

## Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2024

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

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Crime Prevention Strategy Report Q3 &amp; Q4</b>
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<b>Chief Officer:</b>	<b>ACC Mariner</b>
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<b>Report from:</b>	<b>Essex Police</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>
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<b>COG meeting date / date of approval (Please indicate whether paper presented to COG or not)</b>	<b>COG – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

This report provides an update for Q3 and Q4 (October 2023 – March 2024) in relation to the progress of the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-25 (herein ‘the Strategy’) which was launched on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

### 2.0 Recommendations

No recommendations.

### 3.0 Executive Summary

The Strategy prioritises crime prevention activity in 14 key areas. Each of these areas has a thematic force lead, responsible for appropriate oversight, review, and focus to ensure appropriate action takes place within each thematic area, working to improve Essex Police’s response and ultimately prevent crime.

Covid-19 undoubtedly led to significant challenges within many areas of policing. These challenges and the force’s responses to those challenges continued year on year, with Covid-19 impacting and accelerating the changes that were seen to certain crime types. This report previously included pre-covid data for comparison, however now, several years on, only the previous years data is included for comparison.

### 4.0 Introduction/Background

This report provides a structured update in relation to each of the 14 strands of the Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-25:

- **Insights** to show/illustrate data insights for rolling 12 months.
- **Delivery achieved April – September 2023:** to show/illustrate work completed towards the thematic area within the time period.
- **Delivery scheduled October 2023 – March 2024:** to show/illustrate planned work towards the thematic area within the time period.

The report also includes updates in relation to any significant issues/challenges faced which do not sit within the 14 strands of the strategy but are of relevance and therefore worthy of note.

### 5.0 Current Work and Performance

Broken down into thematic strand updates below:

#### 5.1 Serious Violence

##### 5.1.1 Knife Crime

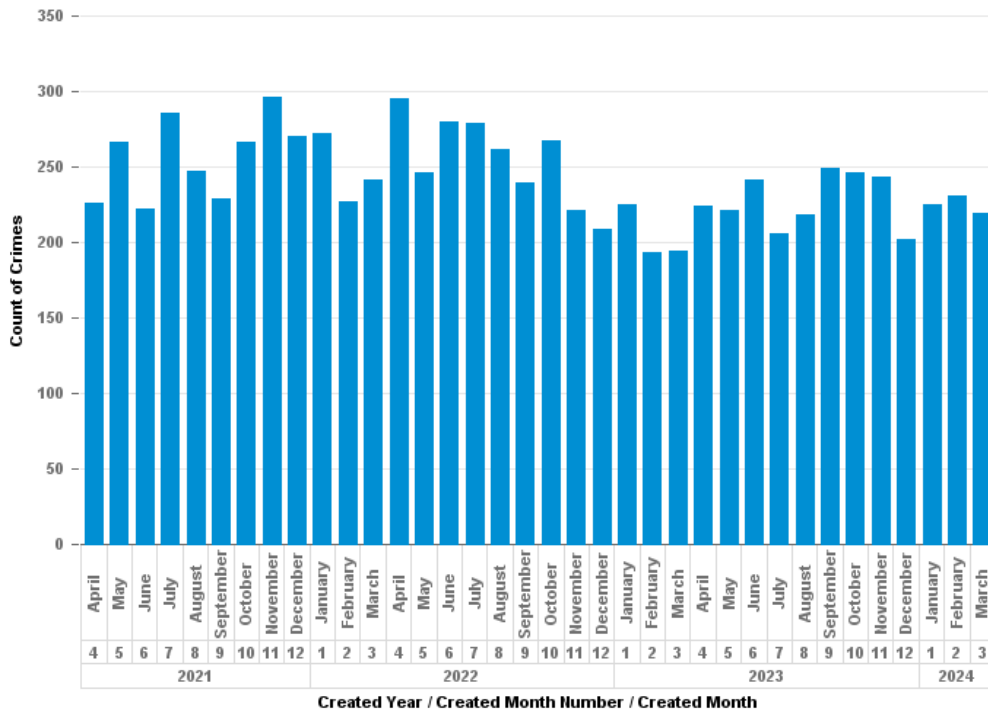
**Thematic lead: Detective Superintendent Gary Biddle**

**Insights:** 12 months to end of March 2024:

*Table comparing data to previous year*

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
2910	2725	-185	-6.4%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month



Knife Crime offences in Essex continue to fall, which is a reflection on the work that is conducted through the Knife Crime Reduction Board, chaired by the head of the Serious Violence Unit. This board brings together key members of the organisation, and partners, to develop strands that will assist in reducing knife crime across Essex. This ensures that work is delivered locally to target areas that are suffering from elevated levels of offences.

Knife crime remains on the Essex Police control strategy and remains a key focus with the intention of reducing and preventing offences.

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- Coordinated approach to the delivery of knife crime educational inputs through the PFCC’s Joint Educational Team; this ensures that there is a consistent message to young people that could be affected by knife crime, and importantly in the key areas across the force where this could be most impactful.
- Delivery of Op Sceptre week in October 2023. This was a national week of intensified activity focusing on preventing knife crime. This included the deployment of open gate technology, weapons sweeps, proactive patrols in OP Grips zones, and engagement with young people through education. All designed to raise awareness and reduce knife crime offending.
- Delivery of the knife crime dashboard, which for the first time brings together key knife crime data to support operational activity, assisting in preventing crime. The dashboard gives information on volumes, hot spot areas, repeat victims and offenders. This is now embedded within the LPA performance framework assisting in the prevention of crime.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- Media campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of knife crime, to assist in preventing further offences. The Essex Police media team has engaged with families that have been impacted upon by knife crime with the intention of producing a short video highlighting the dangers of knife crime. This will be shared on Essex Police media platforms and will demonstrate the impact upon family members.
- Surrender and Confiscation Scheme. With the introduction of the new legislation banning zombie knives in September, Essex Police will deliver a surrender and confiscation process designed for the public to dispose of illegal knives. It is hoped that this approach, supported by the Home Office, will reduce the number of illegals knives in Essex, and assist in preventing crime.

**5.1.2 Rape**

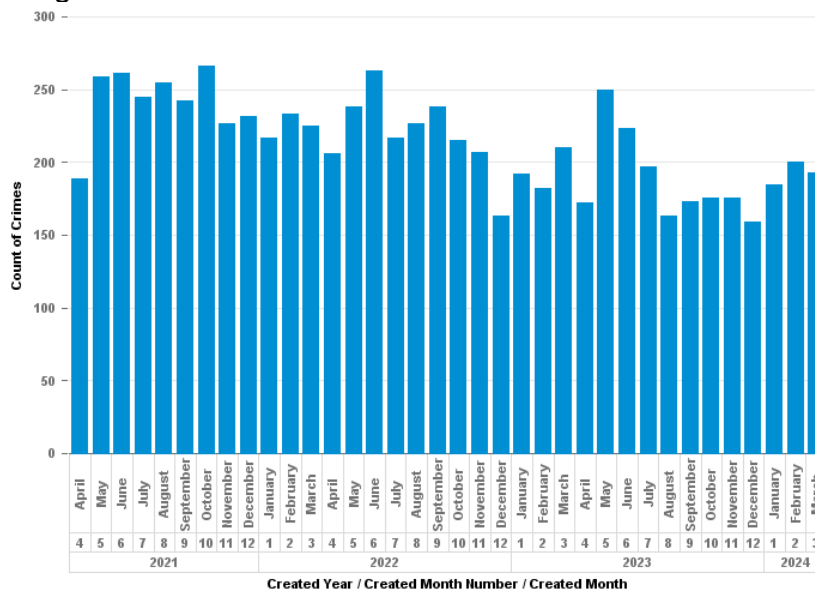
**Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Neil Pudney**

**Insights:** 12 months to end of March 2024:

*Table comparing data to previous year*

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
2558	2267	-291	-11.4%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month



**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- National Operating Model (NOM) to transform investigative approach to RASSO and Other Sexual Offences. Pillar leads have been identified within Crime and Public Protection at Detective Superintendent, Detective Chief Inspector, Detective Inspector rank and Police Staff Head of the Strategic Vulnerability Centre. NOM Implementation Board has been created and is chaired by the Detective Superintendent as the Senior Responsible Officer. Governance structures support NOM delivery with the SRO reporting specifically on Rape and the NOM to the ACC chaired Strategic Vulnerability Board.
- Offender Management Board revised to now incorporate Op Ratify (repeat offenders) and Op Yalta (repeat victims). Chaired at DCI level (who is also the Op Soteria NOM Pillar 1 and 2 lead on offenders) this is a tactical board to lead improvements to offender management, early arrests, good use of OPC resources, timely investigations against those on RUI and bail. This new Board links into the C&PP Tasking meeting chaired by the Detective Superintendent where either financial, or specialist resource support is sought.
- Victim Closure Discussion (VCD) approved at ACC level in VWAG and now implemented across the Force for all high harm offences. The VCD professionalises the closure of investigations – ensuring VCOP compliance, safeguarding measures, reasons for disengagement, evidence led prosecutions, voice of the child are all captured to deliver the best possible service irrespective of outcome and prevent further offences.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

All three bullet points above are priority workstreams for the next quarter.

NOM transformation plans need to be signed off by July. The Offender Management Board is newly revised, and effectiveness evaluated.

The VCD Data Dashboard was created in February and is due to be added to the A4E platform in May. Force compliance and the evaluation of quantitative and qualitative data the VCD provides needs to be of continued focus over the next quarter.

**5.1.3 Night-Time Economy (NTE)**

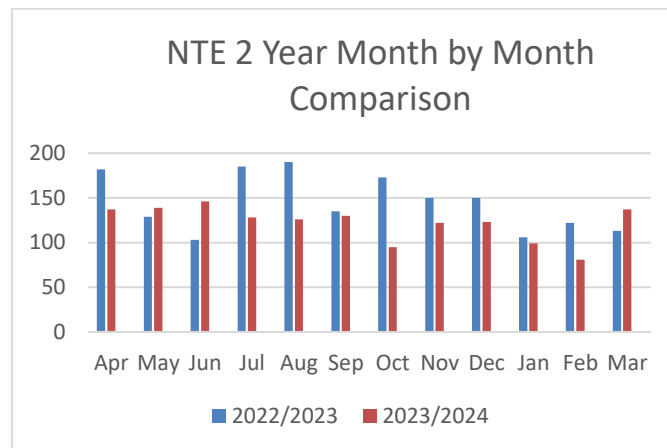
**Thematic Lead: Chief Inspector Paul Hogben**

**Insights:** 12 months to end of March 2024:

*Table comparing NTE offences data to previous year*

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
1738	1463	-273	-15.7%

Bar chart showing NTE offences recorded each month



The current policing of the NTE in Essex is in a strong place. Consistent reductions are being seen in recorded crime, except for March this year. This is despite a clear increase in visibility and accessibility of officers within the NTE, making reporting even easier. VAWG within the NTE continues to be a key concern of the public and is at the heart of a lot of the work being undertaken, which is being driven through the NTE Harm Reduction Group. This is in a good position, with regular attendance from CPT, Licensing, Intel, Media, Op Grip and the CSP lead.

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- Delivery of Op Gerberra in Southend, Clacton and Colchester as part of the Home Office Winter Homicide Prevention Initiative. Not only were there no NTE homicides within the deployment period, but there were no violent crimes reported in the target premises. Officers also completed 402 Intervention Conversations and completed 63 stop searches across the length of the operation.
- March saw force participation in the first NPCC Spiking Intensification week. This saw districts working with NTE partners to educate people and raise awareness around drink spiking, with the weekend being used for proactive work and distribution of various prevention items. There were only two reported spikings during the week, which were from the same incident. Enquiries are ongoing to establish if the victims’ drinks were spiked or not, and any other investigative actions.
- Op Grip continued to support the NTE with funding for Safe Spaces in Southend and Colchester, which continue to be very well received, as well as nights of action in the Colchester NTE. They also funded Op Themis in Southend, which used plain clothed officers to patrol the routes out of the NTE or look for vulnerable females and people displaying predatory behaviour.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- Essex Police is now in possession of the drink spiking wristbands that are to be launched in Southend. Work is scheduled to develop the landing page for the QR code, with a view to launching this summer.

- Plans are being developed by districts to ensure proportionate local responses to the impact of Op Hubble on the NTE during the European Football championships in June.
- Benchmarking request recently submitted to explore what other forces are doing around drug testing as a condition of entry to licensed premises. There have been a few responses regarding an Itemiser device, which will be investigated further, with a view to completing a POCA bid for funding, if deemed appropriate.

## 5.2 Organised Crime

### 5.2.1 County Lines/Exploitation

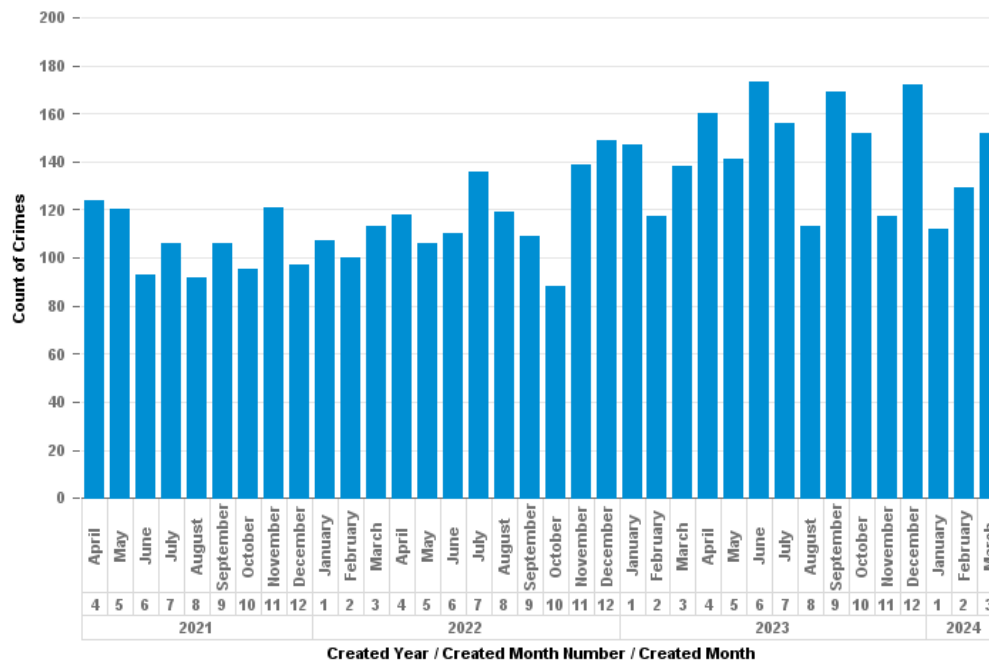
**Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Gary Biddle**

**Insights:** 12 months to end of March 2024:

*Trafficking of drug offences - Table comparing data to previous year*

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
1476	1746	270	+18.3%

Bar chart showing trafficking of drug offences recorded each month



The above statistics shows an increase in the number of drug trafficking offences in Essex. This should be seen as a real positive as it demonstrates the work being conducted by the Serious Violence Unit, in identifying County Lines and those that traffic drugs in Essex. At the end of 2024, the Serious Violence Unit conducted an impact assessment of the work being conducted by the Op Raptor teams. This assessment identified that in 2023, 500 suspects were arrested in connection with drug trafficking offences, 80% of the people arrested had previous convictions or were previous suspects for high harm offences. This demonstrates that the work

being conducted by the Serious Violence Unit is not only identifying those that are committing drug trafficking offences, but also those that are causing the most harm within communities.

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- The Essex Police Serious Violence Unit has led the national approach to deaths caused by contaminated Heroin. This is not only the investigation of those that supply the substances but includes the partnership approach to ensuring that people are safeguarded, and further incidents are prevented. This has included innovative approaches to using technology to inform vulnerable people within communities of the dangers presented.
- Delivery of Op Bumble, an operation designed to educate partners, public organisations and strategic locations on the signs of County Lines activity including exploitation of children. This operation saw members of the Serious Violence Unit working with the LPA and other OPC resources, engaging with the public, providing information and training to people and organisations. Throughout this period it has seen us engage with taxi firms, training them to identify the signs of County Lines activity and child exploitation.
- The Serious Violence Unit has developed the investigation and application to support the use of Slavery Trafficking and Risk Orders, to safeguard victims and prevent offending. These processes have been recognised regionally and the team has presented to both regional and national forces on the work being conducted in this space by the Essex Serious Violence Unit.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- Through phone data analysis the Serious Violence Unit will look to identify areas within Essex that are vulnerable to County Lines and drug activity. This information will be shared with partners through the Combatting Drugs Partnership Board, with a view of specialist intervention and services in those areas in order to prevent people from becoming victims of crime.
- Increased engagement with the Risk in the Community team, to ensure that information is shared regarding children that are being exploited by County Lines. This will enable information to be shared so that intervention can be considered to prevent further offending. Monthly meetings will allow for the sharing of information and for plans to be developed to prevent further offending.
- Engagement with the CPS to increase the number of charges for those that commit Modern Slavery offences against children, connected to County Lines activity. Nationally it has been recognised that charges for this offence are low, including Essex. Work will be undertaken with the CPS to conduct a joint piece of work to increase the number of offences.

**5.2.2 Serious Organised Crime**

**Thematic Lead: Detective Chief Inspector Justin Beacher**

**Insights:** 12 months to end of March 2024:

Essex Police Serious Organised Crime Unit activity across 2023/24 linked to the disruption of Organised Crime groups; the total results are as follows:



- 104 arrests
- 66 warrants executed
- 96 charges
- 28.14 Kg of class A drugs seized
- 436.6 Kg of class B drugs seized
- £320,995 cash seized
- 15 Firearms recovered
- 30 people safeguarded

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- Working with the West LPA, Essex Police has assisted in the development of the Clear, Hold, Build model concentrating in the Stow in Harlow, and has developed and is currently working on two OCGs in the Harlow area that effect the Stow, supplying large amounts of Class A including large scale supply of Heroin into the county.
- Consistently working within the National Intelligence Model and have a large amount of OCGs, TVs and PIs scored against a threat matrix. This has allowed us to target the most harmful OCGs in Essex and work with the LPAs on OCGs they manage, and have oversight on the highest risks.
- The last few months has seen North SOC concentrate their activities to reduce the violence in Clacton. This has resulted in a number of arrests to key nominals and the recovery of 18kg of Cocaine, arrests for firearms offences as well as an arrest for GBH where a firearm was discharged. Work has interlinked with the SVIU and the dismantlement of the upper end of the OCGs. There have also been seven people safeguarded from serious violence which assists with homicide reduction.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- SCD has instigated a vehicle crime team to target organised criminality and work with the LPAs to reduce the high levels of Theft From Motor Vehicles. This will involve all aspects of a 4 P plan as well as utilising assets within SCD to bring conspiracy cases on the OCGs and remove them from the community.
- Continue to work with the LPAs on complex investigations and give support, as well as focusing on the force control strategy and adopting in crimes outside the SLA where a difference can be made in reducing harm in the community.
- Work with the West LPA on the serious organised crime element of the clear, Hold, Build model and disrupt/dismantle OCGs as well as assist in targeting those causing the most harm in the Stow area.

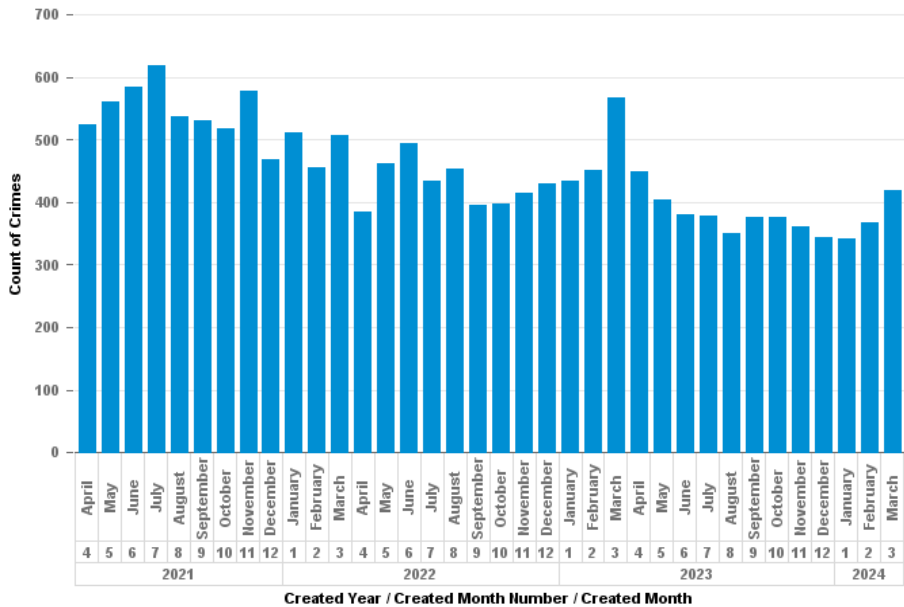
**5.2.3 Cybercrime and Fraud**

**Thematic Lead: Detective Chief Inspector Ashley Howard  
Cyber/Online Offences**

**Insights:** Data for 12 months to end of March 2024, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
5314	4545	-769	-14.5%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



As in the previous quarter, cybercrime and cyber enabled fraud continue to be a real challenge especially around business crime. Businesses are still reluctant to report being a victim. This means Essex Police does not have a true reflection of the landscape.

NFIB Figures – Cyber dependant crime Q3 & Q4 **654** reports **£3.9k** losses (Q1 & Q2 **541** reports, with **£139.3K** losses). Whilst there has been a slight rise in reporting there has been a drop in losses - this is in contrast to the regional picture. A 2% increase has been seen in reports being from businesses (94% individuals 6% businesses), this again is a good sign but reporting from industry could be better.

No change in Essex being second only to Kent in reporting the largest number of victims – several factors for this, size of county, population size; it could also be the effectiveness of the messaging that encourages reporting.

Trends – Top 3 cyber crimes – No change in these

- 1) Hacking of Social Media Accounts
- 2) Hacking Personal accounts
- 3) Hacking Extortion

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- The Cyber P&P team in partnership with SASIG and supported by the PFCC, held a conference solely for businesses to highlight both the threat and the risk to under-reporting, as well as to build trust and confidence in reporting.

- Training programme to most local authorities on good cyber hygiene and good end user protocols
- Utilising Police Cyber Alarm Data the P&P team identified two schools who were unaware they had vulnerabilities thus at risk of cyber attacks, the team were able to work with the schools and mitigate these risks.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- The P&P Cyber team chair the Cyber Business Crime Forum. Over the next six months the aim is to increase awareness within the business community through a more effective communications strategy in partnership with the Federation of Small Businesses, to enhance reporting.
- The P&P team are more linked in with the CSVs and as above a more strategic communications strategy is to focus on key messaging.
- Activity scheduled to work with schools to promote the Cyber Choices Programme, to prevent young persons getting involved in Computer Misuse offences.

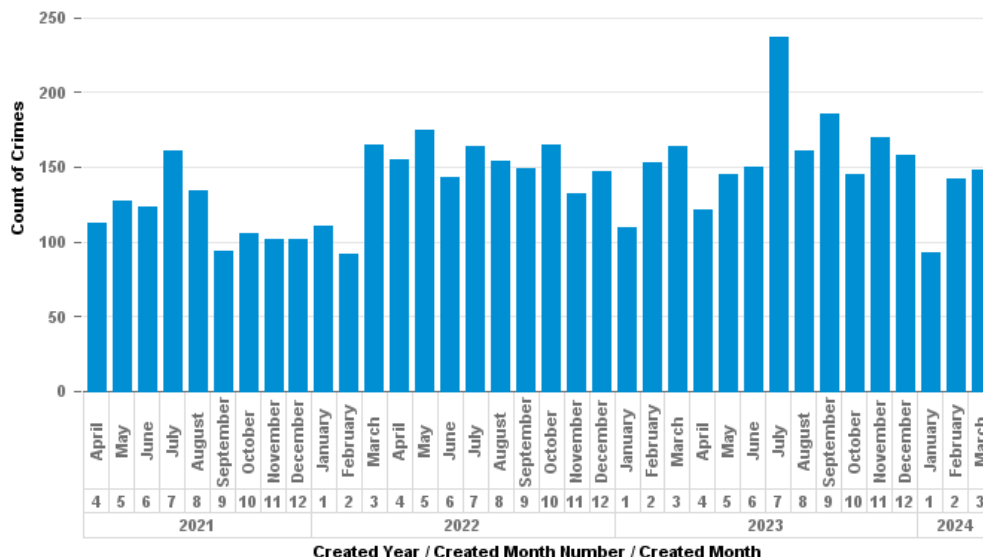
**Fraud**

**Insights:**

Data for 12 months to end of March 2024, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
1811	1856	45	+2.5%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Current picture Force (NFIB Tracker) – This includes cyber enabled – total reports for Q3 & Q4 **4,560** reports with **£22.2M** in losses (this is very slightly up on Q1 & Q2 **503** reports with **20.8M**). Again Individual reporting is higher than businesses, **92%** individuals, **8%** businesses. This is in line with the national and regional picture.

Current picture Region – total reports for Q3 & Q4 **20,133** reports with **£91.3M** losses (Very slightly down on Q1 & Q2 **20,315** reports with **£96.3M** in losses). Essex continues to receive more reports than other Forces in the region, with the exception of Kent.

Trends – no change - consumer fraud, advance fee fraud, i.e. online shopping as well as banking fraud are topping the table. Romance fraud continues to be significant especially around vulnerable victims in terms of time spent per victim and the emotional impact.

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- Essex Police in partnership with the Local Authorities, Trading Standards, Essex Community Voluntary Services, Healthcare and other agencies have formed a MAAF (Multi-Agency Approach to Fraud). There are several tactical sub-groups in place covering areas such as communications, victim care, data and information sharing, enforcement and training and learning.
- Delivered 368 community engagements to over 6500 people.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- Soft and Formal Launch of the MAAF to highlight its work with wider partners. Drive activity within the sub-groups especially the Communications and Victim Care aspects.
- Be more data driven, utilising A4E and partner data, seeking to identify key fraud threats in high risk areas to deliver both community based activity as well as effective communications to drive down the threat and risk in those areas.
- Continue building and delivering the Victim Recovery Toolkit in partnership with Essex University.

**5.3 Complex Needs**

**5.3.1 Child Abuse/Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

**Thematic Lead: Katie Severn**

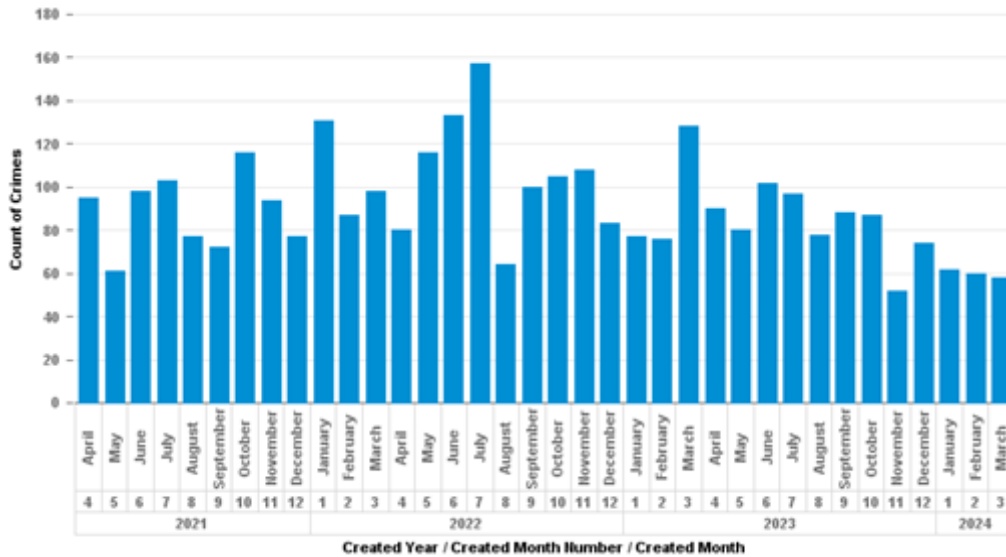
**Insights:**

**CSE Offences**

Data for 12 months to end of March 2024, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
1227	928	-299	-24.4%

Bar chart showing CSE offences recorded each month:



A Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Group Based Child Sexual Exploitation (GBCSE) Problem Profile is being developed to fully understand the Essex position. This requires a qualitative analysis and cannot be fully determined through aggregate data via Athena. Whilst there is a reduction in offences, effective identification of CSE or GBCSE remains an issue.

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- **CJ Diversion of IIOC Child Offenders:** POLIT has proactively engaged with partnership agencies who are involved with juvenile offenders in relation to IIOC offences, including YOS managers, AIMS assessors and those involved at the court stages of POLIT cases for Essex local authority (not Thurrock and Southend LA). Partners have been provided with inputs around POLIT investigations, specifically in how juvenile offenders are assessed based on individual circumstances such as age, content of images and vulnerabilities.
- **Tactical safeguarding groups:** Essex police is a partner on SET child safeguarding partnerships including MACE and child safeguarding sub-groups underneath the child safeguarding boards. This is where individual cases can be referred and discussed, or commissioning requests can be heard for further prevention techniques. ToR and attendance at MACE meetings has been reviewed to ensure most appropriate and effective police attendance.
- **Education and engagements events:** PFCC Education Events: The force has engaged with the PFCC Joint Education Team to provide information and resources that they can incorporate into their online safety inputs delivered to schools, libraries and children across Essex.
- **Op Jaguar:** Engagement events in colleges and university: A continuing annual operation which runs Sept/October year on year, providing visible presence at Colchester University Campus during freshers’ week. Ensuring intervention and reassurance to prevent the occurrence of sexual offences. Targeting onsite residence and the club venues serving alcohol. Some of these students fit into the category of children and CSAE.
- **Wider freshers’ week work and consent workshops in 6th Form/College/University settings:** Engagement with the above settings to raise

awareness and prevent harm, target audience is ages 15+. This includes online safety as well as in public.

### **Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- **A4E Child Safeguarding Platform:** The A4E Dashboard is being further developed by PAU to add in the count of person iteration across multiple platforms but most notably CSE and GBCSE. This will enable the intelligence team to identify the children at the highest risk of sexual harm and feed into CPP tasking. A decision can be made regarding tactics to reduce that harm through policing methods and in a partnership appropriate.
- **Identification of CSE and GBCSE:** This was identified in the findings of the HMICFRS inspection into how well the police and law enforcement bodies understand and respond to group-based child sexual exploitation. Many officers and staff do not understand that CSE itself is not an offence or that any child sexual offence is categorised as CSE. GBCSE is very underreported as figures show, so effective identification of signs and symptoms of sexual exploitation is important to enable effective investigation and safeguarding. There are no clear definitions within the force on GBCSE. The May Flex Programme is centred on vulnerability and one of the core subjects is recognition of CSE and GBCSE, the linked offence types and using VOTC and AWARE principles to record signs and symptoms to make effective decisions over investigation and safeguarding of that child. Effective identification of offending will also lead to better crime data recording as currently many officers and staff log CSE as a child protection non crime rather than considering what crime it actually is.
- **Support for Families:** The Knock is a term used by Anglia Ruskin University and is used by the online CSAE world to describe the impact on the families when police conduct enforcement action against indecent images offenders. In essence, police come into their lives, seize all their devices, disappear for a long period while waiting for DFU to download a phone/computer, then charge the offender. Very little is offered to the family by way of support as indirect victims, and often an indication of the extent of offending cannot be given as this is not known until the device is downloaded. Through the Innovation Board, work is being carried out on developing an implementation plan for Essex with Synergy to provide a support service for the families. This work will support children of offenders. There is evidence that some children left without support in the initial stages of sexual investigations end up becoming victims of CCE and CSAE as they are groomed by gangs while their real family are imploding. Providing support and stability can make a real difference to children's lives. Families both in CAIT and POLIT where the grandparents or parents have been abusers, are also seen, and this behaviour is often repeated down the generations. Again, providing support and stability can make a real difference to children's lives.

### **5.3.2 Domestic Abuse**

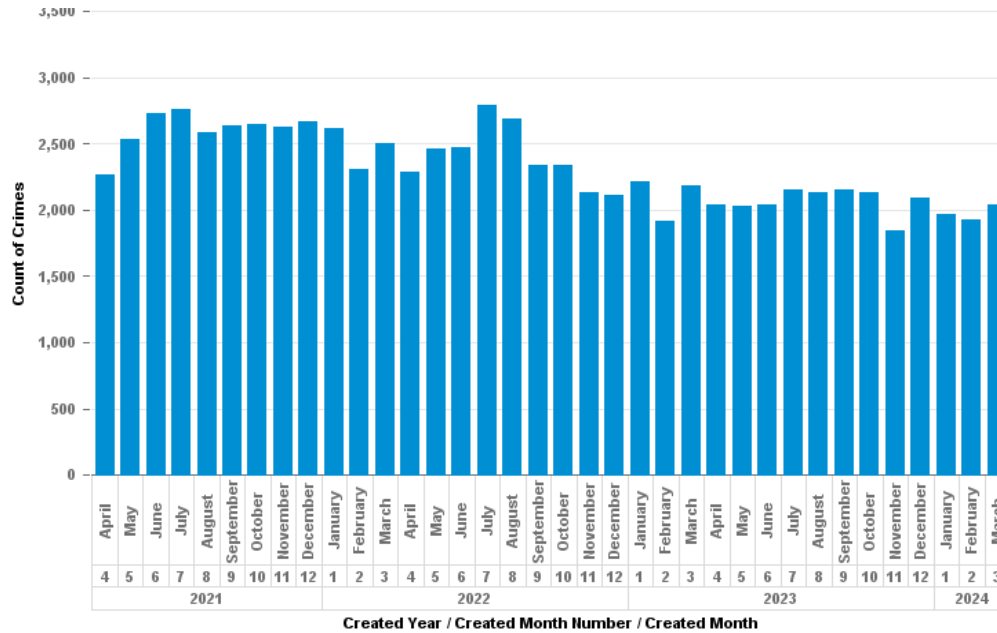
**Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Matt Cornish**

**Insights:** 12 months to end of March 2024:

Table comparing data to previous year

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
27925	24549	-3376	-12.1%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month



The decrease in reported DA cases has been consistent now for over 12 months. This is believed to be (in part) due to the focus on prevention and perpetrator management within Essex, and also the ease of access for victims to self-refer to contact commissioned services (IDVA) for support and signposting to other services.

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- **DVDS process redesigned.** Supported by University of Essex and commissioned partners. This has led to a significant increase in DVDS (preventative) disclosures being delivered. Q4 results show 385 applications made, with 199 disclosures delivered (compared to Q1 with 334 applications made and 16 disclosures delivered).
- **Violent Offender Order on DA Perpetrator.** During this reporting period DAPST successfully obtained a Violent Offender Order (VOO) on a ‘High Risk’ DA perpetrator, who was considered to pose significant risk to the victim. These orders are specifically designed for those who have been released from prison and not under licence but are still considered to pose a threat. Due to the high threshold required to obtain an order, only a small number have been granted in England, and this is only the second order granted in Essex in the last 14 years. Within the first three months of the order, the perpetrator breached it, and has received a four month custodial sentence. The order remains in place following his release and he will continue to be managed by DAPST. This is excellent partnership working coordinated through MAPPA involving DAPST, Probation and

SETDAB commissioned services to prevent a dangerous and violent individual from continuing to target his victim.

- **DA Threat to Life Cohort.** The 'ILAS' pilot with BAE, funded through the Home Office 'STAR' bid, around iteration 3 of the DA Threat to Life perpetrator cohort concluded at the end of March 2024. In summary, this is the use of Artificial Intelligence (inference and reasoning) to assist in the management of complex data to identify the highest risk DA perpetrators. The results were largely positive, and this is felt to be a highly worthwhile project to continue to work alongside. A business case is being completed to consider the purchase of a licence to continue to use this system. If successful, this would see a recommendation of 'iteration 3' of the cohort being formally rolled out to DAPST for proactive management of the identified individuals, replacing iteration 2. This work is attracting interest, both nationally and internationally, with a presentation on this being delivered recently at the International Policing Summit in Dubai, and a ministerial visit to discuss ILAS booked for June.

#### **Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- **Investigation Improvement Work.** Concerns have been raised around the quality of Standard Risk DA investigations and the arrest rate for Standard Risk DA perpetrators. These investigations are overseen by Local Policing Teams, with 'medium' and 'high' risk cases going to DA specialist teams for management due to the risks. The baseline for standard risk solved is 6.8% with standard risk arrest rate being 21.5%, both figures are low and trending downwards. An improvement plan is in place, involving enhanced scrutiny, training, and performance management which will be delivered collaboratively by the Review Team and the DA Team with executive oversight through ACC Mariner's governance process over the next 3-6 months.
- **Joint Justice Plan.** The NPCC and Senior CPS leads have agreed a joint justice plan to improve the national response to DA. Essex is in a reasonable position comparatively, due to the investment made in specialist DA Investigation Teams (DAIT), DA Problem-solving Teams (DAPST) and the support of the Criminal Justice Unit. However, there is work to do jointly around easier access to CPS (for early advise and faster charging decisions), the timeliness of DA investigations to ensure 'speedy justice', and ensuring appropriate use of protection orders (DVPO/SPO etc). This is a long-term piece of work to meet the ambitious strategic objectives, with work being tracked through the Joint Operational Investigation Meeting (JOIM) attended by Police and the CPS.

#### **5.3.3 Drugs and Alcohol**

##### **Thematic Lead: Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow**

##### **Insights:**

The Essex Police Drugs and Alcohol strategy seeks to reduce crime by working with partners to deliver the Government's 'From Harm, to Hope' 10-year strategy. The action plan has five objectives:

- 1) Target enforcement action against individuals and groups who are willingly concerned in the production and supply of illegal drugs and those in breach of alcohol.



- 2) Identify and protect vulnerable individuals and communities from the exploitation and harm caused by drug supply and use, and misuse of alcohol.
- 3) Work in partnership to further develop and better utilise pathways into treatment for alcohol and drug misuse.
- 4) Inform and influence the education and engagement of young people to divert them away from substance misuse.
- 5) Develop an improved shared understanding of current local drugs markets, and the impact of licenced alcohol sales, to inform and direct partnership interventions.

Data for the 12 months to the end of March 2024, in comparison to the previous 12 months demonstrates a sustained increase in activity to tackle trafficking of drugs in Essex:

	12 Month ending March 2023	12 Month ending March 2024	Diff.	% Diff.
<b>Trafficking of Drugs</b>	1425	1730	305	21.4
<b>Possession of Drugs</b>	3893	3808	-85	-2.2

The Drug and Alcohol portfolio cuts across a number of strands in the Crime Prevention Strategy, particularly Gangs and County Lines and Night-Time Economy. The delivery identified in this section should be read in conjunction with updates in those sections.

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- Drug Testing on Arrest (DToA) is well-embedded within the force and operating effectively at all custody suites. This allows the force to test detainees for class A drugs if arrested for certain trigger offences (predominantly theft and drug possession/supply offences) or where an Inspector has reasonable grounds to suspect the involvement of class A drugs in the offence for which they have been arrested. In the last 12 months the force has carried out 3,620 tests, resulting in 1,939 positive results (54%). Those who test positive are referred to an assessment appointment with their local treatment provider, in order to try and address the underlying behaviour that may be driving their criminality. Particular emphasis has been put on targeting those arrested for Domestic Abuse offences, resulting in 752 tests and 391 referrals for treatment. The force has an extensive dip-testing process which demonstrates that 94% of eligible cases are captured by DToA.
- Nationally there has been an increase in the presence of synthetic opioids cut into Heroin and some other class A drugs. These synthetic drugs are extremely dangerous as they increase the toxicity and potency compared with other cutting agents and have resulted in an increase in drug related deaths. In the last 6 months the greater Essex area has seen 9x confirmed deaths and 7x near misses, relating to a group of synthetic opioids called Nitazenes. Essex Police has set the national standard in the investigative response to these deaths, prioritising activity against the county lines distributing the contaminated drugs and working with partners to minimise the public health risk. This has resulted in the charge and remand in custody of 12x identified offenders. The force continues to

feed into Project Housebuilder, an NCA-led, national response to drugs deaths and to work with Public Health leads in Southend, Essex and Thurrock to prevent further criminality and loss of life.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- Work is ongoing with Essex Probation to review and improve the awareness of Magistrates Courts in relation to persons prosecuted for failing to comply with DToA requirements. Where arrested for a trigger offence or where a non-trigger test is authorised, detainees are required to subject to a test and commit an offence if they refuse. Likewise, if an arrested person tests positive for class A drugs they are required to attend an assessment appointment and commit an offence if they do not comply. Prosecution data shows that only 1% of cases result in a drug referral requirement, with the majority resulting in a fine. This outcome does not address the drug misuse issue or align with the crime prevention objectives of DToA. The next six months will see a change in the process by which Probation are notified of offending, to enable more pre-sentence reporting and better inform the courts’ decision-making on sentencing.
- A frontline user guide is being developed to increase the use of treatment-related options for out of court disposals, including conditional cautions and community resolutions. Community resolutions issued for simple first-time possession offences are currently of limited value and do little to signpost those using the drug to information and support services. An updated guide, produced by operational officers, for operational officers is intended to improve the effectiveness of outcomes and divert offenders away from drug use.
- Over the next review period, Essex Police will produce a refreshed Drugs Market Profile to inform the SET Drugs and Alcohol Partnership on changes in the illicit market and to inform activity to deliver the national drugs strategy.

**5.3.4 Mental Health**

**Thematic Lead: Detective Superintendent Natalia Ross**

**Insights:** 12 months to end of March 2024:

Table comparing Mental Health Investigations (Detention under S136 MHA) data to previous year

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
667	462	-205	-30.7%

Bar chart showing *Mental Health Investigations (Detention under S136 MHA)* recorded each month

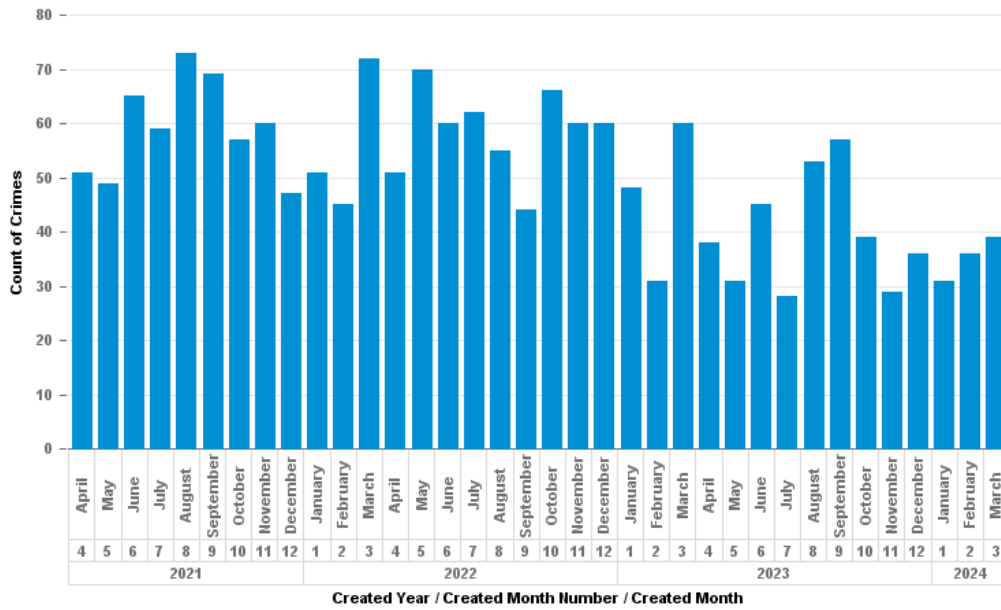
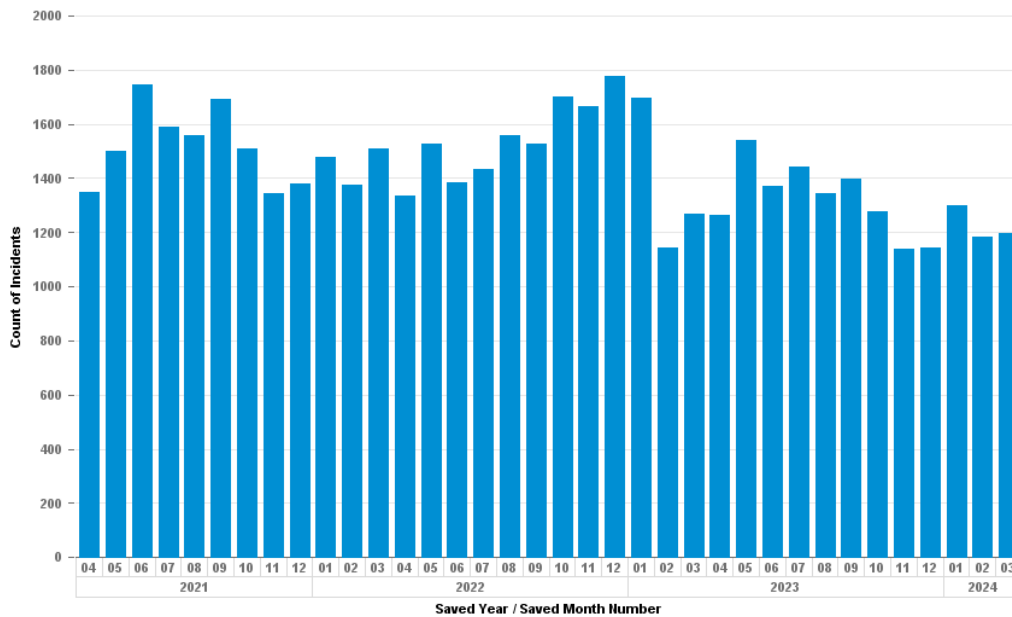


Table comparing Mental Health Incidents data to previous year

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
18019	15598	-2421	-13.4%

Bar chart showing *Mental Health Investigations (Detention under S136 MHA)* recorded each month



There has been a significant decrease in the volume of section 136 detentions, now reporting at 30.7%. This will be due to several factors, including the launch of Right

Care, Right Person (RCRP), and the continued drive and comes through the Crime and Public Protection Mental Health Team (MHT). The MHT provide daily analysis and feedback to officers, to ensure detentions are carried out when absolutely necessary, and diverted into other more suitable pathways, such as through Crisis Cafés or the Urgent Care Department. There has also been a significant decrease in the volume of Mental Health incidents, reducing by nearly 2500 (-13.4%). This again will likely be linked to RCRP.

### **Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- **Prevent** – Essex Police is working closely with partners at the most senior level, to work through and agree the Right Care, Right Person principles. This looks to put in place arrangements to work towards ending police involvement in the following situations, where the RCRP threshold is not met:
  - Initial response to people experiencing mental health crisis unless there is a real and immediate risk to life.
  - Responding to concerns for welfare of people with mental health needs (i.e., undertaking welfare checks), where the person is already in contact with a mental health service or other service commissioned to provide mental health support.
  - Instances of missing persons from mental health facilities, and walkouts of people with mental health needs from other health facilities (e.g., the Emergency Department).
  - Conveyance in police vehicles.

This is being done in partnership through tactical and strategic boards, to ensure the identification of unintended consequences are identified and mitigated where possible. All four phases of this project are now live as of January 2024. Whilst partnership elements, specifically commission gaps, remain ongoing, the principles of RCRP have now been embedded within Essex Police.
- **Investigate** – Essex Police, through the Mental Health Risk Management Board, have developed a multi-agency risk register. This aligning to the ongoing work of Right Care, Right Person, allows for all agencies to share gaps, risks and mitigations within their services, to ensure a joint approach is in place to manage these risks. This provides both transparency and problem solving, when identifying these risk factors. This has led to the creation of four papers, which feature the consolidation of these risk factors, along with potential solutions, which are shared with partners, to look at these commissioning gaps, and to assist in the identification of solutions.
- **Response** – A digital solution has been created for the recording of section 135/136 MHA detentions. This was historically a 17-page word document, which meant that not all data recorded was accurate. This new process allows for the mandatory recording of data and a streamlined and digital approach to the recording of MH detentions. This platform provides a wealth of data which can be fed into a data product. This assists in the capturing of vital information when performing these detentions which is both provided to the home office and enables the MHT to identify any potential proactive work that may need to take place.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- **Prevent** – Essex Police has developed a Power Bi data dashboard, which allows for the better understanding around themes and trends, relating to Mental Health powers/incidents and RCRP. This is in draft form at present, but will look to provide officers and staff, daily access to MH data, to enable proactive prevention and problem solving around themes. Work remains ongoing with partner agencies around the sharing of aggregate data, which can be overlaid with this dashboard. This will provide a wider understanding of the demand, and any potential shifts within this. This will allow for a multi-agency approach in managing and responding to this.
- **Investigate** – The C&PP Mental Health Team continues to work with CPS around Op Cavell which is the national response to assaults within health care settings. This sets out a four-pillar framework under the mnemonic PACT, putting the victim first, assuming capacity, consider all the options and take positive action. This work will look to improve the response for victims to both violence and hate crime in these settings. Work remains ongoing to ensure this is fit for purpose and rolled out across Essex through communications, training and governance.
- **Response** – Essex Police Strategic Change team was commissioned to conduct an internal review in the Mental Health Street Triage provision, assessing its viability and value for money following HMIC recommendations. This review commenced in June 2023 and was looking at the opportunities for development, such as extending the services hours, whether the current process is fit for purpose and the viability of co-locating with partners into a single location under a multi-agency response hub model. The results of this, and recommendations have now been finalised, and the next steps following this review, are now underway.

**5.4 Vulnerabilities**

**5.4.1 Places**

**Thematic Lead: Chief Superintendent Leighton Hammett**

**Insights:**

There is some great place-based work being conducted in Essex, using academia, system partners and data to inform approaches.

Place-based work is being commissioned through Safer Essex and the three Integrated Care Systems, to ensure a fully collaborative approach, leading to informed and sustained improvements.

There are great opportunities to develop this further during this year, with Town Boards being established in Clacton, Harlow and Canvey. This will see additional funding from central government into the local authorities, and also the Safer Streets Funding, which is county wide.

### **Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- Effective delivery of Op Dial (ASB Hotspots), delivered across nine CSPs covering 13 zones. This saw a 20% quarter on quarter reduction in ASB, faster reductions than the overall force levels, it also saw a 40% increase in the use of Stop and Search, against a slight overall reduction in the force. Finally, there was a 17.4% reduction in High Harm offences across this period in Op Dial Zones, against a 5.1% force wide reduction.
- Effective delivery of Op Grip (Serious Violence Hotspots), 99% patrol compliance across this period with a 7% reduction in Serious Violence across the Op Grip Zones. Along with some significant Problem Oriented Policing operations, in partnership with the CSPs.
- Implementation of Op Minerva (Tackling VAWG), this is a collaboration with Nottingham Trent University (NTU) to produce data driven areas of high prevalence of VAWG, using many strands of data, including public perception. All CSPs engaged and zones allocated, supported by £120k of PFCC funding. The zones were implemented in October 2023, instigating varied problem solving approaches, from redesign of open spaces, CCTV, lighting etc. Evaluation is to follow in due course.

### **Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- Continued running of Op Dial, now with 15 zones covering 11 CSPs. The learning from 2023/24 has been taken forward, and can now be aligned with Op Grip, meaning zones with higher prevalence of ASB. Essex Police has also carefully selected the zones to have an impact on Serious Violence, and are targeting both crime types in one operation. The force has also commissioned NTU to produce a similar product to Op Minerva, but for ASB, so that there is a better system going forward to problem solve and reduce ASB, using various data sources.
- Continued running of Op Grip, looking to use the Home Office funding to support more problem orientated policing, working across the Community Safety Network to design out and reduce serious violence.
- Continued running of Op Minerva, looking to further embed this new way for CSPs to work, looking to understand more the drivers of VAWG and taking a societal approach to reducing it.
- The roll out of the Frontline App for all areas of Essex Police. Come June 2024, Frontline will be available across the whole of Essex; this is a very easy way to signpost and refer people for support. This will support the force's core mission around prevention, allowing officers to effectively identify and intervene early when they see vulnerabilities, which if untreated lead to drivers of harm and crime, such as mental health, housing, addiction.

## **5.4.2 Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery**

**Thematic Lead: Superintendent Tim Tubbs**

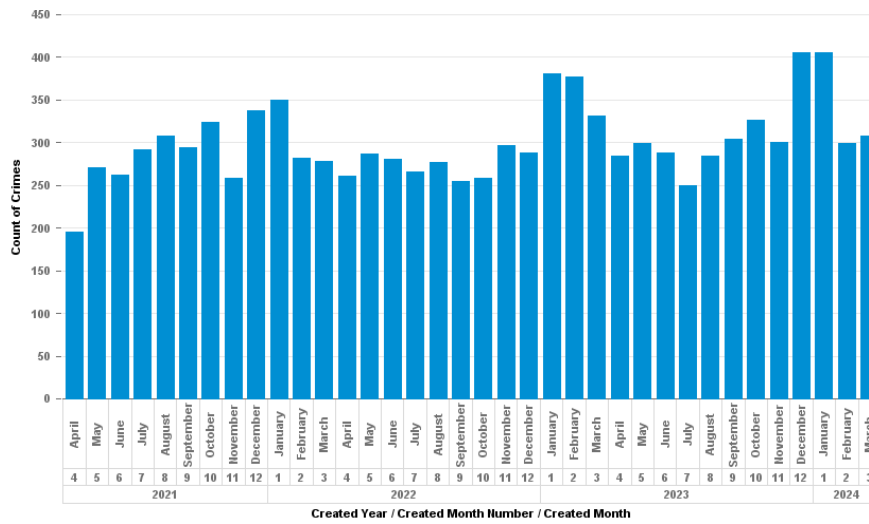
### **Burglary (Dwelling) Offences**

Insights:

Data for 12 months to end of March 2024, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
3560	3757	197	+5.5%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



As the above table and graph show, there has been an overall increase of residential burglary year on year. This increase of 5.5% is lower than that seen nationally which is around 7% comparing the first quarter of 2024 to the first quarter of 2023. A large spike in offences was seen in December 23 and January 24; this does coincide with darker nights and the festive period, and an increase is generally anticipated during this time. Due to this peak in the winter months, a week of action (Op Grenadier) was implemented during February 2024. This proved to be hugely positive and helped to reduce the peak. This can be seen in the graph above which shows the offences in February and March 2024 being lower than the previous year.

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- Op Grenadier was the force wide week of action targeting residential burglary. This looked at crime prevention, targeting offenders, improving investigations and community engagement. The week saw teams from across the force come together; targeted crime prevention advice was delivered by CPTs and DOCOs from LPSU and targeted patrols of hotspot areas was completed by investigation teams and uniformed colleagues. The week was successful in reducing the general peak that is seen in offending and has had a lasting impact.

	Feb-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	YTD comparison	%	MTM	%
<b>Burg Res</b>	543	516	383	160	29%	133	26%
<b>Home</b>		407	300			107	26%
<b>Unconnected</b>		109	83			26	24%
<b>Business</b>	164	179	135	29	18%	44	25%

- Residential Burglary attendance has been one of the areas of focus, ensuring that all incidents are attended where possible. This ensures that the victims are getting the best service possible, and also increases opportunities around early investigative actions. There has been an increase in attendance during Q1 to 96.97%, when in previous years this was consistently below 90%.
- The taken into consideration (TIC) policy and procedure has been agreed and signed off. This has been shared across the force with training materials and easy to follow guidance. A Burglary and Robbery SharePoint site has been established, making information and guidance as accessible as possible. Further force wide training is scheduled to improve knowledge and skills further in the hope to increase the number of TIC offences.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- Over the next few months, work will be taking place on the implementation of Op Reassure following its successful trial across Southend. It is a collaboration with Essex victim support and provides bespoke crime prevention advice to victims of burglary that feel particularly vulnerable and at risk. It has had a positive response from victims and PCSOs.
- There is bespoke training aimed at those who attend and investigate burglaries. This will be on various topics such as TIC and crime prevention. Burglary crime prevention training is being offered in a staged approach throughout the force. This online training has been completed by CPTs and some investigations teams and is part of the mandatory training packages for new recruits at Essex Police College. So far, 134 have registered and 102 have completed the training.
- A further week of intensification is being scoped for during the summer months which will coincide with the crime prevention messages being shared across social media for the warmer months. It is hoped that this will bring further reductions in offending whilst ensuring those responsible for crimes are locked up.

**Street Robbery**

**Robbery (Personal) Offences**

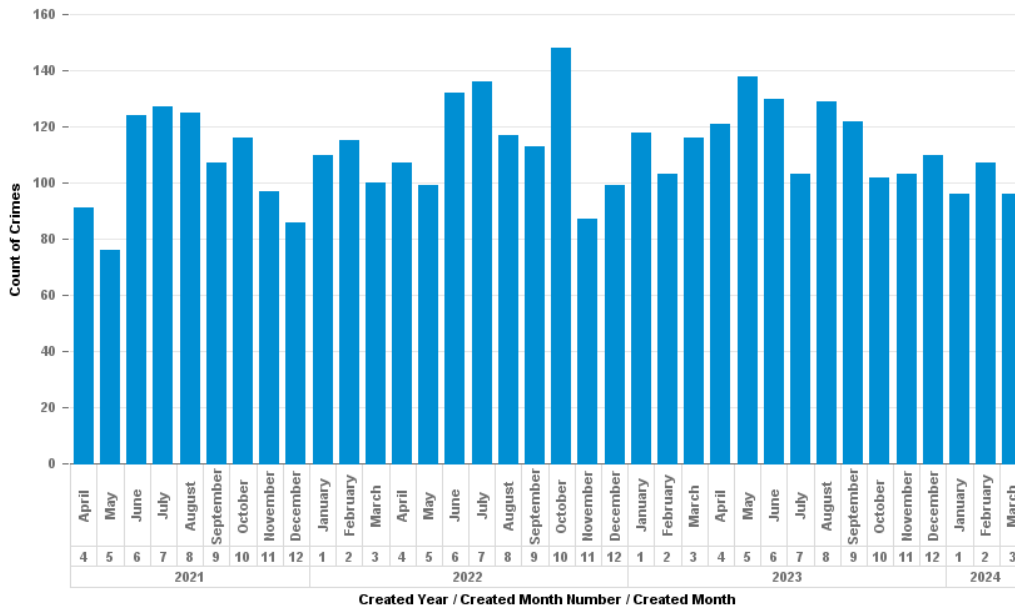
Insights:

Data for 12 months to end of March 2024, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
1375	1357	-18	-1.3%



Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



As the above table and chart shows, there has been a reduction in personal robbery offences year on year. There is also a general downward trend month to month. The usual peak can be seen during the summer months as well as October. A targeted week of action (Op Calibre) held during October 2023 had a positive impact on offending. In previous years, there was an increase in January and February. This has not been seen this year as the offences continue to be lower than they were last year.

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- Op Calibre took place week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Op Calibre saw a reduction in offences, named suspects and almost four times as many solved crimes for that week. This week of intensification utilised officers and staff from across the county and impacted the peak seen in October 2022 (the previous year).
- Crime prevention material has been supplied to secondary schools and colleges across Essex. By working together with partners in Essex Fire and Rescue, an electronic leaflet was provided, created by the force’s graphic designers which provided information to students and parents on how to protect their mobile phones. This was sent just before the Christmas break to provide information on how to combat new electronics being targeted, and was accompanied by a letter from Superintendent Tim Tubbs explaining the content, and how to protect their items using NMPR and other methods. This was well received by all, and further physical leaflets have been requested by partners.
- With the continuation of other force wide operations such as Op Grip and Op Dial, the force has been able to proactively patrol hotspot areas providing a visible policing presence thereby reducing robbery offences. This is in addition to localised efforts that proactively target robbery such as those taking place in Lakeside and Thurrock.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- Scoping of potential week of action targeting the summer months when children are on school holidays, as children are most likely to become victims and perpetrators of this crime type. There is an expected increase, and any prevention work will look to educate victims and offenders as well as target hotspots and offenders reducing crime.
- LPSU and the business crime team have been expanding their work in preventing violence and equipping staff with skills and knowledge around protecting themselves against violence. This was initially provided to staff in a number of hotel chains and is being scoped to include shop staff. A leaflet is being designed to provide important crime prevention advice which can help to prevent these instances of violence and in turn reduce robbery offences.
- Work will soon commence to review and ascertain whether the agreed allocation process for robbery investigations is working as intended. This will look at the quality of investigations to ascertain who the best team to investigate this high harm crime should be.

**5.4.3 Prevent**

**Thematic Lead: Superintendent Leigh Norris**

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- Handover in late 2023 between Supt Naomi Edwards and Supt Leigh Norris as PREVENT lead and between PS Phillips and PS Horton as current PREVENT Sergeant.
- In late 2023, Supt Norris commissioned a full review of all Essex Police and external PREVENT champions/SPOCs to identify where geographically and organisationally there are service provision shortfalls and to help identify next steps around training and development.
- Continued and in some cases, enhanced attendance and interaction with Southend/Essex/Thurrock PREVENT Delivery Groups and review contribution to local PREVENT strategies and delivery plans.

**Delivery Scheduled April 2024- September 2024:**

- ERSOU to provide PREVENT training to Braintree CPT Inspector. Once trained, initial training will be for Braintree and Uttlesford CPT to assist the challenges they face at Wethersfield Immigration Detention centre. There will be a focus firstly on Community Policing Teams, including CYP/CSEO/PCSO/SC to ensure the force can maximise its exposure to possible PREVENT referral situations. Training will then be further implemented for external partners with a focus on districts where there is a perceived reduction in PREVENT referrals; especially when compared to hate crimes reported or to support locations/demographics where referrals are already in existence, supported by ERSOU and other data but also stakeholder supported.
- Moving forward, PS Jamie Horton will assist with Channel Panel participation where possible.

- A new/replacement South LPA Hate Crime Officer role has been advertised which PS Horton has been instrumental in facilitating.

**5.4.4 Hate Crime**

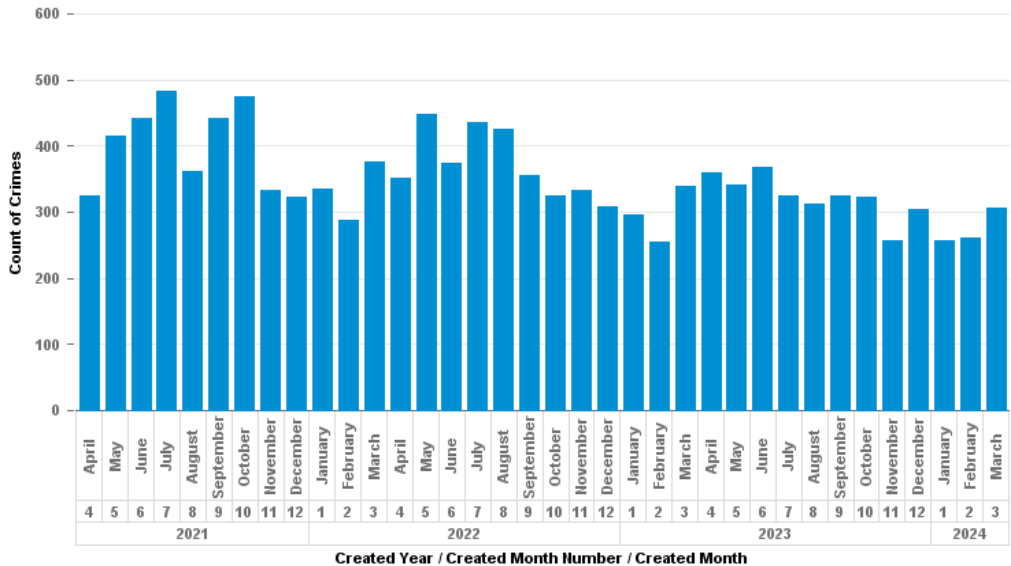
**Thematic Lead: Superintendent Naomi Edwards**

**Insights:**

Data for Hate Crime Offences 12 months to end of March 2024, in comparison to the previous 12 months:

12 Month ending March 23	12 Month ending March 24	Diff.	% Diff.
4247	3737	-510	-12.0%

Bar chart showing crimes recorded each month:



Hate crime reporting has stabilised across all protected characteristics over the past 12 months with Jewish and Muslim hate crime being the exception, where both have increased. Q4 reports of hate crime include a 27 antisemitic hate 2.68% of all hate crime crimes and 19 Islamophobic hate crimes 1.88% of all hate crimes. This is reflective of the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas. This is representative of a % increase on Q4 2022-23.

A total of 824 Hate Crimes and 183 Hate Incidents (**1006**) were reported in Q1, 2024 (01/01/2024 and 31/03/2024). This represents a decrease of 2.9% in comparison with Q4, 2023 (01/10/2023 and 31/12/2023) which reported total figures of 1036. When compared to Q1, 2023 a decrease of 6.76% has been seen, which reported figures of 892 Hate Crime and 187 Hate Incidents (1079).

Year	2024		
Quarter	Qtr 1		
Type	January	February	March
Racial	207	187	225
Homophobic	46	54	36
Disability	28	34	55
Multiple Types	10	17	10
Transgender	6	10	15
Religious - Jewish	11	10	6
Religious - Muslim	7	6	6
Religious - Other	1	1	6
Religious - Unknown	3		2
Religious - Christian		2	2
Age	1	1	
Alternative Sub-culture			1
Religious - No religion			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>365</b>

**Racial**

Racially motivated offences continue to represent the most significant percentage of all recorded hate crime with 619 of the total figures. This equates to 61.53% of the overall volume reported in Q1, 2024 (01/01/2024 and 31/03/2024) which is 1006.

**Homophobic**

Homophobic Hate Crime remains second highest with 136 of total recorded Hate Crime/Hate Incident, this equates to 13.52% of the overall volume reported in Q1, 2024 (01/01/2024 and 31/03/2024) which is 1006.

**Disability**

Disability Hate Crime remains third highest with 117 recorded Hate Crime/ Hate Incident, this equates to 11.63% of the overall volume reported in Q1, 2024 (01/01/2024 and 31/03/2024) which is 1006.

**Delivery Achieved October 2023-March 2024:**

- An increase in community engagement by the CPT.
- Increase in Solved rates to Q3 18.9% and Q4 17.38%.
- Improvement in file quality submission for February and March 2024 where 87% of all cases presented in Magistrates court were convicted and 100% of all cases at crown court were convicted. This led to a 100% hate crime sentence uplift.

### **Delivery Scheduled April 2024-September 2024:**

- CPD training for officers around improving service delivery file quality.
- Community engagement and building community cohesion workshops with CST, Tell MAMA and faith leaders.
- Inspector overview and closure of ALL hate crimes under outcome codes 15/16.

### **5.5 Delivery/Challenges by Exception**

The current conflict in the Middle East following the abhorrent terrorist attacks on Israel by a recognised terrorist organisation, Hamas, has understandably led to an increase in tensions within the UK. As a result of those terrorist attacks and the subsequent response by Israel to those terrorist attacks, there have been numerous protests and rallies within the UK showing support for the two countries caught up in the conflict. Essex however has seen smaller relatively peaceful protests with very few counter protests. It is unsurprising to see that reported antisemitic hate crime has increased but the force continues to work very closely with all communities and Safer Essex to support.

### **6.0 Implications (Issues)**

There are no strands at risk across 14 thematic strands.

### **6.1 Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities**

The thematic strands deliver against the priorities identified within the Police and Crime Plan, namely:

- Further investment in crime prevention
- Reducing drug driven violence
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reducing violence against women and girls
- Preventing business crime, fraud and cybercrime
- Increasing collaboration

### **6.2 Demand**

Not applicable.

### **6.3 Risks/Mitigation**

Overall, if areas of the strategy are not delivered then there is potential risk of crime figures increasing in relevant areas, and ultimately potential risk to members of the public. This, in turn, has a potential reputational risk to the organisation. Each thematic strand has a force lead responsible for their individual areas, enabling appropriate oversight, review, and focus to ensure appropriate action takes place within each thematic area to identify and mitigate these risks, working to improve response and ultimately prevent crime.

#### **6.4 Equality and/or Human Rights Implications**

There are no protected characteristics adversely affected by the strategy. Whilst there are no specific equality and/or human rights implications identified, any actions which take place in relation to the strategy will take account of such matters, ensuring compliance with relevant legislation and the force Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Strategy.

#### **6.5 Health and Safety Implications**

No Health and Safety Risks identified.

#### **7.0 Consultation/Engagement**

Thematic leads have all contributed to this report:

Knife Crime:	Detective Superintendent Gary Biddle
Rape:	Detective Superintendent Neil Pudney
Night-Time Economy:	Chief Inspector Paul Hogben
County Lines and Exploitation:	Detective Superintendent Gary Biddle
Serious and Organised Crime:	Detective Chief Inspector Justin Beacher
Cyber Crime and Fraud:	Detective Chief Inspector Ashley Howard
Child Abuse and CSE:	Katie Severn
Domestic Abuse:	Detective Superintendent Matt Cornish
Drugs and Alcohol:	Chief Superintendent Simon Anslow
Mental Health:	Detective Superintendent Natalia Ross
Places:	Chief Superintendent Leighton Hammett
Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery:	Superintendent Tim Tubbs
Prevent:	Superintendent Leigh Norris
Hate Crime:	Superintendent Naomi Edwards

#### **8.0 Actions for Improvement**

There are no outstanding HMICFRS improvement plans or Areas for Improvement (AFIs) relating to the Crime Prevention Strategy.

#### **9.0 Future Work/Development and Expected Outcome/Governance**

The Crime Prevention Strategy is based upon a whole system approach, with a strong focus on partnership working, using intelligence and evidence to predict the challenges to be faced, and prepare us for anticipated increase in volume and complexity of crime within a significant political, economic and community recovery period post-Covid.

Work is ongoing via Safer Essex to enhance partnership working/reporting. Work is soon to commence on the development and creation of the next Crime Prevention Strategy for Essex.

In terms of governance, each area of the Crime Prevention Strategy has an allocated police lead. The police leads are supported by a Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor, these are partners from the community safety network and allocated through Safer Essex. They ensure the prevention plans held are working across the system and maximising what partners can do to support crime prevention, making plans better informed and responses more sustainable.

Safer Essex is held bi-monthly and has a focus on how the wider partnership is supporting delivery of the Crime Prevention Plan; the creation of the tactical advisors is testament to this work. Further to this, a six-monthly Crime Prevention Panel is held, chaired by ACC Local Policing with the Chief Executive - OPFCC and C/Supt for Crime Prevention in attendance. Here the crime prevention leads present their work, they are expected to talk about the successes and challenges of the last six months and then talk about the plans for the next six months. There is support and scrutiny around ensuring the plans are working across the whole system and not just police led.