Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2022/23

Report to: the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

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1.0 Purpose of Report

To provide a quarterly update on Essex Police's use of force and stop and search powers.

2.0 Recommendations

There are no recommendations. This report is for the board to note.

3.0 Executive Summary

Use of Force

Use of Force has been at relatively stable levels since the easing of COVID restrictions; the volume of subjects from ethnic minority subjects has also been stable, as has the location of the incident.

5,389 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q4 2022/23. This is a decrease of 258 (4.6%), compared to the same quarter for the 2021/22, and an 5.3% increase on the previous quarter.

3,689 forms (68.5%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

66 forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, an increase of 33 from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 32 separate incidents (16 more than the previous quarter).

81 uses of Taser were recorded as a first tactic in this quarter (four fewer than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 120 separate incidents (20 fewer than the previous quarter).

81.2% of subjects for Use of Force records were male. 39.8% of all subjects were male and in the 18-34 age range, with the mean average age being 33 years old.

The proportion of subjects from Ethnic Minorities continues to be higher than the proportion within the population of Essex as a whole. 9.3% of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 5.9 percentage points higher than the 3.4% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2021 Census data).

In 51.4% of incidents in which force was used was to prevent harm to people or property. Alcohol was the highest Impact Factor.

The tactic most likely to cause injury to subjects was Dog bite which had a 75% chance of resulting in a minor injury.

Stop and Search

4,101 stops were recorded in Quarter 4 of 2022/23. This is an increase of 2.9% (117 records) on the previous quarter and a 6.3% decrease (278 records) on the equivalent quarter last year.

96.7% (3,996) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops. There were nine Section 60 Stops in Q4.

The peak age range for those stopped is 18-24, equating to 1,468 stops in the last quarter (35.8% of subjects) with 85.2% of subjects being male.

There were 2.2 Stops per 1,000 people on individuals from Ethnic Minorities in Essex last quarter; this compares to 1.5 Stops per 1,000 for White individuals. This means that an individual from an Ethnic Minority is 1.5 times more likely to be stopped than a white individual. This disparity varies throughout the districts and is highest in Tendring and lowest in Thurrock.

Black individuals are 2.6 times more likely to be stopped than White individuals, Black to White disproportionality is highest in North LPA and lowest in West LPA.

The quarterly EDIC (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Cohesion) Board looks at the position of Essex Police in relation to its Most Similar Group. Essex currently performs favourably when compared to similar forces.

For Q3 2022/23, 27.8% of Essex outcomes were positive; this is 1.4 percentage points lower than the MSG average. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on individuals from Ethnic Minorities were 2.9 percentage points higher than for White individuals.

4.0   <u>Introduction/Background</u>

This report discusses the Use of Force forms and stop searches submitted for incidents occurring between 1 January and 31 March 2023.

The Use of Force data analysed in this report contains duplicates, as one form should be submitted per officer on every occasion force is used. Therefore, if three officers use force against one subject in relation to the same incident, three forms should be submitted, and the subject would appear three times in the data (for that one incident).
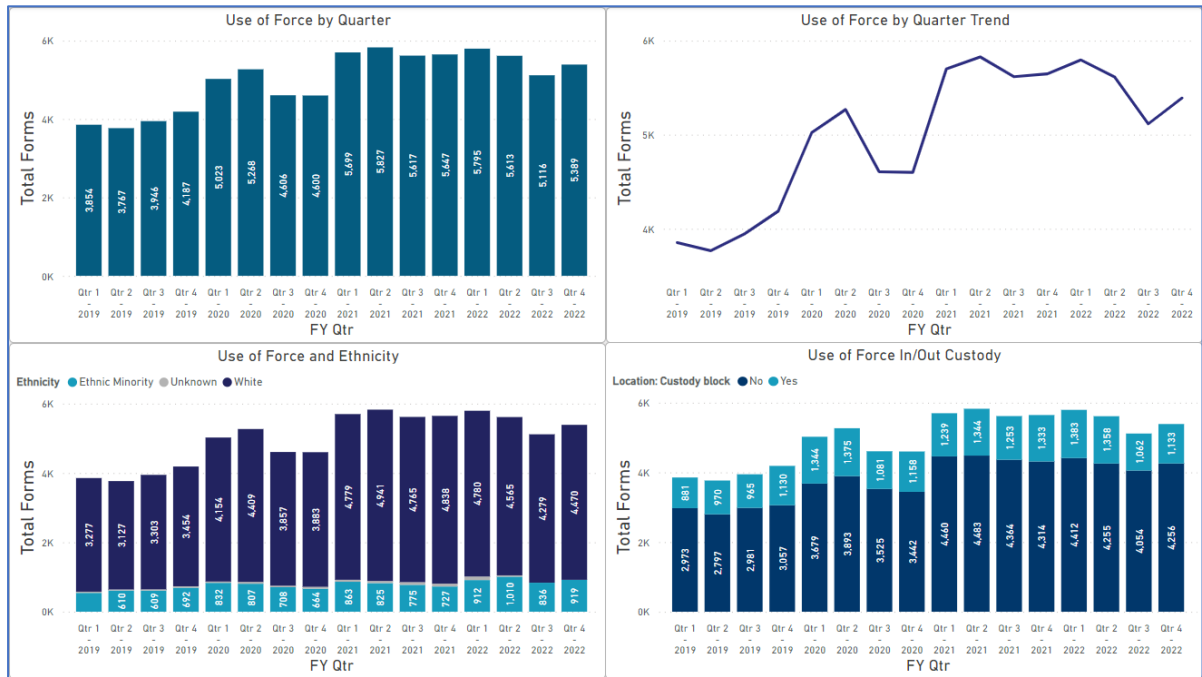
Stop Searches are now recorded on two separate databases: the Stops Database and the MobileFirst system (which is also used for the Use of Force data). Stops Database is now not active and used solely for historic figures.

The Office of National Statistics has now released ethnicity data from the 2021 Census, and this has been used in this report whenever populations are discussed.

For the purposes of this report, the term Ethnic Minorities is used to describe all minorities other than White minorities. White minorities are included in White.

5.0 Current Work and Performance

Use of Force

5,389 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q4 2022/23. This is a decrease of 258 (4.6%), compared to the same quarter for the 2021/22, and an 5.3% increase on the previous quarter. The proportion of force being used in custody remains stable. In the last quarter it was 21.0% compared to the 7-quarter average of 22.7%.

The below table details the tactics employed with each Use of Force in Q4 2022/23. It details the first eight tactics employed (not necessarily the most severe); more than one will have been used in most incidents. The MobileFirst app allows for the inputting of up to 20 Tactics for one incident; no forms submitted in this quarter detailed more than seven tactics.

Compliant Handcuffing continues to be the most commonly used tactic both overall and in the first used tactic.

In 77 reports, Tactical Communications (Tac Comms) were the only method employed, suggesting further training on the app may be required, as **a form is not required when Tac Comms are the only method**. This is two reports fewer than the previous quarter.

Nearly three quarters (74.2%) of forms did not state that Tac Comms were used as a first tactic. It is unlikely that this is the case. This is 22.7 percentage points higher than the previous quarter.

Tactic	Tactic 1	Tactic 2	Tactic 3	Tactic 4	Tactic 5	Tactic 6	Tactic 7	Tactic 8	Tactic Count	%age of Tactics
Compliant Handcuffing	1874	480	80	21	3	0	0	0	2458	25.41%
Tactical Communication	1392	398	90	42	17	3	0	0	1942	20.08%
Unarmed skills	472	474	206	87	18	11	1	0	1269	13.12%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	545	406	208	52	15	3	2	0	1231	12.73%
Ground Restraint	452	319	188	70	16	3	1	0	1049	10.85%
Other / improvised	294	259	144	50	18	10	2	0	777	8.03%
Limb / Body Restraints	132	169	105	47	19	7	1	0	480	4.96%
Taser	81	64	11	0	0	0	0	0	156	1.61%
Spit guard	12	17	34	14	12	0	1	0	90	0.93%
Irritant spray - PAVA used	17	11	10	3	1	0	0	0	42	0.43%
Irritant spray - PAVA drawn	18	16	7	2	1	0	0	0	44	0.45%
Baton drawn	10	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	0.17%
Dog Deployed	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.04%
Shield	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.02%
Dog Bite	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.04%
Baton used	4	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	9	0.09%
AEP aimed	12	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	19	0.20%
Firearms	66	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	0.81%
AEP used	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.02%
AEP drawn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%

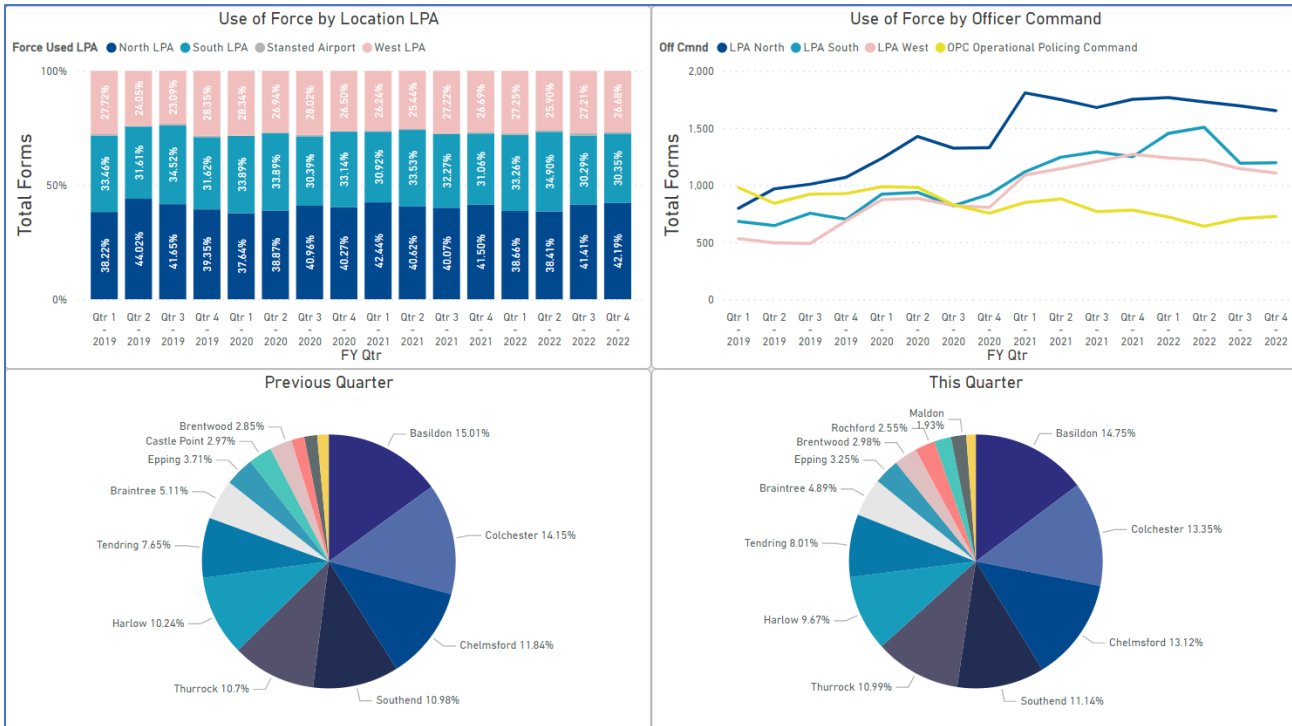3,689 forms (68.5%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

66 forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, an increase of 33 from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 32 separate incidents (16 more than the previous quarter). Eight forms submitted suggest that a firearm was fired in eight separate incidents, however in only one of these forms was Firearms actually listed as a Tactic.

81 uses of Taser were recorded as a first tactic in this quarter (four fewer than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 120 separate incidents (20 fewer than the previous quarter).

Tactic Number	Taser Tactics	Total Effective	%age Effectiveness
1	81	74	91.4%
2	64	59	92.2%
3	11	9	81.8%
Total	156	142	91.0%

After each Tactic entered on a Use of Force form, the officer records whether the tactic has been effective. Using this data, Taser tactics are 91.0% effective.

The two uses of AEP refer to a single incident, however the STORM record notes a Taser being deployed, but not an AEP.
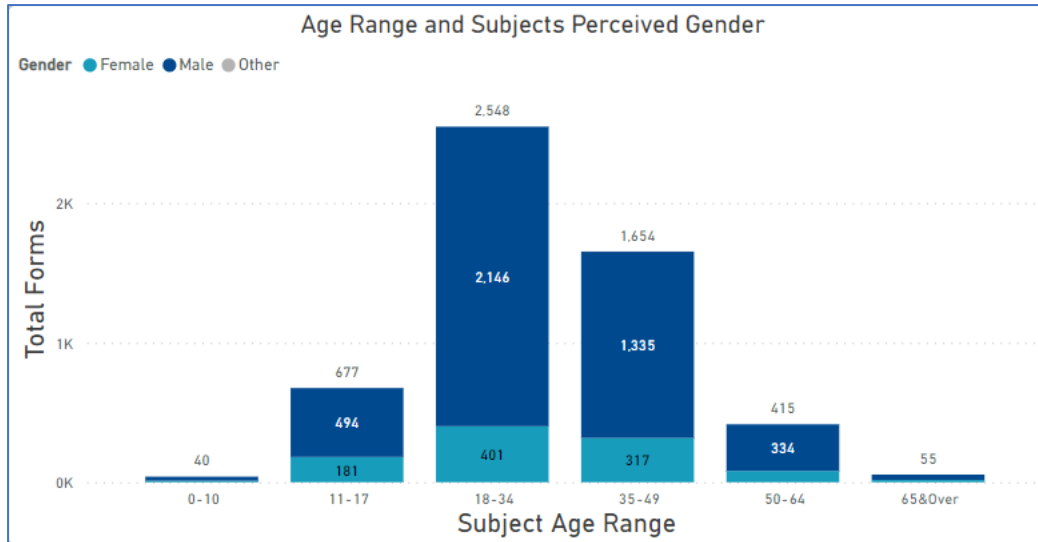
Historically Colchester, Basildon, Southend, Thurrock, Chelmsford, Harlow and Tendring are the districts that record the most use of force. These seven districts accounted for the location of 81.0% of all force used. The proportions of location by LPA remain consistent.

When looking at which Commands use force the most[1], the Local Policing Areas (LPAs) and Operational Policing Command (OPC) combined account for 98.6% of all forms recorded in the past quarter. Since the inception of Use of Force forms on Mobile First, all three LPAs have shown an upward trend in the volume of forms submitted by officers; this is a reflection on how technology has improved the ease of reporting in this area and, as a result, data quality.

81.2% of those subjected to Use of Force were identified by officers as male. 18.7% were identified as female; this is a similar proportion of Female subjects as the last quarter (18.3%). No subjects were identified as transgender, although five were identified as Other.

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[1] In order to do this, the Collar Number is looked up on a snapshot of serving officers taken each month. The caveat here is that all figures are based upon where an officer CURRENTLY serves.

33 was the average age for subjects (where a date of birth was given/stated); for males the average was 33 and for females the average age was 32. The mode (age most recorded) was 14[2] for female subjects and 31 for males. Males with a perceived age between 18-34 years were the most common gender and age band in the review period.

Of the 40 forms showing a subject aged 0-10, **36 of these show the Subject's date of birth was between 2020 - 2022**. **This is likely a data quality issue**. The four remaining records involve children with behavioral difficulties being restrained.

83.0% of subjects were White. This is 5.8 percentage points lower than the proportion of White residents of Essex.

9.3% of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 5.9 percentage points higher than the 3.4% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2021 Census data).

		Use of Force per 1000 population					Ratio to White				
	White	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities
LPA North	2.51	1.71	11.21	3.11	7.16	4.80	0.68	4.47	1.24	2.85	1.91
Braintree	1.48	4.29	7.41	1.99	13.50	5.07	2.90	5.01	1.34	9.12	3.43
Chelmsford	3.60	1.24	15.98	4.02	5.31	5.57	0.34	4.44	1.12	1.48	1.55
Colchester	3.51	1.92	8.26	4.46	6.68	4.72	0.55	2.35	1.27	1.90	1.34
Maldon	1.39	1.35	25.42	3.34	14.42	6.24	0.97	18.29	2.40	10.37	4.49
Tendring	2.78	1.11	17.58	2.09	9.26	4.97	0.40	6.32	0.75	3.33	1.79
Uttlesford	0.71	0.00	4.23	0.00	1.66	0.79	0.00	5.96	0.00	2.34	1.11
LPA South	2.83	2.04	9.57	1.57	4.81	4.35	0.72	3.38	0.55	1.70	1.54
Basildon	4.05	1.88	9.09	2.03	6.85	4.99	0.46	2.24	0.50	1.69	1.23
Castle Point	1.20	3.23	4.24	0.00	4.69	2.61	2.69	3.53	0.00	3.91	2.18
Rochford	1.42	2.53	17.38	2.09	3.38	5.08	1.78	12.24	1.47	2.38	3.58
Southend	3.17	1.93	10.67	1.44	3.44	3.94	0.61	3.37	0.45	1.09	1.24
LPA West	2.79	2.42	5.10	2.38	5.74	3.71	0.87	1.83	0.85	2.06	1.33
Brentwood	1.82	1.79	6.87	1.27	14.53	3.84	0.98	3.77	0.70	7.98	2.11
Epping	1.06	1.76	5.34	1.02	3.00	2.42	1.66	5.04	0.96	2.83	2.28
Harlow	5.28	2.88	9.78	4.92	9.49	6.45	0.55	1.85	0.93	1.80	1.22
Thurrock	3.31	2.95	3.59	2.67	3.74	3.29	0.89	1.08	0.81	1.13	0.99
Force	2.71	2.23	7.92	2.52	6.33	4.41	0.82	2.92	0.93	2.34	1.63

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[2] This is due to one 14-year-old female being the subject in 10 separate forms and another in 6 separate forms.

A clearer method to show the ethnic disproportionality for Use of Force is looking at the number of Forms per 1,000 population in Essex. This indicates **that individuals from Ethnic Minorities are just over one and a half times more likely to have force used upon them than White individuals**. This rises to just under three times more likely for Black or Black British individuals when the calculation is **based solely on ONS residence data**. Since no subject address data is included in the Use of Force form, no comparison can be made between Essex residents and non-residents.

There is no readily available data to compare Essex with similar forces on a regular basis.

Effecting Arrest was the most used reason entered for officers using force, followed by Protecting Oneself, Preventing Harm and Protecting Other Officers. Please note, that more than one reason can be entered when justifying a Use of Force.

Reason for Force	Total	%age Reasons	%age Forms
Effect arrest	2903	15.5%	53.9%
Protect self	2468	13.2%	45.8%
Prevent harm	2442	13.1%	45.3%
Protect other officers	2395	12.8%	44.4%
Prevent escape	2344	12.5%	43.5%
Prevent offence	1310	7.0%	24.3%
Protect subject	1258	6.7%	23.3%
Protect public	1051	5.6%	19.5%
Effect stop and search	650	3.5%	12.1%
Effect search in custody	452	2.4%	8.4%
Secure evidence	402	2.2%	7.5%
Effect other search	387	2.1%	7.2%
Remove handcuffs	365	2.0%	6.8%
Other	264	1.4%	4.9%

Combining the reasons that encompass preventing harm as a whole[3], 51.4% of reasons are to prevent harm.

Impact Factor	Total	%age all Factors	%age Forms
Alcohol	2000	17.2%	37.1%
Size / Gender / Build	1985	17.1%	36.8%
Mental health	1932	16.6%	35.9%
Drugs	1581	13.6%	29.3%
Prior knowledge	1525	13.1%	28.3%
Other	1223	10.5%	22.7%
Possession of a weapon	703	6.1%	13.0%
Crowd	459	4.0%	8.5%
Acute behavioural disturbance	205	1.8%	3.8%

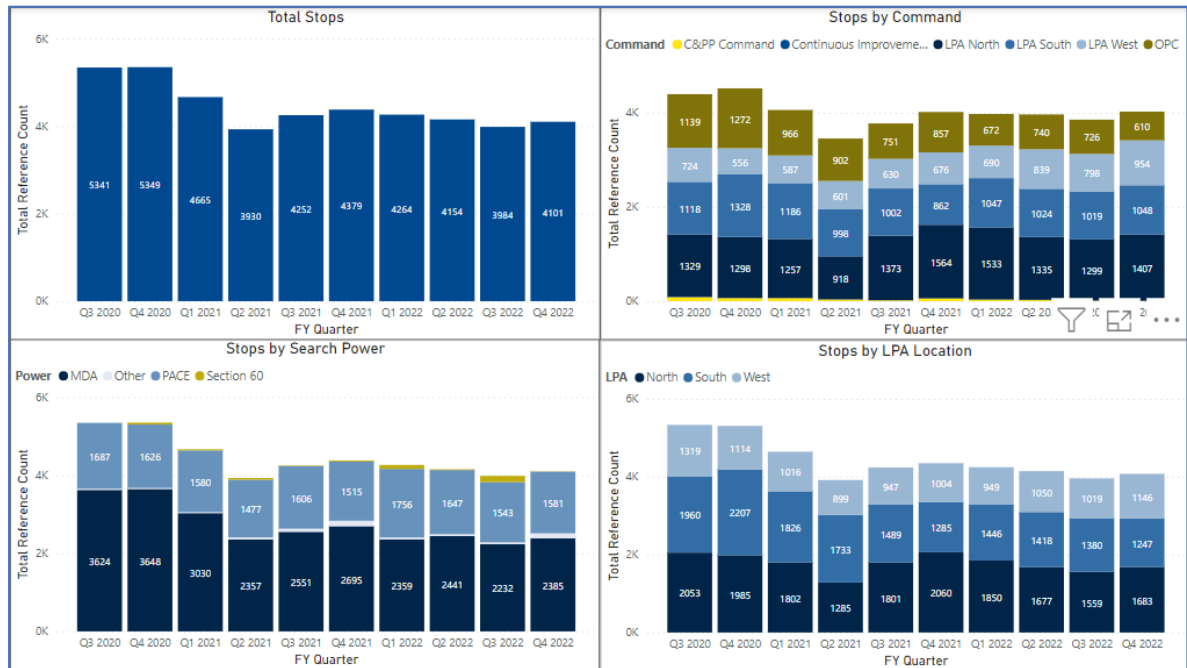[3] Protect Self, Prevent Harm, Protect Other Officers, Protect Subject and Protect Public

Each Use of Force form can have multiple impact factors. The table above shows the proportion of each impact factor in the total number of forms for the last quarter. Alcohol is the highest impact factor, appearing on 37.1% of forms.

By calculating the number and severity of injuries that have occurred after each tactic type and then dividing that by the total use of each tactic, it is possible to ascertain the likelihood that the use of each tactic will result in either minor or severe injury.

Tactic	Likelihood of Leading to Minor Injury	Likelihood of Leading to Severe Injury
Dog Bite	75.0%	0.0%
Taser fired	43.5%	0.0%
Baton used	22.2%	0.0%
Irritant spray - PAVA used	19.0%	0.0%
Baton drawn	12.5%	6.3%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	9.9%	0.2%
Ground Restraint	9.6%	0.1%
Limb / Body Restraints	9.6%	0.0%
Unarmed skills	8.1%	0.1%
Other / improvised	7.3%	0.1%
Taser	6.4%	0.0%
Firearms	6.4%	0.0%
Tactical Communication	6.0%	0.1%
Spit guard	4.4%	1.1%
Irritant spray - PAVA drawn	2.3%	0.0%
Compliant Handcuffing	2.1%	0.0%
Taser red-dotted	0.0%	0.0%
Taser drawn	0.0%	0.0%
Taser arced	0.0%	0.0%
Dog Deployed	0.0%	0.0%
Shield	0.0%	0.0%
AEP aimed	0.0%	0.0%
AEP used	0.0%	0.0%
AEP drawn	0.0%	0.0%

Dog bite was the tactic most likely to cause injury in the last quarter followed by Taser fired. Neither of these tactics resulted in severe injuries. There was one severe subject injury in the last quarter, this resulted in the subject being hospitalized.
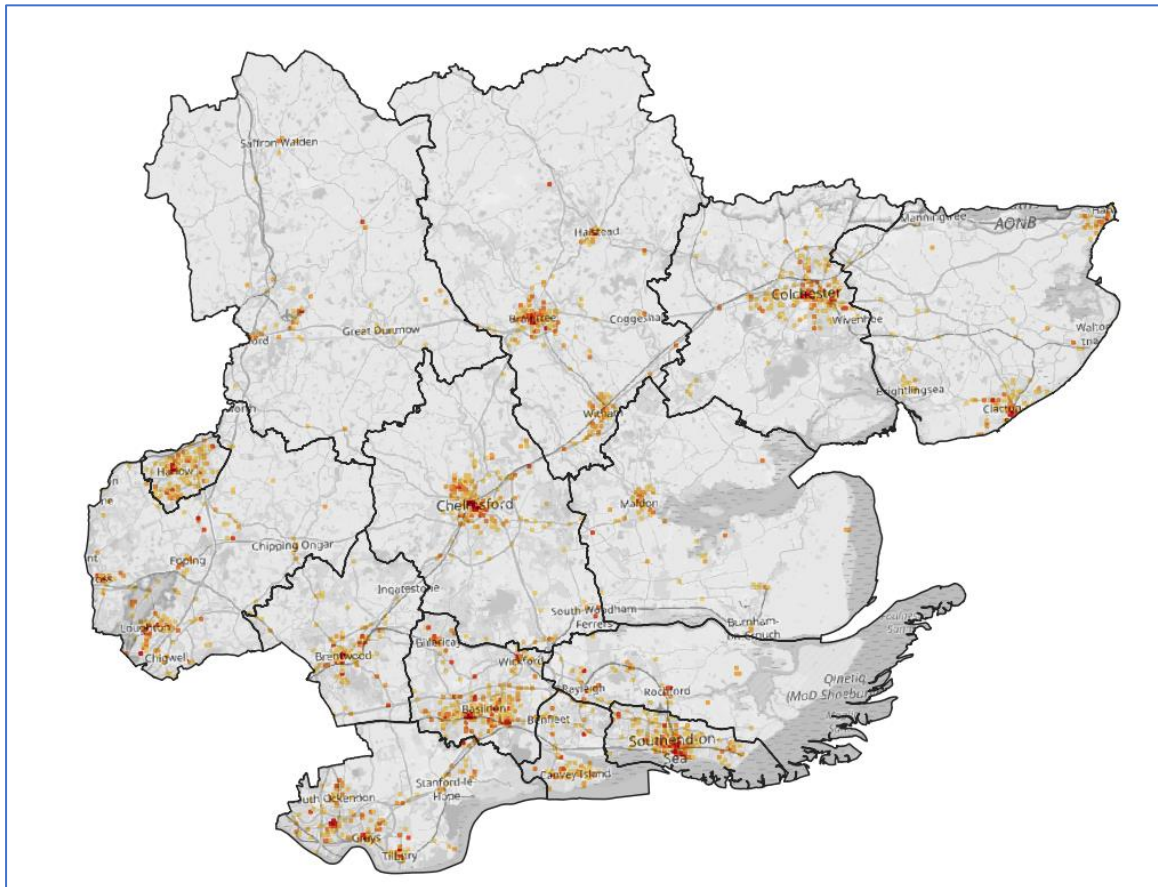
Stop and Search

4,101 stops were recorded in Quarter 4 of 2022/23. This is an increase of 2.9% (117 records) on the previous quarter and a 6.3% decrease (278 records) on the equivalent quarter last year. Whilst volume has fallen since the first wave Covid lockdowns, this represents a return to previous levels of Stop Search. It seems likely that the volume of stops will continue at similar levels without an outside influence, such as a large operation or further pandemic restrictions, to drive volumes up or down.

96.7% (3,996) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops. There were nine Section 60 Stops in Q4.

LPA	District Name	2020/21	2021/22				2022/23			
		Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	517	491	321	460	602	553	452	375	578
	Colchester	671	581	428	520	399	380	402	454	367
	Tendring	442	429	233	276	353	336	286	228	245
	Uttlesford / Braintree	355	301	303	545	706	581	537	502	493
South	Basildon	1223	969	684	833	783	717	631	758	614
	Castle Point/Rochford	272	264	203	171	185	181	143	218	206
	Southend	711	593	846	485	317	548	644	404	427
West	Brentwood / Epping	532	467	302	370	329	310	387	361	483
	Harlow	228	259	267	274	378	313	307	312	328
	Thurrock	355	290	330	303	297	326	356	346	335
Stansted Airport		43	21	13	15	30	19	9	26	25

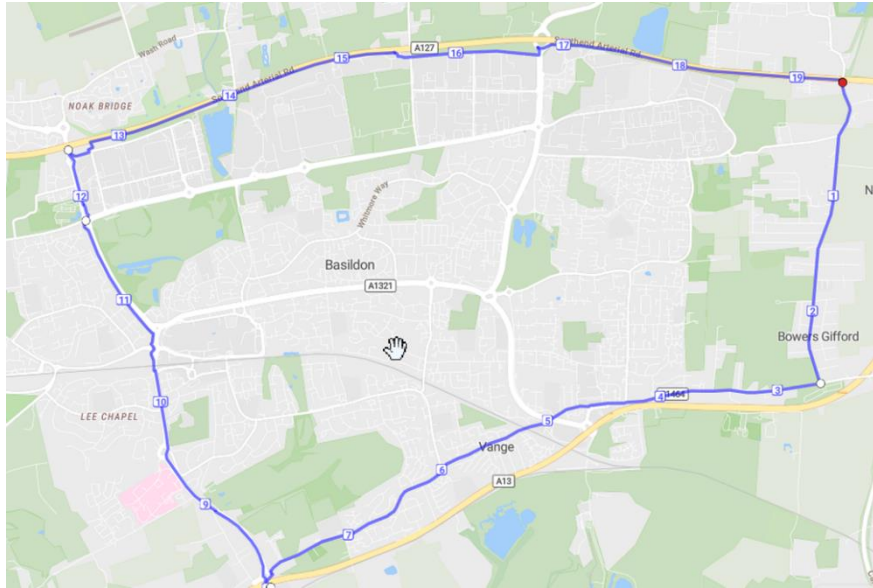| LPA	District Name	2020/21	2021/22				2022/23			
		Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	9.7%	10.5%	8.2%	10.8%	13.7%	13.0%	10.9%	9.4%	14.1%
	Colchester	12.5%	12.5%	10.9%	12.2%	9.1%	8.9%	9.7%	11.4%	8.9%
	Tendring	8.3%	9.2%	5.9%	6.5%	8.1%	7.9%	6.9%	5.7%	6.0%
	Uttlesford / Braintree	6.6%	6.5%	7.7%	12.8%	16.1%	13.6%	12.9%	12.6%	12.0%
South	Basildon	22.9%	20.8%	17.4%	19.6%	17.9%	16.8%	15.2%	19.0%	15.0%
	Castle Point/Rochford	5.1%	5.7%	5.2%	4.0%	4.2%	4.2%	3.4%	5.5%	5.0%
	Southend	13.3%	12.7%	21.5%	11.4%	7.2%	12.9%	15.5%	10.1%	10.4%
West	Brentwood / Epping	9.9%	10.0%	7.7%	8.7%	7.5%	7.3%	9.3%	9.1%	11.8%
	Harlow	4.3%	5.6%	6.8%	6.4%	8.6%	7.3%	7.4%	7.8%	8.0%
	Thurrock	6.6%	6.2%	8.4%	7.1%	6.8%	7.6%	8.6%	8.7%	8.2%
Stansted Airport		0.8%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%

North LPA recorded most stops in the last quarter. Basildon was the district with the highest volume with 614; this was followed by Chelmsford & Maldon with 578.
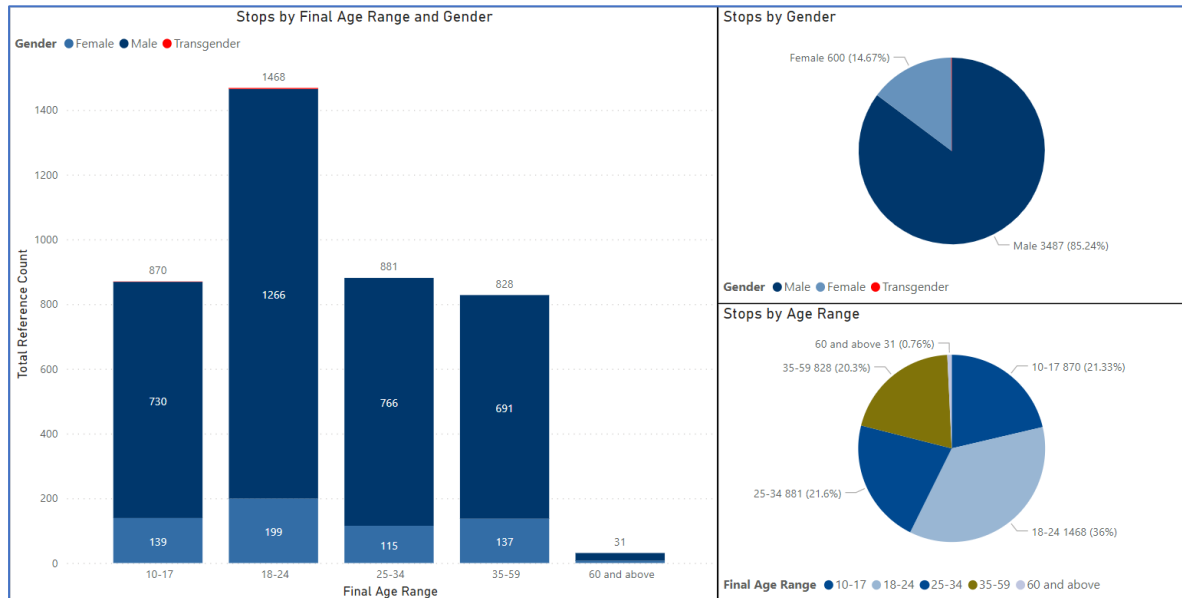

The majority of stops occurred in the main population centres of the county.

In the last quarter, there was one Section 60 authorisations in Essex.

A Sec. 60 in Basildon was put in place on 3rd January. This resulted in eight stops all of which had No Further Outcome as a resolution.

83.1% of all stops last quarter were carried out by officers attached to the LPA Commands and a further 14.9% were carried out by officers from Operational Policing Command (OPC).

During Quarter 4 of 2022/23 and where age and gender data are recorded, 85.2% of subjects stopped were male. 18 – 24 was the most prevalent age group for both male and female subjects. The Modal age for male subjects is 19 and 18 for female subjects.

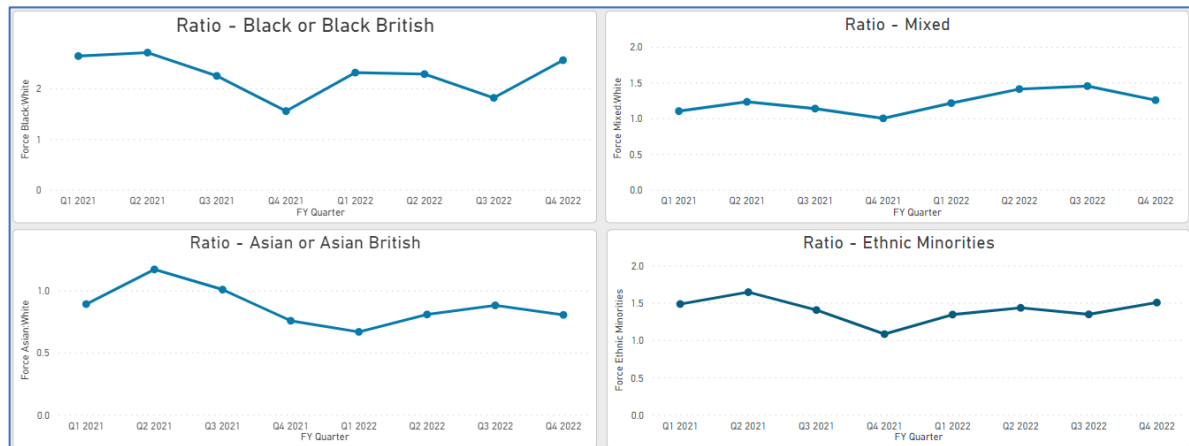| Age	%age of U18 Stops
10	0.14%
11	0.42%
12	3.32%
13	7.89%
14	13.71%
15	23.82%
16	21.19%
17	29.50%

There were 870 stops on subjects under the age of 18, 83.9% of these were on male subjects. 74.5% of stops on under 18s[4] were on individuals 15 and older.

The positive outcome percentage in stops on individuals under 18 is 18.4%.

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[4] Based upon the 722 records that contained date of birth data.

	Stops per 1000 population						Ratio to White				
	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities		Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities
LPA North	1.47	1.77	0.76	5.54	3.43	2.39		1.20	0.52	3.77	2.33	1.63
Chelmsford/Maldon	1.46	2.67	0.67	6.41	5.78	2.84		1.83	0.46	4.39	3.96	1.95
Colchester	1.43	1.25	0.50	4.65	2.11	1.96		0.87	0.35	3.25	1.48	1.37
Tendring	1.28	1.67	2.79	7.69	1.85	3.02		1.30	2.18	6.01	1.45	2.36
Uttlesford/Braintree	1.49	1.39	0.70	5.39	3.53	2.18		0.93	0.47	3.62	2.37	1.46
LPA South	1.63	1.65	2.04	4.53	2.52	2.71		1.01	1.25	2.78	1.55	1.66
Basildon	2.47	2.23	2.38	3.93	1.87	2.90		0.90	0.96	1.59	0.76	1.17
Castle Point/Rochford	0.90	1.39	1.46	3.86	1.39	1.96		1.54	1.62	4.29	1.54	2.18
Southend	1.54	1.26	1.93	5.82	3.44	2.79		0.82	1.25	3.78	2.23	1.81
LPA West	1.33	2.18	0.89	2.50	0.98	1.73		1.64	0.67	1.88	0.74	1.30
Brentwood/Epping	1.06	1.79	1.10	2.64	0.00	1.42		1.69	1.04	2.49	0.00	1.34
Harlow	2.11	3.28	1.98	5.32	2.37	3.46		1.55	0.94	2.52	1.12	1.64
Thurrock	1.25	2.09	0.16	1.68	1.50	1.27		1.67	0.13	1.34	1.20	1.02
Force	1.49	1.87	1.20	3.82	2.23	2.24		1.26	0.81	2.56	1.50	1.50
Force (Essex Residents)	0.82	0.84	0.38	1.15	0.57	0.83		1.02	0.46	1.40	0.70	1.01
Force (Essex Non-Residents)	0.11	0.36	0.32	0.88	0.52	0.52		3.27	2.91	8.00	4.73	4.73

Looking at the ethnic breakdown of Stop Searches for Q3 2022/23, **an individual from an Ethnic Minority is 1.5 times more likely to be stopped than a White individual**, this is a slight deterioration on the last quarter (1.3 times more likely). The above table shows a breakdown of stops per 1,000 population and of the ratio of various ethnicities to White across the force. Black to White disproportionality is highest in the North LPA and lowest in the West LPA. In Thurrock, the disproportionality between White and Ethnic Minorities has almost vanished. When the subject is an Essex resident[5], the disproportionality ratios fall by an average of 38.5%. **An Essex Resident from an Ethnic Minority is 1.01 times more likely to be stopped than a White Resident** compared to 1.5 times for all individuals stopped.
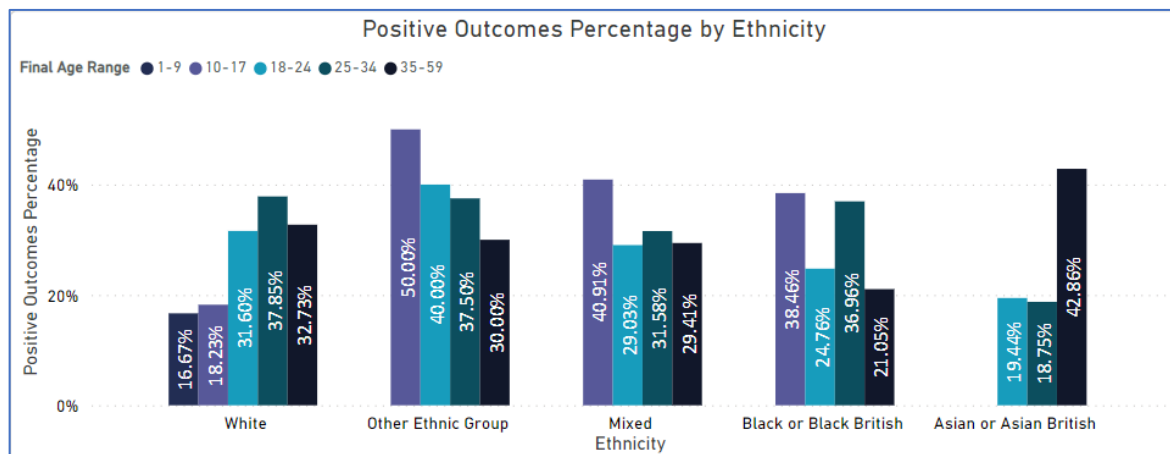

The Ethnicity to White ratio can be tracked over time. The ratio for Asian subjects shows a downward trend over past two years, the ratio for the other ethnicities shows a stable trend.

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[5] This is done by matching the town of residence or postcode with lists of towns and postcodes in Essex. Whilst the quality of the data is not perfect and subject to input errors, it is unlikely that the error is significant.

County	Ratio Ethnic Minority:White (White =1)
Derbyshire	3.23
Sussex	2.77
Staffordshire	2.73
Essex	2.34
Hampshire	2.34
Hertfordshire	2.32
Leicestershire	1.66

County	Ratio Black:White (White =1)
Sussex	8.79
Hampshire	7.12
Derbyshire	5.79
Leicestershire	4.74
Hertfordshire	4.37
Essex	3.54
Staffordshire	2.91

Data from Police.uk can be used to compare Essex Police to its Most Similar Group of forces. This data is based on a six-month period September 2022 – February 2023[6]. Essex has the third lowest Ethnic Minority to White ratio and the lowest Black to White ratio. **It should be noted that Police.uk have not yet moved to the 2021 Census data and are still using 2011 data.**
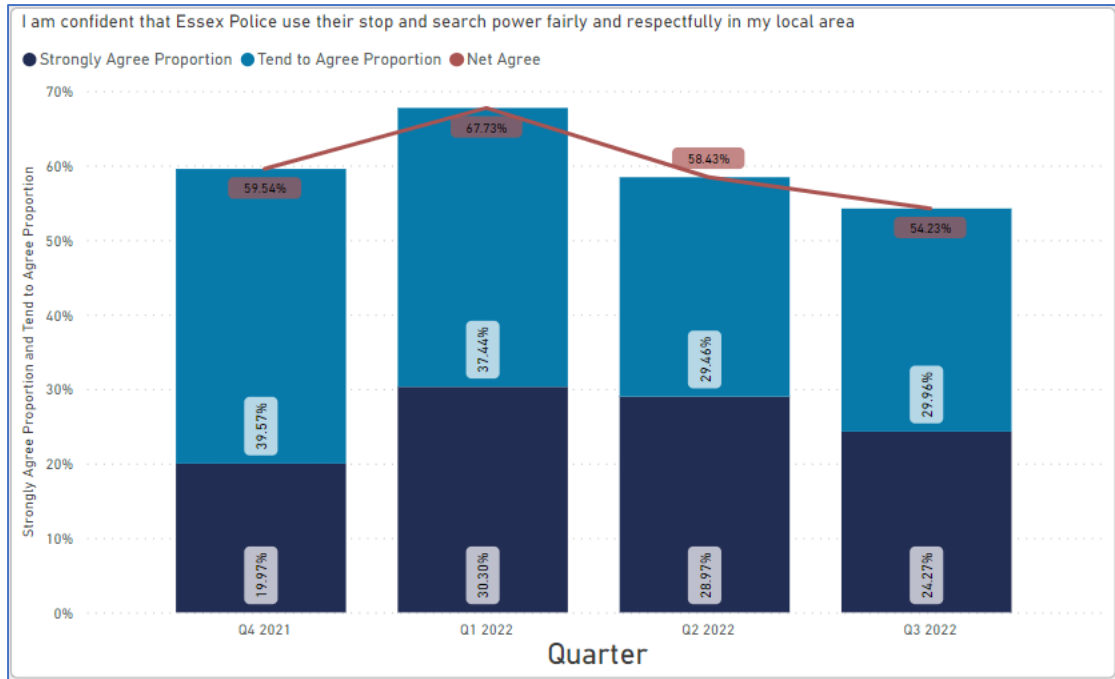

Whilst there is no country-wide definition as to what counts as a Positive outcome for Stop Search, Police.uk uses all outcomes apart from "A no further action disposal[7]." The above chart shows data for Q4 broken down by ethnicity and age group.

For Q4 2022/23, 28.1% of Essex outcomes were positive. This is slightly higher than the previous quarter (27.8%). The Most Similar Group of Forces average positive outcome rate is 29.5%. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on individuals from Ethnic Minorities were 2.9 percentage point higher than for White individuals.

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[6] Avon and Somerset have submitted no Stop Search data since July 2022.
[7] This now includes the outcomes "Other", "Verbal Warning" and "Article found - detailed outcome unavailable"

SMSR have not yet released Q4 data from the Public Confidence survey. Therefore the following section refers to Q3 only.

Data from SMSR shows **another drop in confidence that Essex Police use Stop and Search fairly**. The net agreement proportion of 54.2% in Q3 is lower than the previous quarter 58.4% and below the 67.7% of the same quarter last year. Results for respondents from Ethnic Minorities shows a small fall to 55.0% agreement (from 56.0% last quarter). The proportion of Ethnic Minority respondents who actively disagree with the statement has risen from 15.0% to 18.7%.

In the last quarter, 46 searches involved the removal of more than just outer garments or the exposure of the intimate parts of the subject (colloquially known as Strip Searches). This is 14 more than the previous quarter.

Outcome	Female				Male				Grand Total
	10-17	18-24	25-34	35-59	10-17	18-24	25-34	35-59	
Arrest					1	7	4	3	15
Community resolution				1		1	3		5
No further action		3	1	1	1	9	5	1	21
Other action	1								1
Summons				1	1				2
Verbal warning / words of advice		1						1	2
Grand Total	**1**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**3**	**17**	**12**	**5**	**46**

The above table shows these searches broken down by gender, age and outcome. The positive outcome rate for these searches was 52.2%. The four searches conducted on subjects under the age of 18 were as follows –

Reference	Stop Date	Subject age	Ethnicity	Power	Intimate parts exposed	Rationale	Where was the search conducted	Outcomes of encounter
S-420800272023012520171 3	25/01/2023	15	White	PACE	No	The female stated she had a piece of glass in her bra therefore she was detained for a s1 search and her bra required lifting. This was completed with the females mother present as she was 14yrs of age.	Parent's House	Other action
S-420800682023032116071 3	21/03/2023	17	Mixed	MDA	Yes	Given the recent intel from cctv, the messages found on the burner phone and that no cash or drugs were found during an initial search I suspected the male to have concealed drugs in an intimate area such as in his boxer shorts, as is common practice among drug dealers.Because of the message sent from the burner phone potentially linking the phone to [a County Line], I suspected that any drugs found were likely to include class A, making an intimate search reasonable given the more seriousness of the potential possession or pwits offence with class A.	At police premises	Arrest
S-420802622023040103261 6	31/03/2023	15	White	MDA	No	Was wearing two pairs of tracksuit bottoms outer pair pulled down slightly by DP	In public view	Summons
S-420812612023031900523 8	18/03/2023	16	White	MDA	Yes	This male was seen to be with another who is well known for drug supply in Basildon. Male stated he was dropped off to go to lakeside but then came to Pitsea to collect some money. Male found in possession of a cannabis joint however was still extremely nervous to the point he was shaking and sweating after being found already with drugs therefore I believed there was something else being concealed. I called AA (mum) who stated male told her he was going to Lakeside therefore I then believed he was likely to be invovled in county lines drug supply and concealing drugs in his pants.	At police premises	No further action

Drugs/Weapons Found & Self Defined Ethnicity	Not Found	Found	Drugs/Weapons Found & Self Defined	Negative Outcomes		Positive Outcomes	
				Not Found	Found	Not Found	Found
White	77.7%	22.3%	White	66.0%	3.4%	11.6%	19.0%
Not Stated	81.7%	18.3%	Not Stated	71.0%	3.9%	10.7%	14.5%
Black or Black British	77.7%	22.3%	Black or Black British	68.7%	2.3%	9.1%	20.0%
Asian or Asian British	82.1%	17.9%	Asian or Asian British	74.5%	2.8%	7.5%	15.1%
Mixed	69.5%	30.5%	Mixed	62.1%	4.2%	7.4%	26.3%
Other Ethnic Group	77.8%	22.2%	Other Ethnic Group	55.6%	5.6%	22.2%	16.7%

21.2% (963) of individuals stopped in the quarter to 31st March 2023 were found to have weapons or drugs on their persons or in their vehicles. When broken down by self-defined ethnicity, individuals who identify as Mixed have the highest proportion of drugs/weapons found (30.5% or 29 individuals). A small proportion of stops that result in drugs/weapons being found result in a negative outcome, these are often very small amounts of drugs or something legal that might be used as a weapon (hammer/bat).

6.0 Implications (Issues)

Although the disproportionality between White and Ethnic Minorities that are subject to stop and search is a concern, the gap has narrowed over the past 12 months despite a rise this quarter. It is important that Essex Police understands and can articulate the reasons behind this data.

6.1 Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities

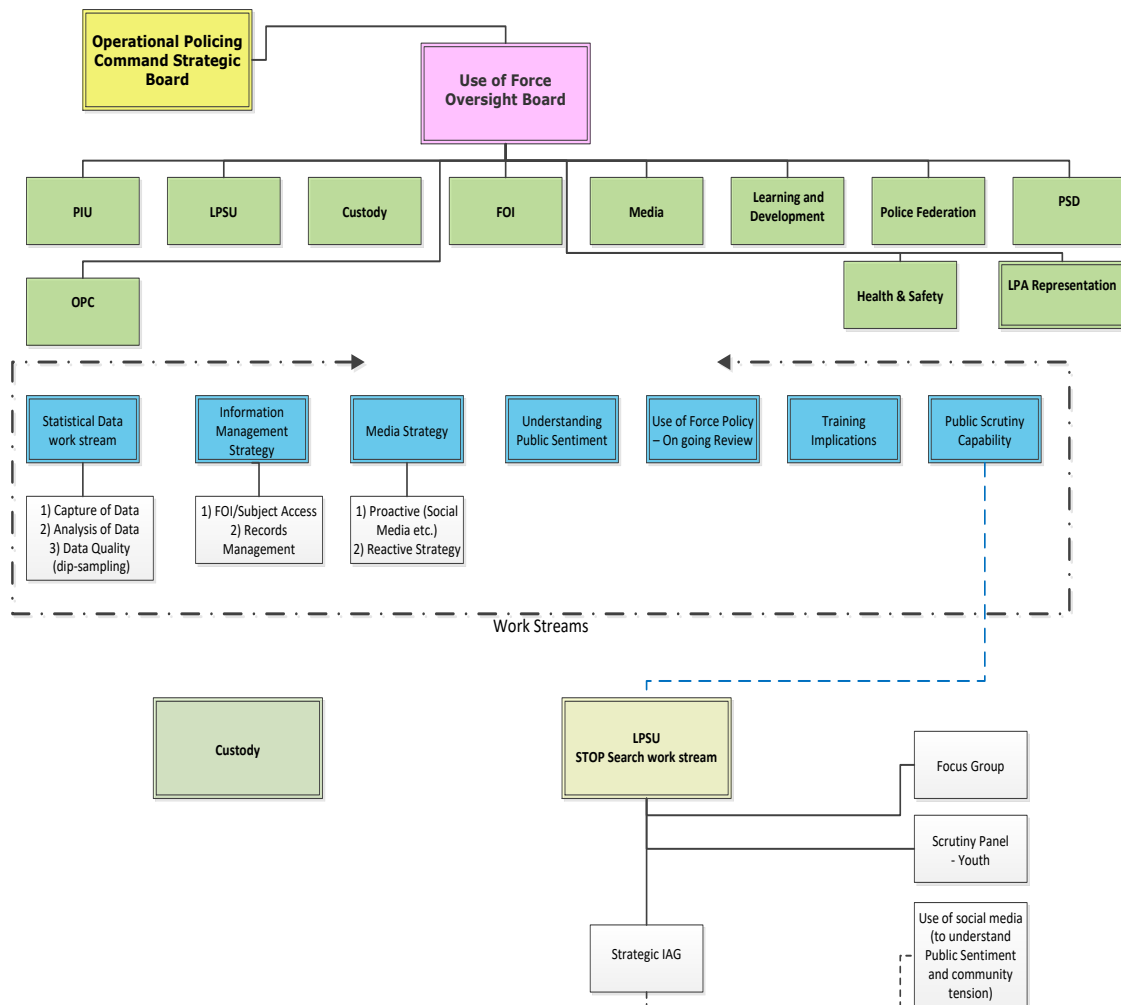The use of force is a cross-cutting issue that impacts on many areas in the Police and Crime Plan.

6.2 Demand

The trends in volumes of use of force and stop & search have been described throughout the paper.

6.3   Risks/Mitigation

Use of force is monitored by the 'Use of Force Board' chaired by T/ACC Glen Pavelin. These meetings are held on a quarterly basis. This group is a force-wide focus group facilitated and organised by the Operational Policing Command (OPC) and is intended to provide formal scrutiny and consultative feedback on the use of force and all its associated issues. The Use of Force Board focuses on enabling the force to examine and improve on statistical data-gathering and its analysis, and transparency with the public in order to improve confidence and trust in Essex Police.

Representation within the Use of Force Board comprises a number of disciplines, as detailed in the below structure:

6.4   Equality and/or Human Rights Implications

The above analysis indicates an ethnic disparity in both Use of Force and Stop Search. Recently, ONS have released 2021 Census data, and this has reduced the previous disparity, especially in the area of Stop/Search.

Subjects from Ethnic Minorities are 1.5 times more likely to be stopped than White subjects.

Essex Police has established a Stop and Search / Use of Force Review Panel made up of members of the public representing a number of diverse communities. This Panel reviews Body Worn Video (BWV) footage of Stop and Searches as well as incidents where force is used. Feedback from the Panel is provided to the officers and their line managers.

Each of the Local Policing Areas and Operational Policing Command review BWV footage of their officers carrying out Stop and Searches and / or Use of Force.

6.5 Health and Safety Implications

The appropriate use of force and the level of threat faced by operational officers and staff have health and safety implication for those involved including subjects, the police and the public. Any patterns or concerns are discussed and acted upon at the Use of Force Board.

7.0 Consultation/Engagement

Nothing to note beyond the fact that the force continues to share and discuss use of force and stop and search data with the various IAGs around the county.

8.0 Actions for Improvement

To further build on the flew training all LPAs and CPTs will receive an input of the team training day which will cover the following areas.

- A recorded input from a volunteer which will cover lived experience to raise awareness of the existence of disproportionality, especially in stop and search. It will also increase awareness of unconscious bias.
- Improvement to GOWISELY R. R to stand for "Respect," "Reflect" and "Reassure". Respect is obvious, the officers should treat individuals with courtesy and respect. Reflect, officers to reflect on the interaction and their grounds. Ask themselves a Question regarding the motivation of the Stop and Search, are the grounds solid. The intention is to raise awareness of the existence of disproportionality in Stop and Search and to increase awareness of potential for unconscious Bias. Official Page 14 of 18 OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE
- Deliver an input to officers on Autism awareness when interacting during Stop & Search.
- Work with L&D to ensure student officers receive disproportionality training during stop and search training.
- Work with L&D to ensure annual personal safety training includes realistic stop and search scenarios assessing officer's grounds, procedural justice (street craft), compliance with Policy, unconscious bias. Explore having IAG members observe this training for feedback and learning.

The stop and search Policy has been reviewed and revised down from 22 pages to 7, research found officers hadn't read the previous Policy, it now contains all the information required but in a more accessible manageable format.

- Input on authority levels for strip searches of adults and juveniles and the proportionate grounds required for this invasive action
- Input on where strip searches can be completed.
- The legal requirement to issue a receipt.
- The policy requirement to ask the individuals self-defined ethnicity.
- The policy requirement to activate BWV.
- Training to be given to all Inspectors on what they need to consider prior to authorising any strip searches. Any strip searches authorised on juveniles to be added to the FCR handover by Oscar 1 to allow strategic oversight by force Gold

9.0   Future Work/Development

- To further build on the initial training delivered to student officers all LPAs and CPTs will receive an input on the team training day which will cover a number of areas one of these is Procedural justice. A procedural justice input will also be built into a develop me package which will be mandatory for all operational officers. Academic studies have shown that when officers use procedural justice correctly, we raise the trust and confidence of our communities.

- The Essex Police Professional Standards Department are updating the stop and search section of the Essex Police website to include case study examples where Essex Police have captured learning from complaints relating to stop and search and use of force and used this learning to develop our working practices.