

## 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 May 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 (Q1)** - In the reporting quarter (April 2024 to June 2024), there were 4 recorded homicides. One was a fatal road collision in 2022 where CPS have recently authorised a manslaughter charge. Two offences relate to a single incident where two family members were killed and the suspect has been charged. The final offence is a domestic abuse matter where a female assaulted a male victim in November 2023, who then died in December 2023. Investigation has indicated a causal link and CPS have authorised a charge in June 2024.

Investigation of homicide remains strong and thorough, leading to successful convictions at court. Court results from Q1 (April – June 2024):

**Op Board** – In February 2023, sixteen-year-old Andy Woods was involved in an altercation with Elijah Clark (20 yrs old) in a wooded area in Chelmsford. This led to the death of Andy. In May 2023, Clark was found guilty of manslaughter and later sentenced to a term of 13 years imprisonment.

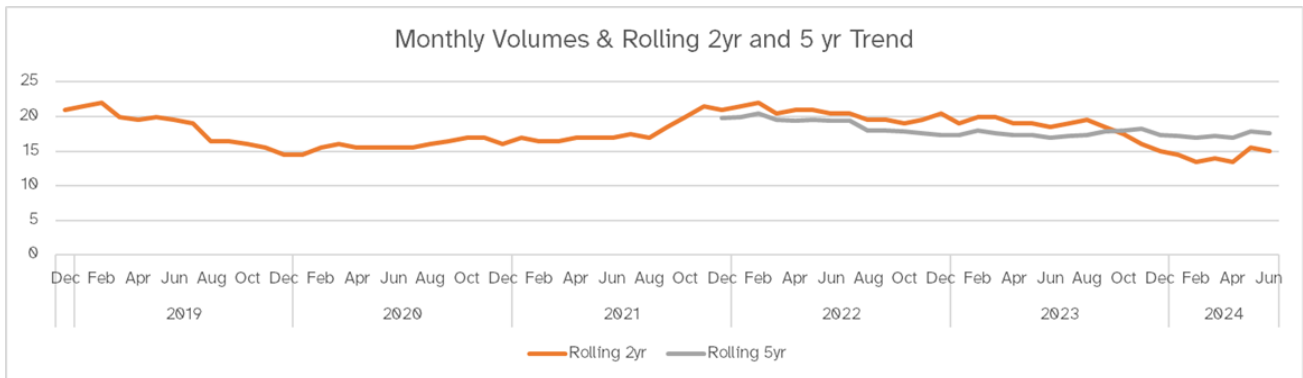
**Op Intern** – On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Kevin Shepherd killed his adult sister in the rear garden of the property they lived at together. In May 2024 he pleaded guilty to her murder and was later sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 13.5 years.

**Op Acton** – On 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023, in Joyners Field, Harlow, Tieran Carmody stabbed and killed Max Richardson after Max had approached Carmody due to him acting suspiciously. After a trial in May 2024, Carmody was found guilty of murder. He is still due to be sentenced.

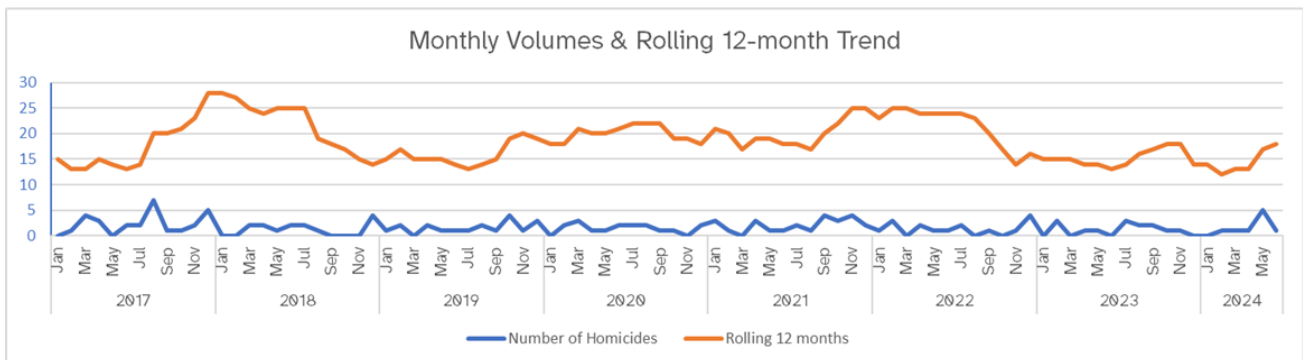
**Op Lucas** – In June 2020, Robert Powell was murdered in Royden, Essex by Nana Oppong. This was a complex investigation and trial, made more difficult by Oppong leaving the UK after the offence and resulting extradition. In May 2024, he was found guilty of the murder and then sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 38 years.

**Long-Term Homicide Trends:**

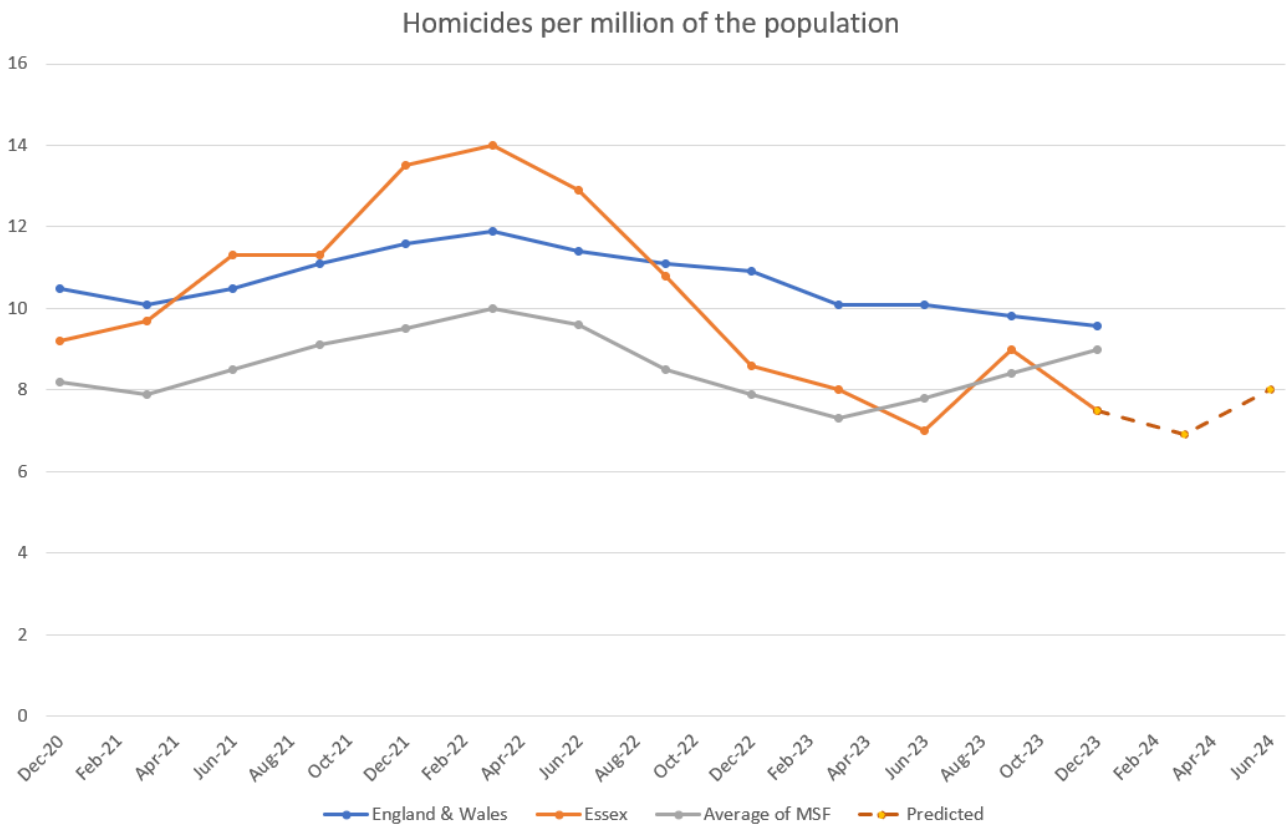
The long-term homicide trend is on a general decline, but with a recent upturn in the most recent quarter. The two-year rolling trend (orange line) shows the peak in mid-2021 and a steady reduction since then – with a more dramatic decline since July 2023. The five-year rolling trend (grey line) shows a downward trajectory.



The blue line below shows the number of homicides each month – with most months typically showing zero, one or two. The rolling 12 mth total has shown a decline until the most recent quarter.



The graph below compares the 12 month rolling homicide rate with most similar forces and the national average, since March 2020, Essex has followed the trend of the most similar force group, but consistency sits above it. Since December 2022, 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 continue to fall, but the rise over the two quarters yet to be published.



*Office National Statics published figures (most recent release Dec 2023)*

Using local data, the number of homicides in the rolling 12 months (to March 2024) is 15. This equates to a fall to 8.0 homicides per million in June 2024. This rate would be 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 54% in the 12 months to April 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. It is important to note homicide figures are low, so percentages can swing dramatically – which we continue to monitor. In the reporting quarter (April – June 2024) two homicides (of 6 recorded) were DA related.

As reported previously, work has been completed to compare victim ethnicity. Data between 2016 and the end of April 24 shows that:

- 86% of homicide Victims in Essex were White.
- 8% of homicide Victims in Essex were Black or Black British.
- 4% of homicide Victims in Essex were Asian or Asian British.

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.

### **Primary Influencing Factors**

In the last 12 months, there have been 15 recorded homicides. The primary influencing factors continue to move away from what is traditionally considered to be the factors.

#### Domestic Abuse x 7

Only one 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, one involved an adult male killing his step-sibling, one involved an adult female killing her male partner, 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.

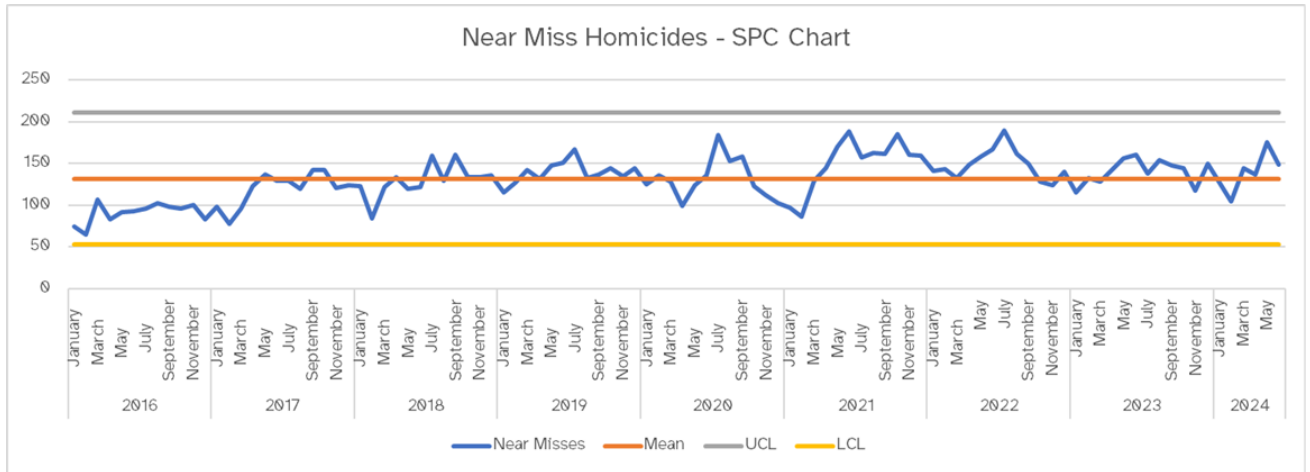
#### Stranger x 3

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

#### Other x1

This relates to a road death investigation.

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). Since May 2021, the occurrences stabilised and then since September 2022 have fallen and are now on an upward trajectory; however compared to previous years, there appears to be some seasonality in this increase.



**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 26 debriefs (four de-briefs since the last report).

In total 189 actions have been raised as part of the debrief process to date, of which 166 have been completed. Of the 23 outstanding, these are from the more recent debriefs. The working group ensures traction and completion of these actions and meets 6-weekly.

### 5.3.3 **Homicide Prevention Activity**

#### **Domestic Abuse**

##### **DA Threat to Life Cohort.**

The independent academic review into ILAS (BAE systems approach to DA cohort) has been completed, in summary the report recommends extending the pilot time to allow further operational testing and review. Due to commercial issues, it is not clear if this is possible.

IT and the analyst lead on the business case for ILAS, whilst this goes through due process, a refresh of 'iteration 2' of the cohort (formally known as Op Puffin) is underway by analysts.

If the decision is made not to move forward with ILAS a review of iteration 2 will be required, along with the processes used to identify the cohort, given it currently takes an analyst several weeks to pull together manually.

##### **Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS – Clare's Law)**

Following the significant overhaul of the DVDS response in Essex, a new performance matrix has been designed. This aligns with the anticipated requirements for national reporting coming online towards the end of 2024, which was designed by the NPCC DVDS working group, of which Essex is a member.

Data shows that between 01.01.24 – 30.06.24 Essex Police processed 954 DVDS applications. Home Office guidance states a disclosure must be made within 28 days, current data shows the average time to disclose in Essex is 17 days, and we delivered a disclosure within 28 days in 80% of cases.

A review of the 20% 'failures' show the vast majority are where the recipient doesn't engage, and therefore the disclosure cannot be made, despite best efforts to do so. Current processes do not allow these cases to be finalised, which impacts both the 'failure' rate and the average time taken to disclose.

The NPCC working group has been examining this issue to get a truer reflection on timelines and compliance with guidance and are working on a formal 'exit strategy' in these cases. In the meantime, Essex Police have taken best practice from other forces and designed a process whereby if a victim cannot be contacted (after 3 attempts) an Athena marker is placed on the victim with the pre-authorised disclosure attached. If police have contact with the victim within 3 months the pre-authorised DVDS will be given, if outside the 3 months it will trigger a review and a new disclosure will be prepared and authorised for delivery. Policy is being updated to reflect this change and it is anticipated to go-live from September 2024.

The below table shows a detailed breakdown of the DVDS application made in 2024 (between 01/01/24 – 30/06/24).

Applications	Disclosures given	Non-Disclosures	Still being progressed
Total: 954 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 712 Right to Ask</li> <li>• 242 Right to Know</li> </ul>	439 (58%)	317 (33%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 (0.5%): Criteria not met</li> <li>• 44 (4.6%): disclosure refused by recipient.</li> <li>• 210 (22%): no information to disclose</li> <li>• 58: (6%) Police decision not to disclose (relevance test)</li> </ul>	Total: 198 (20.7%). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 46 disclosures authorised and awaiting delivery by RVR or DAPST</li> <li>• 27 applications awaiting Sgt review and potential authorisation.</li> <li>• 125 applications with DART OIC for initial review and (potential) onward submission for Sgt authorisation.</li> </ul>

**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. Prevent, Protect and Prepare Team (PPP Team) conducts 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 Apr – Jun 2024	Total	Yearly Total Jan to Dec 23	Average Quarterly 2023	Average Quarterly 2022
Arrests	87	497	124	148
RIC - 75%	66	336	84	62
Searches	63	350	88	100
Weapons Seized	12	92	23	31
Cash Seized	£20k	£287k	£72k	£190
Vulnerable People Safeguarded	89	393	98	24

Performance data remains strong in the second quarter of 2024. The arrest figures are not to the level of 2022 and 2023, this is due to the continued reduction in funding from the from the National County Lines Coordination Centre (NCLCC) at a national level, which has seen significant reductions for Essex. To put this into perspective, in 2022 the Essex SVU received over £400k in funding, in 2024 we



have received £60K, this reduction is significant and means that the approach of the SVU has had to adapt, to ensure that it is focusing on those lines that cause the most harm. The SVU continues to explore other financial support, including the innovative approach of utilising the Home Office Grip funding, 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, and at the time of typing this report, the SVU has three of the top ten highest risks in the region. This demonstrates the risk associated to County Lines.

The SVU Pursue board, chaired by the Detective Superintendent, continues to ensure that all the lines investigated by the SVU are scored and prioritised appropriately, ensuring that we target those that cause the greatest harm, to support the reduction of serious violence.

This approach continues to be effective in reducing serious violence across Essex, supported by the fact that we have not seen any County Lines homicides in over two years.

Op Americano – is an investigation into County Lines in the Colchester area that were supplying contaminated heroin, which resulted in a number of deaths and near misses. The Op Raptor and Op Orochi teams worked tirelessly to identify the County Lines and the individuals that supplied the contaminated drugs, identifying four separate County Lines and a several suspects. The team worked hard over a few days to identify the four lines which resulted in the arrest of a number of suspects and the charge and remand of six of them. The actions of the team not only resulted in the arrests of suspects that were causing harm, but also prevented further deaths and harm from being caused. The drug liaison team and dedicated safeguarding officers within the SVU worked with public health partners, including local treatment services, and identified vulnerable people that needed support. The teams visited several vulnerable drugs users to ensure they were safe and had relevant information to protect themselves. Information was shared with public health partners to ensure the relevant provisions were available to local vulnerable people. This operation has been identified by the NPCC national drugs lead Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis, as national best practice. Chief Constable Dr Richard Lewis visited the Essex SVU on 1<sup>st</sup> July to understand the structure and response capability to such incidents, with a view of sharing nationally.

Project Housebuilder is the national response to deaths caused by contaminated heroin, through substances such as Nitazene. To date there have been over 200 deaths across the UK connected with heroin contamination. Essex has 16 recorded deaths linked to Nitazene, with the first being in August 2023, and the most recent being in May 2024. There have also been several near miss incidents during this time. The SVU has 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 that caused the deaths. Op Americano as detailed above was the latest response to an incident of this

nature. The Essex SVU continues to work with the NCA to develop national best practice.

Knife Crime and Violence Model (KCVM) is an exciting innovative piece of work that has been developed by the SVU and the Performance Analyst Unit (PAU), working in partnership with a local university. The KCVM is an algorithm that uses Essex Police data to identify those that have a high chance of committing serious violent offences in the future, including knife crime, allowing the SVU to engage with those individuals in an effort to divert them away from criminality and reduce serious violence including homicide. This is a multi-agency approach where a panel will make decisions around engagement and diversion opportunities, supported by a multi-agency engagement approach with the offender. This is in its infancy and is subject of an initial pilot on the Southend area and to a treatment and control evaluation process supported by the College of Policing.

### **Alcohol and Night-Time Economy (NTE)**

#### **Euros**

The biggest focus within the NTE in the last quarter has been preparing for and executing plans around the European Championship Finals. There has been a full command structure in place, specifically for the period covering the tournament under Operation Hubble. Ahead of time resourcing was planned to ensure increased uniformed presence within the night time economy across the force, on known and possible England match days. This included local Community Policing Team officers, as well as a contingency of specialist public order officers, available as a contingency to tackle any disorder. Each district completed a bespoke plan, to ensure they were working with local authority licensing, Essex Police licensing department and licensed premises, to be prepared for the increased numbers in venues that would be showing the football. The plans also included detailed patrol plans of potential hotspots, and key premises.

#### **Problem Solving**

One particular success story was in the Castle Point district. A public house erected a large screen in their garden, without planning permission. The noise generated was causing a lot of complaints from members of the public and councillors. Following a boxing event shown on the screen, there was a large incident of disorder, which was shared across local social media. The licensing officer for the district was very quick to act. He visited the venue with the council licensing officer and discussed measures that they should put in place, to avoid any repeat, while the legality around the screen was explored. This included additional security staff, plastic cups, consideration around booking tables and a dispersal plan. He then liaised directly with the brewery, explaining the issues the screen was causing. It was initially agreed that they would not show the football, and they have now removed the screen entirely. This was a great example of partnership problem solving to reduce violence within the NTE.

The NTE continues to see good support from the **Op Grip** team, particularly in the primary areas of Southend, Chelmsford and Colchester. We are seeing consistent patrols of the Op Grip zones that cover the NTE areas, with funding being made available for things like safe spaces and nights of action. This all helps contribute

towards the consistent reduction in violent crime that we have been seeing.

**Op Benison** licensing checks continue to be driven and monitored through the NTE Harm Reduction group. Each Community Policing Team is given 10 checks to do per month, with a target of 80% compliance. In the last three months as a whole, we have achieved an average of 81% compliance. As well as checking the legal requirements around licence conditions, the teams also discuss things like “Ask for Angela” and drink spiking prevention measures.

In the last year there has been a **reduction in all NTE crime** from 1725 to 1105. That is 620 fewer offences, and equates to a 36% reduction. For the last quarter, April to June, all crime fell from 422 to 265, a reduction of 157 offences and 37%.

One of the biggest contributors to harm within the NTE is violence with injury . In the last year this has reduced from 603 to 402. This is a reduction of 201 offences, and equates to a 33% reduction. This quarter we saw a reduction from 144 to 88. A reduction of 56 offences, or 39%.

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 for this year is 239130, compared to 339091 for the same period the previous year, equating to a 29% reduction.

### **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. broader than Mental Health, there continues to be a clear drive around improving service for those in Mental Ill Health (MIH) crisis. By taking this approach, it 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 set 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.
- An agreed multi-agency escalation process, at both an operational and strategic level.
- Through the development of a lessons learned tracker.
- 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 detentions made under section 136 Mental Health Act. Essex Police has seen a 27% reduction in the volume of detentions in the last rolling 12 months. This means 154 less individuals were detained, and instead sign posted into other, less restrictive/intrusive 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. It is worth noting, that Essex commenced work, to improve the volume of section 136 detentions, prior to RCRP went live. As such, when comparing data from January 2023, to present, there has been a 32% reduction overall. Previously Essex would detain on average 55 individuals a month, this has reduced to 36.

The average length of a section 136 detention remains 6hrs over this last period. The national partnership agreement sets out that detentions should be handed over within an hour, as such work remains ongoing with partners to reduce this further. Escalation and governance are key within this and ensures there is senior oversight from an early stage. This allows for those detained to have the correct agency with the right skill set, looking after their care from an earlier stage.

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.

Investigation – A significant piece of work has been put in place to manage the increasing volume of individuals being detained under section 136 within police custody for PACE during PACE matters. This high volume was due to a requirement of MH assessments being carried out, and recommendations made that an individual needed to be detained under section 2 of the MHA. Due to a lack of availability in

beds, this means detainees were placed under section 136 at the conclusion of their PACE period, to ensure they were detained under an appropriate legal framework. Previously those detained under section 136 made up around 50% of the overall s136 detentions within Essex, this has reduced to around 40%. Work has been ongoing between CJ command and the MHT, to develop an escalation process, which is now in place. This aims to work in the similar fashion to the community MH escalation process, allowing for early, senior level intervention.

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. Since this process began in April 2023, the team received 460 referrals. Of these, 80 individuals were adopted into the cohort for further work or professional meetings. Others were referred on to other pathways, such as through Setsaf.

This process is being recognised by the College of Policing's APP as best practice, and soon to be published within the practice bank.

#### **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**

Demand continues to be met ranging from the homicide investigation teams (MIT) and the various teams and support across the four key areas of serious violence, MH, DA and night-time economy.

## **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 Lucy Rongwood – 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 nearing completion 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. It is currently anticipated the changeover to this form will take place in September 2024.