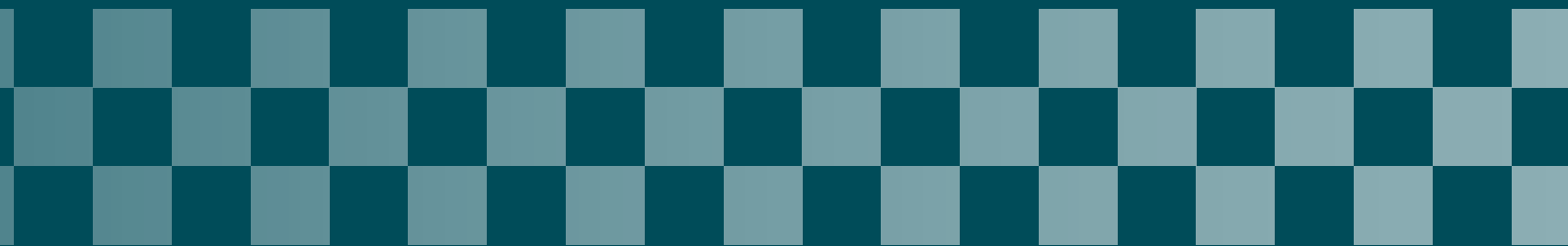




ANNUAL REPORT

2015/16



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FOREWORD

This Annual Report sets out the progress that has been made in the year ended 31 March 2016 in meeting the priorities in the Essex Police and Crime Plan for 2013 to 2016. Nick Alston held office as the Police and Crime for Essex during this period.

On the 5 May 2016 the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner, Roger Hirst, took office. On the 22 November 2016 a new Essex Police and Crime Plan was launched that will cover the period 2016 to 2020. A summary of the plan is as follows:

Vision: Safe and Secure communities are the bedrock on which we build success and well-being for all.

Strategic Objectives:

- Prevention
- Communication and engagement
- Volunteering

Priorities:

1. More local, visible and accessible policing
2. Crack down on anti-social behaviour
3. Breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
4. Reverse the trend in serious violence
5. Tackle gangs and organised crime
6. Protect children and young people from harm
7. Improve safety on our roads

Outcomes:

- Communities have more confidence in Essex Police
- Anti-social behaviour is being effectively tackled by police and partners
- Domestic abuse victims are and feel safer, and perpetrators are brought to justice
- Multi-agency programmes of prevention and enforcement lead to reductions in serious violence / Numbers of people killed and seriously injured by serious violence is halved across Essex
- Gangs and organised crime are disrupted and the exploitation of vulnerable people is prevented.
- Children and vulnerable people are kept safe from harm.
- Harm on Essex roads is reduced and safe driving is promoted.

For a copy of the Essex Police and Crime Plan please visit: www.essex.pcc.police.uk/priorities-for-essex/police-and-crime-plan/



FORCE OVERVIEW DATA



56

new police officers recruited during 2015/16.



108

fewer officers than in 2014/15 reducing from 3,062 to 2,890.

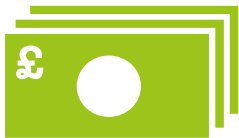


30% of crimes of Violence with injury were solved; a 8.3% decrease compared with 2014/15.



21%

of all crimes solved in Essex: a 5.9% decrease compared with 2014/15.



£2.8m cash recovered from criminals under POCA in Essex an increase of nearly 110% compared with 2014/15.



£12.2m

savings were achieved during 2015/16.



76%

999 calls attended within response times: a decrease of 5.9%.



73.8%

of the public are satisfied with the overall service we provide.



43

less Special Constables than in 2014/15 which shows a decrease of 10%.



114

new Special Constables recruited during 2015/16.



959,144

public calls received during 2015/16.



1,585

calls received each day (on average) to the Essex Police control room.

PCC RESPONSIBILITIES

The PCC has fulfilled his statutory duties in accordance with The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (2011) and the Police Act (1996) as amended. All of these responsibilities have the over-arching responsibility of reducing crime and disorder in Essex.

The responsibilities are:

To secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police force for the area

The PCC must hold the Chief Constable to account for the exercise of the Chief Constable's functions and those under his direction and control

To exercise powers in relation to bringing together community safety and criminal justice partners, to co-operate with PCCs and formulate and implement crime reduction strategies across the county

Issue a Police and Crime Plan

The PCC must hold the police fund and other grants from central or local government. PCCs must set the council tax policing precept for the county

The PCC must obtain the views of local people and victims of crime before the Police and Crime Plan is issued

The PCC may appoint, suspend or remove the Chief Constable and must be consulted by the Chief Constable on the appointment of Deputy and Assistant Chief Constables.

The PCC **has direct responsibility for complaints** against the Chief Constable, and indirect oversight of how the Chief Constable deals with force complaints.

The PCC has a general power of competence (e.g. may do anything calculated to facilitate his/her own functions), may enter into contracts, and collaboration agreements, and **must have regard to the views of local people** and the Police and Crime Panel in exercising his/her functions.



HOLDING THE CHIEF CONSTABLE TO ACCOUNT

Since 2012, the Police and Crime Commissioner has developed a robust performance and scrutiny programme.

Topics covered over 2015/16 include:

- Domestic Abuse
- Stop and Search
- Police Officer and staff Sickness levels
- Youth offending and all types of re-offending
- Improving road safety
- Responding to the public and FCR call handling
- Use of force
- Specials and PCSOs
- Child protection
- 'Honour' based violence
- Rape and Sexual Violence
- Victims of crime
- Trafficking and modern slavery
- Hate Crime
- Drugs
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Fraud and Cyber Crime
- IT
- Procurement
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Capital Programme
- Revenue Monitoring, and Estates

The PCC ensured that all areas of Essex Police performance in delivering the Police and Crime Plan have been scrutinised and appropriately challenged and held regular scrutiny meetings with the Chief and his senior Officers.

The PCC website Performance page:

www.essex.pcc.police.uk/scrutiny/essex-police-performance/

Outcomes of investigations by the Professional Standards Department of Essex Police, are published on the PCC website as part of the PCCs recognition that openness and transparency are crucial to trust and confidence in policing.

The PCC responded to all reports of investigations carried out by Her Majesty's

Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC); and tracked progress made against recommendations.

The national reports from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary 2016 2015/16 covered:

- Effectiveness
- Leadership
- Child Protection
- Effectiveness (Vulnerability)
- Legitimacy

The PCC website HMIC reports page:

www.essex.pcc.police.uk/scrutiny/hmic-reports/hmic-reports-2015/
www.essex.pcc.police.uk/scrutiny/hmic-reports/hmic-reports-2016/

ENGAGING WITH THE PEOPLE OF ESSEX

This year the PCC held 15 public meetings around the county, which gave the public the opportunity to ask questions of the PCC and the District Commander and to discuss issues of concern and crime trends in the area. A public briefing document, containing information about the latest reported crime figures and trends for the area was published on the website in advance and also made available at the meeting.

The PCC hosted four Essex Police Challenge events where he held the Chief Constable publicly to account. At these meetings the PCC asked questions of Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh about the force's performance as well as other key issues affecting the community. Members of the public were also able to put their questions to both the Chief Constable and the PCC about their crime and community safety-related concerns.

The public engagement programme has continued to prove important to assist the understanding of the needs and concerns of communities across Essex.

As well as holding at least one public meeting in every district and borough in Essex alongside local police and community safety partners, the PCC also continued to hold quarterly business and rural crime forums, bringing Essex Police together with these often under-represented communities. These forums have been valuable in helping to understand the challenges faced by our communities, and ensuring the PCC continues to hold Essex Police to account on behalf of the people of Essex.

The PCC's office has remained instrumental in driving important partnership work in numerous areas, as well as ensuring that all of our engagement with the public and partners continues to inform the future shape of Essex Police and our response to areas of greatest need.

Prior to the transformation of Essex Police structure and estates the PCC held meetings around the county to inform the public of the reasons for the need to change and the proposed plans and to listen to their concerns.

The PCC Annual Conference was held in January 2016 was a notable success.

The PCC held Road Shows in shopping centres, giving the public the opportunity to ask him questions and raise matters of concern to them.



The event, which focused on “Tackling Hidden Harms Together”, was a working conference which brought the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex together with partners from Essex Police, local authorities, criminal justice agencies and the community and voluntary sectors.

The aim was to create better understanding of hidden harm to highlight ways in which we as a community can support police to uncover and investigate these offences, bring perpetrators to justice and most importantly end the suffering for victims and support them as they try to recover their lives.

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMISSIONING

The PCC continues to work with local partners to deliver against community safety priorities.

The PCC's Community Safety Fund (CSF) provides core funding in the form of community safety grants to statutory and voluntary organisations for activities that meet locally identified priorities aligned to the Police and Crime Plan.

The PCC continues to make the same level of funding available, as in 2014/15, through this fund, recognising the importance of the involvement of local groups and organisations to the effective delivery of the areas of focus within the Police and Crime Plan.

In 2015/16 the PCC continued to fund Community Safety Partnerships in Essex, £335k of funding was allocated through the revised funding formula. From the Community Safety Fund (CSF) the PCC also provided £463k of funding to Youth Offending Services (YOS) and £503k to the Drug and Alcohol Teams (DAAT) across Essex. £100k was allocated and used to fund a number of projects which specifically focused on reducing hidden harm across Essex.

The PCC launched the Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) in 2015/16 which superseded the New Initiatives Fund. At the start of the year the value of the CSDF was £300k however due to the volume of successful applications the PCC decided to increase the budget by a further £200k to £500k. In 2015/16 the PCC funded over 55 projects through the CSDF across Essex totalling £465k. The aims and objectives of these projects are closely aligned to the Police and Crime Plan priorities with some projects focusing on youth diversionary activities, supporting victims of crime and reducing reoffending.

Since October 2014 PCCs have been responsible for the commissioning of services for victims of crime. In Essex this includes a victim referral and assessment service which enables victims to access information, support and advice, restorative justice services, and specialist practical and emotional support services for victims of sexual and domestic abuse. The Ministry of Justice provide an annual grant to the PCC to commission or deliver these services across Essex. In addition to the £1.87m grant received from the Ministry of Justice the PCC supplemented the budget with an additional £200k from the CSF and a further £88k from a previous Force budget.

Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) 2015/16

Reducing Youth Offending and all types of Re-Offending:	Total £212,583
Tackling the Consequences of Drugs, Alcohol and Mental Health:	Total £62,217
Supporting Victims of Crime:	Total £5,250
Improving Road Safety:	Total £19,500
Improving Crime Prevention:	Total £5,907
Ensuring Local Solutions Meeting Local Problems:	Total £173,077
Hidden Harm:	Total £4,853

Total Spend £483,387

Case Studies

Wilderness Foundation

The OPCC awarded a grant of £19,536 for the Turnaround project. This initiative was primarily focused on reducing youth offending through using nature as a tool to help young people aged 16-21 years old to make positive change that will contribute towards better life choices and decisions.

Tendring Mental Health Hub

The OPCC awarded £23,000 to the Tendring Mental Health Hub. This initiative was primarily focused on tackling the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse and mental health issues and supported a total of 2,237 Tendring residents. The Hub has had a number of positive outcomes.

THE BUDGET

The PCC set a net revenue budget of £262.511m for 2015/16 to fund police operations on a day to basis and ensure that the Force is well equipped and supported.

Net spend was £262.706m resulting in a balanced budget. At the 31st March the general reserve for Essex was £13.157m

www.essex.pcc.police.uk/scrutiny/statement-of-accounts/



Savings

During 2015/16 savings of £12.2m were achieved.

Reduction in Numbers

Over the course of the financial year the total number of police officers reduced by 108 from 3062 to 2890 full time equivalents.

At 31st March 2016 the total number of PCSOs reduced over the financial year by 43 from 262 to 219.

The number of police staff employed however increased during this period from 1828 to 1838 and Special Constables increased by 9 over this period from 363 to 372.



The two main sources of income are:

70% Government grants
30% Council tax

THE BUDGET

Precept

A Council Tax precept of £152.10 per year for a Band D property was approved by the Police and Crime Panel in January 2016.

When compared with the other 31 non-metropolitan forces in England Essex has the third lowest council tax precepts.



Capital is the money spent on assets such as land, buildings and equipment.

Capital expenditure during 2015/16 amounted to £12.4m.

This represents investment in IT, Estate and Transport.

Major reviews were on-going from last year.

These reviews are designed to ensure that the IT support and estate portfolio will be fit for purpose over many years ahead with the flexibility to respond to continued changes and challenges in policing.

Investment during 2015/16 concentrated on essential replacement of vehicles (£2.3m) and IT equipment and software (£2.8m), along with purchases of operational equipment (£0.5m) repairs to police properties (£6.8m).

£2.8m on IT

Including desktop equipment (PC's & monitors), server replacements, upgrade to network infrastructure and Athena, a Crime & Intelligence Custody System.



£2.3m on Transport

The Essex Police fleet travelled 12.8 million miles last year.



£6.8m on Properties

Including building works at the Force Command Room, creation of a Forensic Services Laboratory and a major refurbishment with custody facility works at Southend Police Station.





ENSURING LOCAL SOLUTIONS MEET LOCAL PROBLEMS

The Police and Crime Commissioner committed to ensure that Essex Police and partner organisations continued to work together to ensure that local solutions were found to help tackle local problems.

Through the Community Safety Fund the PCC made money available to community safety partners, including community and voluntary groups, to develop new ways to prevent and tackle crime and anti-social behavior problems in their area.

The PCC launched the Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) in 2015/16 and provided funding to projects, whose aims were closely aligned to the PCC Police and Crime Plan priorities, totalling £483,387.

Examples of local solutions funded include:

Basildon Keep safe Project

£4,260 provided to the project which aims to support vulnerable people if they feel anxious and or unsafe.

Jaywick drop-in centre

£12,600 provided to Essex Offender services to help support the continued running of the project which aims to engage with hard-to-reach individuals, in particular current and ex-offenders.

Open Door Thurrock

£8,000 provided to the project which aims to reduce risk-taking behaviour amongst young people by

encouraging participation in positive activities and working towards raising self-esteem and confidence

Work by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Essex in finding local solutions to meet local problems continued through the Essex Restorative Justice hub, which provides victims the opportunity to meet or communicate with those who have offended against them in a safe way, whilst also giving offenders the opportunity to meaningfully reflect on their actions.



REDUCING DOMESTIC ABUSE

Essex Police received on average 79 domestic abuse related calls each day during 2015/16.

Between April 1st 2015 and March 31st 2016 more than three quarters of all domestic abuse offences involved violence against the person. There were 10,011 such offences during that period. That equates to over 27 crimes of domestic violence every single day in Essex.

Domestic abuse remained a key area of focus for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex and similarly a priority for Essex Police. The PCC chaired the pan-Essex Domestic Abuse Strategy Board 2015/16, which brought together partners from Essex Police, social care, the health and voluntary sectors, and reducing reoffending partners to take a co-ordinated approach to the issue.

The PCC became responsible for commissioning victim support services across Essex in October 2014. From that date until March 2016 £1.8million came to the Essex OPCC to help fund support services for victims including victims' referral and assessment.

In partnership with the Domestic Abuse Charity Safe Lives and Essex County Council, the PCC has commissioned the Drive project, which is an intervention programme aimed at high risk perpetrators. The project based in Colchester and Tendring, is one of three national pilots of its type.

The PCC's office contributes £450,000 a year to the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) service. The IDVAs provide crucial support to victims of domestic violence who are at the highest risk of serious injury or murder.



HIDDEN HARMS

Reducing Hidden Harm builds upon the PCC's desire to tackle Domestic Abuse, expanding that area to include other forms of harm that are typically less visible within society. Victims of these hidden harms are less likely to report their experiences and may miss-out on available advice and support.

Hidden harms include a wide range of offences, including rape and sexual violence, child sexual exploitation, human trafficking, fraud, hate crime and elder abuse.

Victims of these harms may not recognise themselves as such, or may be too afraid to report what has happened to them. The PCC promoted greater awareness of these hidden harms and increased the availability of support services; equipping professionals to recognise the signs of hidden harm and prevent an escalation of risk.

The PCC commissioned new services for victims of

sexual violence and abuse to commence April 2016. The service is available to all victims regardless of their age or gender and comprises an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) service and associated specialist community based service. Forensic Medical Examiner (FME) services provided from the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Essex have also been re-commissioned jointly by OPCC and NHS England.

The PCC also commissioned The Children's Society to employ a Senior Child Sexual Exploitation Lead (CSE) to co-ordinate multi-agency activity around CSE within Essex.



SUPPORTING VICTIMS

The PCC has responsibility for commissioning support services for local victims of crime to meet the requirements set out in the national Victims' Code of Practice.

The Essex Restorative Justice Hub, which is funded by the PCC, works closely with other agencies to ensure a victim centred approach delivering positive outcomes for victims and offenders across the county.

Restorative Justice (RJ) gives victims of crime a voice, and allows them to ask questions and explain the impact of a crime or conflict on them to the person who has caused them harm. It also encourages those who have caused harm to take responsibility for their actions, and can offer the opportunity to apologise and offer some meaningful reparation.

The charity Victim Support, commissioned by Essex OPCC in collaboration with other eastern region PCC

offices, provides a countywide referral and assessment support service for victims of crime.

The OPCC supports the Countywide Strategic Hate Crime Prevention Partnership; the group responsible for co-ordinating partner activity to identify, reduce, and support victims of hate crime. The PCC has provided funding for a co-ordinator to help develop the partnership response to hate crime.

The PCC allocated £100,000 for two Pathfinder initiatives aimed specifically at supporting young victims of crime. These have been commissioned in response to research commissioned by the OPCC last year that identified unique needs of young people.



REDUCING YOUTH OFFENDING AND ALL TYPES OF RE-OFFENDING

The youth re-offending rate in September 2015 was 19.2% compared with 28.5% for September the previous year. Adult re-offending rates have also decreased from 26% to 21% during the same period.

The PCC supported the Firebreak intervention pilot programme, which aims to teach young people life and practical skills through firefighting training. The project has proven to be effective, is now used more widely across the county.

Part of the funding granted from the PCC's Community Safety Development Fund has been focussed on activities to divert young people away from crime and away from the damaging effects of drugs and alcohol, which are amongst the major causes of crime, eg. the projects 'Achievement through football' and 'Turnaround'. This is having a positive effect on the underlying offending rate.

The PCC commissioned an independent review of the Integrated Offender Management scheme. The number of prolific offenders has reduced and the amount of crime committed by this cohort has also reduced.

The Office of the PCC chairs the Essex Reducing Re-Offending Board, which brings partners together to reduce re-offending, and has further developed working practices with the National Offender Management Service.

The OPCC is working with Chelmsford Prison to fund an intervention in the prison around anger management and violent behaviour that will better prepare male prisoners for release into the community with a view to further reducing offending behaviour.



TACKLING THE CONSEQUENCES OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL, ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

The PCC is a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board and works closely with partners across health to progress issues in relation to health and criminal justice. This includes improved information sharing across agencies.

The OPCC is also represented at the Integrated Substance Misuse Commission Group (ISMCG) and works to bring together all agencies who work in this field to commission services together.

Targeting Class A drug suppliers: Between April 2015 and March 2016, the Essex and Kent Serious Crime Directorate has brought 198 Class A (primarily heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine) suppliers to justice: an increase of one per cent on the previous year. During this time period, whilst there was still a clear focus to reduce all crime in Essex, there was a targeted approach to Class A drug dealers.



IMPROVING ROAD SAFETY

The number of people killed or seriously injured in road collisions on Essex roads has increased by 15%. There were 850 people killed or seriously injured in Essex between April 2015 to March 2016, compared with 739 the previous year. Of the 850 this year, 57 people sadly lost their lives and the remaining 793 were seriously injured.



The number of KSIs involving young car drivers aged between 17 and 25 increased this year by 40% with 150 incidents involving this age group compared with 107 the year before.

KSI collisions involving pedestrians, cyclists, children aged between 0 and 17 and drink drivers all also saw an increase during the period.

Essex Police's Casualty Reduction Team continues to work hard to reduce collisions, educate drivers and improve road safety. The force, alongside the PCC, also continues to work closely with the Casualty Reduction Board and the Safer Essex Roads Partnership to reduce casualties on the road network.

Community Speed Watch volunteers continue to promote road safety in their local areas.

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IMPROVING CRIME PREVENTION

Business crime:

The PCC continued to lead a business crime forum every quarter in the last year.

The relationships with businesses in the county, fostered by the Forum, have resulted in an improved exchange of information which, together with the increased membership of Essex Community Messaging (ECM), has enabled Essex Police to share information more effectively about crime trends and the preventative measures available.

Rural crime:

The PCC met with the rural community of Essex to discuss both persistent and emerging areas of crime affecting the rural areas of the county.

The PCC rural crime forum has been instrumental in developing relationships with the rural community, enhancing the understanding of the volume and impact of rural crime and increasing the amount of actionable intelligence received by Essex Police.

Older or vulnerable people:

The PCC funded and launched an anonymous hotline for the reporting elder abuse. The line, was manned by Crimestoppers call handlers, who passed on information to the relevant Safeguarding Adults Board. Information was also to be passed to the police if a crime was thought to have taken place. Over the course of the pilot period, the reporting line generated 118 calls, with 52 pieces of actionable intelligence received.

Often the perpetrators are known to the victims, making it difficult for them to report in such cases. This makes an independent reporting line that people can call safely, securely and anonymously, important.

INCREASING EFFICIENCY

Police officer cost*

Essex	£93
England & Wales	£115

Workforce cost*

Essex	£133
England & Wales	£165
VfM Profiles	

Support function*

Essex	£29.9
Kent	£32.9
National Average	£36.1

*These are the figures for 2014/15, updated 2015/16 figures will be provided by HMIC at:

www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/our-work/value-for-money-inspections/value-for-money-profiles/

Rationalisation of the Essex Police Estate

A review of the future of the Essex Police estate continued throughout this period. The police estate totals 1.25million square foot and some 80 properties, many of which are old, no longer fit for purpose and are in need of extensive and expensive maintenance. The backlog of these buildings has been estimated at £80m with an additional £2million per year needed just to keep the estate in its current condition.

During the winter of 2015, the decision was made to close fifteen police station front counters with a low number of public visits, and retain ten front counters strategically located across the county to preserve the option of face-to-face contact.

Collaboration with Kent Police

Essex Police have continued to collaborate closely with Kent Police, sharing Human Resources and other services across the forces.

The collaboration received the Institute for Continuous Improvement in the Public Sector award for 'Collaborating across organisational boundaries to deliver improvements 2016'.

IT

Investment continues in Information Technology to make Essex Police more agile and efficient. This includes investment in mobile police technology and the continued development of the Athena platform

Athena

Athena is being delivered across the Eastern region and Kent Police forces.

Athena is a single IT system which allows police officers to manage investigations, defendants (from an initial report through the court process) and gives front-line officers and staff access to more detailed and up to date information. Officers can view information from each member police force's area enabling police to share intelligence and information across borders.

CRIME TRENDS



11,282 more offences committed in Essex.

Representing an increase of **11.3%**

All figures are for 2015-16 compared to 2014-15



Anti-Social Behaviour

6.7% decrease
3,774 fewer offences



Essex Police continued to work with partner organisations, including local authorities and Community Safety Partnerships, to tackle anti-social behaviour.

House Burglary

0.5% increase
32 more breaks-ins



Essex Police continues to use predictive policing to identify where future burglaries are most likely to occur. Police then use a range of tactics, including high visibility patrols in hotspot areas, to prevent them from happening.

Vehicle Crime

7.4% increase
860 more offences



Essex Police continues to work alongside partners, including Community Safety Partnerships, to encourage residents to be mindful of the security of their vehicles.

Robbery

5.1% increase
49 more offences



Detectives continue to take an intelligence-led approach to tackling and solving these offences, focusing on known criminals. The solved rate for robbery has decreased by 2.2% compared with the previous year.

Violence With Injury

13% increase
1,344 more offences



These figures reflect a national increasing trend in violent crime. Essex Police is working with partners and other forces to tackle specific areas of violent crime.

Sexual Offences

13.9% increase
340 more offences



The increase in sexual offences in Essex is reflective of a national trend. The increase in part continues to be attributable to greater public awareness, which has encouraged more victims of sexual offences to come forward and report the crimes. The increase in reported sexual offences may also be linked to members of the public having greater confidence in police when reporting these crimes. Many of the offences continue to be historic.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

1ST APRIL 2015 TO 31ST MARCH 2016

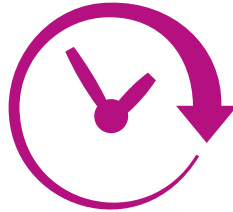
Solved Crimes:

The 'all crime' solved rate **decreased** by **5.9%** in 2015/16 to **21%** compared to **27%** the previous year.

Public satisfaction:

Essex Police continues to **strive to improve public satisfaction** with the services provided by its officers and staff.

Overall in 2015/16 **73.8%** of people were satisfied with the overall service provided by Essex Police. However this is a **6.6% decrease** compared with the previous year.



76% of emergency response incidents were attended within the standard time, a **5.9% decrease** from the previous year.



£2.8m recovered from criminals using POCA in Essex:



an **increase of nearly 110%** on last year.

The 2015/16 end of year figure for total crime has shown a significant decrease with **21,356 fewer offences** recorded than 10 years ago.

*With **132,378** offences recorded in 2005/06 and **111,022** offences recorded in 2015/16*



VOLUNTEERS

Independent Custody Visitors

The Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) volunteer scheme forms part of the PCC's statutory responsibility, and ensures the standard of custody facilities and treatment of detainees is independently monitored. Following a recruitment drive in 2015 the number of volunteers stands at 20 and they visit the 8 custody suites across the county at least three times per month at a variety of times and days. This ensures a good variation of inspections. ICVs are regularly kept updated with the latest legislative and operational initiatives and are required to attend workshops and training days throughout the year, making sure they are alert to the potential issues that can arise within custody.

Special Constabulary

The support and oversight of the Special Constabulary and civilian volunteer programmes in Essex Police remained a key focus for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Restorative Justice Volunteers

Restorative Justice (RJ) gives victims of crime a voice, and allows them to ask questions and explain the impact of a crime or conflict on them to the person who has caused harm.

The RJ Hub is now live across the county and accepting referrals involving crime and anti-social behaviour across Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on Sea. Over the 12 month period April 2015 to March 2016, 77 referrals were received from partners including Essex Police, Victim Support and housing organisations. Further developments for the future include implementing restorative practices in schools and courts.



Dog Welfare Scheme

There are currently 44 working dogs in Essex Police. We have five experienced dog welfare visitors who regularly visit the dogs and their handlers in a variety of operational locations to check on their welfare and standards of care. Dogs should be visited at least twice in six months and a full report of the visit is returned to the OPCC for analysis.

DECISIONS MADE

Decisions made by the PCC are published on the PCC's website.

Key decisions taken by the PCC this year include:

- **Approving £700,000 to Safer Places to provide Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs)** for high risk victims of domestic abuse over three years. The IDVAs will provide crucial support to victims of domestic violence who are at the highest risk of serious injury or murder by: creating safety plans and carrying out risk assessments; accompanying them to court; supporting them as they give evidence and write statements; and requesting special measures in court (such as screens) so they don't have to face their abuser.
- **Approved £33,500 funding to Show Racism the Red Card** to deliver workshops in schools that support young victims of hate crime.
- **Approved allocation of £33,750 to G4S** to provide an interim Forensic Medical Examination Service to victim of sexual abuse presenting to the Essex Sexual Assault referral Centre (SARC).
- **Allocated £26,353 of funding to the Children's Society** to host a senior child sexual exploitation (CSE) lead post, to co-ordinate a multi-agency response, assist as a single point of contact for CSE support and to develop capacity across Essex.
- **Approving allocation of £15,000 to Only Cowards Carry Weapons Awareness** to fund training programmes for young people.
- **Allocating £108,000 in funding to support the activities of the Essex Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference.** Effective MARAC arrangements support victim of domestic abuse and can help reduce incidents of abuse and reduce the risk of harm.
- **Approved £680,000 funding for the delivery of the Essex sexual violence and abuse services,** which will provide Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA) and Community-based support for all victim of sexual abuse across Essex, including the Unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.
- **Approved the allocation of £622,275 over the next four years to Mountain Healthcare** for the provision of an Essex Sexual Abuse Referral service (SARS).
- **Allocated £765,000 of funding over the next three years to SafeLives** for the development and piloting of the Essex 'Drive' (domestic abuse) perpetrator programme.

DECISIONS MADE

- **Approved allocation of £30,000 funding for the recruitment of an Anti-Slavery Partnership Co-ordination and Liaison Officer.** This is a new role and will be critical to Kent and Essex response to human trafficking.
- **Approving allocation of funding of £184,962 to Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Children's and Adult Safeguarding Boards** to undertake local community safety interventions and projects to promote the wellbeing of vulnerable children and adults across the county.
- **Allocating £47,525 funding to Crimestoppers** to contribute towards the annual cost of their national anonymous crime reporting service and towards the costs of the Eastern region manager.
- **Approved the allocation of £23,000 funding to Tendring Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)** to continue to deliver the Tendring Mental Health Hub, which acts as a single point of referral for both individual service users and statutory and voluntary sector partners.
- **Allocated £108,000 in funding to the Essex Rape Crisis Partnership** to fund specialist counseling to support victims of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA).

Further details of PCC decisions made in 2015-16 are available on the PCC website via the following links:

www.essex.pcc.police.uk/finance/decision-making/decision-making-3/

www.essex.pcc.police.uk/finance/decision-making/decision-making-4/

CONTACT THE PCC

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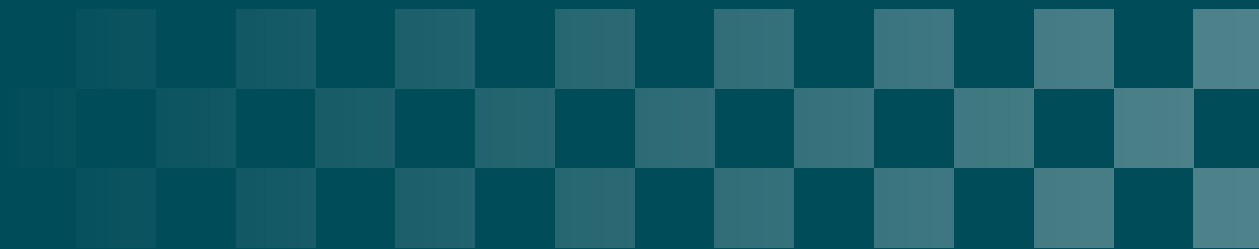
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