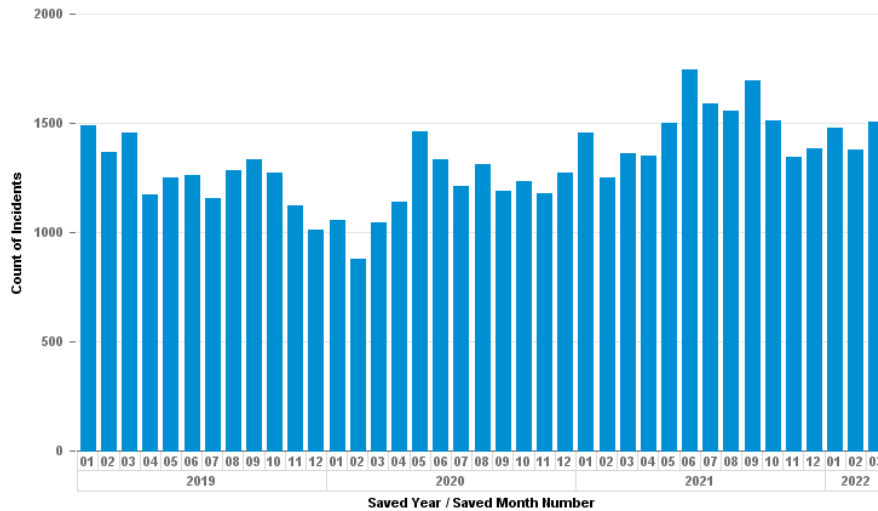
*Table comparing Mental Health Incidents data to previous year e.g.*

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2021	Diff.	% Diff.
18,026	15,405	2,621	+17.0%

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

12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2020	Diff.	% Diff.
18,026	13,849	4,177	+30.2%

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



**Insights:**

There has been a clear increase in the volume of MH incidents in all areas recorded with an overall 30.2% increase since COVID began. There continues to be a key focus on improved data collection, collaboration, information sharing and joint training with partners in EPUT, NHS, EEAST, Social Services, Fire and non-profit charities, as well as ongoing work with partners around the national shortage of beds for those detained under S.136 MHA. There also continues to be a significant amount of work around assaults within a health care setting involving those suffering with Mental ill health, working closely with EPUT to ensure that these investigations are recorded correctly, and are prioritised and investigated appropriately.

**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- Investigate – The creation of the first MH Quarterly report as well as a review of S135/136 over the last two years, providing a breakdown into demography, time of day, location of detention, time taken etc. This enabled the identification of common themes that was shared with partner agencies to push back on them in relation to the issue of S136 beds, as well as feeding into further training which is being developed for all frontline officers.
- Prevent – The creation of the new Strategic Partnership Mental Health Board which has been put in place to facilitate discussions between Essex Police and EPUT at a senior level to ensure any common themes are identified and dealt as well as early intervention on areas of concern relating to MH.



- Response – A workshop with key stakeholders around MH was held to create and agree a new multi-agency policy with an in-built escalation process for S135 and S136 respectively which is now out for consultation.

**Delivery scheduled April-June 2022:**

- Prevent – A bi-monthly tactical level ‘Mental Health Risk Management Board’ has been established with the first meeting set for 17th June 2022. This is a multi-agency tactical co-ordination group governed through the Operations Centre C&PP Command DCI. This will be the forum where all agencies including police can refer in individuals with identified risk factors to be discussed, who do not qualify for MAPPA and ensures that all agencies contribute to a plan to mitigate the risk of offending, most notably serious violence, and homicide risks.
- Investigate – A gap had been identified regarding the facilitation for sharing information between agencies. An Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) has been created to facilitate easier flow of information between agencies regarding Mental Health. The ISA makes specific mention to sharing of information regarding serious violence and homicide information as well as other key areas. The ISA has now been submitted to EPUT and Mental Health Street Triage Team and is supported in principle. This will enable agencies to better investigate and safeguard subjects.
- Response – Flex training being delivered to all frontline officers around common themes relating to S136 processes including the importance of accurate data collection and the reminder of working practices such as the use of the Mental Health Street Triage where available prior to utilising this power to ensure it is being used appropriately and to prevent unnecessary detentions.

**5.4 Vulnerabilities**

**5.4.1 Places**

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Richard Melton

**Insights:**

Supt Richard Melton, Amanda Johnson [ECFRS] and Caroline Ellis [ECC] were successful in securing funding from the Police Science, Technology, Analysis, and Research (STAR) to develop a way of identifying areas where women feel unsafe in the community. An intuitive mapping tool is being created along with Nottingham Trent University to better inform Essex Partnerships where to focus efforts against VAWG (also anticipated that it will also impact on Hate Crime & ASB). We are drawing to a conclusion in Phase 1 and the Minerva Zone mapping tool has been built and is undergoing final testing. In June 2022 we plan to move into Phase 2:

**Delivery achieved October-December 2021:**

- Phase 2: Working through Safer Essex to enable evidence-based decision-making to identify and agree ‘Minerva Zones’ for partnership action. Areas mapped will need to be prioritised for action, though a Minerva Oversight Group

reporting to Safer Essex, and in liaison with local Community Safety Partnerships.

- Initial categorisation into those to be taken forward as ‘Minerva Zones’ and those that do not meet these criteria but might be of interest for local Community Safety Partnerships to consider. Minerva Zones will also be prioritised in order to ensure appropriate resources can be aligned to the action plan.

**Delivery scheduled January-March 2022:**

- Project Minerva will be first socialised and presented at the PFCC annual conference on the 24/05/22 where it will be demonstrated at two of the breakout workshops throughout the event.
- Phase 3: Partnership approach in each Minerva Zone to assess the local issues and engage with ‘users’ of the space, develop and deliver an action plan.
- Phase 4: Review of impact.

**5.4.2 Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery**

Thematic Lead: Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow

**Insights:**

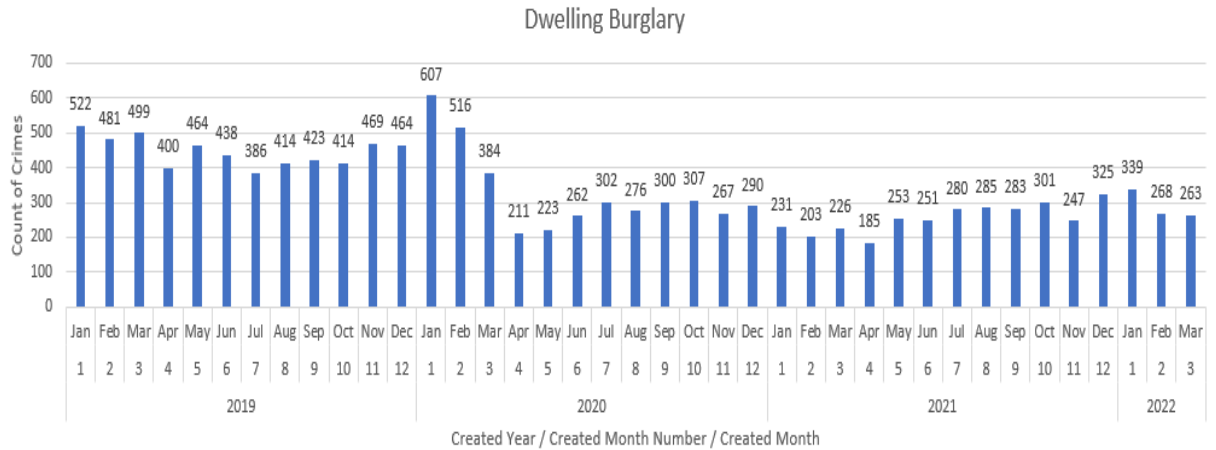
Data for 12 months to end of March 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

Offence Type	12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2021	Diff.	% Diff.
Dwelling Burglary	3,271	3,097	174	+5.6%
Street Robbery	1,271	1,182	+89	+7.5%

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

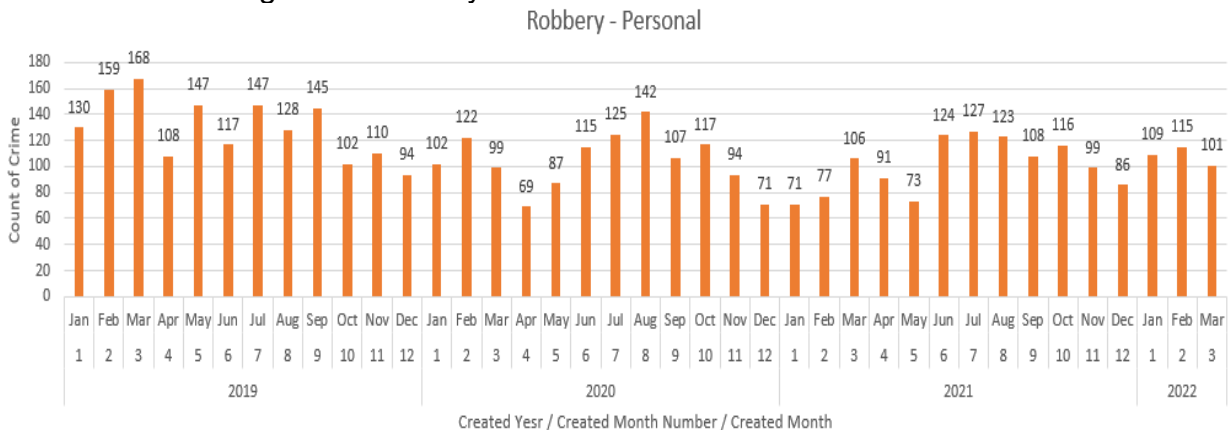
Offence Type	12 Month ending March 2022	12 Month ending March 2020	Diff.	% Diff.
Dwelling Burglary	3,271	5,379	-2108	-39.2%
Street Robbery	1,271	1,427	-156	-10.9%

Bar chart showing dwelling burglary crimes recorded each month:



Burglary residential dwelling offences have remained relatively steady from Q3 to Q4, going from 873 offences to 870 offences, a decrease of 3 offences. For the past 4 quarters, each quarter has seen an increase in burglary offences, so this is the first quarter since January – March 2021 that has seen a decrease. In pre-COVID times the January to March period would normally show a peak, so despite COVID restrictions having been lifted for a considerable amount of time, we have still not seen a return to pre-COVID levels. There is a 32% increase in this recent Q4 from the same time period the year before (Jan – March 2021), but a 42% decrease from the year before (Jan – Mar 2020), before COVID restrictions commenced.

Bar chart showing street robbery crimes recorded each month:



Personal robbery offences show a considerable amount of variation. Q4 has seen an increase of 8% from the previous quarter, going from 301 in Q3 to 325 in Q4. This is a significant increase (28%) from Q4 2021, which saw 254 offences, but is in line with the number of robberies in Q4 2020 (323). In general, since COVID restrictions were in place the number of robbery offences has stayed lower than pre-COVID numbers., although it is likely that we will see the summer peak in offences that we have seen in previous years, including when there were restrictions in place.

**Delivery achieved January-March 2022:**

- Op Oryx has been actioned on an ongoing basis in Southend where there has been a chronic issue with street robbery. Op Spearmint is a similar operation that has occurred in Basildon where in recent months there has been a spike in the number of offences.

- In January 2022, street robbery and aggravated burglary were added to the force control strategy, allowing greater access to analytical products, funding and resourcing. Renewed 4P plans have been developed and are governed through the force tasking process.
- Op Nightshade commenced force-wide in November'21 which continues to date, which is a focus on high harm offences, including robbery and burglary. This has led to an overall reduction in the number of outstanding suspects, and increased scrutiny around solved outcomes.

**Delivery scheduled April-June 2022:**

- Op Salmon is taking place as a trial across the South Local Policing area, which will see an increased number of forensic submissions relating to robbery offences.
- Intelligence teams are working to develop our ability to predict where aggravated burglary offences may occur so preventative activity can be more meaningfully targeted.
- Options paper being developed to explore whether a robbery policy should be created (similar to new burglary policy) that may mandate particular investigative actions.

**5.4.3 Prevent**

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Naomi Edwards

**Insights:**

There were 26 Prevent referrals from the Essex Police district in Q4.

This is a total number across many sectors, within in that there were 2 Essex Police referrals.

Number of Essex Police referrals remain low in this quarter.

- Education 7
- Police 7
- NPS 2
- Local Government 1
- Social Services 2
- Prisons 2
- Military 1
- Health 1
- Family 2
- FE 1

**Delivery achieved Jan 22 – Mar 22**

**CTP Prevent Survey**

It was identified that the volume of prevent referrals fluctuates across quarters and counties. An online survey was submitted to gain a better understanding of knowledge

around Prevent across local forces, to help inform Prevents ability to deliver effective engagements and encourage suitable referrals from local policing.

Essex had the best uptake of survey completion across the Eastern Region (165)

The results showed that in Essex

53% Know how to make a Prevent referral

64% Know what the CTLP is

Recommendations from Survey were as follows:

- Further work with frontline officers to understand how we can improve knowledge of making a Prevent referral, e.g., signage at police stations etc?
- Need to explore options for ensuring frontline officers are aware of and receive the CTLP
- Review what inputs non-operational staff receive on Prevent
- This survey should be refreshed in twelve months' time to track whether there has been an improvement and should include a question identifying which force the respondent comes from.

### **Prevent Champion Training**

This work continues and training is held periodically.

In Q4 there training took place in February 2022 where a further 29 Essex Police Staff and Officers became prevent champions

In March 2022 a large number of specials were trained, of which 25 Essex Specials have received the training.

### **Delivery Planned for Q1 2022 Apr 22 – June 22**

Further training for Essex specials scheduled in Q1

Prevent presentations scheduled for Q1 have taken place for IAG's (Thurrock 11/5/22), Colchester 25/5/22 and Further Education/Higher Education establishments in Essex on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

Schools which generate a PREVENT referral will receive both a PREVENT and Hate crime presentation due to the links identified between the two themes.

#### **5.4.4 Hate Crime**

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Naomi Edwards

#### **Insights:**

There has been a combination of 5363 recorded hate crimes and hate incidents during the 21/22 financial year, which represents a considerable 31.25% increase on the same period last year. Q4 2021 saw 998 hate crimes and incidents in comparison to

852 in Q4 2020. Whilst this is positive, it is also clear that offending motivated by hatred/hostility is on the increase in Essex.

Whilst an increase may appear negative, there are many positive indicators which are contributing factors to the increase of hate crime in Essex. Through community support, engagement and the allies that we have in our hate crime ambassadors to stand up against hate, an increase in recording / reporting is a natural and progressive consequence of the activity completed by Essex police and Community partners to report and record hate crime.

An assessment has been made as to the locations of all Q4 hate offending and it indicates that Basildon [165], Southend [162], Thurrock [152] and Colchester [134] have the highest number of hate crimes.

### **Delivery Achieved Q4 Jan to Mar 22**

It is relevant to highlight the positive engagement taken by the three LPAs to increase Hate Crime ambassadors across Essex to 1039 and the establishment of 65 Hate crime reporting centres.

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.

### **Delivery planned Q1 April – June 22**

OP Minerva Phase 2 - Safer Essex. June 22 Phase 2 to commence, this is an exciting and progressive initiative, looking to use data across key agencies to identify geographic areas where VAWG offences and public fear of offending are more prevalent, to then work in a whole systems approach to bring about sustained crime reduction and increase public confidence. It is hoped the Minerva model can then be used to bring about sustained improvements across other protected characteristics in the Hate Crime agenda.

All LPAs have undertaken a deep dive of Hate Crime reports that have been open in excess of three months and those that are summary offences and have expired the Statutory Time Limits for prosecution. In order to harness best practice and develop areas of improvement. This will also include dip sampling to call victims of Hate Crime and identify any organisational learning regarding timeliness, communication and empathy to be included as voice of the victim.

During Q1 implementation a force hate crime investigations improvement plan which will focus solely on increasing the solved rate for hate crime. Data will be produced monthly per district and disseminated to LPA Command Team and CPT Inspectors. Monthly meetings will take place with CPT Insp from each LPA where the 'open' hate crimes over 90 days (changing to 60 days in Q2) will be dip checked for compliance. In addition to the improvement tracker:

- EIA on hate crime – CPS engagement is underway, Thematic lead meeting planned with CPS national Hate crime lead and regional lead – June 22
- Outstanding named suspects
- Increase use of BWV when recording hate crime
- MG11s to relay the impact on victims and well as the facts
- Voice of the victim to be shared internally to relay the personal impact this has on victims
- Launch Essex hate crime QR code to report hate crime and access our webpage for support agencies and links to them. Pushed to Q2

## **5.5 Delivery/challenges by exception**

### **5.5.1 Covid recovery**

As predicted the lifting of restrictions has resulted in a rise in certain areas which have benefited from lesser volumes during lockdown, e.g. NTE related offences and mental health. Q4 and the months following will allow us to gain a better understanding of the challenges we face post covid, and work collaboratively to address them.

As referred to in 5.3.2, Essex has seen the number of 'High Risk' DA incidents increase by over 30% in Q4. 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 Superintendent Steve Jennings

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 – Detective Superintendent Bonnie Moore

Prevent – Superintendent Naomi Edwards

Hate Crime – Superintendent Naomi Edwards

#### **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.