

Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2022**Report to: the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex**

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Author on behalf of Chief Officer:	A/Insp 290 Christian Denning
Date of Approval:	02/12/2022 ACC Nolan

1.0 **Purpose of Report**

This report provides an update for Q1 and Q2 (April - September 2022) in relation to the progress of the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-25 (herein 'the Strategy') which was launched on 29th November 2021.

2.0 **Recommendations**

No specific recommendations arising.

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 these continued into Q4 of 2021/22 and now into Q1 and Q2 of 2022/23, in which crime levels return to similar levels prior to COVID-19 as normality returns.

With the introduction of the new strategy, and in line with the partnership approach to crime prevention we, along with partners, are reporting to Safer Essex who have overall governance of the new strategy approach and 'whole system' delivery.

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 April – September 2022:**
- **Delivery scheduled October - March 2022/23:**

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.

4.1 **Summary Overview**

During this quarter the following are to be noted in respect of exceptional increasing and decreasing trends within the 14 thematic areas of the strategy. (year-on-year difference. Notably NTE has seen the greatest increase across all themes with a 61.7% increase. This is then followed by a 35.2% increase in CSEA with the next highest increase being that of rape with an increase of 14.7%. The report provides detail as to possible explanations, what work has been and is being conducted to reduce going forward.

On a positive note, this quarter has seen decreases in cybercrime, (reduction of 7.6%) and drug offences (decrease of 0.9%) and mental health incidents (increase 1.0%).

5.0 Current Work and Performance

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

	Total Strands	Complete	Ongoing/In progress	At risk
Knife Crime	26	16	10	0
Rape	110	78	32	0
Night-time Economy	29	20	9	0
County Lines and Exploitation	31	17	14	0
Serious Organised Crime	24	15	9	0
Cybercrime and Fraud	35	8	27	0
Child Abuse /Child Sexual Exploitation	11	7	4	0
Domestic Abuse	42	8	34	0
Drugs and Alcohol	39	20	19	0
Mental Health	38	14	24	0
Places	23	0	23	0
Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery	83	61	22	0
Prevent	14	5	9	0
Hate Crime	78	24	54	0
Total	590	293	270	0

Thematic Strand Updates:

5.1 Serious Violence

5.1.1 Knife Crime

Thematic lead: Detective Superintendent Gary Biddle

Insights:

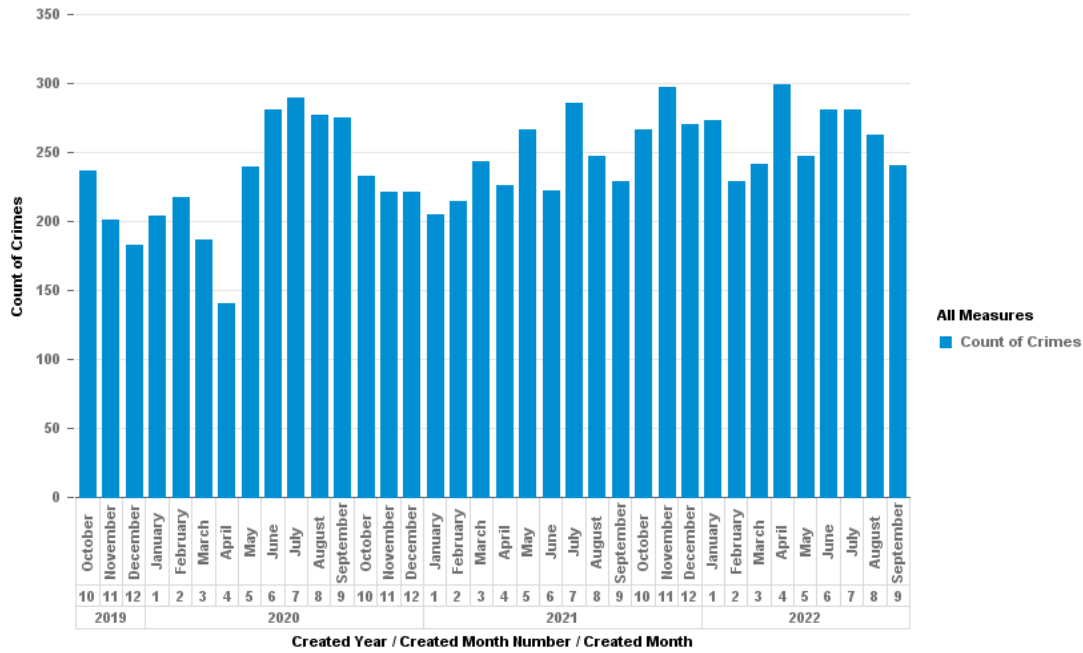
Data for 12 months to end of Sept 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
2813	3187	374	+13.3%

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

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
1989	3187	1198	+60.2%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



The number of knife crime offences has continued to increase in the year-on-year comparison. However, encouragingly there has been a reduction in the number of offences committed over the last quarter. The chart above shows that the trend overall is an increasing one, but with variations over the months. The reduction in the last three months is a positive sign and is a result of increased activity in this area, specifically the increase in the number of OP Grip patrols conducted across the county.

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- The Serious Violence Unit continues its development of the OP Grip strategy. A focus in the last quarter was to increase the number of patrols conducted by OPC resources to support, leading to an average of 60% increase in the number of patrols across the LPAs in the last quarter.
- Implementation of a Knife Crime Oversight Board. The board aims to provide performance data to the LPA’s and share good practice on the work being undertaken around knife crime at a local level. The board provides a focus on knife crime and is aimed at trying to reduce the number of incidents being reported, and maximise opportunities to bring offenders to justice, ensuring there is a consistent approach across the force.
- Continued implementation of knife amnesty bins has delivered bins in every district of Essex, ensuring total coverage across the county. This has been supported by continued media campaigns to raise awareness.

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- Continued development of the Knife Crime Violence Model (KCVM) pilot, to be rolled out across districts that are affected by knife crime. Support has been given by COG and paper being presented to the Violence and Vulnerability round table for increased partnership engagement to support its effectiveness.
- Intention to increase the number of OP Grip patrols conducted by OPC assets to support the forces compliance. The intention is to see this as part of business as usual for OPC and will be focus of OPC morning command calls.
- The PPP team will continue to explore technology opportunities to support the forces attempt to reduce the number of knife crime offences being committed.

5.1.2 Rape

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Neil Pudney

Insights:

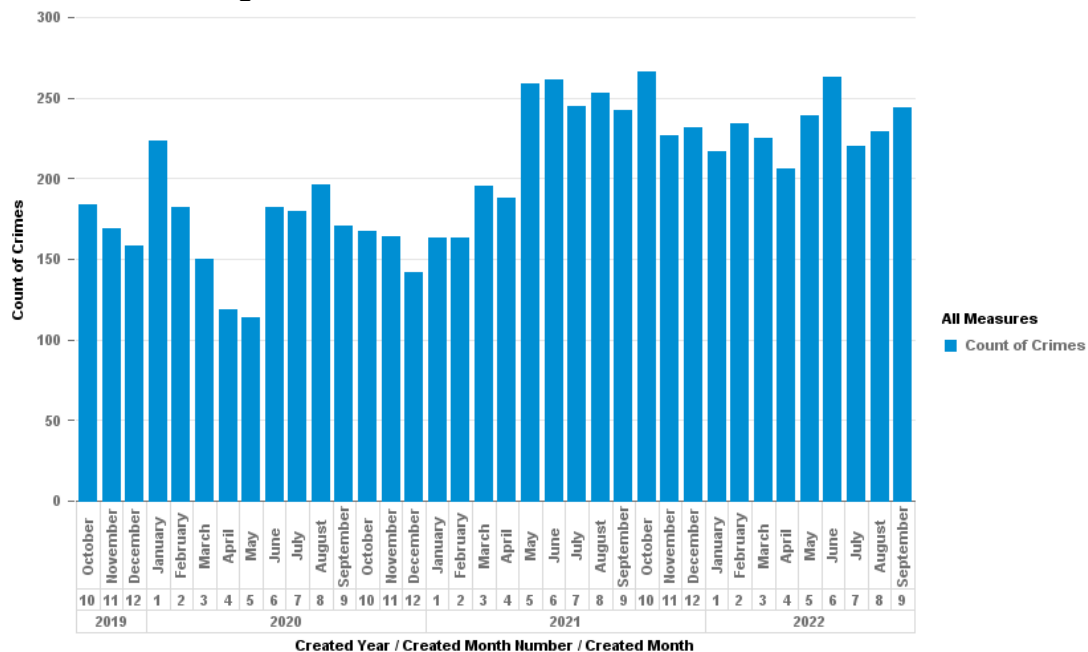
Data for 12 months to end of Sept 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
2442	2802	360	+14.7%

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

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
2045	2802	757	+37.0%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



The increase in recorded rape is due to crime data accuracy, domestic abuse related and historical offences. Analysis does not indicate any emerging trends or repeat locations. Between Oct – Nov 2022 there were **2859** rapes recorded in total which represents a **42% increase (845 more rapes)** compared to pre-pandemic figures in 2019.

The breakdown shows the increase in recorded crime is due to historical and domestic abuse related offences. **712** historical rapes recorded in 2022 representing **44% increase (216 more offences)** compared to 2019.

1183 domestic abuse related rapes recorded in 2022 representing **71% increase (492 more offences)** compared to 2019.

The administrative move from DASH to DARA will also see a reduction in Q.19 rape disclosures and thereby a significant reduction in overall recorded rape figures. Following a deep dive into rape performance in August it was discovered that Essex Police is an outlier across our MSG for recorded rape.

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- Op Ratify – bi-monthly process with analytical product and multi-agency 4P plans to target repeat offenders
- Op Yalta – bi-monthly process with analytical product and multi-agency 4P plans to safeguard repeat victims
- Freshers Engagement Events – across Essex Universities and Colleges raising awareness on spiking risks

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- Review impact of administrative change from DASH to DARA on recorded rape levels
- Recruitment and Retention challenges – continued focus through reward and recognition, familiarisation events and frontline recruitment activity to decrease current vacancy levels of 37.4 constables

5.1.3 Night-Time Economy (NTE)

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Stuart Weaver

Insights:

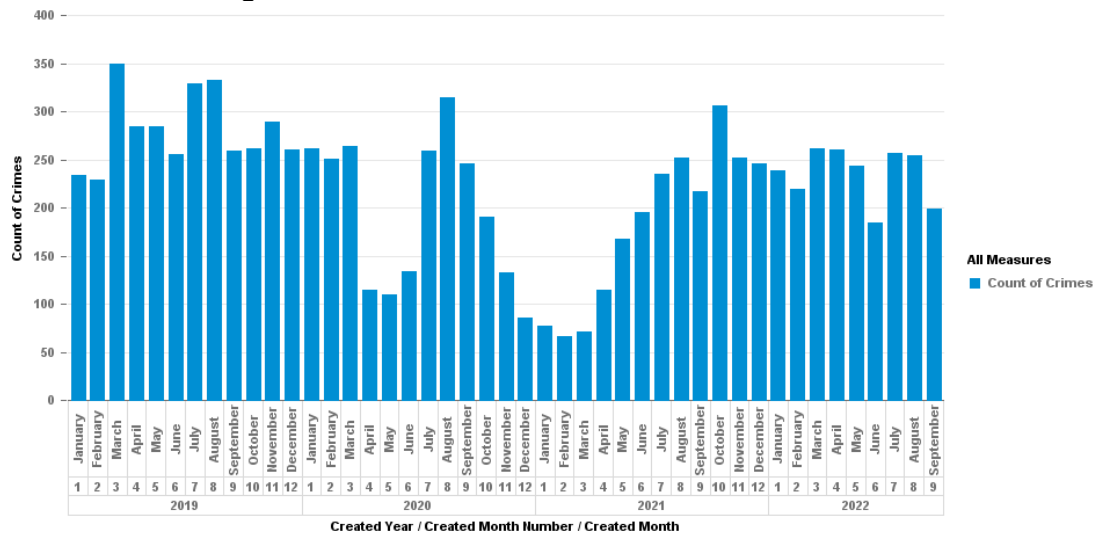
Data for 12 months to end of Sept 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
1806	2921	1115	+61.7%

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

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
3367	2921	-446	-13.2%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



While the NTE has been removed from the Force Control Strategy, it remains a priority for the LPA's and other commands who provide a support function.

The NTE Harm Reduction Group is chaired quarterly by Supt Weaver and currently documents several actions.

From the data sets above, we have returned to higher levels of NTE related offences post Covid-19. As predicted during the summer months offences rose in July and August. July 2022 was higher than 2021 but similar or less than 2020 and 2019. August 2022 and 2021 remain similar but significantly less than 2020 and 2019. September 2022 shows a reduction in offences from the 3 previous years. It is expected as we near the Christmas Period, offences will rise. However primary and secondary NTE areas will have plans in place to deal with this demand and are being reviewed at the NTE Harm Reduction Group.

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- All Tier 1 Districts (Colchester, Chelmsford, Clacton and Southend) have been tasked to review their NTE deployment plans, ahead of the World Cup and Christmas 2022. The focus moving to a more preventative footprint, identifying both persons and areas of vulnerability in addition to identifying possible suspects who may be targeting those vulnerable through drink and/or drugs.
- Plain Clothes operations have been undertaken in both Southend and Colchester making use of BDO (Behaviour Detection Officers) within licenced premises who observe concerning behaviours and then call upon uniform colleagues to undertake interventions where appropriate. This has been supported by licensees.
- There is strong partnership working taking place and includes activity such as Town Pastors, Taxi Marshalls, SOS Buses, joint licensing visits with the local councils to name a few. This also included education at "Freshers week" by the CPT's who have a university in their district.

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- Process in place to deal with spiking, from initial call, through to attendance, investigation, and feedback to victims where their samples have provided certain results.
- Looking at the effect of cocaine in the NTE and the effect this has. Funding from POCA for drug wipes.
- Colchester CPT/TCT are working with the University to 'walk with females' to show the young women where they may be vulnerable while out in the NTE.
- Op Benison checks (licencing checks) are being reinvigorated.

5.2 Organised Crime

5.2.1 County Lines/Exploitation

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Gary Biddle
Insights:

A significant amount of work has been completed by the OP Raptor teams in the last quarter. Year to date figures for Raptor include.

- 367 Searches completed
- 529 Arrests made
- 330 RIC
- £328,000 Cash Seized
- 118 Weapons Seized
- 18,833g Drugs Seized

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- Introduction and delivery of the Cuckooing procedure. Provides guidance to all front-line officers and staff regarding cuckooing incidents. Proactive visits, to suspected victims, conducted by OP Raptor Safeguarding officers ensuring there are opportunities to safeguard and investigate any offences.
- Implementation of the RUI cohort list into Serious Violence Unit business as usual and tasking meeting. The PWITS RUI processes ensure that all investigations that are subject of RUI for PWITS, are reviewed by OP Raptor Detective Sergeants to ensure that investigations are progressed, and safeguarding is addressed.
- Missing children process implemented within OP Orochi. Process in place that identifies those that may be missing due to exploitation. Op Orochi works with Missing Person Liaison Officers to assist in locating and identify evidence that supports concerns. Op Orochi team recently secured evidence to support modern slavery charges for two missing children who were being exploited by drugs lines in Hertfordshire.

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- Development of Op Cloud. SMART messages to vulnerable people and local community following police intervention in the drugs community. Bespoke message will ensure that local services are available to support and provide intervention to vulnerable people. Messages will also be used as an intelligence opportunity to encourage the public to report concerns.
- Development of on-line activity to identify drug supply, drug driven violence and exploitation on-line. Work being conducted with TOEX to build on-line structure and engagement with the MET Project Alpha team to assist in designing processes. This will assist in Essex Police being able to proactively identify those that are committing drug related offences on-line.
- Focus on increasing the number of orders in respect of those that are being exploited, particularly the number of Slavery Trafficking Orders.

5.2.2 Serious Organised Crime

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Ian Dyball

Insights:

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

- 72 arrests
- 46 warrants executed
- 104 charged
- 44 suspects remanded in custody
- 16Kg of class A drugs seized
- 8Kg of class B drugs seized
- £384,000 cash seized
- 5 Firearms recovered

- 17 People safeguarded

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- Support to the wider force with regards to OCG’s that are causing the most harm and violence within the community. This has been achieved by close working relationships within the SOC boards, supporting and adopting OCG’s from the LPA. Conducting reactive investigations such as large-scale cable thefts and firearms discharges, plus adopting OCG’s that are causing the most harm and beyond the LPA capability.
- Continued focus on firearms supply and removing firearms from OCG’s, resulting in 5 illegal firearms recovered with suspects charged with the criminal use of.
- 192 combined years of custodial sentences achieved against OCG nominals, and 17 high risk vulnerable victims safeguarded.

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- Continued focus on crime prevention, supporting LPA’s with partner engagements through the LPSU Strategic Coordination Group and intelligence sharing to assist in local issues that are causing harms to communities
- Current issues evolve around Albanian OCG’s in Essex and the lack of intelligence surrounding them. Working with partner agencies to understand the vulnerabilities and targeting where appropriate the criminality of these groups, supported by intelligence.

5.2.3 Cybercrime and Fraud

Thematic Lead: Detective Chief Inspector Ashley Howard

Cyber/Online Offences

Insights:

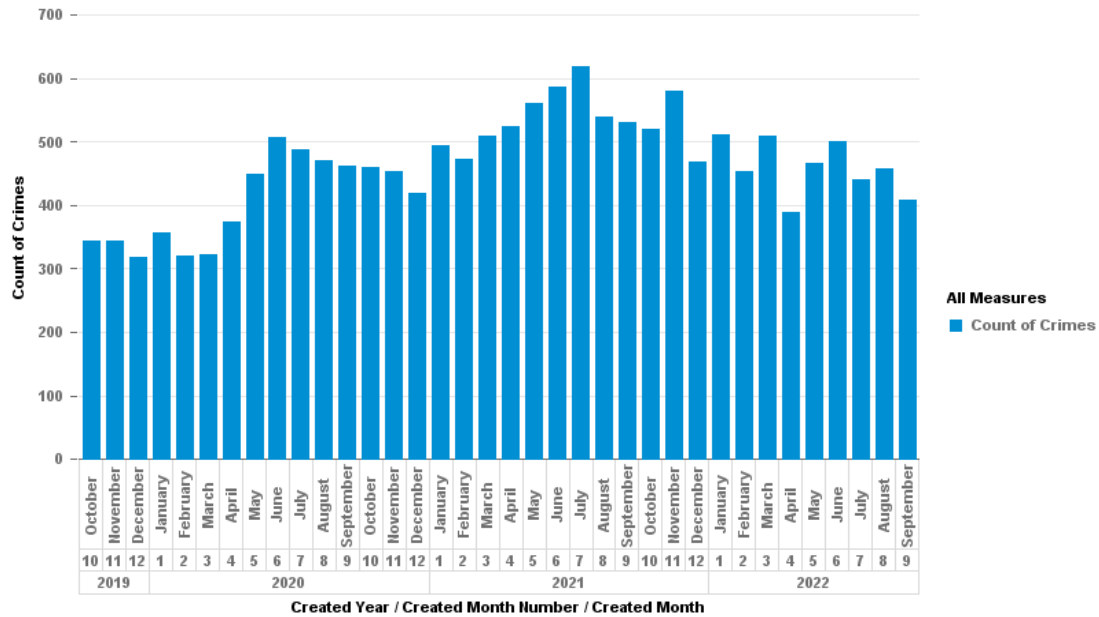
Data for 12 months to end of September 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
6167	5700	-467	-7.6%

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

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
4331	5700	1369	+31.6%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



The above data relates to all online crime and therefore is higher than if just showing cybercrime. The top reported Cyber dependant crime types remain the same with social media take overs being the primary type reported, followed by Computer Virus’/Malware and the hacking of personal accounts. Cybercrime continues to be a challenging and emerging area of crime reporting, especially around business crime, who remain reluctant to report.

Delivery achieved March-Sept 2022:

- Over 350 engagements, either personal or with partners, businesses, community groups to raise awareness of the threats and provide/discuss education and prevention opportunities.
- Working with the Essex Cyber Resilience Centre and their continued promotion at events.
- Co-Chair of the Essex Cyber Strategic Board for Businesses in Essex.
- Working with the Regional and National network to deliver Cyber Cease & Desist (C&D) activity with individuals identified via the Prevent network.
- Acquisition of dark web intelligence gathering tool to build the intelligence picture of offenders in Essex.

Delivery scheduled Sept-March 2023:

- Joint event with the Security Awareness Special Interest Group (SASIG) at Essex Police HQ in January 2023.
- Inputs into the South Essex University Cyber Crime Course and further engagement with other education establishments to raise awareness of Cyber Crime.
- Digital Passport inputs for wider education of prevent advice to the wider force.
- Various engagements planned at both national and local levels with partner agencies to continue education and awareness raising.

Fraud

Insights:

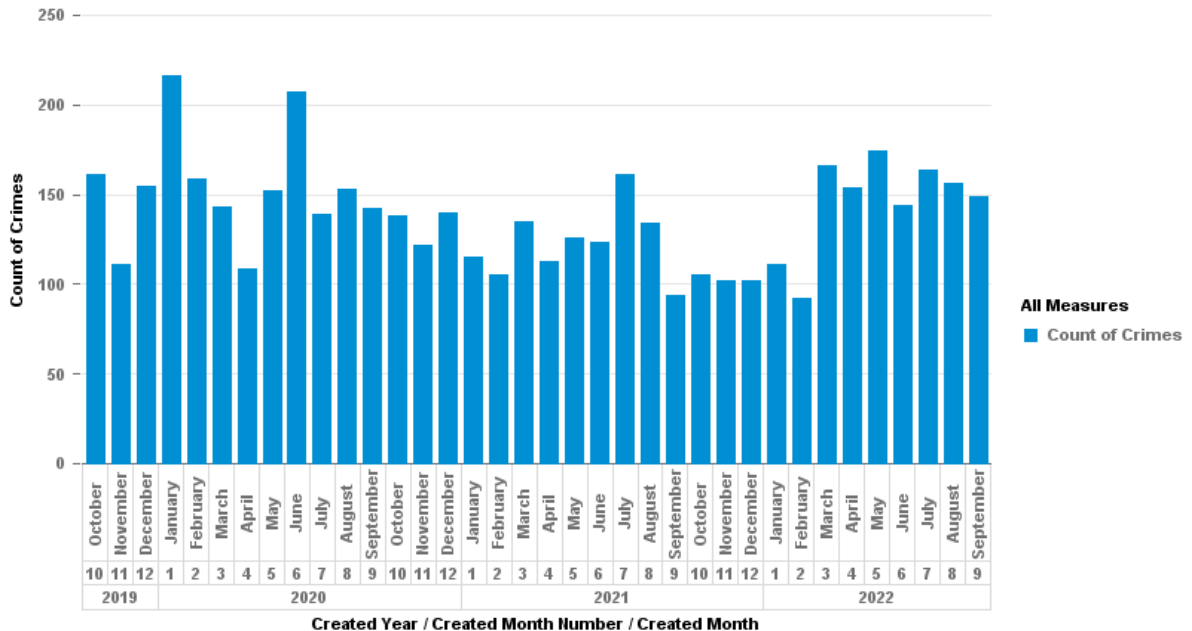
Data for 12 months to end of September 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
1506	1619	113	+7.5%

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

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
2011	1619	-392	-19.5%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Consumer fraud, advance fee fraud i.e., online shopping as well as Banking fraud are the main bulk of fraud offences, whilst romance fraud is not shown in great numbers but still of significant concern.

Delivery achieved Mar–Sept 2022:

- Following the success of the Romance Fraud Peer Support Group – academic research is now underway in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University. The group now has 44 victims involved.
- #FraudFriday – Partnership working with Essex Media Dept to help spread fraud awareness in conjunction with the UK Finance “Take 5” initiative.
- Recruitment of additional Fraud Volunteers.
- “Friends Against Scams” package is now embedded directly onto Essex Police and Trading Standards website and internal learner management systems. Staff, PCSOs or cadets can then complete the Friends training directly.

Delivery scheduled Sept–Mar 2023:

- Continued development of the Reverse Banking Protocol and move towards implementation. Pilots have been completed in Sussex and Surrey and results are being evaluated.
- Collaboration as part of the City of London Citizen Focused Fraud and Cybercrime Project.
- Continued working with the Joint Education Steering Group to review Fraud inputs.

5.3 Complex Needs

5.3.1 Child Abuse/Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Thematic Lead: Detective Chief Inspector Dan Morrissey

Insights:

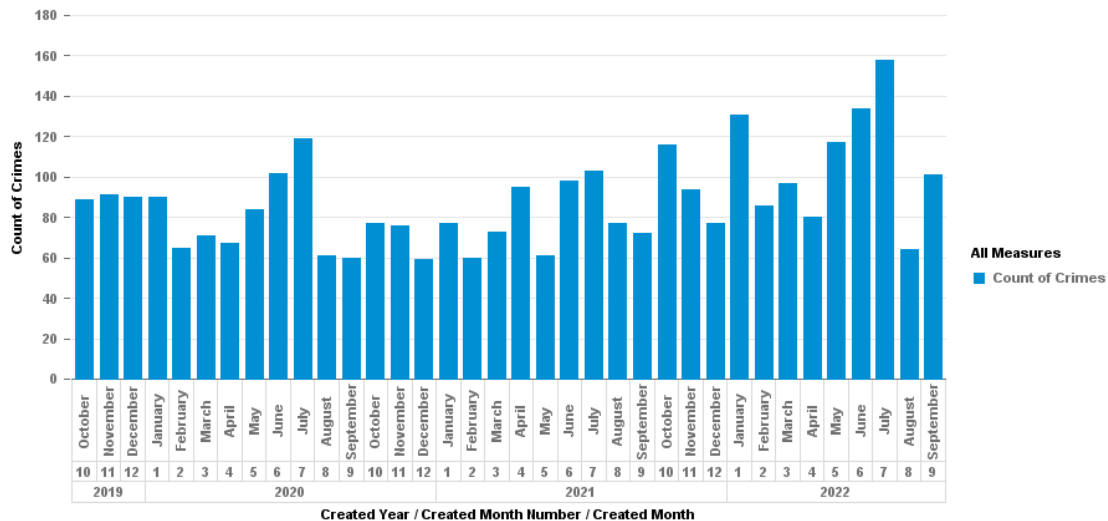
Data for 12 months to end of Sept 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
928	1255	327	+35.2%

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

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
1091	1255	164	+15.0%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



CSE prevention work centres around proactive partnership work in targeted operations such as Operation Henderson (at transport hubs) and working with partners around online offending such as in schools and colleges. MOSOVO has used Operation Implement to drive prevention activity around Registered Sexual Offenders, reducing the number of outstanding investigative visits.

Investigations created have fluctuated between 82 - 133 offences per month, with an average of 100 per month. At its lowest level this offence type still accounts for multiple investigations daily.

There was a 2% increase in technological based investigations recorded in 2020/21 compared with 2019/20. A lower increase than previous years, still a continued rise. Figures obtained for the first six months of 2021/22 indicate the increase will continue, projected increase by the end of this financial year is 19%.

35.2% increase in recorded offences over the last 12 months. Partially accredited to POLIT taking ownership of all Online Child Activists Group (OCAGs). Approach has been professionalised to ensure offences are recorded correctly.

Previous year Essex Police recorded 20 offences; from January to September 2022, 49 offences recorded.

Op Haiti commenced with South CID Nov 2021; ownership transferred in March 2022. Over 170 victims linked to one offender has also impacted on the number of offences recorded this year.

Delivery achieved March – Sept 2022:

- NPCC CSAE Toolkit published
- Op Henderson actioned, 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.
- Created a CSAE Vulnerability Action Plan
- CSAE now forms part of the Force Control Strategy
- Commissioned a CSAE Dashboard by PAU – in development

Delivery scheduled Sept 2022 – April 2023:

- CSAE Vulnerability Action Plan - Seeking partnership buy-in and involvement to turn this into a partnership action plan.
- Working with DFU to streamline the process around device submission and training POLIT teams around 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.
- Working with The Children's Society around prevention and education dangers of online grooming and use of social media platforms, particularly around Prime Day/Black Friday/Cyber Monday etc when there are highly likely to be many internet-enabled devices purchased
- Publicising/preventing CSE through partnership working with more days of action in transport hubs – Op Henderson
- Continued use of our own social media to educate to prevent CSE and support partners' campaigns.

5.3.2 Domestic Abuse

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Matt Cornish
Insights:

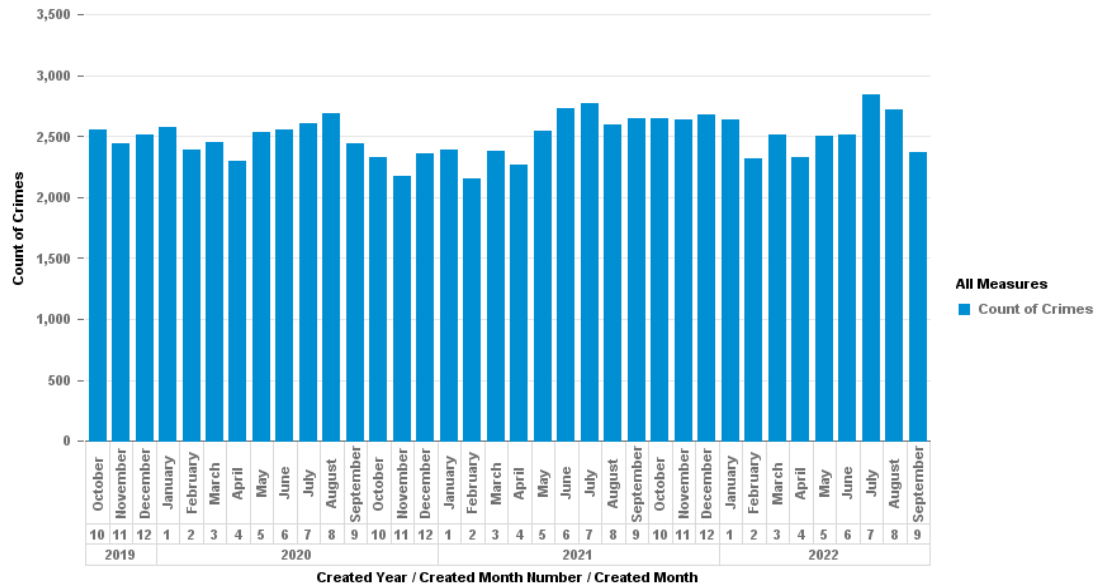
Data for 12 months to end of Sept 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
29308	30699	1391	+4.7%

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

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
29743	30699	956	+3.2%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



In the last reporting period, saw an increase in overall DA of 7.4%; whilst there is still an increase, this reporting period shows this has reduced to 4.7%, which indicates the numbers are stabilising.

This is represented in the High-Risk DA, which has seen the 30% increase from the previous quarter reduce to 19.7% increase for this quarter, albeit these numbers are still challenging from the perspective of Investigations and safeguarding.

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- Application submitted to the Home Office to be a pilot site for the new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPO). Announcement of successful forces has been delayed, proposed 'go-live' pushed from Spring '23 to Spring '24.
- Funding successfully received from the Ministry of Justice, topped up by PFCC and Essex Police, enabling the recruitment of the additional Independent Domestic

Violence Advisors (IDVA) to enhance collaborations with the Domestic Abuse Problem solving Teams (DAPST).

- 57 of the 123 Highest Risk DA Perpetrators (Op Puffin) now actively managed by DAPST. Notable results, Essex police believed to be first in the country to use a Stalking Protection Order with a 'Buddi Tag' requirement to track movements.
- Agreement from Chief Officer Group to uplift the Domestic Abuse Investigation Team (DAIT) establishment as part of the DASH to DARA project, and create a DA Review Team (DART), an independent team conducting all secondary risk assessments for 'High' and 'Medium' risk DA.
- DA Flex training program completed with excellent feedback. Over 1,000 officers given enhanced training around 'Officer psychology / behaviour' at DA incidents, better identification of 'Coercion and Control', and other DA relevant inputs from Subject Matter Experts.

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- Design and implementation of a performance framework for DAPST, based on the OCG/Gangs disruptions matrix
- Recruitment and training for the IDVA obtained as a result of the MoJ funding, as detailed above.
- DASH to DARA project to engage with Crime & Public Protection review, and Contact Management Review, with a view to coordinating activity and managing interdependencies to continue to improve the Essex Police response to DA.

5.3.3 Drugs and Alcohol

Thematic Lead: Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow

Insights:

The Drugs & Alcohol strand includes efforts to prevent crime in the Night-time Economy and to reduce knife-enabled crime, both themes that are reported on separately within this report. The below quantitative indicators are available for drug-related offences, but don't fully represent the breadth of this thematic area.

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

	12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
Trafficking of Drugs	1278	1267	-11	-0.9
Possession of Drugs	4672	3986	-686	-14.7

Beating Crime Plan: National Crime & Policing Measures -

Drug-related homicides	Fewer offences v. 12 months to June 2019
Number of police referrals into drug treatment	Stable long-term trend in the number of referrals.
Number of drug crime offences	Increase in offences v. 12mths to June 2019

Work is ongoing to reduce the harms caused by those supplying drugs (an enforce to prevent approach), to divert people away from drug & alcohol misuse and linked offending and to improve the partnership approach to tackling drug & alcohol misuse through new Combatting Drugs Partnerships.

These partnerships, and the Government funding linked to the new 10-year drugs strategy, provide an excellent opportunity to better educate, treat and divert people away from drug and alcohol driven criminality.

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- Enforcement activity through Operations Raptor and Orochi have seen 323 persons remanded in custody after charge, a combined total of 87 years imprisonment handed out by the courts and 9 new Gang Injunctions obtained, significantly curtailing the criminal activity of those intent on violence and dealing drugs. Alongside this enforcement our investigative teams have made 58 safeguarding referrals and 34 referrals to the National Referral Mechanism in connection with modern slavery, protecting those who are most vulnerable from further crime and exploitation.
- Engagement with Festival and other music event's organisers to ensure their plans included considerations to prevent supply and use of illegal drugs within the event footprint. This is specifically raised by police representatives in SAG meetings and was clearly represented in the subsequent event management plans produced by organisers. The preventative approach safeguarded festival attendees and limited opportunities for drug & alcohol driven offending.
- The Essex Violence & Vulnerability Unit have completed a piece of work that identifies 'hotspots' across Essex where serious violence including drug and alcohol driven violence is prevalent. The work links in with local CSP's and CPT's to inform local activity and local service provision, to reduce violence in those areas. In addition, following police Op Raptor activity, the PPP Team, work with partners to ensure that those effected by the crimes are safeguarded and support for diversionary activity.

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- Drug Testing on Arrest (DToA) is a feature of the Government's 10-year drug strategy and will be re-established across Essex custody suites by the end of the next reporting period. The scheme will focus on its application in relation to domestic abuse and other violent crimes, with an ambition to push those using illegal drugs into treatment so that their propensity to commit further offences is reduced.

- Working with Phoenix Futures and through the new Combatting Drugs Partnerships we aim to refresh the referral pathways where police and other partners identify drugs and/or alcohol related needs, to create a single and simple gateway to access services. This will ensure that where drugs and alcohol play a part in victimisation or offending, we are able to tackle the underlying issues and ultimately prevent further crime.

5.3.4 Mental Health

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Natalia Ross

Insights:

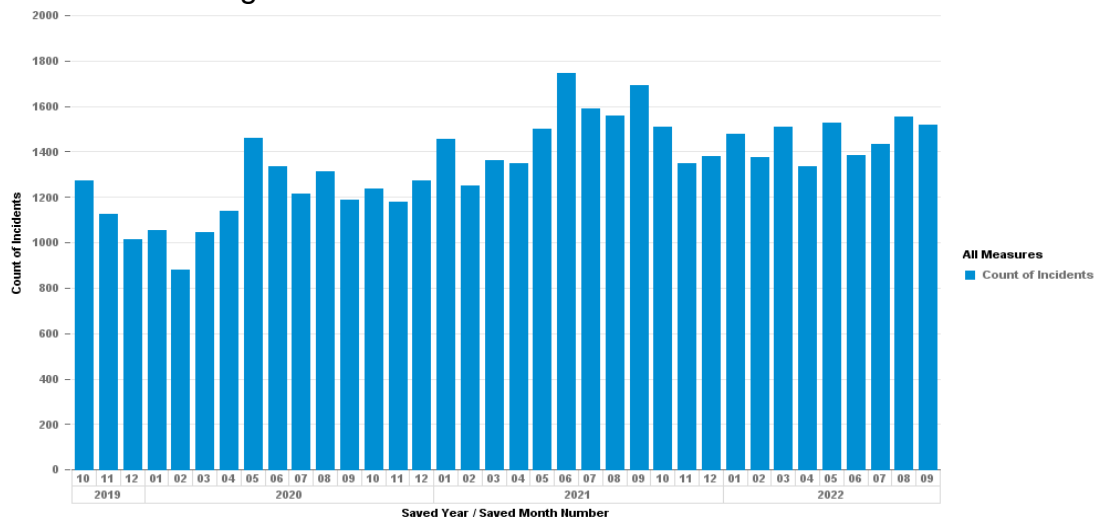
Data for 12 months to end of Sept 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
17186	17350	164	+1.0%

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

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
15178	17350	2172	+14.3%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



In Essex there has been a 11.37% increase in the use of section 136 detention powers within the last 12 months, this contrasts with a decrease of 39.64% of section 135 warrants. The increase in the use of section 136 detentions could be attributed to the overall decrease of s135 warrants, as those who would have early intervention through the powers of the warrant are not and therefore are at higher risk of suffering a MIH crisis in the community.

There continues to be a national issue in the availability of s136 beds, and the continued increase in the use of the s136 power will see longer waiting times for those being detained. Within Essex there are currently 5 beds that are used across the county. On many occasions these beds are occupied, sometimes by individuals who require seclusion due to high levels of violence.

Currently a section 136 detention is taking on average 7hrs of officer's time when detained at A&E.

At present MH related calls are making up on average 20-25 of the top 60 phone users each month.

A new force Mental Health Team under Crime and Public Protection has been agreed whose strategic aims are:

- Prevention – Understand the themes and work in partnership to reduce the escalating risk of serious violence in:
 - Repeat contact cohorts
 - Repeat victim cohorts.
 - Repeat suspect cohorts.
- Investigation - Understand the themes and work in partnership to:
 - Reduce and prevent serious violence in NHS Professional settings.
 - Victims/Witnesses – Improve the investigative approach, quality, and victim confidence.
 - Suspects – Improve the investigative approach and quality.
- Response - Understand the themes and work in partnership to:
 - S136 – Reduce the unnecessary amount of S136 detentions.
 - Mental Health Street Triage (MHST) – Improve service delivery of MH services through the MHST and EPUT teams.
 - S135 – Improve the THRIVE risk assessment and response to S135 detentions.
 - Escalation – Challenge partnerships operationally and strategically to release officers from unnecessary abstractions.

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- **Prevent** – In September 2022 the Mental Health Risk Management Board was established. The boards' purpose is to provide a strategic level multi-agency co-ordination group that will be the forum to oversee individuals of concern with Mental Health conditions, who do not fall under the MAPPA process and have indicators of serious violence including homicide.
- **Investigate** – Closer partnership working with EPUT around investigations of assaults within health care settings through the MH SPOCs to ensure there is a direct point of contact for capacity statements to be obtained. Rapid de-briefs and dip samples are carried out for these investigations and for those where the victim is identified as being vulnerable due to MH.
- **Response** – Flex training has been delivered through 5 sessions 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 Capacity act or the Mental Health Street Triage provision which are available prior to utilising this power to ensure it is being used appropriately and to prevent unnecessary detentions.

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- **Prevent** – Embedding the new ICS aligned subgroups through the new C&PP Mental Health Team. These groups will be the forum where all agencies including police can refer individuals of concern with identified risk factors such as serious violence, who do not qualify for MAPPA or the PDP process.
- These groups will then meet to discuss the risks posed and develop a 4P plan to mitigate the risks posed. These new groups will be governed by the Mental Health Risk Management Board and feed these plans into this group for strategic oversight and agreement.
- **Investigate** – Work is underway in conjunction with contact management and PAU, to identify those highest service users, including victims suffering from MIH. An agreed referral pathway will be built to ensure these service users are filtered into the correct area of business to address the relevant concerns.
- **Response** – Essex Police Strategic Change team have been commissioned to conduct an internal review in the Mental Health Street Triage provision, assessing its viability and value for money following HMIC recommendations. This review commenced in November 2022 and is set to take between 4-6 months for completion.

5.4 Vulnerabilities

5.4.1 Places

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Richard Melton

Insights:

The Manchester Arena Inquiry [Vol 2] findings have recently been published which have provided a clear set of recommendations that police (and wider partners) need to review and address any local gaps. Supt Melton now oversees a multiagency JESIP Senior Leaders forum which will review all 149 recommendations to see what action must be taken to ensure that lessons are learned. This will be alongside senior leaders from all Cat 1 responding agencies – and the Essex resilience Forum will be sighted on progress throughout.

Operation Minvera, Supported by the Home Office, funded work has taken place of an analysis of every neighbourhood in Essex. The team involved with Essex Police have included Essex County Council and ECFRS. The operation has provided a detailed map of hotspots of where women are at a risk of violence. These zones have been shared with Essex Partnerships and Community Safer Partnerships. Consequently, bespoke plans have been created. This approach further compliments the embedded Op Grip patrol hotspot approach running through Essex.

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- November/December – Firearms JOPS refresher training, which centres around the multiagency response to Marauding Terrorist attacks, is taking place for all firearms officers and commanders over 12 sessions.
- 02/12/22 - Op Baker – is a tabletop ex being held at Stansted airport to test SO15 & Essex investigation teams readiness for dealing with Hijack investigations.
- The PFCC’s office are planning meetings with Thurrock Petrochemical Industry partners to ensure high level buy in for crime & protest prevention in light of Op Hazel and the large number of Just Stop Oil protests seen there throughout 2022.

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- Publicly Accessible Locations (previously Counter Terrorists Local Profiles – CTLP) are being re-drafted nationally which will give Cat 1 responding agencies and Police clear assessments of their crowded place profiles over the next quarter.
- January – June 2022 – JESIP commander refresher training to be rolled out across all Cat 1 Responders as part of the three-year cycle of refreshers.

5.4.2 **Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery**

Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Bonnie Moore

Dwelling Burglary

Insights:

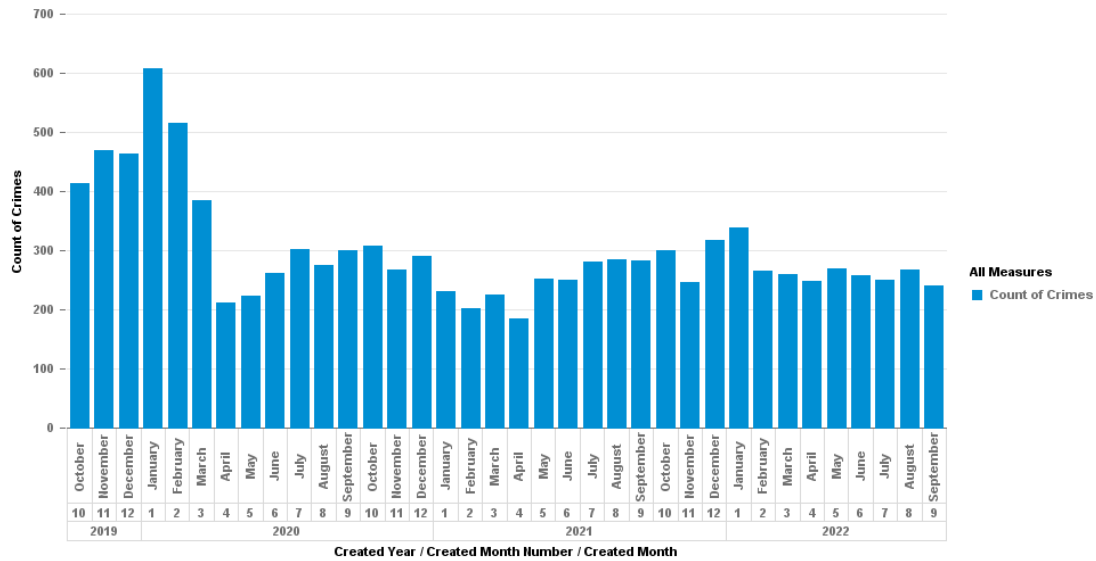
Data for 12 months to end of Sept 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
3058	3261	203	+6.6%

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

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
5364	3261	-2103	-39.2%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Burglary residential dwelling offences remain considerably lower than they were for the comparable period pre-COVID. In the 12 months to August 2022 there were 41% fewer residential offences than there were in the 12 months to August 2019. The volume is broadly consistent in the review period. There is usually a statistical peak between January and March, so this will be anticipated in the forthcoming period.

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- Partly in response to recent political and media interest, the entire burglary action plan has been revised and several new actions identified- these are predominantly aimed at improving solved outcomes for burglary offences
- Response protocols have been revised and all residential offences reported will now have a minimum of a priority response grading. This is incorporated in policy
- Media strategy has been reviewed which outlines the Essex Police commitment to attending in person all burglaries of people’s homes. There has been a revised campaign with burglary prevention advice, and positive messaging around the reduction in the number of offences

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- Targeted training for CID teams is scheduled in the coming quarter- this will be focussed on restorative justice (with an ambition to increase the number of referrals for burglary and robbery victims) and the process of taking offences into consideration
- Op Reassure is a pilot that has been run in Southend, whereby burglary victims have a follow up visit from a PCSO, and they are offered crime prevention advice and reassurance. This has proven to be highly effective, and is now going to be rolled out across the rest of the county
- Work has been commissioned by ACC Pritchard to review the use of forensic techniques and outcomes across Essex and Kent- this is being supported by the burglary tactical lead.

Street Robbery

Insights:

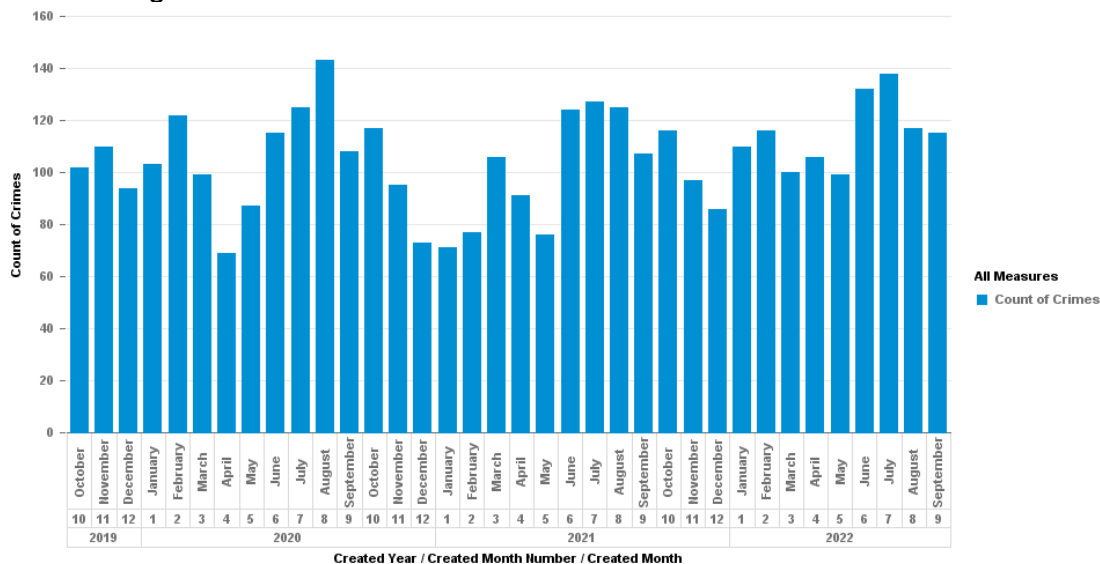
Data for 12 months to end of Sept 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
1189	1332	143	+12.0%

Pre-Covid vs 12 months to end of September 2022:

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
1567	1332	-235	-15.0%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Robbery offences are substantially lower than they were for the same period in 2019 (pre- COVID). There continues to be considerable variation in the number of offences from month to month. As expected, (and in line with previous years) there was a spike in the busiest summer period, however it is positive that this decline in August, where it is has previously taken longer to drop.

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- Robbery was removed from the Force Control Strategy, indicating confidence offence number were under control and processes are robust. The spike finder tool is utilised to ensure that where there are developing issues or trends, activity is generated through local tasking processes, and there are numerous examples where local funding bids have been supported
- Op Nightshade is now a well-established process that continues as business as usual- this provides daily scrutiny to outstanding suspects and offers opportunities through wider force support to seek/detain suspects

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- In December there is a national week of action (Op Calibre) that Essex will participate in. This will include planned activities to reduce the number of outstanding suspects, progress robbery investigations and engage in preventative activity through use of overt and covert tactics
- Targeted training for CID teams is scheduled in the coming quarter- this will be focussed on restorative justice (with an ambition to increase the number of referrals for burglary and robbery victims) and the process of taking offences into consideration
- Work has been commissioned following a supervisory reviewed to consider whether obtaining statements should be mandated for all high harm offences (which would include robbery)- this will be monitored via the Investigations Improvement Board

5.4.3 Prevent

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Naomi Edwards

Insights:

There is an increase in concerns from the Far-Right Wing (FRW) and the increased traction from groups such as Patriotic Alternative who are using the cost-of-living crisis and critical situation within the NHS to increase their support across the county. This is the prime example to show the close connection between hate crime and radicalisation. Over Q2 the referrals from education establishments dropped, this was reflective across all East region forces owing to the school holidays. PREVENT training across CPT's is being refreshed and referrals from non-frontline business groups is being encouraged.

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- 14% referrals progressed to channel 1, 5% transferred to escalation to CTP management outside of prevent
- Increase in referrals over Q1 and Q2. Increase in police referrals

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- Increase referrals from non-frontline business groups
- Prevent Training across CPT
- Increase amount of prevent Ambassadors across the force

5.4.4 Hate Crime

Thematic Lead: Superintendent Naomi Edwards

Insights:

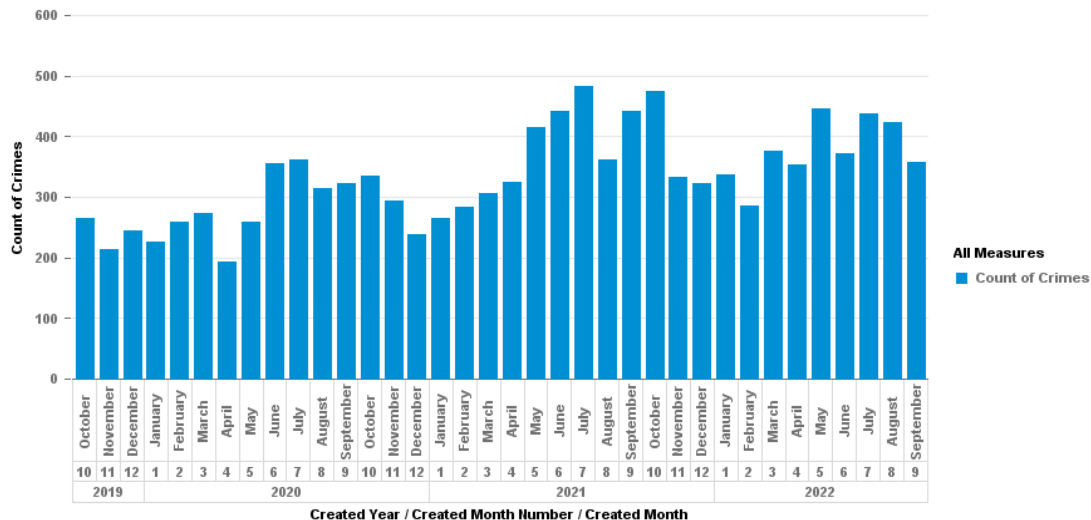
Data for 12 months to end of Sept 2022, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending September 21	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
4191	4520	329	+7.9%

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

12 Month ending December 19	12 Month ending September 22	Diff.	% Diff.
2982	4520	1538	+51.6%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Q2 2022 hate crime reports are on par with Q2 2021. The increase of 51% over a 12-month period between 2019 and 2022 is indicative of the work between Essex Police and partners to increase the amount of hate crimes reported. Whilst the figure appears to be a significant increase, caution must be taken to not assume that offending has increased. It could be that due to the work by Police and partners, communities with protected characteristics have a greater confidence to report. Figures could be representative and more accurate picture of hate crime offending. In the 12 months leading to the end of September 2020 the solved volume for hate crime was 408, in the 12 months leading to the end of Sept 2022 this was 497. Essex Police are solving more hate crimes than ever before. Increasing in reports and the increase in solved volumes for hate crime are both positives for EP and partners. EP have two funded posts with PFCC that deliver hate crime awareness training to schools within the county. To date more than 3000 children have received this training. EP has trained hate crime ambassador

Delivery achieved April-Sept 2022:

- HRICs implemented and supporting with the reporting of Hate crime in Essex
- 1200 Hate Crime Ambassadors trained
- Improvement in Solved rates to above 15%. The highest solved rate since Dec 2020

Delivery scheduled Sept-Mar 2023:

- OP Knowledge - Joint operation with CPS to improve the quality of Hate crime investigations and increase submissions to CPS.
- Force reduction of 10% for outcome 15 and 16 via deep dive reports and close inspection of reporting for example review of BWV use. (Outcome 15 named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties prevent further action, Outcome 16 named suspect however evidential difficulties prevent further action as victim does not support or withdrawn.)
- Work with NHS partners to increase confidence to report and establish how to tackle and prevent offenders who repeatedly abuse NHS workers within the work environment.

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. This is less prevalent now as opposed to the previous report but is still a factor to recognise.

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 Gary Biddle
Rape – Detective Superintendent Neil Pudney
Night-Time Economy – Superintendent Stuart Weaver
County Lines and Exploitation – Detective Superintendent Gary Biddle
Serious and Organised Crime – Detective Inspector Ian Dyball
Cyber Crime and Fraud – Detective Chief Inspector Ashley Howard
Child Abuse and CSE – Detective Superintendent Dan Morrissey
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

The 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.