

Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024

Quarterly update including MSG aspirations

Quarter 2 - 2022/23

Data to September 2022



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Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q2

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Priority 1 - Further investment in crime prevention

We will:

Build on the success of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) by encouraging increased targeting of hotspots, including in the night-time economy, and known offenders to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

North LPA

- Braintree Community Policing Team (CPT) conduct intensive days of action targeting Organised Crime Groups (OCG's) under Operation Heap. This is in partnership with CSP staff who conduct taxi operations to disrupt their use by OCG's. Recent deployments led to 17 intelligence reports, the seizure of three vehicles and four arrests.
- A housing subgroup has been created within the Braintree CSP to support vulnerable persons and complex needs. The group identify triggers leading to unacceptable behaviour causing tenancies to fail and a downward spiral of behaviour. The subgroup consists of Police, Housing, Mental Health and the Local Authority with a support package (Safety Net) to the individual.
- The Colchester Community Safety Delivery Board have formed a Crime Prevention subgroup bringing together a range of partners who think collaboratively to address identified crime prevention and ASB issues. This has seen CCTV coverage increased to address the concerns of residents walking home at night.
- Uttlesford District have launched the Horizon Project working with a cohort of clients with multiple disadvantages. The cohort has 11 clients who each agency works with to improve their outcomes and reduce the impact on emergency services, offending behaviour, homelessness and their readiness to enter the workplace.
- Maldon Community Policing Team works with partners to proactively target ASB hotspots and focus activity to challenge repeat offenders. Chelmsford and Tendring Districts lead night time economy 'Nights of Action', supported by partners across the CSP, Street Pastors, Uturn, businesses, public houses and taxi companies. These include targeted joint ASB patrols, advice to business, knife sweeps and knife arch use.
- "Balling with a Bobby" ran over the summer in Colchester and saw Essex Police work with the Essex Rebels basketball team to provide free basketball sessions for young people and engagement with officers, breaking down barriers through sport. The sessions were well received and across the district, 16% of participants were from a ethnic minority background.
- Each district works with CSP partners to deliver Operation Grip, providing a visible presence in violent crime hotspots. We are including CSP partners in these patrols and in Tendring, work is underway to include Street Pastors and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service to enhance the effectiveness of this work.

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Priority 1 - Further investment in crime prevention

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West LPA

- Thurrock will see the launch of the new police quad bikes to target Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) breaches & those who commit ASB within the Town Centre. As of 16th September: 30 E-Scooters Seized, 80 Containers of Alcohol Seized, 10 PSPO tickets given and 180 People spoken around PSPO enforcement. This operation also resulted in the arrest of a male on an e-scooter and armed with a knife for various offences.
- There have been joint patrols throughout the summer with police and council ASB teams in Brentwood, Loughton, Waltham Abbey, Purfleet and Tilbury to tackle ASB and disorder in the good weather.
- Essex, Hertfordshire and the Metropolitan Police Service have been conducting the cross border Operation Claymore in July and August, using ANPR to identify vehicles linked to violence and drugs. These vehicles are then stopped by police & searches/arrests follow. This has been a successful operation to deter cross border crime.

South LPA

- South LPA partake in a Community Operations Group, a monthly multi-agency problem solving group, jointly chaired with CSP.
- “Open gates” are a weapons searching system which can simultaneously check multiple people. These were funded by CSP. Southend are the first policing team to use this within UK.
- Operation Grip is a more targeted streamlined “hotspot” approach, including joint patrols with council partners. Project Servator deployments are conducted within Operation Grip zones by both uniformed officers and partners from the CSP.
- Operation Union provides high visibility across Southend during the summer, with joint patrols from the Council. Operation Fair: Used at Castle Point and Rochford, this identifies the most challenging offenders/individuals and creates a process of visits, disruption activities, partner referrals via CSP including route towards prosecution. Operation Casio in Basildon identified the top five most violent offenders and made a process of focussed intelligence gathering, visits, disruption, intervention and engagement with buy in from CSP to push towards crime prevention. Operation Hyena: In Basildon, this is a focused street robbery operation in hotspot offending areas with a blend of high visibility crime prevention patrols and use of covert assets to capture offenders.

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Priority 2 - Reducing drug driven violence

We will:

Through our Violence and Vulnerability Partnership we will: Protect vulnerable people from gangs while we deal with the hardened criminals who prey on them.

- The Serious & Organised Crime Unit in the Serious Crime Directorate (SCD) continues to target Class A drug dealers in the County with a focus on those individuals and gangs that cause the most harm to vulnerable people in our communities.
- Working with the LPA's, the Violence Reduction Unit and Regional Teams we have developed intelligence around those gangs that are primarily focussed on dealing drugs in the County. Through targeted interventions using a range of overt and covert tactics, we have made it a more hostile environment for the gangs ability to freely deal in drugs whilst at the same time identifying and safeguarding vulnerable people with partners.
- This work has expanded into the Metropolitan Police Area who we have a good working relationship with and regularly share intelligence and assist each other in targeted operations. Specifically we have had a lot of success around locating outstanding offenders who are directly linked to drug driven violence.

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Priority 2 - Reducing drug driven violence

We will:

Through our Violence and Vulnerability Partnership we will: Encourage and facilitate cooperation between public bodies in line with the government's proposed public sector duty to reduce serious violence.

- Operation Pan was an investigation centred around a criminal gang using explosives to blow up ATM's and steal cash from within. Two suspects were identified and have been arrested. Both males have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing on remand.
- Operation Dapple was a reactive investigation into an attempted Murder whereby the Victim received a shotgun wound after a failed Kidnap in the Waltham Abbey area. After an extensive investigation 2 males were identified and have subsequently been arrested. Warrants were executed and during searches cash, ammunition and the Shotgun have been recovered.
- Operation Semitone is the investigation for a conspiracy to murder and possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. The investigation into Operation Semitone has identified what appears to be an ongoing feud between two OCG's involved in the supply of drugs; with multiple incidents relating to persons involved. Two male suspects have been identified and arrested. Both are remanded awaiting trial.

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Priority 3 - Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse

We will:

Continue the programme of investment in dedicated officers working in collaboration with other partners to support high volume, repeat victims and tackle repeat perpetrators and break the cycle of domestic abuse.

North LPA

- The North LPA are committed to ensuring their Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Team (DAPST) deliver the highest service to repeat victims of domestic abuse and challenge repeat perpetrators. We are proud of the commitment of our team who work in partnership with Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA) and COMPASS to support victims and break the cycle of abuse.
- North DAPST supported the arrest of 77 offenders during the reporting period, conducted 14 DVPO enforcement visits and 28 victim engagement visits to ensure compliance with orders and referral to partner agencies. The team are managing a cohort of 26 high threat perpetrators, applying for civil orders, conducting engagement visits, and disruption work including 12 specific offender operations. As a result, six of these nominals are now remanded in custody.
- North DAPST have increased their referrals into COMPASS and the IDVA service to ensure the right support to break the cycle of abuse. North DAPST work alongside partners to engage with 81 of the most vulnerable victims of domestic abuse who are linked to live crimes or are associated with a high threat cohort perpetrator. In Tendring, the IDVA's now work in the police station, supporting partnership activity and the delivery of joint training.
- The North Domestic Abuse Investigations Team's (DAIT) deliver the investigation of domestic abuse, and managers work in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) through a local board, developing best practise and reviewing decisions made in serious and complex domestic abuse investigations.
- North LPA leads project KULPA which will be launched in October in partnership with Next Chapter (IDVA service). This supports victims of abuse by providing an application to securely upload journals or material, ready for when they feel able to speak to the police. This provides reassurance to victims that phones may not need to be provided to police to support an investigation.
- Braintree CSP have formed a Domestic Violence subgroup, supporting individual victims and their needs. The group has membership from Essex Police, Next Chapter, Mental Health and Housing.
- Community Safety Engagement Officers (CSEO's) from across the LPA attend the TRIBE project run by Next Chapter, engaging with children from DA relationships, to talk about safety planning and building positive relationships.
- Colchester District are piloting a Child Exploitation Community Panel, which brings together partners to discuss children at risk who do not meet statutory thresholds and also allowing partners to bring information to police around vulnerable places and spaces.

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Priority 3 - Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse

We will:

Continue the programme of investment in dedicated officers working in collaboration with other partners to support high volume, repeat victims and tackle repeat perpetrators and break the cycle of domestic abuse.

North LPA (Continued)

- Tendring District are working with the Next Chapter Tribe project and attending the Tribe Project in Jaywick to meet families that have suffered domestic abuse and especially meeting the children within domestic abuse situations. Within this project, officers listened to concerns and fears to build trust and confidence.
- Our DAPST recently obtained a Stalking Protection Order for a high risk victim of domestic abuse which was the first of its kind to feature the use of a Buddi-Tag condition. We are also working towards two applications for Sexual Harm Prevention Orders against our highest risk offenders.
- Every North DAIT now has Active Citizens embedded in the teams. This is a first in the county and provides additional capacity to enable the highest level of support to the provided to victims.

West LPA

- West Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Team are continuing to receive referrals from other agencies, which include social care, in order to engage with those believed to be victims of unreported DA. The collaboration allows agencies to provide safeguarding to victims that engage, which can include emergency housing and apprehension of offenders in order to break the cycle of abuse.
- The problem solving team are continuing to engage with agencies that were created in order to assist offenders in addressing their behaviour and building better relationships moving forward. The referrals continue to be made and reviewed in order to monitor that the offenders are engaging and the help they are receiving is having a positive impact on their lives.
- West DAPST has been working with 12 Perpetrators considered to pose the highest risk to their victims. Each perpetrator is being managed by an Officer with consideration around referrals and reviewing their current offending behaviours. The approach towards each of them is unique and based on a full review of their history of offending and reports of being a victim.
- The West DAPST are continuing to monitor and apprehend outstanding suspects wanted for DA, they continue to conduct enquiries to locate suspects that try to evade arrest and ensure that all attempts are logged on the DAIT investigations.
- The West DAPST are engaging with the Change project in order to facilitate co-locating once a week, this will give both police and the project a chance to discuss referrals and those suitable to be offered support services.

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Priority 3 - Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse

We will:

Continue the programme of investment in dedicated officers working in collaboration with other partners to support high volume, repeat victims and tackle repeat perpetrators and break the cycle of domestic abuse.

South LPA

- Two members of Staff from the Change Project external agency have been brought into Southend and Basildon to work with repeat offenders alongside DAPST.
- Ongoing conversations with Victim Support about developing a process to ensure a more holistic process for repeat victims.

Forcewide

- Essex Police is currently running Operation Puffin, a targeted operation on over 100 nominals identified as being at a considerable risk to domestic abuse victims. These perpetrators are monitored by the domestic abuse problem solving teams with a view to prevent further crimes being committed.
- We are in the process of compiling a victim strategy document, in partnership with Safesteps, to be able to provide victims of domestic abuse with a comprehensive list of services available to be them for support and guidance, enabling them to make their own decision which agency suits their best needs.

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Priority 4 – Reducing violence against women and girls

We will:

Work with communities and listen to women and girls directly affected by violence and harassment to discuss and understand what we can do differently and use this feedback to inform our future work.

- Essex Police is working with Tackling Organised Exploitation Crime to target VAWG high harm offenders identified through the extraction of data across the Athena network of forces.
- The Force has reinvigorated and relaunched Operations Yalta and Ratify to give additional focus to safeguarding victims and preventing domestic rape. Operation Yalta focuses on repeat victims, whereas Operation Ratify targets frequent offenders; domestic abuse is a frequent theme on both sides. Monthly meetings discuss offenders/victims using a tier system based on intelligence, highest risk and data held by police. A plan is put in place for Tier 1 offenders and each Local Policing Area (LPA) engages locally with partners to form a bespoke prevention/safeguarding package that may include housing, social care, education and/or health partners.
- Operation Goldcrest is aimed at young people at risk of or currently victim of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) who do not want to engage with Police or support an investigation. It gives them the opportunity to anonymously report abuse and provide forensic samples, which will be stored for up to 25 years. This balances the voice of the victim and their wishes at the time of the offence with ensuring evidence capture in case of a future change of intent to support a prosecution. Currently only available in one local authority area (Thurrock) so plan to expand.
- Sexual Violence Scrutiny Panel consists of decision-making representatives from the Crown Prosecution Service, Adult Social Care, Children’s Social Care, Mental Health, and Police who meet quarterly to discuss and reflect on two closed rape investigations. Each meeting follows a different theme; ethnic minorities, child rape, mental health, drug/alcohol dependency.
- In November, the Professional Standards Department Independent Advisory Group will be examining a finalised VAWG related public complaint around police conduct. Learning/feedback identified from this will be shared with the wider workforce.
- Essex Police Crime and Public Protection (C&PP) detectives met with staff and students at Thurrock College Freshers week engaging with the largest crowd to date listening to the feedback and insight into the challenges they have faced and experiences as young service users. Spiking kits were handed out during the event and topics such as consent, rape myths and safeguarding were discussed.
- Basildon College Fair was also attended. Rape/sexual offences and violence against women and girls were discussed with the staff and students, which was well received; the college has given Essex Police carte blanche to return whenever they like and also speak within their curriculum about consent and staying safe. By working with partners, we ensure that communities can be confident of receiving tailored support and have the confidence to report crime.

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Priority 4 – Reducing violence against women and girls

We will:

Support Essex Police and partners to robustly target offenders and to develop stronger investigations that lead to more successful prosecutions.

North LPA

- Our domestic abuse teams attend child protection meetings where the family have been involved in domestic abuse. They work with partners to support victims and children which provides them with the confidence to support prosecutions.
- DAIT in Tendring District have commenced focus panels with victims of domestic abuse to receive feedback to improve the service we provide and develop stronger investigations.
- In Colchester, the Multi Agency Coordination panel brings together police and partners to discuss offenders causing the most harm and joint tactics to effectively disrupt them using the range of powers across all agencies.
- Chelmsford and Tendring Districts lead night time economy `Nights of Action`, supported by partners across the CSP, Street Pastors, Uturn, business, public houses and taxi companies. These include targeted patrols to provide reassurance to woman and girls and ensure an effective response to incidents.
- Chelmsford and Maldon Community Policing Teams have attended every licensed premises with their CSP colleagues to give advice to staff to help them support females in trouble and identify potential threats to women and girls. Drug testing kits have been distributed and premises with repeat reports of drink spiking have been given preventative merchandise for patrons.
- Awareness of the Street Safe app has been reinvigorated to ensure anyone who feels unsafe can report areas of concern. To date, 71 reports have been received with concerns raised about lighting, drug and drink use.
- Work has been conducted with the University of Essex and Anglia Ruskin University to deliver prevention training to students regarding consent, alcohol, drugs, and personal safety. Engagement with students continues through a partnership approach and a dedicated police officer.
- Braintree District secured a Home Office Safer Streets Bid of £450k to reduce the fear of crime in Witham. This will see the installation of eight additional CCTV cameras, signage and lighting, addressing the fears of woman and girls and making safer spaces.
- Braintree Community Policing Team held an all girls Football Tournament utilising sport as a means of engagement, building trust and confidence, supported by other partners of the CSP including Next Chapter and Colchester United Community Team. The team received inputs regarding personal safety and woman and girls had the opportunity to provide feedback on their experiences.

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Priority 4 – Reducing violence against women and girls

We will:

Support Essex Police and partners to robustly target offenders and to develop stronger investigations that lead to more successful prosecutions.

North LPA (Continued)

- As part of the Safer Streets fund, Chelmsford Community Policing Team and CSP worked with Anglia Ruskin University to complete surveys with local women to understand their fears. From this feedback, foliage was cut back from pathways on the Bunny Walks, extra lighting and additional CCTV installed.
- Colchester District are working with the University Of Essex, Open Road and other Community groups to run Night Time Economy Audits to obtain the views and experience of woman and girls in the town at night. This involves plain clothes police officers walking with woman in the night time economy to look, see and feel the issues making woman feel unsafe.
- The Colchester IAG now represents 34 groups including women's safety groups and has delivered a range of training to members including domestic abuse, modern slavery and human trafficking.

West LPA

- Operation Perform has been ongoing in Harlow throughout the Summer. This is dedicated Cycle Patrols everyday on Harlow's Cycle Paths and Open Spaces. A number of arrests have been made for Possession of Offensive Weapon and Robberies whilst this operation has been in place.
- Operation Grip is well maintained in the West – August saw 550 patrols in violent crime hotspots, providing community reassurance and helping to prevent crime.
- Various night time economy operations have been run in Harlow, Brentwood and Loughton including the use of knife arches and high visibility patrols, engaging with licensees.
- Additional CCTV cameras have been installed in Harlow to help create a safer town centre for women and girls.
- Operation Benison has been expanded to ensure that local licensed premises including restaurants are properly complying with their terms. Attending officers have been raising awareness with licensees around spiking & drug offences in their premises.
- Harlow CSP is developing a dedicated Sub-Group for VAWG and will be using first hand testimony and surveys to inform some of their regeneration work in the Town to make it feel safer.
- The Epping Council funded team have linked in with the Streetsafe initiative to provide a data-driven VAWG focus. They are working with the local authority to develop an environment-based approach to reduce VAWG and allow local women & girls to feel safer.
- CPTs and CSEOs have been promoting the Ask Angela and the White Ribbon campaigns as part of the VAWG work in Brentwood and Epping Forest District.

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Priority 4 – Reducing violence against women and girls

We will:

Support Essex Police and partners to robustly target offenders and to develop stronger investigations that lead to more successful prosecutions.

South LPA

- The number of HeForShe champions has increased in South LPA and wider communications have been circulated to raise awareness.
- In Castle Point and Rochford there is a drive for awareness of VAWG in schools and pupil behaviour by introducing it as an agenda item with secondary school headteachers.
- At St Vincents the DAPST, with the support of other agencies, has worked to engage with victims of DA.
- There has been a focus on Victim call backs by Victim champions, for in-depth discussions on their experiences.
- The LPA have encouraged youth representation into IAG, with proactive approaches to Group of Headteachers and Public Services course providers.
- Work on Operation Vimto aims to build relationships, gain sex worker trust and target people using and exploiting them.
- Operation Gerbera is a proactive operation deploying plain clothed “Disruptive Effects” Officers into night-time economy (NTE) venues. This operation was welcomed by females. The Southend CPT Inspector is currently working on a project with colleagues from Headquarters to develop wristbands which can be used to identify whether a drink has been spiked. The project involves working directly with the manufacturers and, if successful, funding will be sought from NTE partners.

Force-wide

- Operation Lantern was an operation at Stansted Airport where officers aimed to prevent Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by looking to identify those at risk and targeting offenders.
- Work is being carried out to develop and improve the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, also known as Claire’s Law, whereby Essex Police intends to improve our service to deliver historical information to potential victims of domestic abuse for them to make an informed decision about any relationship from the facts disclosed.

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Priority 5 - Improving support for victims of crime

We will:

Work with partners to ensure victims receive appropriate tailored support and are confident to report crime or, if they choose, to seek non-custodial resolutions and out of court disposals.

North LPA

- Braintree and Uttlesford have pioneered a Victim Improvement Strategy which will be rolled out across the North LPA. This is aimed at improving the confidence of victims of crime. This includes victim needs assessments, targeted street beats, victim cards, revisits and letters. There is greater use of restorative justice and partner referrals.
- Tendring District hold a monthly partnership meeting with key stakeholders and the 3rd sector, allowing all to refer individuals to the panel for support and a joint problem solving approach. By working closely with these partners, we are delivering an enhanced personalised service to victims of crime, including non-court disposal when this may provide greater victim satisfaction.
- Community Safety Support Officers in Tendring are working with Community Voluntary Services to support a Muslim Sister Circle group. Each party has the opportunity to discuss concerns and police give advice on crime prevention and crime reporting. There has been specific inputs on hate crime and the support police and partners can give.
- Colchester District holds an Anti Social Behaviour Review Board, which encourages partners within Housing and the wider CSP to nominate challenging cases which receive enhanced support from a multiagency panel chaired by police. This enables the assessment of different disposal options and best outcomes for victims.
- Colchester is also working with partners to ensure accurate hate crime reporting. This has seen partners trained alongside officers as Hate Crime Ambassadors which has supported the journey for victims of these crimes.
- The Change Hub are now integrated within each of our DAPST's. Referrals into this service are offered with every Domestic Violence Prevention Order (DVPO). This positive relationship promotes discussion around offenders and has increased referrals into the service for offenders outside of the DVPO process.

South LPA

- South LPA is working to streamline the repeat victim process, working with victim support to increase the support that can be given per individual.
- The Restorative Justice figures are being reviewed with the goal of increasing input and awareness.
- Hate Crime Improvement Plans have been implemented:
 - By Southend CPT with focus on Out of Court disposals.
 - By Basildon, focused on identifying thematic good practice and areas for development via “deep dives”. This is shared with Independent Advisory Group (IAG) chair for transparency and improving victim confidence. The next phase is to share good work/results via social media platforms.
- Castle Point and Rochford CPT have held Hate Crime presentations at Haredi Jewish Community congregations, to encourage reporting and raise awareness of policing capabilities, procedure and support.

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Priority 5 - Improving support for victims of crime

We will:

Work with partners to ensure victims receive appropriate tailored support and are confident to report crime or, if they choose, to seek non-custodial resolutions and out of court disposals.

- The final part of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act special measure section 28 – Pre recorded cross examination for *intimidated* witnesses – launched in Essex on 26th September 2022. This special measure is open to victims of sexual offences and modern slavery offences. In preparation for this, the MG2 Special measures assessment has been completely rewritten to ensure that victims of crime are correctly identified and offered the most appropriate support early in the proceedings.
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) from CARA in the north of the county are now co-locating with the C&PP teams twice a week at Colchester, increasing partnership working and understanding and ultimately providing better support for victims of crime.
- The Community Engagement Group was held in September with partners and community leaders from across Essex, the most recent presentation covered out of court disposals, restorative justice and protective orders. The Community leaders and supporters were reassured by the ongoing work and commitment of Essex Police to provide tailored support instilling confidence in the community that they have a choice on the direction of non custodial resolutions should they wish to report a crime.
- Nottingham Police operate a stream of consent workshops. The emphasis is on education, mechanisms to report, safety and online safety. They work closely with their education partners and secondary education settings and above. A visit to Nottinghamshire Police has therefore been arranged for early November 2022 to fully understand what they have in place to replicate across Essex.

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Priority 6 - Protecting rural and isolated areas

We will:

Collaborate with rural communities and partners to understand rural communities and their issues, prevent crime and feedback on police activities.

Local Policing Support Unit (LPSU)

- The Rural Engagement Team (RET) have undertaken dedicated operations tackling Hare Coursing with 7 Force collaboration. Last day held on 11/09/22. This will continue through Q3/Q4.
- In excess of 37 Community engagement events have been completed.
- RET recently received training on badger crime investigations improving knowledge around wildlife crime.
- RET Continue to undertake high profile and complex investigations. Recent conviction for cruelty caused to a fox receiving national coverage.
- RET oversee all unauthorised encampments. During this period there were 26 encampments and policing powers were used on 10 occasions ensuring consistency. The new legislation which came in this year has been enforced on one of these occasions.
- Agricultural plant Single Point Of Contact (SPOC) within the RET reviews all plant investigations.
- RET have recently undertaken cycle training and received cycles to enhance patrols of rural and isolated areas.
- The LPSU Strategic Customer Group (SCG) has co-ordinated multi-agency ‘Street Weeks’ in Tendring, Uttlesford and Maldon bringing together CPT’s, the Rural Engagement Team, Business Crime Team, Essex Watch, Fraud Prevention, Crimestoppers and local CSP partners for a week of co-ordinated engagement activities.
- ‘Street Weeks’ are being held each month. Four events have been held to date. Each event includes joint days of action with local authority partners tackling fly tipping and industrial scale waste.
- Farm and Rural Watch coordinated by the Essex Watch Liaison Officers currently consists of 750 members, who receive a weekly report regarding crimes relating to the rural community in order that they can be aware of what is happening throughout the county and take any necessary precaution they think fit. They also receive occasional topical crime prevention advice and a copy of the Rural Engagement Team’s Newsletter. All members are encouraged to report crimes and any suspicious activity through the proper channels.

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Priority 7 - Preventing dog theft

We will:

Work with charities and partners to introduce campaigns and promotional activity to increase awareness of dog theft and promote prevention activity so people know how to keep their dog safe.

- The Rural Engagement Team (RET) have created a new dog theft prevention leaflet with advice and guidance to owners and offering reassurance around fear of crimes and reiterating relatively low levels of offences.
- This new leaflet is in the process of being distributed to local stakeholders, i.e. Vets, dogs trust, RSPCA, dog groomers, pet stores, country parks to raise awareness of preventing dog theft.
- Plans have been drawn up in Q3 2022 for a Dog Engagement Event to be held in every district to raise awareness of preventing dog theft once the darker evenings draw in. (Via the LPSU SCG).
- All dog theft investigations are overseen by a specialist within the RET. Victims are contacted and enhanced support is provided ensuring a high level of service due to the impact of such a crime.
- Any intelligence received by Essex Watch Liaison Officers from Dog Watch Members direct is submitted through the proper channels and where applicable is highlighted to the Dog Theft SPOC and local community policing teams.
- Dog Watch is led by our Essex Watch Liaison Officers. There are currently 2,552 members up from 2,506 in July.
- The Dog Watch scheme is open to any individual, related business and interested partners, and is promoted by EWLOs at public engagements, the Essex Police Website and word of mouth.
- All Dog Watch members receive Crime Prevention advice around looking after their dog and guidance on how to report any suspicious activity to the Police.
- In excess of 37 Community engagement events were held over the summer with each engagement raising awareness with dog owners.

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Priority 8 – Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime

We will:

Improve the reporting of fraud and reduce the number of people and businesses who become victims by raising awareness of the risks, through promotion of Fraud Alerts, and how to stay safe both on and off line.

- **Business Watch** – This is coordinated by the Essex Watch Liaison Officers and currently consists of 104 members, six of which are SPOCs for approximately 570 organisations through the two Business Improvement District (BID) groups or SPOCs for their estate. These members receive a weekly report regarding a number of crimes relating to the business they think fit. They also receive occasional topical crime prevention advice and a copy of the Business Crime Team’s Newsletter. All members continue to be encouraged and supported to report crimes and any suspicious activity through the proper channels.
- **Cybercrime Clinics** - Collaboration with Essex Police’s Cyber Protect Officer. Offer drop-in virtual clinics for Essex businesses. Clinics advertised through social media and personal visits. Three clinics held so far, review to be completed to encourage further attendance
- **Operation Ram** - Business Crime Team identified organised crime group responsible for bulk alcohol theft across the South of England. Working in partnership with Kent and 21 other forces. Warrants obtained and will be actioned soon. Responsible for £100k theft per week across the region..
- **Wholesaler Car Park Thefts** - Identified theft from vehicle offences in wholesaler car parks. Victims are small businesses purchasing bulk cigarettes/tobacco. Working with partners to educate customers on vehicle security. Security advice and awareness leaflets have been provided.
- **Fraud Prevention Coordinators** – Have attended 49 public events, holding talks, giving advice and guidance through tabletop exercises to members of the public, prioritising the vulnerable when applicable. There were 1,323 engagements with the public in the last three months.

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Priority 8 – Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime

We will:

Improve the reporting of fraud and reduce the number of people and businesses who become victims by raising awareness of the risks, through promotion of Fraud Alerts, and how to stay safe both on and off line.

- The SCD Prevent and Protect Team work closely with Local Policing and the Fraud Prevention Officers. The team carry out victim engagements, following up on vulnerable fraud alerts and safeguarding against repeat victimisation.
- Fraud awareness presentations and Cyber Security advice has been delivered through Prevent and Protect officers to Basildon Council, Essex County Fires Service Community Team, Essex Community Volunteer Services Managers and Essex County Council, reaching over 1,000 individuals.
- Fraud Prevent and Protect officers have delivered monthly Romance Fraud Peer Support Group meetings, supporting over 200 victims of fraud.
- Fraud Prevention Coordinators have attended 49 public events in this reporting period, conducting 1,323 engagements with the public.
- Three Cybercrime clinics have been developed and delivered by the Business Crime Team and Cyber Prevent and Protect officer, offering drop-in virtual clinics to Essex Businesses. These are advertised via social media and personal visits.

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Priority 9 - Improving safety on our roads

We will:

Correct the misconception that death and injury on our roads is inevitable by working through SERP to deliver Vision Zero.

- During Q2, a total of 220 People were killed or seriously injured following road traffic collisions, 12 were fatalities. This compares to 244 during Q2, 2021/22, of which, 16 were fatalities.
- The new Vision Zero roads policing operation, which has been running since 22nd June 2022 targeting fatal offences on strategic roads, has resulted in 442 seatbelt offences; 87 mobile phone offences; 42 careless driving offences; 58 vehicle no insurance offences; 125 other road traffic offences; 13 drink/drug arrests and 1,119 speed offences.
- Officers attended six School Crossing Patrol Sites in support of operatives, assisting with the promotion of Stop Means Stop road safety campaign, liaising with pupils, parents and teachers.
- Community Speed Watch statistics report over 100 groups and over a 1,000 volunteers working with Essex Police to reduce casualty on the roads. Officers visited 25 Community Speed Watch and six School Speed Watch sites with over 300 hours of engagement in support of our schools and volunteers, enforcing, engaging within the local community, and promoting the Vision Zero campaign. This in turn is strengthening Essex Police and Safer Essex Roads Partnership joined up working approach.
- Officers enforced at over 30 sites as a result of analysed speed survey data, and localised complaints across the county, supporting the Essex Police 'You Said We Did' campaign.
- Essex Roads Policing Unit created over 30 social media articles promoting operational success within the county in conjunction with our partners, generating a reach of over 1 million impressions during Q2.
- Extra Eyes road safety initiative continues to gain momentum with 1,339 submissions and 895 positive outcomes (66.8%). This includes 354 careless driving offences; 358 careless driving (close pass) offences; 46 mobile phone offences; and 82 red traffic light offences. There was an increase over the last quarter in submissions from our vulnerable road user groups including 376 pedal cyclists, 195 pedestrian and five horse rider.

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Priority 10 – Encouraging volunteers and community support

We will:

Continue to grow the Special Constabulary with the aim to have a Special Constable in every town and parish, growing the Community Special programme, and one supported by every major business through the Employer Supported Policing Scheme.

Essex Special Constabulary

- Special Constable Headcount is currently 395. This quarter, Special Constables have completed a total of 23,672 hours work; they have undertaken 19,494 hours of Operational Policing. 13 Special Constables left to become regular constables, of which 10 joined Essex Police.
- A dedicated Special Constables recruitment campaign has now been established. This is the revised **#MyOtherLife** campaign and due for relaunch shortly.
- A new national process for applying was launched, replacing the Quick Apply scheme. All new applicants undertake the national sift as part of their application.
- There are 13 Community Special Constables (CSC) supporting nine Parishes who completed 60 duties and 477 hours during July and August. The Employer Supported Policing (ESP) scheme currently has 58 companies and 92 Special Constables registered, including Essex Police. We continue to work with the Essex Chamber of Commerce and local Parishes to promote ESP and CSC. There is a slight change in the hours commitment for the CSC role in order to try and attract more candidates.

Active Citizens and Police Support Volunteers

- Essex Police currently retains 62 Active Citizens (AC) and 112 Police Support Volunteers (PSV) .
- There are three volunteer applicants in the pipeline, with eight ready for deployment. Seven volunteers were selected for a new role in the Casualty Bureau and have now started training. Further roles are being progressed with Positive Action Team and Firearms administration.
- Domestic Abuse Investigation Team have approved six roles to operate from the North District DAIT.
- Our Police Support Volunteers and Active Citizens have supported several LPSU Street Week Events across the county.
- We have now had approval for Duty sheet for volunteers and training for the new system will follow shortly and be included in inductions.
- Three volunteer induction courses have been conducted and for both new and existing volunteers and training courses continue to be provided.

Volunteer Police Cadets

- There are 300 Volunteer Police Cadets (VPCs) and 109 Volunteer Cadet Leaders across 13 Cadet Units. Recruitment campaigns are ongoing across the Force to replace cadets who have left this summer and to support units, such as Chelmsford and Braintree, who are not back to full strength since pandemic. In August, 50 VPC's and 10 VPC Leaders, enjoyed a five day summer camp at Stubbers Adventure Centre, Upminster. Cadets have continued to attend community engagement events, with activities including car park marshalling.

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Priority 10 - Encouraging volunteers and community support

We will:

Continue to support and collaborate with Neighbourhood Watch and further develop other watch schemes such as Farm and Rural Watch, and Pub Watch as well as supporting Crimestoppers.

LPSU SCG

- The Local Policing Support Unit Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), continues to bring together community partners and agencies along with various teams within Essex Police. The group has successfully mobilised support for Street Week activities in **Tendring, Maldon, Uttlesford** with events shortly being undertaken in **Chelmsford, Brentwood, Epping and Colchester**. Events have focused on delivering organised, proactive community engagements, including more local, visible policing and access to police and partners.
- The National Business Crime Centre through the NPCC are co-ordinating a week of action tackling Business Crime 17th -24th October.

Essex Watch

- The Essex Watch Liaison Officers (EWLO) continue to work with Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and, during this quarter, have supported 40 community engagement events including the PFCC sponsored Secure Garden event at the RHS Flower Show. They continue to work closely with the Farm and Rural Community; 750 members, and 100 Business Watch Groups. Dog Watch continues to grow, with 2,381 individuals and related businesses now members.
- EWLO, working with Marine Unit, actively promoted Marine Watch, visiting many of the marine's on the East coast. They are also working with Herts Police, looking at cross border crime involving the canals that connect both counties.
- Plans are being implemented for a new Horse Rider Volunteer Scheme to support Heritage, Rural and Farm Watch.

VPC

- The Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme continues to work in collaboration with Essex County Fire Cadets. There are now plans for a joint Police and Fire Cadets PFCC Games for 2023. Working with volunteers from Fire to relaunch the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Volunteer Police Cadets also continue to support their local Policing Teams with Crime Prevention and attending local community engagement events.

Street Pastors

- Street Pastors continue to support the LPA's with night time economy and link in with the SOS buses in Colchester and Southend .

Crimestoppers

- Crimestoppers continue to work with the Citizens in Policing Team around promoting their Crime Stopper Zone initiative. A pilot in Tendring around rural heritage crime has been paused due to operational demands but should be running again soon.

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Priority 11 – Supporting our officers and staff

We will:

Foster a supportive culture within Essex Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's office with an increase in diversity and an inclusive recruitment and development strategy so that people from all segments of our community can aspire to serve the public through these services.

- The 'We Value Difference' campaign that advertises via Social Media, Radio and TV continues to attract diverse applicants into policing continues. It highlights the range of roles for officers, police staff and volunteers. The Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP) recruitment route that opened in July has seen an increase in applicants. As at 5th September 2022, there were 484 applicants in the officer pipeline with 47% from females and 8% from ethnic minority applicants.
- The Positive Action Team (PAT) and Corporate Recruitment teams have undertaken 32 outreach events across the quarter, to promote policing as a career of choice. Some are held in conjunction with events in local communities, with a focus on recruitment in districts with larger ethnic minority communities, such as Thurrock, Harlow, Colchester and Southend. Community Support Engagement Officers and the Corporate Recruitment Team are heavily engaged in this. Recruitment Ambassadors have recently been recruited through the Multi-Ethnic Support Association (MESA).
- A Positive Action Programme is in place to support those applying for the role of police officer. As at 2nd September 2022, there were 120 trained 'Buddies' with 63 applicants receiving bespoke one-to-one support.
- The PAT have started engaging with the Essex Strategic IAG chair and Colchester IAG chair who are offering to form a multi-ethnic group. This group will review existing recruitment processes/information sources and bespoke help provided by the PAT, to provide advice/suggestions to enhance the offering for ethnic minority candidates, with a view to increasing applicant numbers. This 'tactical advisory' group idea has been shared with the College of Policing and Police Uplift Programme colleagues who are keen share best practice.
- In support of the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Strategy (DE&I), members of the DEI and PAT are planning for the next 'Towards Excellence' conference in May 2023. Learning has been taken from the 2022 event which received positive feedback from internal and external stakeholders and the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC).
- The DE&I and PAT have facilitated online meetings involving staff, partner agencies and community groups, to invite comments on the National Police Chief's Council's (NPCC) Code of Practice (CoP) on Race Action. Five meetings were held and feedback was submitted to the Race Action Plan Working Group.
- The D&I Team provided inputs to six new student and sergeant training programmes involving up to 200 personnel. This helps to embed an understanding that DEI is an intrinsic and consistent value to excellence in policing.
- Essex Police has 6,073 employees of which there are 3,674 officers and 2,304 staff. Overall workforce representation is 4.17% ethnic minority personnel (4.03% officers) and 47.28% female (36.20% officers) as at 30th September 2022.