

MINUTES
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX
and
ESSEX POLICE
PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY BOARD

30 May 2023, 1030 to 1230 via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Roger Hirst (RH)	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner - Chair
Pippa Brent-Isherwood (PBI)	Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer, PFCC's office
Suzanne Harris (SH)	Head of Performance and Scrutiny (Policing), PFCC's office
Richard Jones (RJ)	Head of Business Partnering and Management Accounting, Essex Police
Debbie Martin (DM)	Chief Finance Officer, Essex Police
Rachel Nolan (RN)	Assistant Chief Constable, Essex Police
Glen Pavelin (GP)	Assistant Chief Constable, Essex Police
Janet Perry (JP)	Strategic Head of Performance and Resources, PFCC's office
Andrew Pritchard (APr)	Assistant Chief Constable, Essex Police
Andrew Prophet (AP)	Deputy Chief Constable, Essex Police
Matt Robbins (MR)	Head of Strategic Analysis, Essex Police
Andrew Waldie (AW)	D/Ch Supt, Crime and Public Protection, Essex Police
Camilla Brandal	Minutes, PFCC's office

Apologies:

Jane Gardner (JG)	Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
BJ Harrington (BJH)	Chief Constable, Essex Police
Fiona Henderson (FH)	Director of Continuous Improvement and Analytics, Essex Police
Kevin Baldwin (KB)	Assistant Chief Constable, Essex Police

1 Introduction and welcome

RH welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies from those listed above.

2.i Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

There were no amendments to the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 April 2023 and they were therefore agreed. There were no matters arising.

2.ii Action Log

- 02/23 Monthly Performance Report
Bespoke written summary to next P&R meeting. Close.
- 03/23 Monthly Performance Report
Bespoke written summary to next P&R meeting. Close.
- 12/23 Action Log (Stop and Search)
Requested data now contained within report. Close.
- 16/23 Operational Policing Command
Redacted paper received. Close.
- 18/23 Forward Plan
Updating carried out. Close.
- 19/23 Quarterly Performance Report
Amended report received. Priority 12 Collaboration still being addressed.
Close.
- 20/23 Crime Data Accuracy
On Forward Plan for October. Leave open.
- 21/23 Forward Plan
Updates to Forward Plan complete. Close.

2.iii Forward Plan

SH confirmed that the additional items for the Forward Plan were June for Reflections on the Casey Review and June for Terms of Reference for P&RS Board. It was confirmed that the Deep Dives would form part of a series of separate meetings but that these would take place on the same day as P&RS Boards, with a suitable time interval between meetings of at least 45 minutes. It was confirmed that the paper deadline for Deep Dives would be 5 working days prior to the paper deadline for the P&RS Board meeting. DM asked if the Treasury Management outturn report could be added to Forward Plan for May 2024 and this was confirmed.

3 i Monthly Finance Report

- 3.1 DM presented the 2021/22 provisional outturn position for the Force.
- 3.2 The appropriations to earmarked reserves were noted (whether requiring approval or not) and the approval of the year end balances on earmarked and general reserve amounts.
- 3.3 The Executive Summary included items on revenue, workforce, reserves and capital forecasts. After a discussion, RH asked if there could be some more detailed information on the narratives around the overspends on Op Hazel. RJ offered to pull together a simple spreadsheet on reserves during this meeting and provide it to RH after this meeting.

Action 22/23:

RJ to create a simple spreadsheet on reserves and share with RH ahead of the extraordinary Strategic Board meeting

MR joined the meeting at 1055
APr joined the meeting at 1100

3.iii Police Objective Analysis

DM went through the POA report's 2022/23 outturn position and the main in-year variances to budget and year on year outturn comparisons. A discussion took place around what impact the lack of income around Magistrates Courts awards and underspends in investigation in Public Protection had had on operational abilities.

RJ left the meeting at 1112
RN joined the meeting at 1112

3.ii Treasury Management outturn report

DM presented the TM outturn report for 2022/23 where the overview set out how the PFCC's cash balances had been managed during 2022/23, whether there had been any deviations to the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy and what investments and borrowings were undertaken during the year. A brief discussion took place around the need for any external borrowing and the overdraft facility rule, and it was agreed that this information would be provided in the Q1 paper which will be presented at Strategic Board on 21 June.

4 Monthly Performance Report

- 4.1 MR presented the monthly Performance Report for April and confirmed that five of the twelve PFCC Priorities are at a grade of Good (Priorities 2, 3, 7 and 6 have been improved from Adequate to Good), there were five Priorities at Adequate and two graded at Requires Improvement (Priorities 5 and 9). Priority 4 and 6 have been improved to Good from Adequate, confidence was at 75%, All Crime and Rural Crime had decreased but there had been an increase in Business Crime. All Theft offences had increased, and there had been a decrease in the number of offences with a repeat victim. The report also contained items on Crime Data Accuracy recording, Stalking and Harassment, Violence against the Person, Killed or Seriously Injured, OCG disruptions, acquisitive crime and diversity numbers.

GP joined the meeting at 1125

- 4.2 A discussion took place around the report showing that the Force were doing better in some areas but whether they were 'doing well', for example around VAWG and the level of public confidence. RH asked how this could be benchmarked and how to identify where 'good' sits. AP commented that he would take this away to the Team and see if the work behind the 'good' could be described better.
- 4.3 A further brief discussion took place around the SERP/ Roads Safety numbers and the additional comms work that is being put in place. SH asked about the exceptions on Slide 28 in Epping and it was confirmed that the numbers related to specific targeted activity.

MR left the meeting at 1130
DM left the meeting at 1130

5 Homicide Scrutiny

- 5.1 APr and RN presented the report on Homicide Prevention activity since February 2023 and the four key areas of Domestic Abuse, Mental Health, Gangs and drugs lines and Serious Violence. The report contained information on current work and performances, Home Office homicide data, the Homicide Prevention Approach and future work.
- 5.2 SH confirmed that there is a paper review exercise in the summer and may mean that the Homicide Review format/frequency is altered. A brief discussion took place around the issues with the Mental Health partnership in Essex and how the PFCC's office could be involved with lobbying the Policing Minister. A discussion took place around the national trends and whether and how the structure prevention activity is having an effect.

AW joined the meeting at 1203

APr left the meeting at 1203

6 Use of Force/ Stop and Search

- 6.1 GP presented the Use of Force and Stop and Search paper which included items on the numbers of instances recorded, Firearms, Taser, Ethnic Minority numbers, current work and performance, risks and mitigations, actions for improvement and future work and development.
- 6.2 It was agreed that GP would report back on the outcome of the severe injury on P9 of the report. After a discussion, it was also agreed that a total figure would be put into the table on Page 17 and the bar graph on Page 15 of the report to show disproportionality by ethnicity and age.

Action 23/23:

GP would report back on the outcome of the severe injury on P9 of the report.

Action 24/23:

To show disproportionality by ethnicity and age, the next report is to include a total figure in the table on Page 17 and the bar graph on Page 15.

GP left the meeting at 1222

7 Update on Performance for Public Contact and Response to crime (Public Contact and High Harm Crime)

- 7.1 RN presented the update report which provided information on the performance of the Contact Management Command call handling for emergency and on-emergency calls and High Harm and Responding to Incidents Policy.
- 7.2 A discussion took place around the hours of availability, call volumes, call handling training, Single On-line Home, leaver numbers and culture, and the Responding to Incidents procedure.

RN left the meeting at 1245

8 Compliance of Essex Police with its statutory duties under Sections 10 and 11 of the Children Act 2004

- 8.1 AW presented the paper which contained a summary of current local multi-agency children's safeguarding arrangements across Southend, Essex and Thurrock. The report covered items under local arrangements, current work and performance, police resources, implications, demand, risks, actions for improvement and future work.
- 8.2 A brief discussion took place around whether the correct level of resources were in place and the work being done to fill vacancies.

9 Approval for publishing of documents

It was agreed that the papers for publishing would be 3i, 3ii, 3iii, 4, 5 (to be redacted and not appendix), 6, 7i, 7ii and 8.

Action 25/23:

Paper for item 5 to be redacted and resubmitted for publication

10 Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1254.