

## PFCC Decision Report

**Report reference number:** 012-23

**Classification:** Official

**Title of report:** Homicide Prevention Strategy

**Area of county / stakeholders affected:** Countywide

**Report by:** D/Supt Rob Kirby

**Chief Officer:** ACC Pavelin

**Date of report:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

**Enquiries to:** D/Supt Rob Kirby

### 1. Executive Summary

Homicide prevention continues to be a priority for Essex Police, with many areas of our work being identified as national best practice. The strategy has been developed to recognise the work being driven around homicide prevention and how it fits within the wider governance structure in Essex Police, but also taking into account the guidance from the NPCC Homicide Prevention Framework.

The overarching aim of the strategy is *“To reduce homicide in Essex by tackling serious violence and the contributing factors that lead to homicide”*. The purpose of the strategy is to provide cohesion across these areas by coordinating activity, identifying learning and best practice and having robust monitoring and governance, ensuring the overarching aim is achieved of reducing homicide.

### 2. Recommendations

For the PFCC to endorse the strategy presented at Appendix 1.

### **3. Background to the Proposal**

In 2021, Essex recorded 22 homicides. In terms of volume, this was concerning, receiving several interventions from the Home Office. The level of serious violence was of particular concern. This led to the Chief Constable launching Operation Nightshade, which was the force's response to the reduction of serious violence.

Various workstreams developed in 2022 in order to focus specifically on homicide prevention. Essex Police largely pioneered this concept and is nationally recognised as advanced in our approach to homicide prevention.

Part of this work was the desire for an Essex strategy to reflect locally the work being done. This coincided with an NPCC steer to forces producing a strategy. Due to the different areas homicide touches upon, the strategy needed to demonstrate how homicide prevention is embedded across those different areas.

### **4. Proposal and Associated Benefits**

The benefits of the strategy are that it demonstrates and communicates clearly how the force is approaching homicide prevention and the governance that exists around this.

### **5. Options Analysis**

There was not a requirement to have a Homicide Prevention Strategy, however the risk of not doing so is that the force acts in an uncoordinated way in its approach to homicide prevention.

### **6. Consultation and Engagement**

The concept of the Homicide Prevention Strategy was discussed and commissioned by T/ACC Pavelin at the Homicide Prevention Board in July 2022. Working versions were put to the board members to identify areas for improvement.

The strategy was developed in conjunction with the national Homicide Prevention Strategy, and strategies from other forces were reviewed to identify best practice.

### **7. Strategic Links**

The strategy will work in conjunction with other key plans including the Essex Police Force Plan, the PFCC's Police and Crime Plan, the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy, Essex Police's Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Strategy, the Government's Beating Crime Plan, the National Vulnerability Action Plan, the Serious Violence Duty and the NPCC Homicide Prevention Plan.

The strategic aims are to:

- Focus on four key impact factors in Essex: Domestic abuse, mental health, drug driven violence, and serious violence

- Work with the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit and other partners to tackle the most dangerous offenders, reducing the risk they pose
- Develop better understanding of the causal and contributory factors to homicide through a data led approach
- Work with National Police Chiefs Council, the College of Policing and academia to better understand and improve prevention opportunities
- Develop and implement rapid learning to ensure key prevention activity takes place as soon as possible
- Ensure force-wide governance is in place to link all areas of business into homicide prevention

This strategy is specifically relevant to the following areas of the Police and Crime Plan:

- Reducing drug driven violence
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reducing violence against women and girls

## **8. Police operational implications**

This strategy does not specifically impact on any operations. The force has developed its approach to homicide prevention in the last 12 months and this strategy reflects and contextualises the activity that already exists along with longer term ambitions.

## **9. Financial implications**

There are no additional financial implications associated with the Homicide Prevention Strategy. It is envisaged that the strategy will be delivered within existing resources and within the 2023/24 to 2027/28 MTFS.

## **10. Legal implications**

There are no legal implications associated with the Homicide Prevention Strategy.

## **11. Staffing implications**

The strategy does not seek to bid for growth or to redistribute staff in any way. It is envisaged that the strategy will be delivered within business as usual.

## **12. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications**

Within the strategy, it is demonstrated how it is linked to the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Strategy. There are not thought to be any direct DE&I implications with the creation of the strategy, however because the strategy intertwines with different areas of the organisation, DE&I rightly features within the strategy. An example of this is serious violence reduction. Part of the approach to this is the use of stop and search which clearly has DE&I implications.

### **13. Risks and Mitigations**

There was not a requirement to have a Homicide Prevention Strategy, however the risk of not doing so is that the force acts in an uncoordinated way in its approach to homicide prevention which may lead to an increase in serious violence and homicide.

There is a risk of increased serious violence and homicide if the strategy does not achieve its intended outcomes. In order to monitor this, the progress of the strategy will be reviewed at the Homicide Prevention Board. The flexibility exists to amend the strategy if it is felt by the Board that there are requirements to do so. An example of this is if a new influencing factor emerges.

### **14. Governance Boards**

The concept of the Homicide Prevention Strategy was discussed and commissioned by T/ACC Pavelin at the Homicide Prevention Board in July 2022. Working versions were put to the board members in order to identify areas for improvement.

The strategy was developed in conjunction with the national Homicide Prevention Strategy and strategies from other forces were reviewed to identify best practice.

On December 28<sup>th</sup> 2022, the strategy was approved at Chief Officer Group.

The strategy will be presented to the PFCC's Strategic Board in March 2023 for endorsement.

### **15. Links to Future Plans**

Each strand of the four key areas (DA, Mental Health, Drug Driven Violence and Serious Violence) has clear programs of work, a broad overview of which is reflected within the strategy. These will continue to be developed and monitored both at their respective boards (such as the DA Governance Board) and at the Homicide Prevention Board.

Continued innovation will be assisted by the National Homicide Prevention Framework and using data (such as the Homicide Profile) to better understand the influencers behind homicide and work to address them. This is reflected within the strategy itself.

### **16. Background Papers and Appendices**

Attached as Appendix 1 is the completion version of the homicide prevention strategy 2022-2026



Homicide Strategy B  
2022-2026.pdf

**Report Approval**

The report will be signed off by the PFCC's Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer prior to review and sign off by the PFCC / DPFCC.

Chief Executive / M.O.

Sign: 

Print: P. Brent-Isherwood

Date: 24 February 2023

Chief Finance Officer

Sign: 

Print: Janet Perry

Date: 01 March 2023

**Publication**

Is the report for publication?

YES

NO

If 'NO', please give reasons for non-publication (Where relevant, cite the security classification of the document(s). State 'None' if applicable)

None

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

**Redaction**

If the report is for publication, is redaction required:

1. Of Decision Sheet? YES   
NO

2. Of Appendix? YES   
NO

If 'YES', please provide details of required redaction:

N/A

Date redaction carried out: .....

**Chief Finance Officer / Chief Executive Sign Off – for Redactions only**

If redaction is required, the Treasurer or Chief Executive is to sign off that redaction has been completed.

**Sign:** .....

**Print:** .....

**Chief Executive / Chief Finance Officer**

**Decision and Final Sign Off**

I agree the recommendations to this report:



**Sign:**

**Print:** Roger Hirst

**PFCC/Deputy PFCC**

**Date signed: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because:

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.....  
.....

**Sign:**

**Print:**