

Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2024

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

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1.0 **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Chief Officer Group and PFCC Performance and Scrutiny meeting with an update on Homicide Prevention activity since the last report to the February 2024 meeting.

2.0 **Recommendations**

The Board to note the report and progress updates.

3.0 **Executive Summary**

This report provides an update on Homicides in Essex and includes analysis of Homicide trends as well of an assessment of Homicide prevention activity and investigation performance.

An update since the last quarter is provided on the four key areas of Domestic Abuse, Mental Health, Gangs and drugs lines and Serious Violence.

An update on the latest Homicide Prevention work across Essex is provided, as well as references to the national Homicide Prevention Framework and the links to Essex through the highlighting of the Essex Rapid Debrief Process as best practice.

This work is completed in conjunction with the Essex Homicide Prevention Strategy

4.0 Introduction

Homicide Prevention continues to be a clear priority for Essex Police, with the force leading the way nationally in terms of its analysis and rapid debrief initiatives.

Our approach is incorporated into the Homicide Prevention Strategy 2022-26. The overarching aim of the strategy is “*To reduce homicide in Essex by tackling serious violence and the contributing factors that lead to homicide*” and is underpinned by four main themes in line with the National NPCC approach:

1. Domestic Abuse
2. Mental Health
3. Drugs – including County Lines and drug enabled violence
4. Serious Violence: including Knife Crime, Serious Youth Violence, alcohol related violence and the Night Time Economy

The strategy articulates the strong Governance arrangements that support our focus on Homicide Prevention and signpost the other significant areas of scrutiny and oversight that are linked to the four main themes.

Essex Police has continued to engage with the NPCC and College of Policing around the development of the ‘What Works Toolkit’ which launched in October 2022.

5.0 Current Work and Performance

5.1 Overview of Performance Analysis

Previous whole year overview (for context) - There were 13 homicides recorded from April 2023 to March 2024. This is a reduction in homicide from 2022/23 where 15 homicides were recorded (and a reduction from 2021/22 where there were 23 recorded and 2020/21 where 17 homicides were recorded).

Reporting Quarter Overview (Q4)- In the reporting quarter (January 2024 to March 2024), there were 2 recorded homicides. In both, suspects have been identified and charged and are progressing towards trial.

Investigation of homicide remains strong and thorough, leading to successful convictions at court. Court results from Q4 (January – March 2024):

Op Ash – In January 2023, Jamie-Lee Lewis fatally stabbed Matthew Portwood in a car park on Canvey Island after a dispute in a nearby licenced premises. Having been found guilty in October 2023, on the 11th January Lewis was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 24 years.

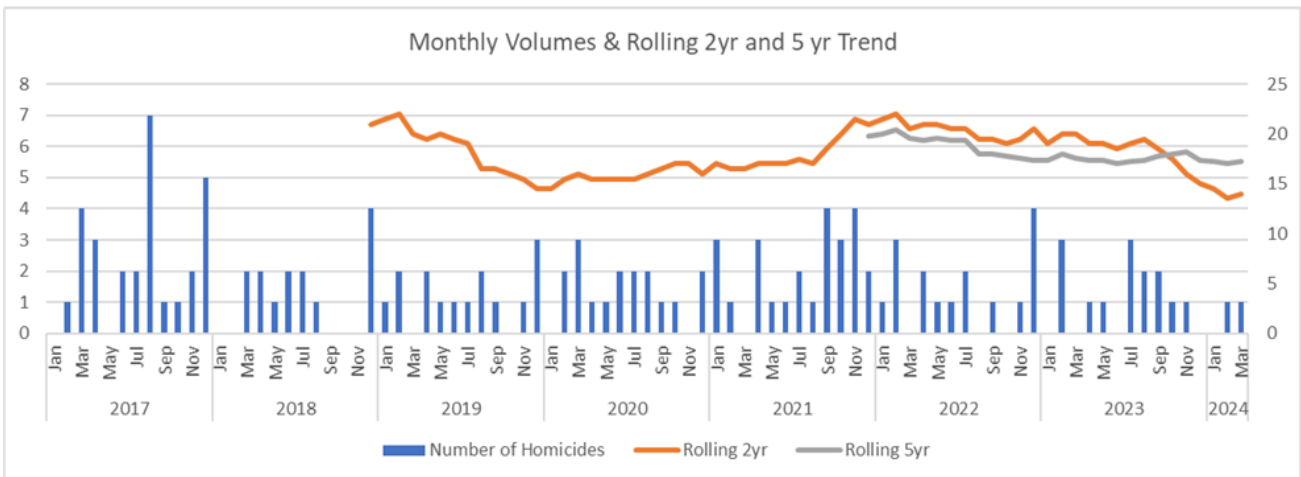
Op Magnesium – In January 2023, some of the remains of Phillip Lewis were discovered in a pond in Harlow. An extensive police operation commenced involving the searching of numerous ponds and lakes. Lee Clarke was arrested for the murder. Police identified blood belonging to Phillip in Clarke’s flat. On March 2024,

Clarke was found guilty of the murder and sentenced to life imprisonment to serve a minimum of 20 years.

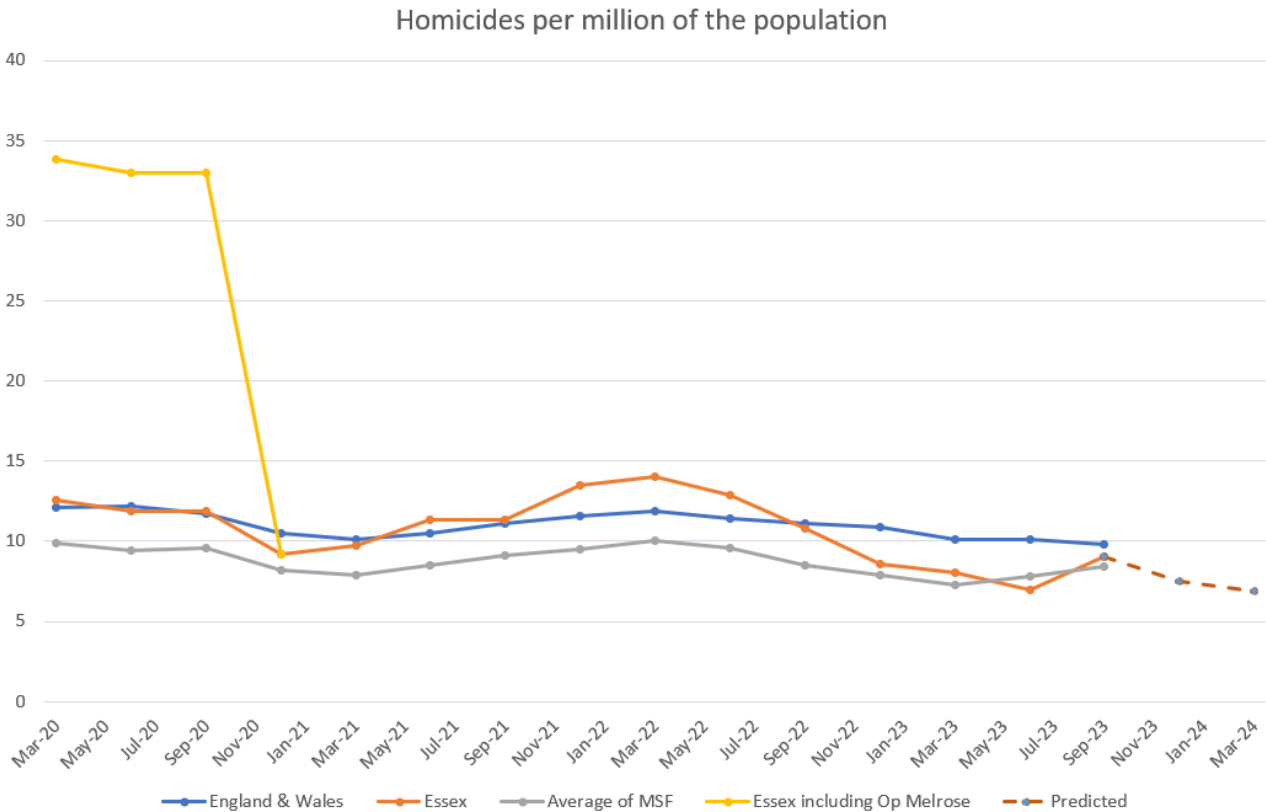
Op Sonata – Luke D’Wit was identified as a suspect for the poisoning of Stephen and Carol Baxter in their West Mersea home in April 2023. After a complex and prolonged investigation, D’Wit went to trial in March 2024 and was found guilty of Stephen and Carol’s murder. He was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum sentence of 37 years.

Long-Term Homicide Trends:

The long-term homicide trend is decreasing. In the five years of data presented, there are two or less homicides in 85% of the months (60% have one or less). In 15% of the months, there are three or more recorded. The two-year rolling trend (orange line) shows the peak in mid-2021 and a steady reduction since then – with a more dramatic decline since July 2023. The five-year rolling trend (grey line) shows a steady decline.



The graph below compares the 12 month rolling homicide rate with most similar forces and the national average, since March 2020, Essex follows the trend of the most similar force group (not including Op Melrose), but consistency sits above it. Since December 2023, the average has sat very close to or below the most similar force line. When compared to the national average, since October 2019, Essex has more closely followed this national rate but has dropped below this since October 2022. Predictions (using local rather than HO data) show the homicide rate will fall over the two quarters yet to be published.



Office National Statics published figures (most recent release Sept 2023)

Using local data, the number of homicides in the rolling 12 months (to March 2024) is 13. This equates to a fall to 6.9 homicides per million in March 2024. This rate would be well below the current national rate of 9.8. This is reflected above in the dotted ‘predicted’ line.

Disparity Data

The victim gender picture continues to change. The portion of male victims in 2021 was 70%. This increased to 75% in 2022 and decreased to 50% in the 12 months to January 2024. This coincides with a higher proportion of DA related homicide offences seen in 2023 with 36% (five offences) compared to 19% and 28% in the two previous calendar years. In the reporting quarter (January – March 2024) one homicide (of two recorded) was DA related.

As reported previously, work has been completed to compare victim ethnicity. Data between 2016 and the end of December 23 shows that:

- 82% of homicide victims in Essex were White (population in 2021 census - 88.8%)
- 8% of homicide victims in Essex were Black or Black British (population – 3.4%)
- 4% of homicide victims in Essex were Asian or Asian British (population – 4.2%)

However, volumes are very low, taking homicides recorded in 2023 (total 14) there have been no black victims; however, there is one Asian victim and one Middle Eastern victim – causing large percentage swings – as this would equate to a 7% of

homicide victims being from an Asian or Middle Eastern background. In the reporting quarter, (January – March 2024) both victims were White.

Primary Influencing Factors

In the last 12 months, there have been 13 recorded homicides. The primary influencing factors continue to move away from what is traditionally considered to be the factors.

Domestic Abuse x 6

However only two of these related to an adult male killing a female partner. One involved a son killing a mother, two involved an adult daughter killing both parents and one involved an adult brother killing his adult sister.

Acquaintance x 4

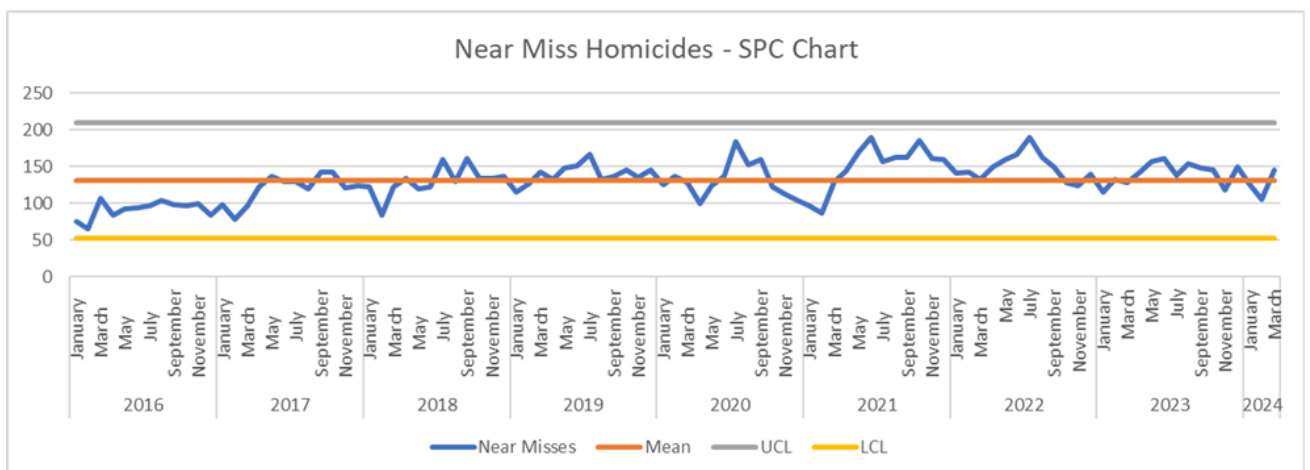
These homicides included a neighbour dispute ending in a death, the killing of a couple by a friend acquaintance and the killing of a male by an acquaintance known within the village after a dispute.

Stranger x 3

One homicide emanated from a road rage incident, one related to an aggravated burglary and one was from a spontaneous altercation.

Of note, there were no homicides recorded where mental health was a primary factor, and none recorded where drug driven violence was an influencing factor.

When considering ‘near miss’ offences (consisting of GBH with intent, GBH, and attempted GBH, the below graph highlights these offences since 2016. The occurrences increased steadily (dipping at the end of 2020 in conjunction with COVID). However since May 2021, the occurrences stabilised and then since September 2022 have fallen and are on a slight downward trajectory.



5.2 Home Office Homicide Data

As part of the Beating Crime Plan measures, Essex is closely reviewing its position against the Home Office outlier criteria.

The latest data shows Essex continues to not meet any of those criteria (which is the continued position since the last report) and are therefore not considered an outlier as they have been in previous periods due to the lower homicide rate in 2022, which has continued into 2023 and 2024.

5.3 Essex Police Homicide Prevention Approach

5.3.1 Homicide Prevention Strategy

The Essex Police Homicide Prevention Strategy 2022-26 remains in place and is used to underpin our homicide prevention approach.

The overarching aim of the strategy is to “*To reduce homicide in Essex by tackling serious violence and the contributing factors that lead to homicide*”. Key prevention activity is completed in conjunction with the strategy.

5.3.2 Homicide Prevention Rapid Debrief Process

The Homicide Prevention Rapid Debrief process is now well established.

There has been a total of 22 debriefs (three de-briefs since the last report).

In total 166 actions have been raised as part of the debrief process to date, of which 141 have been completed. Of the 25 outstanding, 13 are from three recent debriefs. The working group ensures traction and completion of these actions and meets 6-weekly.

5.3.3 Homicide Prevention Activity

Domestic Abuse

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 despite serving a custodial sentence for causing serious injuries to his victim, was still considered to pose significant risk to her. The 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.

This order was designed to protect the victim, by preventing any contact with the victim and preventing the perpetrator attending any licenced premises (his use of alcohol significantly increased the risk of his offending).

Within the first 3 months of the order, the perpetrator breached it, and received a 4-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.

In partnership with the Southend Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board and in line with the NPCC Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, the force continues to lead communications workstreams to prevent homicide in this context. The #Reflect campaign was established in 2022 in order to achieve this by a) encouraging prospective or existing abusers to change their behaviour by seeking help from the PFCC-funded Change Project and b) making it clear to the wider public that the communities of Essex will not tolerate violence of any kind against women and girls. Reporting of the outcomes of this campaign is overseen by the SETDAB Board. To date, there have been in excess of 700 requests for contact and 23 referrals directed to the Change Project.

There is an opportunity to develop this work further and to do more to prevent domestic homicide (and all domestic abuse or related coercive crimes) as part of the SETDAB services commissioning process which is in train in 2024/25, led by the PFCC's office. This would be significantly enhanced by the introduction of new, standardised reporting metrics for partners delivering current and future perpetrators' services. It would be of significant benefit to the public and to SETDAB partners if it were to become possible to fully evaluate the outcomes of the #Reflect campaign via; a) the implementation of relevant data sharing agreements which would allow the force and partners to cross-reference the details of those coming forward to change their criminal behaviour and b) more detailed reporting of the motivations, media sources and other factors which contribute to perpetrators of crime seeking to change their behaviour via engagement with commission services. A more detailed evidence base in this respect would allow the force and all partners the opportunity to target partnership campaign resources more accurately and deliver a better service to the public.

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 indicators chosen were based on 5 years of Essex Police data around DA Homicides and 'near miss' incidents, 3 years' worth of national Domestic Homicide data, alongside wider academic research. The system looks at around 30 different risk indicators, which include both those linked to the perpetrator and those within the specific relationship they are currently in.

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 2024.

Serious Violence

Essex Police continues to tackle the threat posed by County Lines and associated exploitation through the work delivered by the Serious Violence Unit (SVU). The SVU is made up of two elements that focus on County Lines and associated exploitation. The Op Raptor and Op Orochi teams investigate, pursue, disrupt, and dismantle County Lines that operate in Essex. The Prevent, Protect and Prepare Team (PPP Team) conduct work to safeguard, prevent and provide diversion opportunities for those involved in County Lines and associated exploitation. The team also delivers several measures designed to prevent crime and those that are vulnerable to exploitation.

SVU Performance Jan – Mar 2024	Total	Yearly Total Jan to Dec 23	Average Quarterly 2023	Average Quarterly 2022
Arrests	106	497	124	148
RIC - 72%	77	336	84	62
Searches	81	350	88	100
Weapons Seized	36	92	23	31
Cash Seized	£53k	£287k	£72k	£190
Vulnerable People Safeguarded	84	393	98	24

Performance data remains strong in the first quarter of 2024. This is impressive considering the continued reduction in funding from the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) at a national level, which has seen reductions for Essex. There will be further reductions in the 2024/2025 financial year. However, the SVU has been innovative and has seen financial support through the Home Office Grip fund, something not considered by other forces nationally. The SVU continues to focus on those lines and the associated offenders that cause the greatest harm. The SVU is managing the greatest number of MORiLE scored threats, and the highest scored threats across the force.

The introduction of the SVU Pursue board, chaired by the Detective Superintendent, ensures that all the lines investigated by SVU are scored and prioritised appropriately, ensuring that we target those that cause the greatest harm.

We remain convinced that this approach works based on the impact assessment referred to in the previous report. This is supported by the fact that we have not had a homicide linked to County Lines since 2021, an impressive statistic that few forces can boast.

Op Penelope – is a new joint agency innovative approach to tackle County Lines that are managed from within prison establishments. In March 2024, Essex Police alongside HMP Chelmsford, Probation, Eastern Region Specialist Operations Unit (ERSOU) and other specialist teams, conducted a weeklong operation to identify those that are running County Lines from prison, and targeting vulnerable people within our community. The operation was able to identify a number of suspects. This was an innovative approach that piloted in Essex that ERSOU will now look to replicate across the region.

Op Sandbag – demonstrated the importance of SVU to the wider force, and the commitment to target those that are not just running County Lines. This operation targeted an Organised Crime Group (OCG) in Essex, that had been operating for several years, but Essex Police had been unable to prosecute senior members. The OCG had been linked to numerous incidents of serious violence and had been suspected of committing several offences. The OCG used the County Lines methodology to commit some of their offending, so the SVU took over responsibility for identifying and prosecuting offenders. This was a successful operation which saw the charge and remand on two significant members of the OCG. They have pleaded guilty at court, and we await sentencing.

Op Pester is a national tactic designed to prevent the activity of County Lines. Historically this tactic was used to deter suspects from supplying controlled substances. The tactic would see a text message being sent to the phone number responsible for supplying controlled substances to prevent further offending. Nationally this tactic was largely unsuccessful.

SVU has developed this tactic to send messages to those that are buying controlled substances from County Lines, providing information of support agencies and treatment services, and links to their websites designed to prevent further offences being committed. From January to March 2024, SVU sent 1109 messages to vulnerable people offering support, this is hugely impressive considering the teams sent 1300 in the entirety of 2023.

Project Housebuilder is the national response to deaths caused by contaminated heroin, through substances such as Nitazene. To date there have been 134 deaths across the UK connected with heroin contamination. Essex has six recorded deaths linked to Nitazene, with the first being in August 2023, and the most recent being in March 2024. There have also been several near miss incidents during this time. SVU worked with Public Health and HM Coroner Service to introduce measures to identify and respond to such incidents, with a view of reducing the threat posed. To date the SVU has identified, arrested, and charged and remanded several offenders connected to the supply of the substances connected to these deaths. This has been supported by bespoke public messaging to raise awareness to vulnerable people. The SVU response has led the national approach and has been identified as national best practice.

Alcohol and Night-Time Economy (NTE)

Q4 (Jan-Mar 2024) has been another largely positive quarter for policing the Night-Time Economy. We continue to see strong work, particularly in the four Primary NTE locations of Southend, Colchester, Chelmsford and Clacton, driving down violence and increasing confidence within the NTE.

Op Grip has continued to support NTE policing through the provision of Safe Spaces in Colchester and Southend, and nights of action in Chelmsford. Such has been the success and positive feedback relating to the Southend Safe Space that this is now being funded every weekend until the end of the year. The nights of action in Chelmsford have been well supported by various partners, leading to increased welfare provision for users of the NTE, deployments of the Open Gate weapons detection system and the increased awareness and participation in initiatives like "Ask for Angela". Op Grip has also funded Op Themis in Southend, which is utilising both uniformed and plain clothed officers on the areas leading away from the NTE, to spot and assist vulnerable females, but also to detect anyone displaying predatory behaviours. A good example of this working was when plain clothed officers spotted a car driving up to and engaging multiple females on their own. The vehicle was stopped, and the occupant was a convicted sex offender. Although he had not committed any offences yet that evening, it is likely that this intervention prevented offences and led to valuable intelligence.

Chelmsford CPT continues to target drugs supply and repeat offending within the NTE. This has led to several drugs arrests and has successfully achieved several CBOs banning repeat offenders from key locations and restricting their ability to offend.

January to the end of February saw the continuation of our Home Office funded winter homicide initiative Op Gerberra. This saw a combination of plain clothed and uniformed Disruptive Effects Officers and non-Disruptive Effects Officers deployed to venues in Southend, Colchester and Clacton, to detect early signs of agitation or aggression and intervene before things escalated. During the deployment officers made 6 arrests, completed 63 stop searches and completed 402 intervention conversations. Arguably the most important statistic is that there were no homicides within the NTE during this period. There was also no reported violent crime within the targeted premises across the period.

Another encouraging example was when a stranger rape occurred, where the suspect met the victim in a licensed premises opposite one of our target premises. The victim was drunk and after befriending her, the suspect walked her home, where it is alleged that he raped her. Very little detail was known about the suspect, but a still image was obtained from the club CCTV, which was shared with officers deployed on Op Gerberra the following weekend. While positioned outside the target premises, one of the uniformed officers spotted what they believed to be the suspect, within the smoking area of the same premises. An approach was made, and questioning further raised suspicion, leading to the male being arrested on suspicion of rape. It is highly likely that this intervention not only led to significant progress on a rape allegation, it may well have also prevented a further sexual offence occurring that night.

In March we supported the first NPCC National Drink Spiking Intensification Week. This was supported by CPTs across the county, licensing officers, Op Grip, Media and various partners from across the CSPs and NTE areas. Monday to Thursday was used to promote awareness and education predominantly within Colleges and Universities across the county. The weekend saw more proactive visible policing with partners, engaging with members of the public and venues, educating them on prevention and how to respond to a possible drink spiking incident. We also gave out various prevention devices like Stop Tops, bottle toppers and hair scrunchie glass covers. During the week of action there was only one incident of drink spiking reported, which included two friends suspecting they had been spiked. While there was a delay in the reporting, the Op Lester Trigger plan was followed well, and urine samples were obtained and have been submitted for testing.

Op Bennison checks continue to be driven through the NTE Harm Reduction Group, with each district given 10 checks to complete each month. Historically, compliance with this has been poor, but we have seen a marked increase, particularly in the South LPA, where they are now consistently achieving above 80% compliance.

This activity has helped contribute to the continued downward trend of all crime within the NTE. Year on year, up to 1st April 2024, all NTE crime in Essex has reduced. This year we have had 1431 offences, compared to 1729 last year. This is 298 fewer offences and a reduction of 17%. For the quarter January 2024 to March 2024, all NTE crime fell from 372 to 206, a reduction of 166 offences and 44%. We would expect to see some reduction compared to the festive period anyway, but this is a significant drop.

One of the biggest contributors to harm within the night-time economy is violence with injury. This offence type has seen a 16% reduction year on year for the same period, falling from 609 offences, to 509. 100 fewer offences. In the last quarter we again saw a reduction of 8%, compared to the previous quarter. There were 98 violence with injury offences this quarter, compared to 107 in the one before. We have also seen good reductions in relation to sexual offences year on year, with these falling by 21%, from 70 offences to 58.

As well as the overall number of offences reducing, we are also seeing a reduction in the harm score which provides a proven analytical assessment. The combined harm score for the NTE in this quarter was 61,052, compared to 65,826 for the same period in 2023, equating to a 7% reduction. It is also a 13% reduction on the previous quarter, which saw a total harm score of 70,225.

Vulnerability - Mental Health

The Crime and Public Protection Mental Health Team has continued to assist in the delivery of Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) across Essex. Whilst broader than Mental Health, there continues to be a clear drive around improving service for those in crisis. This ensures those in the community receive the right care, from the right agency from the outset, and prevents individuals from feeling criminalised, as a consequence of MH.

The delivery of RCRP was set out in four phases:

- Concern for welfare – live from September 2023
- Section 135/136 and voluntary patients – live from November 2023.
- Absent without leave – live from January 2024
- Transportation of patient – live from January 2024.

The principles of RCRP were agreed at a national level, through a national partnership agreement (NPA). This was agreed by the following agencies:

- Department of health and social care
- NHS England
- Home Office
- National Police Chiefs Council

The implementation of the RCRP principles, allows Essex Police to better meet its core policing duties and importantly improves the service provided to those in need of medical and social care assistance. By following this framework, Essex Police can ensure they are responding to more calls around crime, in a quicker time period, improving public confidence, and outcomes.

In delivering these principles, Essex Police sets out to work in collaboration with partners, to ensure a thorough and well thought process was in place. This was carried out through:

- Partnership briefings.
- Strategic and tactical level governance.
- Changes to policy and procedure underpinned by legal guidance.
- Development of MOUs.
- A multi-agency risk register, identifying what the gaps, risks and mitigations in services were, to enable agencies to identify commissioning work.
- Partnership workshops.
- Force wide training.
- Both internal and external data tracking and governance.

Other results and ongoing work relating to MH include:

Response – With respect to concern for welfare incidents, the delivery of RCRP has seen:

- A 38% reduction in the volume calls received.
- A 42% reduction in incidents attended.
- This equates to 32 less deployments to concern for welfare calls a day.

This means officers have more time to focus on preventing serious violence and harm, whilst also ensuring those in need receive the right care, from the right agency from the outset.

With respect to detentions made under section 136 Mental Health Act. Essex Police has seen a 32% reduction in the volume of detentions in the last 12 months. This

means 227 less individuals were detained, and instead sign posted into other, less restrictive means, either by way of crisis café, MH urgent care department, or under the Mental Capacity Act. At present Essex has one of the lowest detention rates per head of population.

The average length of a section 136 detention remains 6hrs over this last period, with work ongoing with partners to reduce this further. Escalation is key within this and ensure there is senior oversight from an early stage. This allows for those detained to have the correct agency looking after their care, from an earlier stage.

Investigation – Over the last quarter, there has been a significant increase in those detained under section 136, as a consequence of a MH assessment, whilst in police custody for PACE matters. To date, 50% of those detained each month, are as a consequence of individuals being recommended section 2 MHA in custody, and a bed not being available. The current agreed process sees those individuals removed from police custody and placed under s136 as opposed to holding them illegally under PACE. An escalation process, similar to that of the community escalation agreement, is being developed through CJ command, and the MHT, to support with expediting these incidents, and to reduce the need for detaining under s136.

Prevention – The MHT were developed as a result of Op Beaumont, which was a homicide, involving an individual who had indicators of homicide and serious violence, where MH was a factor. As such the MHT were developed, to identify a cohort of individuals who fit within this category, and looked at a tactical multi-agency approach, to mitigate these risks. This requires proactive intelligence sharing with partners, to ensure the development and agreement of a tactical plan, under the terms of reference of the Mental Health Risk Management Board (MHRMB) subgroups.

Any agency can refer into this process, which targets individuals outside of the MAPPA process. Internally Essex developed a simple referral form, to allow officers and staff the easy access to refer into this mechanism. Between January and March 2024, the team received 124 referrals. Of these, 16 individuals were adopted into the cohort for further work. Others were referred on to other pathways, such as through Setsaf.

5.4 NPCC Homicide Prevention Framework

The NPCC prevention framework continues to be developed, and now has eleven areas of best practice (no additional new areas since last quarter). Essex Police continues to engage with this national framework. Our submission of the Mental Health Risk Management Board as an example of best practice has been accepted and awaiting publication.

The Homicide Prevention board includes a standing agenda item where nationally highlighted best practice can be reviewed by the key strategic leads to understand if this can be adopted into Essex.

6.0 Implications (Issues)

There are no implications or issues identified in this reporting period.

6.1 Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities

This work continues to contribute to the current police and crime plan in relation to tackling and preventing all kinds of violence resulting in homicide – including domestic abuse and drug driven violence.

6.2 Demand

This report does not link to the PA Consulting Demand Analysis Report.

6.3 Scrutiny and Governance

The strong Governance processes remain in place through the Homicide Prevention board and quarterly reporting, and has been bolstered with the Rapid Debrief working group. This is underpinned by the Homicide Prevention Strategy.

6.3 Risks/Mitigation

There are no new risks identified.

6.4 Equality and/or Human Rights Implications

There are no specific identified impacts on equality, diversity or human rights. Homicide analysis continues to monitor ethnicity and gender to ascertain any levels of disproportionality on homicide victims. The homicide prevention strategy works in conjunction with the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion strategy and will do so and be refreshed in line with the new Census data.

6.5 Health and Safety Implications

None.

7.0 Consultation and Engagement

D/Supt Gary Biddle – Serious Violence lead
D/Supt Matt Cornish – Domestic Abuse lead
C/Insp Paul Hogben – Night Time Economy lead
D/Supt Natalia Ross – Mental Health Lead
PSE Mike George – Analyst
PSE Mark Hall – Review Team

8.0 Actions for Improvement

In order to monitor and track the recommendations, best practice and future work that touches upon the area of homicide prevention, we continue with our use of the action tracker which contains areas of work from the following sources:

- National recommendations from the Vulnerability, knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP).
- HMICFRS recommendations to the Metropolitan Police following the murders committed by Stephen Port.
- National recommendations from the HMICFRS following report into preventing homicide.
- Best practice identified in the HMICFRS report into preventing homicide.
- Recommendations from Essex Police's homicide profile.
- Other recommendations or areas of best practice.

These will be tracked and monitored via the Homicide Prevention Board.

9.0 Future Work/Development and Expected Outcome

In line with the new strategy and national best practice, we continue to develop our preventative approach to the four key areas (Domestic Abuse, Mental Health, drug driven violence and serious violence).

Work is on-going with HM Coroner service to digitalise the form police currently complete when attending an unexpected death in the community. This digitalisation will help analysts to understand patterns in community deaths which will assist in prevention and homicide detection.