

Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020

Quarterly Update

December 2018

Data to November 2018.



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Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020 – Quarterly Update December 2018

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Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

We will:

Boost community volunteering, encourage the Active Citizen Programme and grow the police family – doubling the Special Constabulary, with a Special Constable in every community.

- Essex Police have 120 Active Citizens/Police Support Volunteers from all sections of our communities; this is a decrease on the last period as some have retired or left Essex. A focussed recruitment campaign is planned for the New Year to progress our aspiration for at least 10 volunteers within each Community Safety Hub, and for representation in each Essex Police department. We will also be looking at ways to utilise Active Citizens to support the rural crime agenda.
- The Special Constable headcount increased from 410 at the end of November 2017 to 474 at the end of November 2018 (64 additional officers); a further 12 officers are scheduled to start in December 2018. In the last quarter there have been 267 applications to join the Special Constabulary; 73 candidates are currently in pre-employment checks. The #MyOtherLife campaign continues and we will see increased promotional activity in the New Year, traditionally a good period for attracting applications.
- In the three months to 30th November 2018, Specials have contributed a total of 44,885 hours, a 38% increase on the same period in 2017. The operational contribution over the last three months has amounted to 25,726 hours (a 23% increase). Specials have recorded 17,909 hours of high visibility policing over this time, a 74% increase over the same period last year. The hours worked by the Special Constabulary across this period was equivalent to having an additional 94 full time officers, who would attract an annual salary cost of £4.93m.
- There are now 14 companies in the Employer Supported Policing scheme. These companies provide their staff with paid time off to volunteer as Specials in Essex (12 more than 12 months ago). This has realised a total of 377 hours over the last three months, an increase of 947% from 36 hours in the same period last year. Recently signed-up employers include Southend-on-Sea and Basildon District Councils, British Airways, Lloyds Banking Group, KeyMed and WorldPay.
- 22 Parish or Town Councils signed up to Community Special Constables (CSCs) from across the county. Over the last three months we have received 12 applications for CSC roles, but Witham remains the only town council area with independent officers deployed; over the last three months they have contributed a total of 174 hours to local, visible and accessible policing in that area.

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Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

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Boost community volunteering, encourage the Active Citizen Programme and grow the police family – doubling the Special Constabulary, with a Special Constable in every community.

- Colchester 'Team 10' (a dedicated Town Centre team) was launched 1st December 2018. The team includes the growth of the Colchester Special Constabulary (Colchester Special Constabulary increased to 58).
- Special Constabulary numbers in Braintree and Uttlesford have risen to 40. There is also a plan to increase the number supporting Community Policing Teams (CPTs), especially in Uttlesford, where numbers are low.
- Tendring Specials have run two operations in and around Harwich port. These focus on the cargo and people coming into the UK through the port, and involves partners such as Special Branch, Ports Authority, Casualty Reduction and Trading Standards. Within the last 12 months Tendring has seen its Special cohort rise from 23 to 40.
- Southend have almost doubled the Special Constabulary from 12 to 23 this year.
- West LPA has recently appointed a Special Superintendent to coordinate the increasing size of the Special Constabulary ensuring they are visible in the community and deployed where they are needed most.

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Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

We will:

Make it easy to contact the police through 'Do It Online' and improvements to 101 ensuring that the public get a swift and responsive service from the police.

- The average time for a 101 call to be answered by the Crime Bureau is improving. The monthly average public call waiting time was previously over 18 minutes; this has now reduced to 16 minutes 16 seconds (as end Oct 2018). From 1st September to 20th November a total of 23,318 public calls were presented to the Crime Bureau; 28% of these callers (6,674) opted to make use of the Liberty system 'call back' facility and left a message for a return call. This removes the need for members of the public to sit in call waiting queues.
- A program of work involving the identification of high volume repeat callers has begun. The aim is to resolve the cause of the repeat calling, either through police action (prosecution) or a multi-agency response (for example when the caller is a user of mental health services). Work also continues to seek to channel shift public access to services by promoting our online services through the 'More time to fight Crime' campaigns in the media; as a result, the public choosing to access services on-line is increasing: in October 2018 the total Public contacts made to Crime Bureau totalled 11,125, of which 8,965 were Public 101 calls (80.58%) and 2,160 were Online reports (19.42%).
- Further innovative digital opportunities are being explored for feasibility. These include a digital hub in the control room (which offers advice to frontline officers), 'live chat' services to improve public access to services, and a plan to introduce Single Online Home (to replace the existing Home Office online reporting system).
- To provide greater focus on answering public 101 calls within the Crime Bureau there is a continued emphasis on police officers using their mobile devices to 'self-help'. Key areas of performance have all shown improvement. Crime Bureau average public call wait times are better than the same period last year. This is despite an increase in demand evidenced by the growth in the number of Athena investigations being recorded (now at approximately 16,000 per month).
- The project to deliver the new Resolution Centre at the Crime Bureau progresses well with a pilot planned to go-live in April 2019. This will see trained staff dealing with public concerns in their entirety within the Crime Bureau in order to offer a complete service for the public when they report low level crime matters and potentially reduce the current demand placed upon local policing teams.

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Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

We will:

Support increased participation in Neighbourhood Watch, Street Pastors, Active Citizens and Volunteer Police Cadets.

- Membership of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and other watch groups is approximately 100,000, with new groups such as Marine Watch (covering ports, harbours and marinas), and a refreshed Horse Watch under development for launch in early 2019.
- Essex Police has 320 Voluntary Police Cadets (VPCs) across 10 units; two more units will be in place by Spring 2019. A trial of Junior Cadets is planned for each Local Policing Area in early 2019. Recent activity has included the Annual Parade, and all 10 Cadet Units taking part in Remembrance Day services around the county. All Cadet Units continue to support the Make Time For Crime/ Darker Nights Crime Prevention Campaign.
- Colchester Volunteer Community Day was held on 3rd December. Active Citizens, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), Street Pastors, VPC and Community 360 volunteers attended to tackle locally identified issues and concerns in Colchester, and support increased participation (Social Action) within our Neighbourhoods.
- The VPCs in Braintree have new leadership: a Community Policing Team (CPT) officer from Braintree who has worked in the area for over a decade. This has invigorated the group and they have recently been seen in the area supporting Christmas Light 'switch ons' across Braintree and Witham.
- A new VPC group is developing in Uttlesford with leaders now identified and a venue located. This work is progressing and hopes to start in the New Year.
- Operation Hamlet took place on 26th September in Westcliff-On-Sea; over 20 different agencies took part in a public engagement event in Hamlet Court Road with Active Citizens. Operation High Street was also held on 14th November in Southend; over 30 different agencies took part, again with Active Citizens.
- In Thurrock, Active Citizens have been deployed to community reassurance events following significant incidents. VPCs helped at Remembrance Sunday events and days of action, and engagement with the NHW is part of the tasking process.

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Priority 2 – Crack Down on Anti-social Behaviour

Working with partners we will:

Target repeat and high harm anti-social behaviour to protect individuals and communities from distress and disruption.

- An Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Officer in West LPA has completed his BTEC level 5 qualification in Community Safety Management which ensures all staff are professionally trained to a high standard. ASB Officers continue to support the Make Time For Crime/ Darker Nights Crime Prevention Campaign by working within the Force Control Room during peak demand periods, providing expertise in dealing with ASB incidents, and diverting to other agencies or resolving them immediately.
- Recent activity has included a successful Criminal Behaviour Order for a long term ASB perpetrator and a multi-agency approach to rural ASB.
- In Colchester a joint-patrol protocol (Memorandum of Understanding) was completed at Goojerat Barracks on 12th October with the Royal Military Police (RMP), regarding location and perpetrator-focused partnership intervention.
- Operation Diss is a partnership initiative with Colchester Borough Council, and is the policing element in support of the Town Centre Action Plan to reduce ASB, primarily during the “day time economy”. Over this period officers have completed 717 hours of patrols, had 3,500 positive engagements with the community, conducted 490 “stop & accounts” along with 15 “stop & searches”; 11 resulted in a positive outcome. Officers made 16 arrests during these patrols and submitted 60 intelligence reports.
- Operation Interact has just begun in Braintree. This initiative was in response to reports of the homeless creating ASB, and seeks to identify and support the homeless in Braintree in partnership with the local Homeless Officer.
- Tendring are working with Colchester Football Club to engage with young people in schools. Community Policing Team (CPT) are also arranging a gaming event in Clacton town to meet with young people. There will be the opportunity to discuss gang culture, weapons and drugs and also looking to target ASB.
- The Southend High Street Action Plan is now in place and delivered through a bespoke Task & Finish Group set up to deal with ASB in the High Street.
- Basildon CPT worked alongside key partners and private landowners to disrupt and prevent vehicle-related ASB in Pitsea. This has resulted in a reduction in reported anti social behaviour.

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Priority 3 – Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Abuse (DA)

Working with and through the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board to deliver an ambitious programme of transformation we will:

Support victims and their families affected by domestic abuse to feel safe, cope and recover through targeted help and jointly commissioned services; and tackle offending behaviour through robust behaviour change programmes to break the cycle of domestic abuse.

- Crime & Public Protection (C&PP) Command have commenced work on the national rollout of the Cross Criminal Justice System (CJS) Domestic Abuse (DA) Best Practice Framework. By doing so, they have completed partnership working to develop the DA Best Practice Implementation Plan. This will transform the Criminal Justice response to DA and enhance the level of support available to victims and their families.
- C&PP Command have completed a Stalking and Harassment Protocol Implementation Plan. This looks at the appropriate handling of offences following recommendations from the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC). The purpose of this protocol is to achieve improved and consistent performance in the identification, investigation and prosecution of offences, ensure a robust and appropriate Criminal Justice response, establish early and effective liaison between the Police and CPS, improve the service to victims, increase public confidence, and reflect the College of Policing's Authorised Professional Practice and CPS Policy.
- Local Policing Areas (LPAs) are actively recruiting officers for the new Operation Juno Proactive Team that will target outstanding Domestic Abuse suspects. This team will have the potential to proactively target high risk perpetrators, along with the High Harms team.
- North LPA continue to support Operation Drive, a partner-led initiative that looks to work with domestic abuse perpetrators, diverting them from their offending behaviour. The programme now engages with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) to take on perpetrators that pose the greatest risk. The operation is now working with over 90 perpetrators. The future of the operation will be reviewed in January 2019 when the initial funding phase comes to an end.
- Operation Encompass is a first responder and referral process to identify children of school age who are directly or indirectly affected by DA in South LPA. This involves police referral to a designated teacher within the child's school in order to monitor the child's behaviour.
- Working in partnership with Essex County Council, West LPA have agreed a pilot which will see a carefully designed information pack given to parties at all non-crime / verbal only domestic incidents, to signpost to support services and prevent an escalation within the relationship. The pilot begins in Harlow imminently.

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Priority 4 – Reverse the Trend in Serious Violence

Working with partners we will:

Bring violent offenders to justice through targeted police enforcement, working closely with neighbouring forces such as the Metropolitan Police.

- Operation Euston is a murder investigation which has been assisted by a close liaison with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Gangs Units and Manhunt Team in relation to the search for a named nominal, who was later arrested and charged.
- As a result of two incidents of violence in Braintree Town Centre, knife crime offenders (who are also linked to gangs/drugs) were arrested, charged and remanded. Tasking has been submitted for funds to support high visibility patrols in Braintree Town Centre to prevent further incidents.
- Tendring District Policing Area (DPA) has seen a 10% reduction of violence with injury offences, year to date. It is one of only three DPAs in the force to have seen a reduction, and shows the greatest reduction by a factor of three. It is believed increased use of Stop and Search by Local Policing Team and Community Policing Team officers (along with targeted licensing checks) has contributed to this positive decline in offending.
- The Violence & Vulnerability Group has now been set up as part of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) restructure, which brings all strategic boards together to look at violence and vulnerability in Southend. This will provide better strategic coordination to support tactical activity.
- An initiative within custody whereby intervention workers approach adult offenders arrested for signal crimes such as knife, drugs, gang related crime is being considered within South LPA, following a visit to Brixton.

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Priority 4 – Reverse the Trend in Serious Violence

Working with partners we will:

Ensure victims of rape and sexual violence receive the help and support they need, and work with criminal justice partners to ensure that perpetrators are convicted.

- The C&PP Proactive Team are currently deployed across the Management of Sex Offenders and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) teams in Essex. This move was taken to create an intelligence-led management team to monitor the intelligence and offending of a cohort of low risk sex offenders. All remaining proactive staff are currently deployed to MOSOVO teams and are reducing the number of outstanding visits for all remaining Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs). In August 2017, outstanding visits sat at 606 for all Very High, High, Medium and Low RSOs. This figure is now 71. There are plans in place to assess the effectiveness of Operation Union and determine whether the addition proactive resources remain long term with MOSOVO.
- A meeting has taken place for the peer review of cases between Detective Chief Inspectors (DCIs) and Detective Inspector (DIs) from Kent Police and Essex Police to find a way to work together more efficiently. Both forces are to review two rapes that resulted in no further action, and two successful charge/convicted rapes, from each force in order to identify learning opportunities and best practise.
- Operation Juno are working with Southend Essex Thurrock (SET) to look at perpetrator programmes. Operation Oakleaf will engage with offenders and provide signposting to the Change Project and Respect, who offer perpetrator engagement programmes. These are also signposted when people are in custody .

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Priority 5 – Tackle Gangs and Organised Crime

Working with partners we will:

Disrupt and prevent organised drug distribution through improved intelligence shared between the police, partners and local communities to limit the harm drugs cause.

- Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate (SCD) have worked with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and HM Prisons to disrupt county lines and gangs, in particular in support of the National Crime Agency's (NCA) county lines intensification week in early October. The objectives were to create a hostile environment to county line organisers by proactively targeting line holders. The approach taken was to build criminal conspiracies against line organisers and their networks; previous countywide operations had focused on supply routes, but this had proved to have a limited long-term impact. As a result of the operation, four county lines assessed as causing significant harm to Essex were targeted, nine arrests were made, a large amount of drugs and cash were seized, five vulnerable people were identified and safeguarded, six cuckoo addresses were identified, and a number of additional county lines were detected.
- A Confiscation Order to the sum of £92,886 was made in October. This was in relation to a male who had been sentenced to three years imprisonment after being found guilty of possession of cannabis with intent to supply, and three counts of possession of criminal property.
- Engagement activity relating to the Colchester District Crime & Harm Reduction Plan 2018/19 has involved the disruption and identification of offenders linked to the exploitation of young people. This has been conducted in partnership with multiple departments within Essex Police and Social Services, and has led to proactive awareness and education within identified premises (such as hotels, nightclubs and taxi ranks).
- As a result of two incidents of violence in Braintree Town Centre, knife crime offenders (also linked to gangs/drugs) were arrested, charged and remanded as a result of a planned operation. Tasking has been submitted for funds to support high visibility patrols in Braintree Town Centre to prevent further incidents.
- Operation Albatross is Tendring's umbrella operation for engagement and diversion tactics, such as football matches, video gaming events and work in schools with Colchester United Football Club. This programme targets children vulnerable to exploitation from criminal gangs.
- The biggest ever Tendring Missing and Children Exploited (MACE) event has been convened to address ongoing concerns with a group of vulnerable young people who are involved in gang criminality in and around Clacton town centre. Previous efforts, including Operation Spider, have seen significant reductions in recorded ASB, theft and other crimes, but this is ongoing work.

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- Southend United Community Education Trust (SUCET) successfully bid (with the support of Essex Police) for intervention within secondary schools to outline the dangers of knife, gang and drug-related crime. Anti-knife crime workshops are being set up, and ex gang members will also deliver presentations to outline the violent reality and de-glamorise the gang image.
- Castle Point and Rochford have formed a new proactive team in response to a rise in drugs and violent crime (Operation Falcon). This has resulted in the arrest of 16 offenders since September, and the seizure of large quantities of class A drugs, as well as cash and weapons.
- Basildon Operation Raptor team recently utilised new legislation, and obtained Essex Police's first Drug Dealing Telecommunication Restriction Order. This forces the service provider of a phone number used in drug supply to turn off the phone number and the phone. This caused significant disruption to a well known county line.
- West LPA secured a gang injunction against nine members of the C17 gang in Thurrock; C17 had plagued Grays town centre, town park and beach, as well as Lakeside, by dealing drugs and committing crime and disorder. They are now subject to strict measures to prevent offending and disrupt the criminal activity of the gang.
- Operation Rose was one of Essex Police's biggest ever drugs raids and took place in Epping in November. The successful operation resulted in 22 arrests and £120,000 of cash seized, disrupting a significant drugs line.

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Priority 5 – Tackle Gangs and Organised Crime

Working with partners we will:

Support victims of human trafficking and modern slavery including sexual exploitation working closely with UK Border Agency (UKBA), National Crime Agency (NCA) and national and regional partners to bring perpetrators to justice

- 197 modern slavery and human trafficking crimes have been recorded since the beginning of the financial year. 155 victims were safeguarded by being referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Identification and safeguarding of victims continues to be the priority.
- Operation Aidant is a National Crime Agency (NCA) led operation, which is designed to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking deployments. A number of warrants were executed to identify brothels for enforcement and safeguarding. Seven people were arrested and £18,000 seized, along with over 20 stolen vehicles or parts being recovered. Additional safeguarding was implemented, and people at an address were referred to Social Care; the premises was also referred to the Council as it was unsuitable for multiple occupancy.
- Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate (SCD), a collaborated department, are implementing FUSION NG a 'live-time' single pane of glass mapping and intelligence tool that will be used to more effectively manage Missing Persons and Manhunts. The system brings together communications, travel (ANPR etc.) and lifestyle data, as well as the ability to create a 'pattern of life' for a person. The system is due to go-live in Essex, initially as a proof of concept in Thurrock district.

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Priority 6 – Protecting Children and Vulnerable People

Working with safeguarding partners and the Southend, Thurrock and Essex Safeguarding Boards we will:

Bring more perpetrators of rape and sexual abuse to justice.

- The Public Protection Investigation Unit in the West of Essex are creating and delivering training in relation to Police Protection Orders in a series of workshops to be delivered to frontline police Inspectors and acting Inspectors during November. These are being run at geographical locations to enable the maximum amount of staff to attend. It is hoped this will achieve a better understanding of the power the designated officer holds and the needs of Social Care.
- Operation Goldcrest is an anonymous pathway for abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) victims to enable safeguarding and target hardening of offenders. The first multi-agency meeting took place in October and was unanimously accepted by all key stakeholders. Logistics are now being looked at in areas such as the NHS. The papers for Operation Goldcrest are being presented at the full Thurrock Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) for agreement that the pilot site will be Thurrock.
- Missing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) changes were agreed at the Southend Essex Thurrock (SET) policy board and are due to be written into the SET rewrite in 2019. Relaunch of the MOU is being considered by all three authorities; this will place a positive duty on children's homes/foster carers to take active steps to locate any children that are missing and plan more carefully for anticipated missing episodes. This leads into the work with the Children's Safeguarding lead for Thurrock with regards the identification of indicators of criminal and sexual exploitation among children.

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Priority 6 – Protecting Children and Vulnerable People

Working with safeguarding partners and the Southend, Thurrock and Essex Safeguarding Boards we will:

Improve reporting of hate incidents through improved community engagement and greater use of Hate Incident Reporting Centres.

- Essex Police have run a campaign in conjunction partners and Hate Incident Reporting Centres (HIRCs) during National Hate crime Awareness Week (NHCAW) 13th -20th October. This campaign consisted of 15 events that were staged throughout the county, combining awareness sessions for schools, council workers and NHS staff along with several stands around the county to allow engagement with the public. The Force worked with partners such as Victim Support to ensure key messages were consistently delivered across all locations.
- A hate crime strategy for Essex has now been published. This strategy will run from 2018-2021 and includes an accompanying action plan. One of the key strategic themes is increasing the reporting of hate crime. HIRCs are contributing to the delivery of the action plan through community engagement activities and self promotion. This has resulted in an additional 136 reports of hate crime in 2018 which otherwise might not have come to the notice of Essex Police.
- Colchester currently has four HIRCs, where free training is being offered for Hate Crime Ambassadors. This caters for organisations that want staff to be trained or that want to host a HIRC, as well as community members with an interest in tackling hate crime. Colchester Community Policing Team currently has two Hate Crime Ambassadors and the team has primacy for investigating all Hate Crimes reported in Colchester. Proactive intervention is yielding positive results and increasing confidence of reporting and in the police response. The Independent Advisory Group (IAG) is the forum where regular community engagements are measured and feedback actively sought around any community tensions; it is also the forum in which hard to reach groups are identified.
- Braintree and Uttlesford have a good Hate Crime Solved Rate 2017-2018. Braintree has a solved rate of 18% (an increase of 4% on the year before), and experienced a 39% increase in reporting. Uttlesford has a solved rate of 23% (an increase of 8% on year before), and experienced a 33% increase in reporting.

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Priority 7 – Improve Safety on our Roads

Working with Safer Essex Roads Partnership we will:

Reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on our roads through the work of the multi-agency Safer Essex Roads Partnership on enforcement, engagement and education.

- In the last quarter there was slight increase in the number of KSI casualties: 14 fatal / 222 serious casualties in 2018/19 v. six fatal / 228 serious casualties in 2017/18. The increase is reflected within a rise in the number of road traffic collisions (RTCs) where there has been a loss of life. This quarter has also witnessed a number of incidents involving unlawful killings where the investigations have been complex in nature.
- During September the Safer Essex Roads Partnership launched “Street Spirit”, which focuses upon engagement with young riders of motor cycles. The campaign has a dedicated social media strategy and is designed to improve knowledge upon safer riding and safety equipment, including clothing, with participants encouraged to take part with online activity. To actively encourage participation, a free motorcycle is on offer to a lucky person who completes the knowledge check and commits to the project. The campaign is being led by Essex Fire and Rescue Service on behalf of the Safer Essex Roads Partnership. www.street-spirit.co.uk
- Analysis of 231 drivers arrested for Drug Driving highlighted that 58% had been previously arrested on one or more occasion, of which 48% had been arrested for offences linked to serious crime; the biggest group had links to offences for violence. The last quarter continues to highlight a rise in the number of drivers arrested for Driving whilst under the influence of drugs (s.5A Road Traffic Act 1988) (cannabis / cocaine), 295 in 2018/19 v. 201 in 2017/18. Drug Driving has also been a predominant factor within many of the fatal RTC investigations during the last quarter.
- Brake Road Safety week took place from 19th November. The Safer Essex Roads Partnership covered a total of 54 activities which supported the Brake Road Safety week; this involved enforcement, education and engagement activity, including Roadster (age 15-17), Year 5 Bike ability courses, Reality Road shows (Year 6), and multi-agency enforcement days that were supported by Community Speed Watch volunteers.
- During the last quarter the following routes have experienced an increase in casualties: M25, B1022 (Colchester – Maldon), B1007 (Stock – Billericay), & A134 (Colchester). This is based upon the previous five years’ of data and will attract additional focus through enforcement over the next period.