

**AGENDA ITEM 6**

Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel	<b>EPCP/13/19</b>
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**Essex Police Performance Report - Quarter 4 2018/19**

Report by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to the Panel

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**1. Purpose of the report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Essex Police's progress in delivering the priorities set out in the Police and Crime Plan 2016-2020, based on data and other information to March 2019.
- 1.2 The attached quarterly report, produced by Essex Police and scrutinised at the monthly Performance and Resources Scrutiny Board chaired by the Commissioner, provides highlight reporting against the seven priorities set out in the Plan.
- 1.3 This quarter, highlights with regard to performance include:
  - A 9% increase in the Special Constable headcount from 474 to 516. In the last quarter, there have also been 346 further applications to join the Special Constabulary, with 60 candidates currently undergoing pre-employment checks.
  - In the three months to 31 March 2019, Specials contributed a total of 44,113 hours (a 33% increase on the same period in 2018). The operational contribution over the last period amounted to 33,676 hours (a 48% increase). Specials have recorded 17,514 hours of high visibility policing over this time (a 98% increase over the same period last year). The hours worked by the Special Constabulary across this period were equivalent to having an additional 97 full time officers, who would attract an annual salary cost of £5.1m.
  - In November 2018, a second Inspector was added to each team in the Force Control Room (FCR) who is responsible, among other things, for

monitoring call handling performance. Since the introduction of this role, the proportion of 101 (non-emergency) calls that are answered within the target of 60 seconds has improved from 40% (in November 2018) to 57% (in January 2019). Meanwhile the percentage of 101 calls abandoned by the caller has fallen from over 19% to 11%. In addition, procedural improvements within the Crime Bureau (to which a significant proportion of 101 calls are transferred) has meant that the percentage of these calls answered within the target time of five minutes increased from 19.7% in September 2018 to 52.5% in January 2019. It is hoped that 101 performance will improve further towards the end of the year, after Essex Police migrates onto the national Single Online Home web page. This will introduce new ways that the public can interact with and report matters to the Police, including 'live chat', an online tool through which members of the public communicate with a call taker via typed messages. In the meantime, Essex Police continues to run regular social media campaigns to encourage the use of existing online reporting options, thus diverting demand away from telephone options.

- An Essex Police Anti-Social Behaviour Officer worked closely with the relevant Local Policing Team and the East of England Ambulance Service to obtain the first five-year Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) against a defendant for assaulting an emergency services worker (a paramedic). Teams in Castle Point and Rochford have also made particularly effective use of CBOs to constrain local criminals following sentencing at Court. The team has successfully applied for six CBOs over the past 12 months and enforces these as part of regular patrols.
- Chelmsford and Maldon's C Shift was recognised by the National Police Chiefs Councils (NPCC) with a national award for response team of the year. The team focuses on hotspot areas and local intelligence and regularly completes over 150 stop and searches each month.

1.4 In addition to the above, various successful Operations took place during the quarter, including:

- Operation CEDAR, an investigation into ATM attacks that took place across the eastern and south eastern regions between 24 March 2018 and 5 March 2019, causing an estimated £1 million worth of damage and thefts. On 5 March 2019, an arrest phase was completed in Essex, resulting in seven arrests. These suspects have been charged and remanded for conspiracy to commit burglary other than of a dwelling, conspiracy to commit burglary of a dwelling and conspiracy to commit theft of motor vehicles.
- Operation SMUGGLER, a response to a murder and stabbing in Colchester and an increase in violent crime in Tendring. Essex Police

worked with both internal and external partners to maximise proactive capability over a three week period. During this time, 54 people were arrested, 13 search warrants were executed and 600 residents were spoken to, yielding more than 160 pieces of information. 136 stop and searches were also conducted, resulting in 46 people being dealt with for offences including possession of knives and drugs.

- Operation AIDANT, which placed a regional focus on various facets of exploitation. During a week of action conducted between 28 January and 1 February 2019, joint agency visits by Essex Police, Child Protection teams and immigration officers were conducted at various addresses across Essex. These resulted in the identification of 11 potential victims and nine arrests for immigration, trafficking and criminal exploitation offences.
- Operation SURVEY, a multi-force operation across the Essex, Kent and Metropolitan police forces targeting County Drug Lines (CDLs). In January 2019, nine warrants were executed against four CDLs across Essex, resulting in 10 arrests along with the seizure of two drug line phones and a quantity of cash and drugs.
- Operation SAND, a joint Essex and Metropolitan Police Service operation in which warrants were executed in Aveley overnight on 26 March 2019. 70 containers were searched, resulting in the recovery of a number of firearms, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and 22 grenades. Several stolen cars, several kilos of Class A drugs and a cannabis farm were also seized.

1.5 In terms of areas requiring the continued focus of the force:

- Following the publication of the Strategic Hate Crime Partnership's (SHCP's) Hate Crime Strategy for Essex 2018 – 2021, and an accompanying action plan which aimed (amongst other things) to increase the reporting of hate crime, Essex Police saw an increase in hate crime reporting of over 21% in 2018/19 compared with the previous year. This includes a 44% increase in disability hate crime reporting. Multi-agency partners (including Essex Police) are now working to deliver improved hate crime training to both permanent and agency officers and staff. A range of training events is planned for 2019 which will include inputs from victims, the Crown Prosecution Service, support groups and hate crime experts. A new Hate Incident Reporting Centre (HIRC) located in the Town Hall in Clacton has also recently gone live, bringing the total to 46 centres across Essex, now covering all local authority areas.

- Although indicative figures suggest that there has been a slight decrease in the total number of people killed and seriously injured (KSI) on Essex roads, it appears that fatalities have risen. Alongside this, there has been a continued increase in the number of arrests for drug driving in Quarter 4 with Essex Police – in common with other forces that are actively drug-wiping individuals suspected of driving under the influence of cannabis or cocaine – arresting more drug drivers than drink drivers each month. During the last quarter, 376 drink drivers were arrested, compared with 445 drug drivers (19% more). During the quarter, there were 96 police deployments to improve road safety and tackle criminality on Essex roads, resulting in 3,841 vehicles being stopped, 156 arrests being made and 43 vehicles being seized.