Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2023

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

Title of Report:	**Use of Force/Stop & Search – Q2 2023/24**
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Author on behalf of Chief Officer:	**Dan Youngman 42078817**
Date of Approval:	**COG – 01/11/2023**

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 minorities against whom force was used has fallen slightly and the locations in which force is used has remained stable.

5,524 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q2 2023/24. This is a **decrease of 89 (1.6%), compared to the same quarter for the 2022/23,** and a 2.0% decrease on the previous quarter.

3,792 forms (68.6%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

47 forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, an increase of 10 from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 29 separate incidents (16 more than the previous quarter).

106 uses of Taser were recorded as a first tactic in this quarter (2 more than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 140 separate incidents (the same as the previous quarter).

77.4% of subjects for Use of Force records were male. 36.8% 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 against whom force was used continues to be higher than the proportion within the population of Essex as a whole. 8.9% of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 5.5 percentage points higher than the 3.4% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2021 Census data).

In 51.8% of incidents in which force was used was to prevent harm to people or property. Mental Health was the highest impact factor.

The tactic most likely to cause injury to subjects was Dog Bite which had a 71.4% chance of resulting in a minor injury.

Stop and Search

3,976 stops were recorded in Quarter 2 of 2023/24. This is a decrease of 8.6% (375 records) on the previous quarter and a 4.3% decrease (178 records) on the equivalent quarter last year.

The majority of stops occurred in the main population centres of the county and these correlate to the Essex Police Op Grip and Op Dial areas.

97.0% (3,858) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops[1].There were 85 Section 60 Stops in Q2.

The peak age range for those stopped is 18-24, equating to 1,301 stops in the last quarter (32.7% of subjects) with 83.5% of subjects being male.

There were 2.6 Stops per 1,000 people on individuals from Ethnic Minorities in Essex last quarter; this compares to 1.4 Stops per 1,000 for White individuals. This means that an individual from an Ethnic Minority is 1.9 times more likely to be stopped than a white individual. This disparity varies throughout the districts and is highest in Chelmsford/Maldon and lowest in Colchester.

Black individuals are 3.1 times more likely to be stopped than White individuals. Black to White disproportionality is highest in North LPA and lowest in West LPA.

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[1] Including the Psychoactive Substances Act

For Q2 2023/24, **27.4% of Essex outcomes were positive; this is 1.0 percentage point lower than the MSG average**. During the last quarter, positive outcomes on individuals from Ethnic Minorities were 2.6 percentage points higher than for White individuals.

4.0   Introduction/Background

This report discusses the Use of Force forms and stop searches submitted for incidents occurring between 1st July and 30th September 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
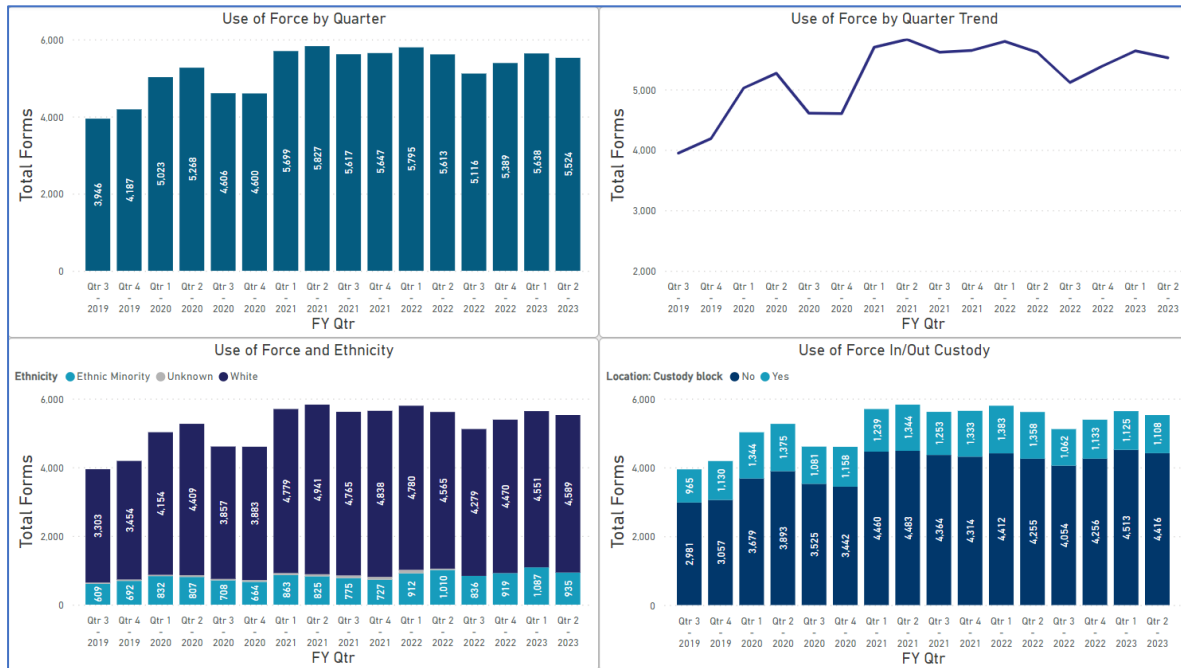
5,524 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q2 2023/24. This is a decrease of 89 (1.6%), compared to the same quarter for the 2022/23, and a 2.0% decrease on the previous quarter. The proportion of force being used in custody remains stable. In the last quarter it was 20.1% compared to the 7-quarter average of 22.2%.

The below table details the tactics employed with each Use of Force in Q2 2023/24. 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 eight tactics.

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

In 65 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 17 reports fewer than the previous quarter.

Nearly three quarters (74.5%) of forms did not state that Tac Comms were used as a first tactic. It is unlikely that this is the case. This is 0.4 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	1893	457	73	24	2	0	1	0	2450	23.71%
Tactical Communication	1408	460	155	47	20	2	1	0	2093	20.26%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	580	459	212	67	17	5	0	2	1342	12.99%
Unarmed skills	507	480	208	83	22	13	3	1	1317	12.75%
Ground Restraint	454	364	202	103	18	6	3	0	1150	11.13%
Other / improvised	270	322	167	73	26	8	3	0	869	8.41%
Limb / Body Restraints	173	196	133	44	22	5	2	1	576	5.57%
Taser	106	78	5	4	0	2	1	0	196	1.90%
Spit guard	24	31	25	29	10	5	2	1	127	1.23%
Firearms	47	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	59	0.57%
Irritant spray - PAVA used	23	11	13	6	3	0	0	1	57	0.55%
Irritant spray - PAVA drawn	15	18	10	2	1	0	1	0	47	0.45%
AEP aimed	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.10%
Baton drawn	2	2	4	2	0	0	0	0	10	0.10%
Baton used	1	6	2	0	0	1	0	0	10	0.10%
Dog Deployed	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.09%
Dog Bite	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.07%
Shield	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.04%
AEP used	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%

3,792 forms (68.6%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

47 forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, an increase of 10 from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 29 separate incidents (16 more than the previous quarter). One form submitted suggests that a firearm was fired, however Firearms is not listed as a Tactic in this case.

106 uses of Taser were recorded as a first tactic in this quarter (2 more than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 140 separate incidents (the same as the previous quarter).

| Tactic Number	Taser Tactics	Total Effective	%age Effectiveness
1	106	95	89.6%
2	78	73	93.6%
3	5	5	100.0%
4	4	4	100.0%
6	2	2	100.0%
7	1	1	100.0%
Total	196	180	91.8%

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 91.8% effective.
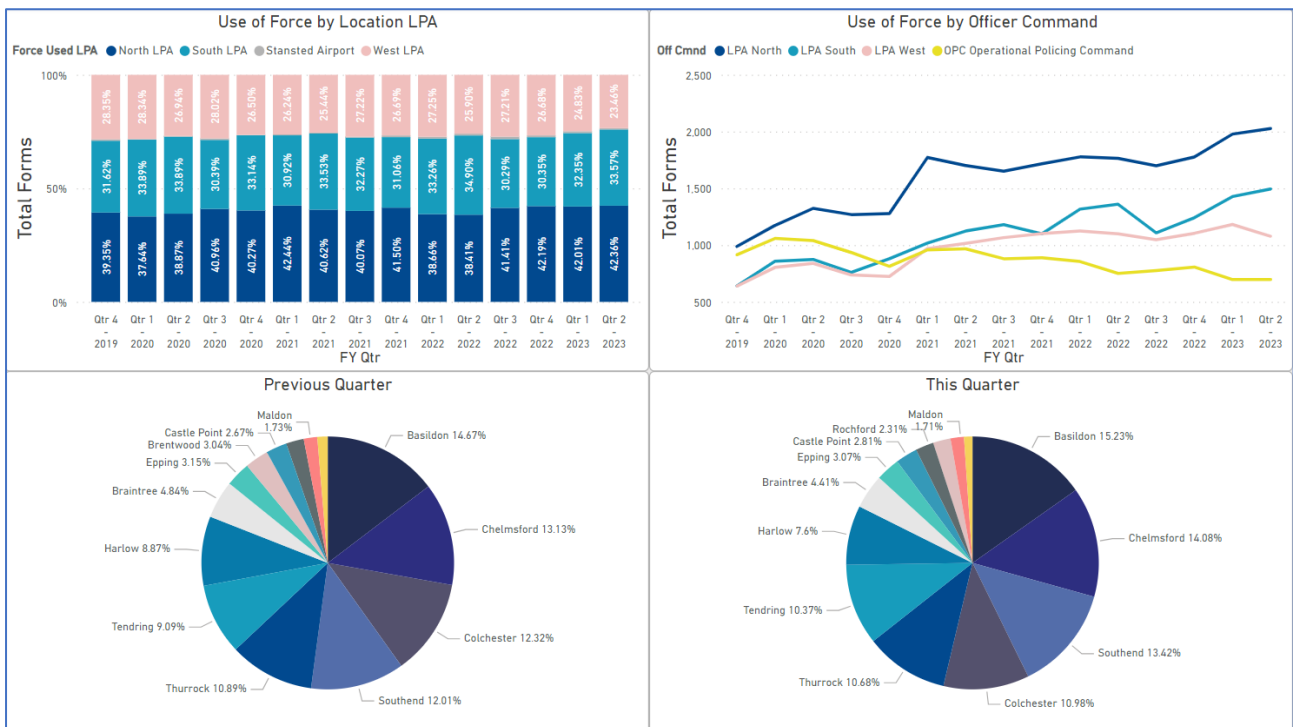
Historically, Colchester, Basildon, Southend, Thurrock, Chelmsford, Harlow and Tendring are the districts that record the most use of force. These seven districts accounted for the location of 82.4% of all force used. The proportions of location by LPA remain consistent.

When looking at which Commands use force the most[2], the Local Policing Areas (LPAs) and Operational Policing Command (OPC) combined account for 95.9% 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.

77.4% of those subjected to Use of Force were identified by officers as male. 22.3% were identified as female; this is a slightly larger proportion of female subjects to the last quarter (19.8%). No subjects were identified as transgender, although 15 were identified as Other.
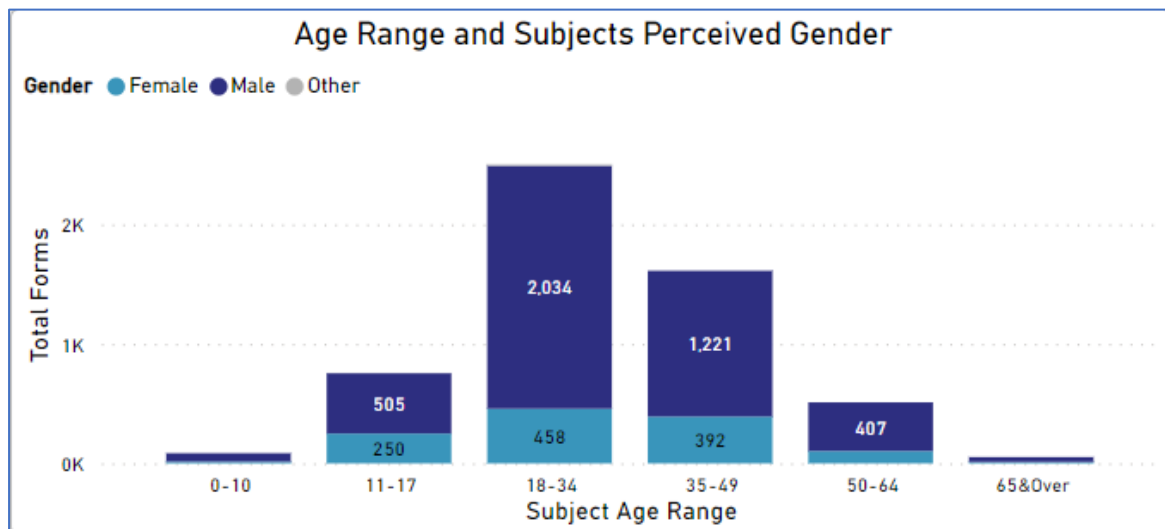
33 was the average age for subjects (where a date of birth was given/stated); for males the average was 33 and for females the average age was 32. The mode (age most recorded) was 14[3] for female subjects and 32 for males. Males with a perceived age between 18-34 years were the most common gender and age band in the review period.

Of the 86 forms showing a subject aged 0-10, **72 of these show the subject's date of birth was between 2022 - 2023**. **This is likely a data quality issue**. 10 of the 14 remaining records involve children with behavioral difficulties being restrained, a further four forms have no incident number and therefore cannot be investigated further.

83.1% of subjects were White. This is 5.7 percentage points lower than the proportion of White residents of Essex.

8.9% of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 5.5 percentage points higher than the 3.4% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2021 Census data).

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[2] 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.

[3] This is due to one 14-year-old female being the subject in 43 separate forms.

Of the 494 forms recording the use of force upon Black individuals, up to 251 (50.8%) are individuals who have multiple forms referring to them. 6 Black individuals have five or more forms referring to them in the last quarter.

	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	2.65	2.24	8.44	2.47	7.46	4.23	0.85	3.18	0.93	2.82	1.60
Braintree	1.52	1.17	4.76	1.00	1.23	1.93	0.77	3.13	0.66	0.81	1.27
Chelmsford	4.17	2.49	8.20	4.02	8.84	4.66	0.60	1.97	0.96	2.12	1.12
Colchester	3.05	1.41	7.21	2.68	3.51	3.48	0.46	2.36	0.88	1.15	1.14
Maldon	1.31	4.05	8.47	1.11	14.42	4.32	3.09	6.47	0.85	11.01	3.30
Tendring	3.49	6.13	31.87	3.34	35.19	11.89	1.76	9.13	0.96	10.08	3.41
Uttlesford	0.60	2.32	1.41	0.00	3.33	1.39	3.87	2.35	0.00	5.55	2.32
LPA South	3.12	3.35	11.21	3.07	5.50	5.76	1.07	3.59	0.98	1.76	1.85
Basildon	4.27	3.63	8.53	3.44	4.36	5.50	0.85	2.00	0.81	1.02	1.29
Castle Point	1.59	3.87	6.79	2.77	0.00	3.91	2.43	4.27	1.74	0.00	2.46
Rochford	1.47	0.00	6.32	0.70	0.00	1.41	0.00	4.30	0.48	0.00	0.96
Southend	3.61	3.45	17.47	3.42	8.35	7.08	0.96	4.84	0.95	2.31	1.96
LPA West	2.46	1.85	5.56	1.86	6.10	3.62	0.75	2.26	0.76	2.48	1.47
Brentwood	1.44	2.04	7.44	0.04	3.63	2.82	1.42	5.17	0.03	2.52	1.96
Epping	0.94	1.86	6.10	0.61	4.99	2.79	1.98	6.49	0.65	5.31	2.97
Harlow	4.23	2.16	9.78	2.30	6.52	5.40	0.51	2.31	0.54	1.54	1.28
Thurrock	3.24	1.64	4.12	3.43	7.85	3.54	0.51	1.27	1.06	2.42	1.09
Force	2.78	2.45	7.79	2.46	6.85	4.48	0.88	2.80	0.88	2.46	1.61

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 1.6 times as 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[4].

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 Preventing Harm, Protecting Oneself and Preventing Escape. 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	3028	15.5%	53.7%
Prevent harm	2667	13.6%	47.3%
Protect self	2555	13.0%	45.3%
Prevent escape	2489	12.7%	44.1%
Protect other officers	2412	12.3%	42.8%
Protect subject	1393	7.1%	24.7%
Prevent offence	1389	7.1%	24.6%
Protect public	1127	5.8%	20.0%
Effect stop and search	651	3.3%	11.5%
Remove handcuffs	437	2.2%	7.8%
Secure evidence	402	2.1%	7.1%
Effect search in custody	383	2.0%	6.8%
Other	330	1.7%	5.9%
Effect other search	327	1.7%	5.8%

Combining the reasons that encompass preventing harm as a whole[5], 51.8% of reasons are to prevent harm.

Impact Factor	Total	%age all Factors	%age Forms
Mental health	2097	17.1%	38.0%
Size / Gender / Build	2052	16.7%	37.1%
Alcohol	2037	16.6%	36.9%
Prior knowledge	1681	13.7%	30.4%
Drugs	1651	13.5%	29.9%
Other	1230	10.0%	22.3%
Possession of a weapon	705	5.8%	12.8%
Crowd	518	4.2%	9.4%
Acute behavioural disturbance	280	2.3%	5.1%

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[4] The high Black:White disproportionality in Tendring refers to 29 forms .
[5] 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. Mental Health is the highest impact factor, appearing on 38.0% 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	71.4%	0.0%
Taser Fired	66.6%	0.0%
Baton used	50.0%	0.0%
Dog Deployed	22.2%	0.0%
Irritant spray - PAVA used	19.3%	0.0%
Irritant spray - PAVA drawn	17.0%	0.0%
Spit guard	12.6%	0.0%
Ground Restraint	11.7%	0.3%
Limb / Body Restraints	11.5%	0.3%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	11.3%	0.5%
Baton drawn	10.0%	0.0%
Unarmed skills	9.6%	0.2%
Other / improvised	9.4%	0.2%
Tactical Communication	7.4%	0.2%
Compliant Handcuffing	2.4%	0.1%
Firearms	1.7%	0.0%
Shield	0.0%	0.0%
AEP aimed	0.0%	0.0%
AEP used	0.0%	0.0%

The tactic most likely to cause injury in the last quarter was Dog Bite followed by Taser fired.

220 forms show an outcome of Hospitalised, although only 33 of these have an injury level for the subject (27 minor; 6 Severe) and 11 were detained under the Mental Health Act.

Stop and Search
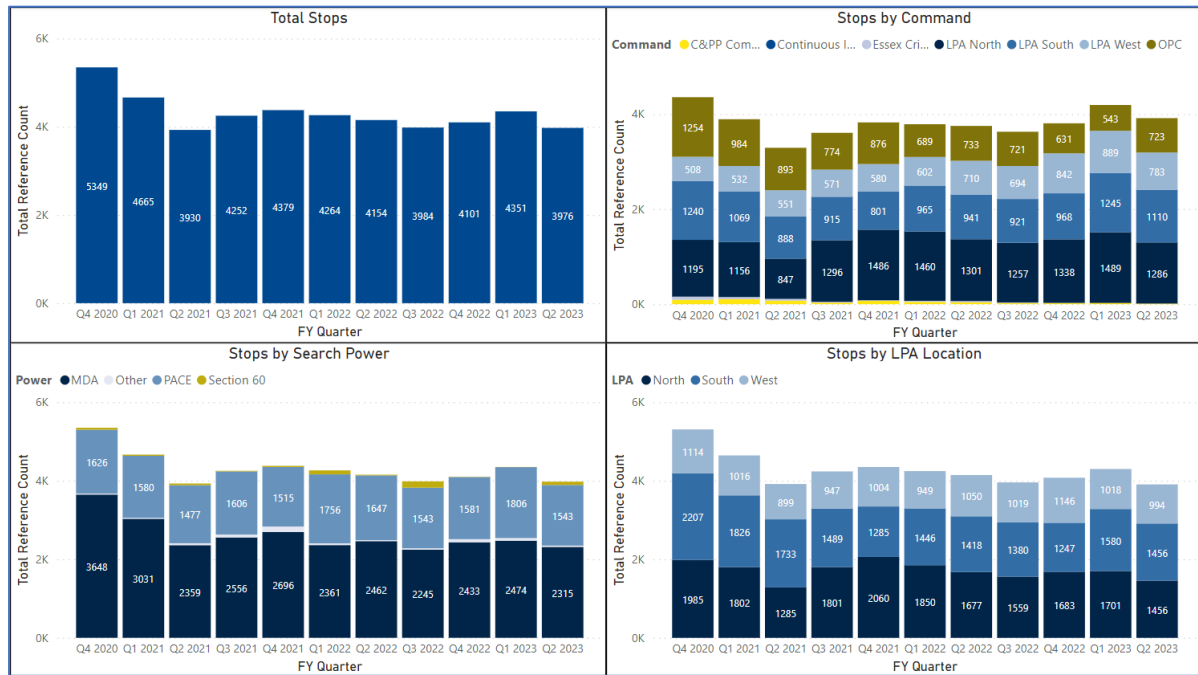
3,976 stops were recorded in Quarter 2 of 2023/24. This is a decrease of 8.6% (375 records) on the previous quarter and a 4.3% decrease (178 records) on the equivalent quarter last year. It seems likely that the volume of stops will continue at similar levels without an outside influence, such as a large operation or further pandemic restrictions, to drive volumes up or down.

97.0% (3,858) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops[6].There were 85 Section 60 Stops in Q2.

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[6] Including the Psychoactive Substances Act

LPA	District Name	2021/22			2022/23				2023/24	
		Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	321	460	602	553	452	375	578	518	367
	Colchester	428	520	399	380	402	454	367	368	431
	Tendring	233	276	353	336	286	228	245	262	291
	Uttlesford / Braintree	303	545	706	581	537	502	493	553	368
South	Basildon	684	833	783	717	631	758	614	615	501
	Castle Point/Rochford	203	171	185	181	143	218	206	232	209
	Southend	846	485	317	548	644	404	427	733	746
West	Brentwood / Epping	302	370	329	310	387	361	483	308	310
	Harlow	267	274	378	313	307	312	328	323	376
	Thurrock	330	303	297	326	356	346	335	387	307
	Stansted Airport	13	15	30	19	9	26	25	52	70

LPA	District Name	2021/22				2022/23				2023/24
		Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	8.2%	10.8%	13.7%	13.0%	10.9%	9.4%	14.1%	11.9%	9.2%
	Colchester	10.9%	12.2%	9.1%	8.9%	9.7%	11.4%	8.9%	8.5%	10.8%
	Tendring	5.9%	6.5%	8.1%	7.9%	6.9%	5.7%	6.0%	6.0%	7.3%
	Uttlesford / Braintree	7.7%	12.8%	16.1%	13.6%	12.9%	12.6%	12.0%	12.7%	9.3%
South	Basildon	17.4%	19.6%	17.9%	16.8%	15.2%	19.0%	15.0%	14.1%	12.6%
	Castle Point/Rochford	5.2%	4.0%	4.2%	4.2%	3.4%	5.5%	5.0%	5.3%	5.3%
	Southend	21.5%	11.4%	7.2%	12.9%	15.5%	10.1%	10.4%	16.8%	18.8%
West	Brentwood / Epping	7.7%	8.7%	7.5%	7.3%	9.3%	9.1%	11.8%	7.1%	7.8%
	Harlow	6.8%	6.4%	8.6%	7.3%	7.4%	7.8%	8.0%	7.4%	9.5%
	Thurrock	8.4%	7.1%	6.8%	7.6%	8.6%	8.7%	8.2%	8.9%	7.7%
	Stansted Airport	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.4%	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%	1.2%	1.8%

North LPA recorded most stops in the last quarter. Southend was the district with the highest volume with 746; this was followed by Basildon with 501.
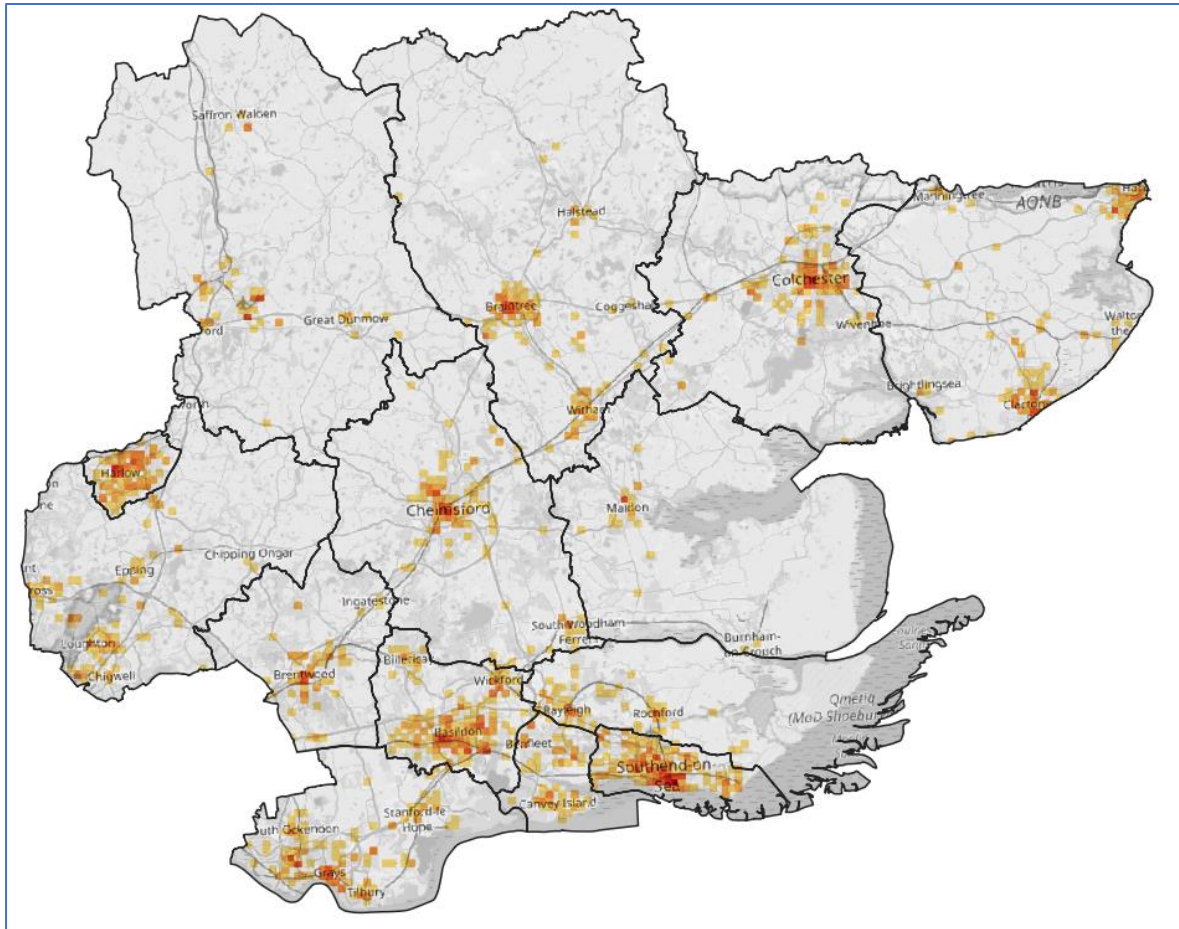
The majority of stops occurred in the main population centres of the county and these correlate to the Essex Police Op Grip and Op Dial areas.

In the last quarter, there was one Section 60 authorisation in Essex.
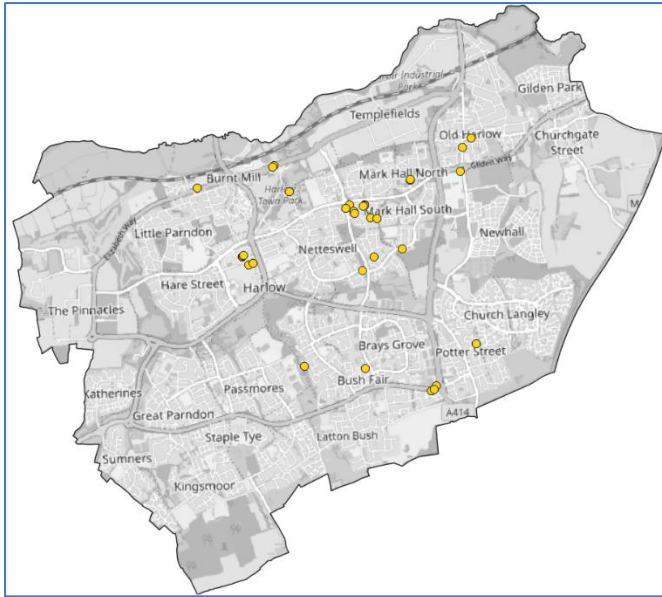
The authorisation was put in place on 02/07/2023 after a disturbance at Tesco with reports of knives being present.

The Section 60 caused 85 Stops, four of which resulted in four arrests, two verbal warnings and two Community Resolutions.

80.0% of all stops last quarter were carried out by officers attached to the LPA Commands and a further 18.2% were carried out by officers from Operational Policing Command (OPC).
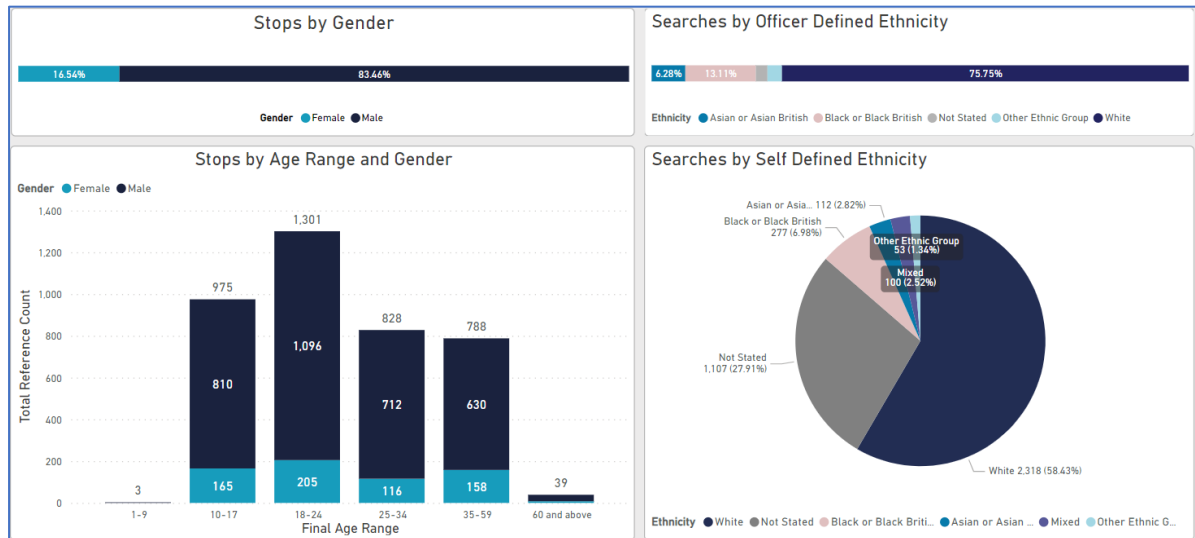
During Quarter 2 of 2023/24 and where age and gender data are recorded, 83.5% of subjects stopped were male. 18 – 24 was the most prevalent age group for both male and female subjects. The Modal age for male subjects is 18 and 16 for female subjects – 34 female subjects of this age were stopped throughout the county. Three subjects are shown to be in the 1-9 age range, the dates of birth for two of these subjects all show them to be one year old suggesting input errors; the third has a date of birth that suggests that the subject is nine years old.

Age	Total Stopped	%age U18 Stops
11	2	0.3%
12	17	2.2%
13	70	9.2%
14	111	14.6%
15	166	21.9%
16	188	24.8%
17	205	27.0%

There were 975 stops on subjects aged 11 to 17, 83.1% of these were on male subjects. 73.6% of stops on under 18s[7] were on individuals 15 and older.

The positive outcome percentage in stops on individuals under 18 is 19.2%.

Total Stops	White	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities
LPA North	**1001**	**20**	**74**	**45**	**17**	**156**
Chelmsford / Maldon	200	9	25	13	3	50
Colchester	317	7	19	19	5	50
Tendring	236	1	12	3	3	19
Uttlesford / Braintree	248	3	18	10	6	37
LPA South	**810**	**44**	**97**	**30**	**17**	**188**
Basildon	289	14	29	15	6	64
Castle Point/Rochford	146	5	7	4	1	17
Southend	375	25	61	11	10	107
LPA West	**472**	**37**	**102**	**23**	**18**	**180**
Brentwood / Epping	138	22	22	7	2	53
Harlow	204	11	30	7	7	55
Thurrock	130	4	50	9	9	72
Grand Total	**2283**	**101**	**273**	**98**	**52**	**524**

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[7] Based upon the 759 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	1.30	2.41	0.76	4.88	2.54	2.33	1.85	0.58	3.75	1.95	1.79
Chelmsford/Maldon	0.81	2.31	0.87	5.01	1.58	2.18	2.85	1.07	6.19	1.95	2.69
Colchester	1.89	3.39	0.71	2.85	1.76	2.00	1.79	0.38	1.51	0.93	1.06
Tendring	1.65	1.25	0.56	13.19	5.56	3.37	0.76	0.34	7.99	3.37	2.04
Uttlesford/Braintree	1.06	1.99	0.70	6.93	4.24	2.78	1.88	0.66	6.54	4.00	2.62
LPA South	1.65	2.24	2.14	6.11	3.90	3.47	1.36	1.30	3.70	2.36	2.10
Basildon	1.76	3.04	1.75	3.25	3.74	2.73	1.73	0.99	1.85	2.13	1.55
Castle Point/Rochford	0.87	1.39	1.83	3.86	1.39	2.09	1.60	2.10	4.44	1.60	2.40
Southend	2.37	1.98	2.53	11.84	4.91	4.73	0.84	1.07	5.00	2.07	2.00
LPA West	1.20	1.48	1.18	3.15	2.20	2.06	1.23	0.98	2.63	1.83	1.72
Brentwood/Epping	0.76	0.96	1.62	3.87	0.52	1.75	1.26	2.13	5.09	0.68	2.30
Harlow	2.64	2.30	1.98	5.15	4.15	3.40	0.87	0.75	1.95	1.57	1.29
Thurrock	0.96	1.71	0.33	2.39	3.36	1.76	1.78	0.34	2.49	3.50	1.83
Force	1.40	2.10	1.43	4.37	2.75	2.60	1.50	1.02	3.12	1.96	1.86
Force (Essex Residents)	0.77	0.97	0.45	1.37	0.78	0.88	1.26	0.58	1.78	1.01	1.14
Force (Essex Non-Residents)	0.13	0.32	0.56	0.91	0.67	0.62	2.46	4.31	7.00	5.15	4.77

Looking at the ethnic breakdown of Stop Searches for Q2 2023/24, **an individual from an Ethnic Minority is 1.9 times more likely to be stopped than a White individual**, this is a slight deterioration on the last quarter (1.8 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 South LPA and lowest in the West LPA. When the subject is an Essex resident[8], the disproportionality ratios fall by an average of 37.7%. **An Essex Resident from an Ethnic Minority is 1.1 times more likely to be stopped than a White Resident** compared to 1.9 times for all individuals stopped. The total volume of stops by area and self-defined ethnicity has also been included for context.
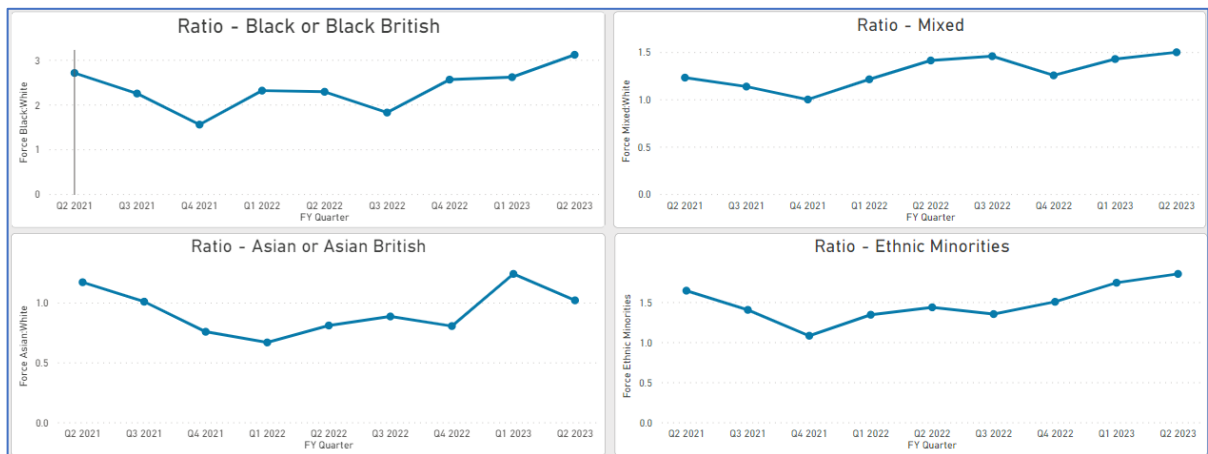
The Ethnicity to White ratio can be tracked over time. The ratios show a generally stable trend since July 2021.

County	Ratio Ethnic Minority:White (White =1)
Essex	2.99
Hampshire	2.81
Sussex	2.70
Hertfordshire	2.47
Derbyshire	2.45
Leicestershire	1.60

County	Ratio Black:White (White =1)
Sussex	8.84
Hampshire	7.00
Leicestershire	5.70
Derbyshire	5.47
Hertfordshire	4.99
Essex	4.82

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 March 2023 – August 2023[9]. Essex has the highest 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, a working group has been established to improve the data that Police.uk supplies.**

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[8] 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.
[9] Avon and Somerset and Staffordshire have stopped submitting Stop Search data.

Age/Ethnicity Positive Outcomes	White	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	Other Ethnic Group	Grand Total
11-17	112	3	12	10	1	138
18-24	194	20	33	6	4	257
25-34	174	10	15	6	12	217
35-59	179	9	14	5	5	212
Grand Total	659	42	74	27	22	824

Positive Outcomes Percentage by Ethnicity
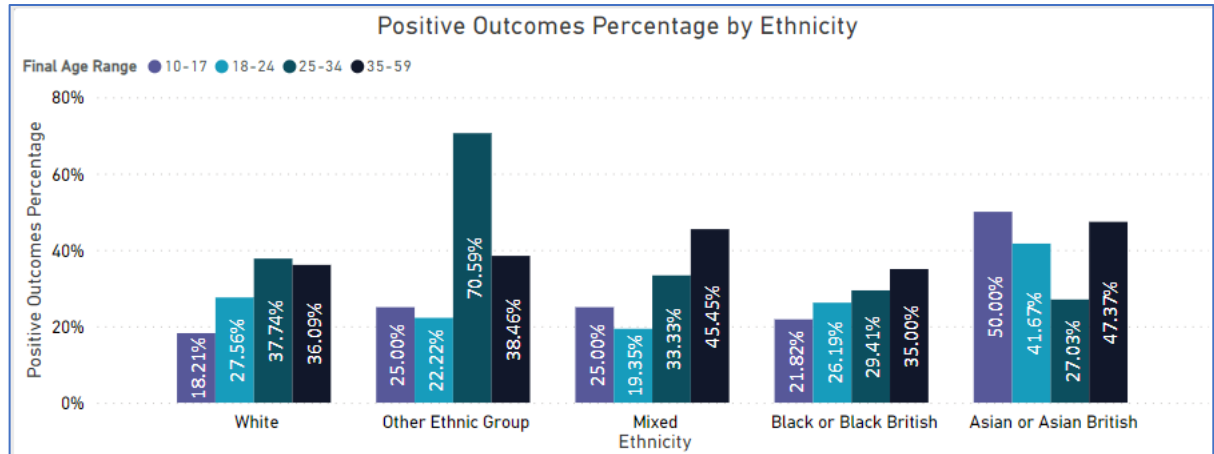
Whilst there is no country-wide definition as to what counts as a Positive outcome for Stop Search, Police.uk uses all outcomes apart from "A no further action disposal[10]." The above chart shows data for Q2 broken down by ethnicity and age group.

For Q2 2023/24, 27.4% of Essex outcomes were positive. This is slightly lower than the previous quarter (27.8%). The Most Similar Group of Forces average positive outcome rate is 28.4%. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on individuals from Ethnic Minorities were 2.6 percentage points higher than for White individuals.

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[10] This now includes the outcomes "Other", "Verbal Warning" and "Article found - detailed outcome unavailable"
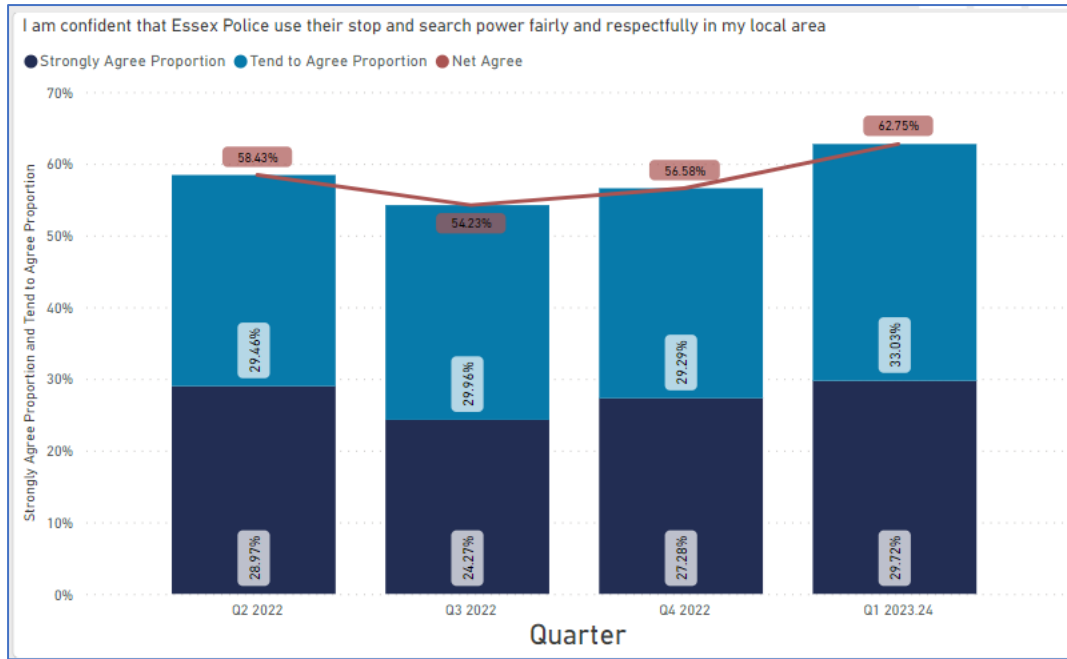
SMSR have not yet released Q2 data from the Public Confidence survey. Therefore the following section refers to Q1 only.

Data from SMSR shows **a rise in confidence that Essex Police use Stop and Search fairly**. The net agreement proportion of 62.8% in Q1 is higher than the previous quarter's 56.6% and below the 67.7% of the same quarter last year. Results for respondents from Ethnic Minorities shows a fall to 54.8% agreement (from 57.3% last quarter). The proportion of Ethnic Minority respondents who actively disagree with the statement has fallen from 22.3% to 21.8%.

In the last quarter, 33 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 25 fewer than the previous quarter. Intimate parts were exposed in all but one search in the last quarter.

Outcome	Female				Male				Grand Total
	10-17	18-24	25-34	35-59	10-17	18-24	25-34	35-59	
Arrest		1					1	2	4
Community resolution						1			1
No further action	1	2	1	1	3	7	5	2	22
Other action							1		1
Voluntary attendance					1				1
Seizure of property			1						1
Verbal warning / words of advice					1			1	2
Summons								1	1
Grand Total	1	3	2	1	5	8	7	6	33

The above table shows these searches broken down by gender, age and outcome. The positive outcome rate for these searches was 24%. The six searches conducted on a subject under the age of 18 were as follows –

Reference	Subject age	Gender	Ethnicity	Power	Intimate parts exposed	Rationale	Where was the search conducted	Outcomes of encounter
S-4207156220230823141810	16	Male	Not Stated	MDA	Yes	Subject male seen by Council CCTV. CCTv stated they had seen the male dealing drugs and he had placed something down the front of his trousers. Male was tracked on CCTV to get onto a C2 bus. The bus was then followed on camera and the subject male was seen to alight in Melbourne where he was stopped by officers shortly after. A standard S23 search was conducted with a negative result. Due to the specific information received a strip search was authorised.	Specific location	Verbal warning / words of advice
S-4207605220230907152528	16	Male	White	MDA	Yes	Crack Cocaine and Heroin are habitually concealed intimately by those involved in the supply, often in underwear and within bodily cavities. Male was seen loitering outside of EDMUNDS TOWER, HARLOW - an area linked by very recent intelligence to the supply of Crack Cocaine and Heroin. Persons involved in this supply suspected to be young in age. On the same day of the search officers had earlier seen a large number of known Class A drug users congregating in the alleyway directly opposite EDMUNDS TOWER and the adjoining garage block, these Class A drug users were believed to be in the area	At police premises	No further action
S-4207605220230907154858	17	Male	Not Stated	MDA	Yes	Crack Cocaine and Heroin are habitually concealed intimately by those involved in the supply, often in underwear and within bodily cavities. Male was seen loitering outside of EDMUNDS TOWER, HARLOW - an area linked by very recent intelligence to the supply of Crack Cocaine and Heroin. Persons involved in this supply suspected to be young in age. On the same day of the search officers had earlier seen a large number of known Class A drug users congregating in the alleyway directly opposite EDMUNDS TOWER and the adjoining garage block, these Class A drug users were believed to be in the area	At police premises	No further action
S-4207634220230731193357	14	Male	White	PACE	Yes	Male previously concealed knives for knife point robberies and admitted to having drugs concealed down his pants. Juvenile male taken home and search conducted by two male officers, BWV off and father present.	Specific location	Voluntary attendance
S-4208081920230806131542	14	Female	White	PACE	Yes	Subject has been detained for the purpose of search in order to establish if she had items on her which could he used to commit the offence of burglary or criminal damage to the property. Subject was searched outer clothing first, however I could feel multiple items which were concealed in her bra. For this reason a strip search was completed at a private residence in the presence of her grandmother. This was authorised by A/INSP 77003 HORNE.	Specific location	No further action
S-4208091220230805142511	17	Male	Not Stated	MDA	No	Subject was wearing shorts under his jeans so jeans were removed to access the shorts pockets to look for drugs due to the possession of empty class a bags in his wallet	Specific location	No further action

Drug/Weapons Found & Self Defined Ethnicity	Not Found		Found	
	Total	%age	Total	%age
White	1841	79.35%	479	20.65%
Not Stated	922	82.76%	192	17.24%
Asian or Asian British	85	75.89%	27	24.11%
Black or Black British	219	79.06%	58	20.94%
Mixed	85	85.00%	15	15.00%
Other Ethnic Group	38	71.70%	15	28.30%

Drug/Weapons Found & Self Defined Ethnicity	Negative Oucomes				Positive Outcomes			
	Not Found		Found		Not Found		Found	
	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age	Total	%age
White	1570	67.67%	83	3.58%	271	11.68%	396	17.07%
Not Stated	828	74.33%	37	3.32%	94	8.44%	155	13.91%
Asian or Asian British	67	59.82%	2	1.79%	18	16.07%	25	22.32%
Black or Black British	183	66.06%	16	5.78%	36	13.00%	42	15.16%
Mixed	71	71.00%	2	2.00%	14	14.00%	13	13.00%
Other Ethnic Group	30	56.60%	1	1.89%	8	15.09%	14	26.42%

19.8% (786) of individuals stopped in the quarter to 30th September 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 Black have the highest proportion of drugs/weapons found (20.9% or 58 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 remained steady over the past two years. 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 and 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:
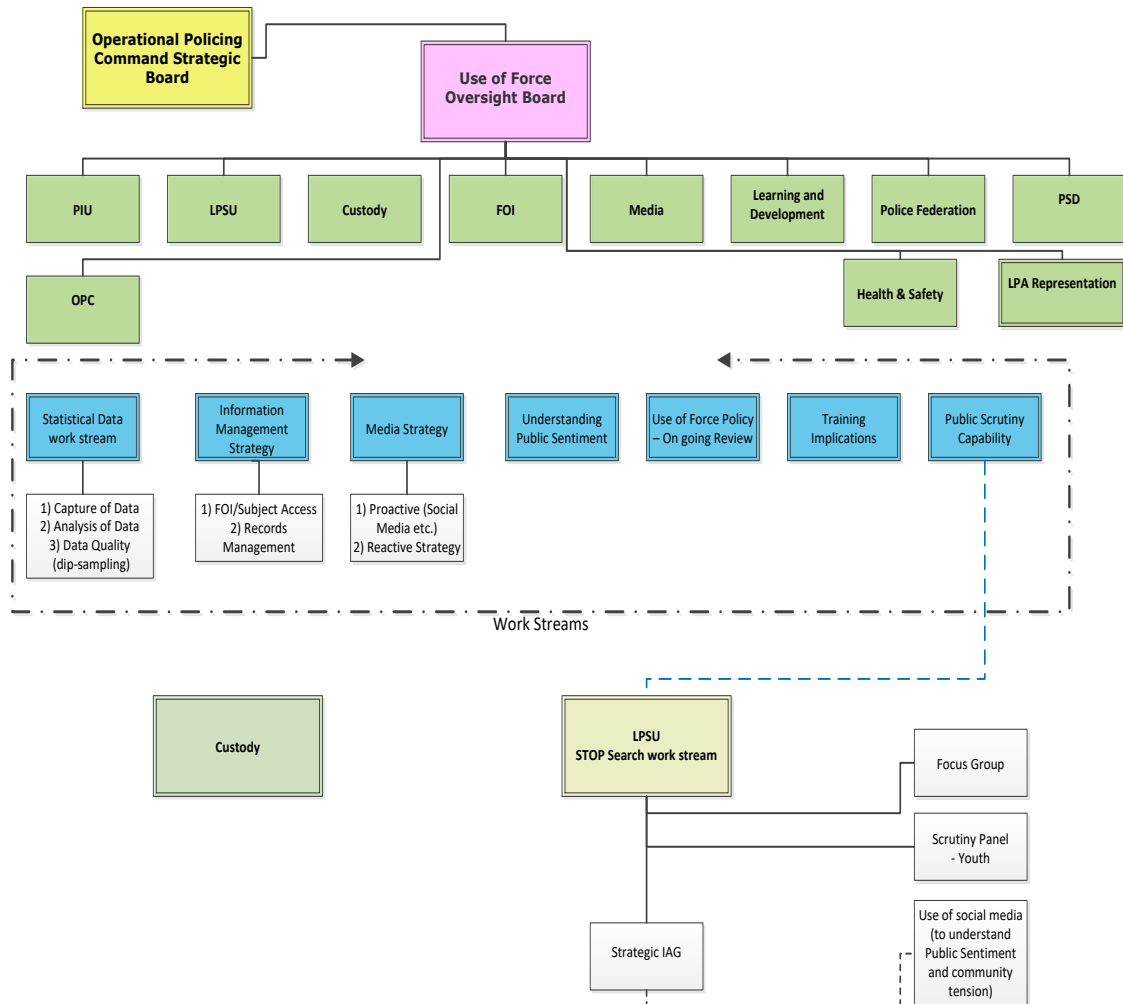
6.4   Equality and/or Human Rights Implications

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 1.9 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 implications 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

- Several areas have been identified as requiring improvement, issuing receipts after searches, fully explaining GOWISELYR and asking peoples Self Defined ethnicity. A training package to address these has been developed and is referenced below under heading 9.
- The BWV force wide scrutiny panel is very effective in its current form. However, it would benefit from more diverse membership in terms of age. Work is being conducted to include several young people from 18-25 years old as these are the people who get stopped more frequently.
- The LPA BWV scrutiny panels are being reviewed. All panels will use the same terms of reference and follow the same format as the force wide panel. This will ensure a consistent approach to showing footage, identifying, and dealing with good encounters and those that fall below the required standard.
- The timely review of stop slips by supervisors requires work. A Policy is being written to ensure supervisors are aware of what is required of them. This will cover the time frame to review a slip and the importance of a quality review to identify any underperformance/ misconduct.
- The use of BWV for auditing stops requires improvement. A BWV Review Policy is being written; this will see the number of reviews across the force increase from 40 per month to around 300. The increased scrutiny will ensure good and bad practice is identified and dealt with effectively.

9.0   Future Work/Development

To further build on the flex training, all LPAs and CPTs will receive an input on their team training days 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.

- Deliver an input to officers on Autism awareness when interacting during Stop & Search training.
- Training has been 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.

The stop and search policy has been reviewed and revised down from 22 pages to 8; research found officers hadn't read the previous policy, it now contains all the information required but in a more accessible manageable format. During the training, the following areas will be highlighted:

- 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.

Further ongoing work:

- A new Stop and Search site has been created on SharePoint which contains policies, training material, national reports and other useful data to assist officers.
- Continue to work with L&D to build upon the quality of the annual personal safety training which now includes realistic stop and search scenarios assessing officers' grounds, procedural justice (street craft), compliance with policy and unconscious bias.
- The Essex Police Professional Standards Department is updating the stop and search section of the Essex Police website to include case study examples where Essex Police has captured learning from complaints relating to stop and search and use of force and used this learning to develop working practices.
- Work is ongoing with media to ensure that once per month the force data in relation to numbers of searches carried out, ethnicity of those stopped and positive outcome rates are shared with the public. There will also be redacted body worn video footage so the public can see how officers conduct themselves during a stop and search.