



Essex Police Authority

Report of meeting held on 11 June 2012

(For information)

1. Chief Constable's Report

A full copy of the Chief Constable's Quarterly Report for the period 1st January to 31st March 2012 is contained in our meeting's agenda and further copies are available on our website at www.essex.police.uk/authority

Notable Activities

Reform Programme

The new operational policing model, known as Blueprint - part of Essex Police's plan to save £42m per annum by 2014/15 – was implemented on 1st March 2012. Officers and police staff are now working in the new Neighbourhood Policing, Investigations, Operational Policing, Public Protection and Criminal Justice Commands.

The Essex Police Business Centre, also part of the force's savings plans, went live on Monday, 2nd April 2012. The new Centre, based at Great Dunmow police station, provides administrative, secretarial, financial, HR, property and facilities services to the whole force.

Metal Theft Days of Action

Between 12th and 15th March, Essex Police worked with partners on Days of Action, driven and supported by Neighbourhood Policing Command, targeting those moving metal and checking on scrap metal dealers to ensure they were complying with legislation.

Over 150 vehicles were stopped and three people were arrested – one for an outstanding warrant and two for metal theft.

Alcohol Misuse

During the last quarter, Essex Police agreed to pilot a new initiative designed to raise young peoples' awareness of the consequences of alcohol misuse.

'Trashed' is an hour-long play performed by the Forum Theatre. Aimed at school pupils in Year 9, it combines film with live theatre and encourages young people to reflect on their own drinking habits.

Ten schools, nominated by Schools Officers, confirmed their wish to participate in the pilot. The play was delivered in the two weeks after the Easter holidays – from 16th to 27th April. Outcomes will be collated during May and published.

Actions to Reduce Casualties

Operation Sheltered Path

This operation ran over four days and four nights during March in the Tilbury, Loughton, Waltham Abbey, Brentwood and Southend areas using officers from Response and Patrol.

The daytime operations involved road checks and concentrated on a single site, night operations focused on two sites. 448 fixed penalty tickets/warnings/report for summons for seat belt and mobile phone offences were issued. There were 12 arrests for offences such as drink driving, 31 vehicles were seized for no insurance and no licence and 9 street warnings or custody cautions were issued for possession of cannabis.

Operation NASH

Operation NASH is part of the new Surround a Town initiative funded by Essex Highways and promotes the No Excuse road safety campaign (run by the Essex Casualty Reduction Board). This multi-agency operation focuses upon main arterial routes leading into identified towns and makes maximum use of partnership working both for enforcement and to educate road users on a range of safety issues.

Six operations have been conducted during the last quarter in Chelmsford, Basildon, Clacton, Colchester, Braintree and Harlow.

Using a combination of ANPR vans, marked and unmarked patrols, spotters (officers situated ahead of the checkpoint) and other methods, a high number of vehicles were stopped as a result of ANPR activations and for a range of moving traffic offences.

Operation results:

- Over 2000 vehicle interactions
- 1,012 fixed penalty tickets/warnings/reports for summons
- 13 arrests for a range of criminal and driving offences
- 29 vehicles seized for no insurance, no licence, or both
- 6 vehicles received a mechanical prohibition due to defects such as tyres, exhausts, brakes or general condition

Fatal and Serious Road Traffic Casualties

Between 1st January 2012 and 31st March 2012, 10 people were killed and 152 seriously injured on the roads. This compares to 14 people killed and 151 seriously injured over the same period in 2011.

In the twelve months to the end of March, 34 people have been killed and 706 seriously injured. Compared to the same period in 2010/11, when 54 people were killed and 746 seriously injured, this represents a reduction of 37.1% in fatalities and a 5.4% reduction in serious injuries.

Notable Court Results

On 30th January two men from North London were imprisoned for firearms-related offences after shots were fired at a house in Waltham Abbey, Essex in February 2011. Jordan Epee-Homb, 26, and Nimbo Ngoma, 25, both admitted being in possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life. Epee-Homb was jailed for four-and-a-half years and Ngoma for 18 months.

On 31st January Douglas Binet was found guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court of the murder of Anthony Whitefield whose severed arms were found in a lake in Buckhurst Hill in March last year. Mr Whitefield's torso and legs were found in Binet's garden. On 2nd February Binet was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 20 years.

On 13th January a jury at Chelmsford Crown Court returned a guilty verdict on Darren Jewell for the murder of Anthony Prickett in St. Osyth in May 2011. Mr Prickett, a 42-year-old roofer, was shot twice by Jewell as he picked him up for work. Jewell, 36, was given a sentence of life imprisonment and must serve a minimum term of 30 years.

On 5th March, five people were jailed for a total of more than 12 years as part of an investigation into highly-organised crimes in which cars worth a total of around £1 million were stolen during burglaries at homes across Essex. The group – Simon Boyle, Bernie Reilly, Vladimir Bajus and Tracey Kelvey – targeted more than 40 homes between May and September 2012.

Essex/Kent Collaboration

At the end of 2012 Essex will be the first force to implement Athena – a new 'one stop' IT system that will help forces identify criminals and cut crime.

There will be a phased roll-out with Kent adopting the system in March 2013, Suffolk and Norfolk in April 2013 and Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire in September 2013.

Essex and Kent are operating collaboratively in the Serious Crime Directorate, in Major Crime, Intelligence, Serious and Organised Crime, Covert Support, Dedicated Source Units and Forensics.

The Serious Crime Directorate has recorded significant performance achievements above and beyond their targets for 2011/12 in terms of disrupting Organised Criminal Groups, confiscating money from criminals and charging persons with supplying Class A drugs.

*Cllr Anthony Jackson
Chairman of the Authority and the person
appointed by the Police Authority to answer questions at
meetings of the County Council relating to the discharge
of the Authority's functions.*

Note:

The Essex Police Authority is an independent governing body whose job it is to support, oversee and constructively challenge the work of Essex Police. It is our responsibility to set strategy, provide funds for policing and oversee performance. We act as a link between the public and the police service, ensuring that anyone who may visit, live or work in Essex receives an efficient and effective police service.

We are a group of 17 local people who hold the police to account, making sure the chief constable delivers a police service which balances both national strategic priorities and the concerns of local people. We appoint the chief constable and other senior officers and check on complaints against the police.

We set the strategic direction of local policing and hold the police budget. We consult with local communities to find out what they want from local policing and set the police council tax to ensure they obtain value for money. We publish an annual plan based on public consultation, setting out services the force should deliver and targets it should achieve.