

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024

## Quarterly update

### Quarter 4 – 2022/23

*Data to March 2023*



Version 1.6

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Performance Analysis Unit, Research & Analysis Department, Essex Police

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Contents

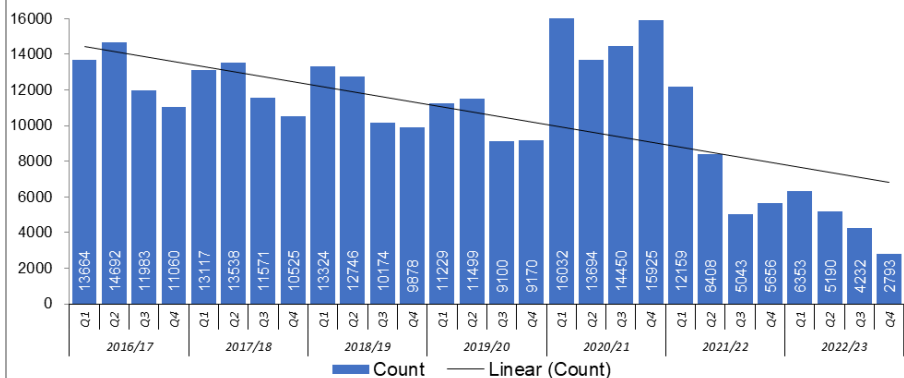
|   |       |
|---|-------|
| <b>Priority 1</b> – Further investment in crime prevention                                | 3-5   |
| <b>Priority 2</b> – Reducing drug driven violence   | 6-7   |
| <b>Priority 3</b> – Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse | 8-12  |
| <b>Priority 4</b> – Reducing violence against women and girls                             | 13-17 |
| <b>Priority 5</b> – Improving support for victims of crime                                | 18-20 |
| <b>Priority 6</b> – Protecting rural and isolated areas                                   | 21    |
| <b>Priority 7</b> – Preventing dog theft  | 22    |
| <b>Priority 8</b> – Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime                      | 23    |
| <b>Priority 9</b> – Improving safety on our roads   | 24-25 |
| <b>Priority 10</b> – Encouraging volunteers and community support                         | 26-28 |
| <b>Priority 11</b> – Supporting our officers and staff                                    | 29-31 |
| <b>Priority 12</b> – Increasing collaboration   | 32    |

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

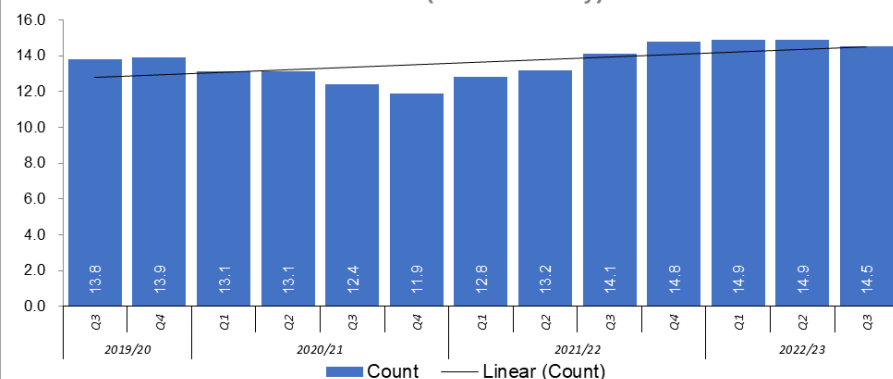
## Priority 1 - Further investment in crime prevention

*Our objective is to invest in activities and initiatives that prevent crime from happening in the first place to reduce overall crime and keep our communities safe.*

Anti-Social Behaviour incidents



All Crime Harm (Crime Severity) Score



### Key Points

- ASB is showing a downward trend from 2016/17 Q1 to 2022/23 Q4.
- The significant increase seen between 2020/21 Q1 and 2021/22 Q1 was due to the Government's social distancing restrictions that were implemented on 23 March 2020 due to COVID-19 (many of these additional reports related to activities that were previously were not considered to be ASB, for example social gatherings, as well as shops and businesses continuing to trade).
- The significant decrease in incidents from 2021/22 Q3 can mainly be attributed to the implementation of Operation SOMERTON, which aims both to improve the service given to victims of ASB and ensure crimes are correctly recorded.
- A number of operations focussing on ASB incidents were carried out in 2022/23 Q4 contributing to the continued decrease in incidents.
- The All Crime Harm (Crime Severity) Score<sup>1</sup> has increased slightly from 2016/17 Q1 to 2022/23 Q3, but decreased in the last quarter.

<sup>1</sup> Crime Severity Scores (as calculated by the Office for National Statistics) measure the 'relative harm' of crimes by taking into account both their volume and their severity. Data are only available between December 2019 and January 2023, therefore latest quarter reported able to report on is 2022/23 Q3.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 1 - Further investment in crime prevention

*Our objective is to invest in activities and initiatives that prevent crime from happening in the first place to reduce overall crime and keep our communities safe.*

### **North LPA**

- Op Showboat consists of high visibility patrols taking place in Clacton town centre which has been identified as an ASB hotspot following reports of low level criminal damage, street drinkers and public order offences. Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC) have been given to 14 youths offending in the area.
- Under the Safer Streets campaign, Braintree and Uttlesford Community Partnership Team (CPT) will be working alongside multiple partner agencies on several dedicated nights of action on safety within the night-time economy (NTE). Public surveys, an assessments of the town centre and public transport links as well as police led licenced premises checks will be conducted.
- Colchester now has two Multi Agency Co-ordination Panels; meetings which are attended by partners to share information and intelligence about known offenders and hotspots. The two meetings are now split into an adult forum and a child forum. One notable success resulted in a Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Team (DAPST) offender being brought to the attention of the panel, enabling the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to revoke their benefits, therefore utilising an “Achilles heel” approach to prevention. Previously no actionable police tactics were available to use. In regards to the child panel, Op Kirn, a test purchasing operation in hotels, was instigated and there is ongoing work around a NTE venue due to intelligence that was received at the panel.
- Following multiple reports of ASB and criminality at an address in Chelmsford, the Town Centre Team (TCT) took ownership of the issue as a problem solving exercise. The tenant was also involved in a large amount of retail crime in the nearby vicinity to fund a class A drug habit. Working alongside the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and Housing Association the TCT went to court and obtained a full closure order which ended the crime and ASB within the block of flats instantly. The tenant was also arrested for multiple offences and is awaiting a disposal. Despite support being offered, he has no intentions of addressing his addiction so a robust approach is being taken and a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) will be applied for on conviction.
- Op Silk coordinates activity targeting nominals associated with Organised Criminal Gangs (OCGs) who are showing an escalation in violence, to prevent any further escalation. Community Policing Teams (CPTs), partners, Operational Support Groups (OSGs), and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have delivered a joint plan which has resulted in several disruptions to offenders across the Witham, Chelmsford, and Maldon areas.

### **South LPA**

- Op Mantis is a Basildon based operation which consists of a small number of CPT officers who focus on the increasing levels of high harm / knife enabled crime in the district. The operation utilises plain clothes tactics and complex investigations to bring offenders to justice. This operation is a tactical response to violent street crime, supported by CID. The results are being monitored through scrutiny of arrests, stop searches, and intelligence submissions as well as the execution of warrants against the identified nominals. Briefings will be provided to partner agencies as the operation progresses to allow collaborative working.
- Op Union is returning this year ready for the anticipated rise in public need in Southend over the summer. Planning is in the advanced stages and a command structure is in place. This year’s plan builds on previous success and learning. Essex Police will be working with partners including the local council and stakeholders including local businesses and community members. Using officers from across the force and volunteers, this operation will see an increased visible policing presence in the Southend area to engage, respond and proactively deter offending at identified hotspots.
- In Castle Point and Rochford, hotspots are identified in daily briefings (reflecting concerns identified by residents) and disseminated to local teams for proactive patrols / action. Activity undertaken is publicised using the #Yousaidwedid campaign. Known offenders are managed by the Community Partnership Team (CPT) which focuses on groups or individuals known to have the highest impact in the community so they are closely monitored.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 1 - Further investment in crime prevention

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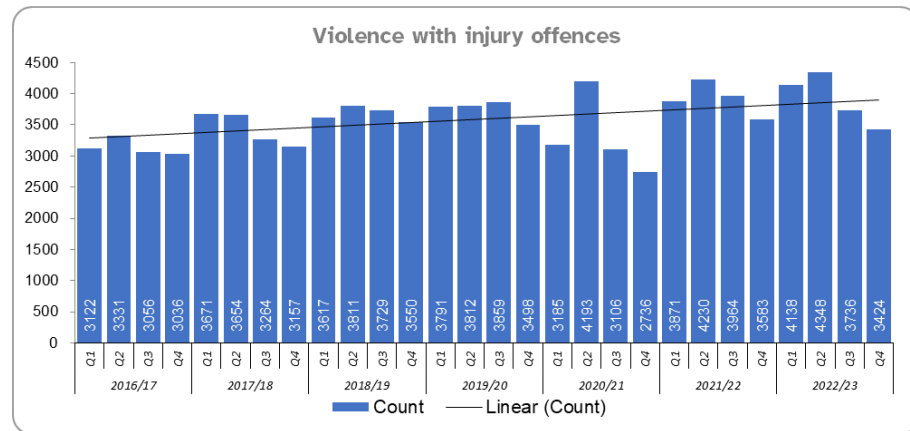
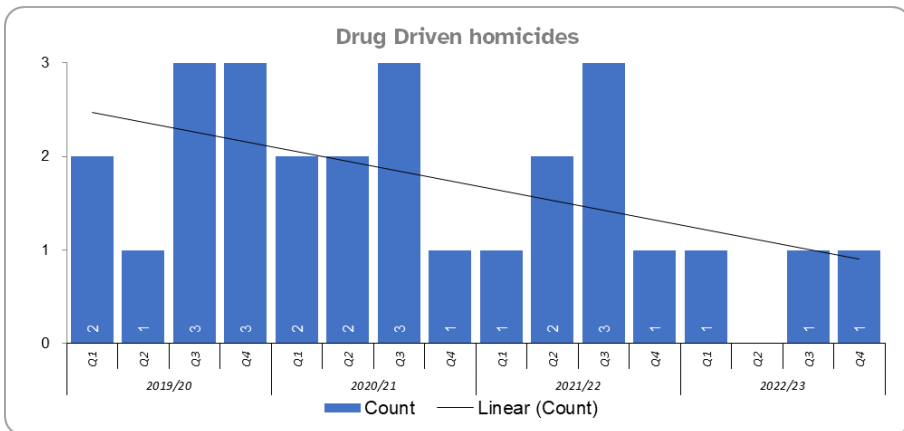
### West LPA

- February saw the creation of a weekly meeting with Epping CSP, with attendees from Essex Police, ASB Teams, Housing, Environmental and Licensing. This was created based on the meetings in Brentwood, already running weekly, which have already improved the working relationship with the CSP resulting in regular updates being passed between agencies and information being shared. Also, a Crime Prevention Morning was held on the Oakwood Hill Estate, Debden, assisting our CSP with the roll out and advertising of Crimestoppers zones in Waltham Abbey, Chigwell and Debden. ASB reports continued to reduce across Epping with a 29.6% reduction seen over the last 12 month period.
- In March the District Commander and Community Partnership Team (CPT) Inspector attended the Stronger Communities Select Committee, where they updated partners and Councillors on work recently carried out. A number of questions and issues relating to the community were raised for us to focus on. There was also a Community Safety Day Of Action in Ninefields, an event in conjunction with our CSP, also supported by college students who were working with the police over the week under “Op District”.
- Successes:
  - Ongar ASB - Targeted patrols by the CPT and the Community Support Team (CST) were also tasked by the council, resulting in a high level of engagement with residents. Youths involved were identified with assistance from the Children and Young People (CYP) Officers, from officers’ body worn video (BWV) footage. 17 youths were identified, some of which were from a local academy school, while others had left school. Working with the Council, Community Safety Partnership (CSP) letters were hand delivered, or parents spoken to over the phone and, of the 17 youths identified, eight were seen to cause issues. The Academy is also sanctioning some of these students. So far, positive feedback has been received.
  - Obtained a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) against a prolific shoplifter who was targeting the BP garage in Debden. He has been issued a custodial sentence and a three year banning order from all BP garages in the country.
- This quarter Thurrock CPT has continued to tackle off road vehicles and ASB in hotspots across the district. There have been 68 Section 59 warnings issued and five vehicles seized. Police and partner agencies have worked together to target the car cruise organisers and serve them with Community Protection Warning (CPWs) which prevent them from arranging further car meets anywhere in the country or run the risk of criminal prosecution. In order to address the issue longer term, there is ongoing consultation with Thurrock Council’s Highways Team to identify what additional support they may be able to offer around traffic calming measures. This has contributed to the reduction in ASB. ASB has reduced by 34.9% in the 12 months to March 2023 compared to the same period last year.
- This quarter, Operation Steps was set up to tackle a series of robberies in and around Lakeside. This has resulted in the arrest of 11 suspects.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 2 - Reducing drug driven violence

*Our objective is to crack down on drug driven violence and gangs, protect the vulnerable people these gangs prey on and deal with the hardened criminals whose criminal activities increase violence in our communities.*



### Key Points

- Drug Driven homicides<sup>1</sup> are showing a downward trend from 2019/20 Q1 to 2022/23 Q4.
- 2022/23 reported the lowest number of offences compared to all previous 12 month periods. One drug driven homicide was reported in the last quarter.
- There is an upward trend in Violence with Injury offences from 2016/17 Q1 to 2022/23 Q4 with decreases being reported in 2022/23 Q3 and Q4.

### Force-wide

- Essex Police currently has 53 live scored and mapped organised crime groups across the county. These are split almost equally across the three local policing areas and the Serious Crime Directorate (SCD). The progress and disruptions of organised criminality are managed and driven through various but cohesive tasking processes in collaboration with partners.
- There has been an increase nationally in relation to crime linked to individuals from Western Balkan countries, and the Serious Crime Directorate Intelligence department has devised a problem profile to increase the intelligence feed to identify and tackle individuals linked.
- SCD continues to work with the Serious Violence Unit (SVU) and partners to secure preventative orders to protect the public from those involved in drug driven violence by preventing offenders from engaging in activity to perpetuate their involvement in drug driven criminality further.

<sup>1</sup> Data available from 2019/20 Q1

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 2 - Reducing drug driven violence

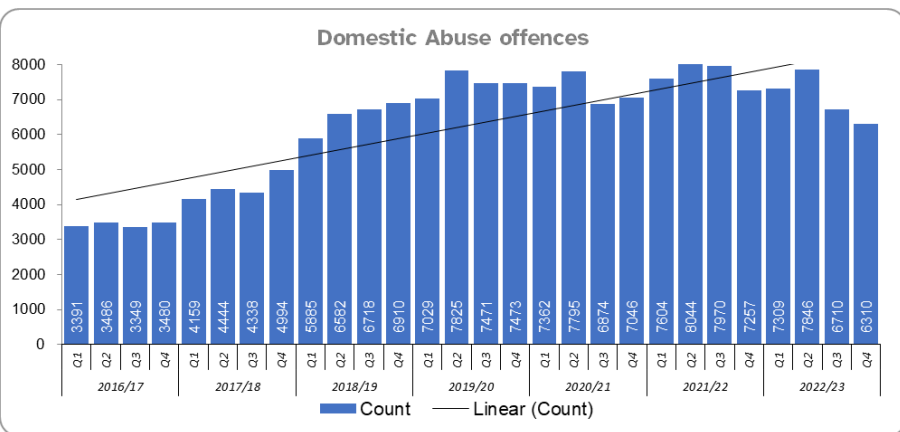
*Our objective is to crack down on drug driven violence and gangs, protect the vulnerable people these gangs prey on and deal with the hardened criminals whose criminal activities increase violence in our communities.*

- SCD continues to be instrumental in the efforts to reduce serious violence, particularly those leading to homicide. In conjunction with the homicide prevention strategy, a variety of workstreams are overseen by the Homicide Prevention Board led by ACC Nolan. These include workstreams on serious violence and drug driven violence. Many partnerships exist within these workstreams including the close work with the Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VUU).
- Rapid de-briefs take place when a serious violent incident occurs where there is a potential opportunity to prevent future violence, whether that be through safeguarding or learning that can be obtained in order to change processes or policies. These de-briefs regularly include partners who have also had previous interactions with a victim or suspect, or a vested involvement in the matter. The de-briefs have created a unique opportunity to learn quickly from an incident in order to prevent further serious violence.
- SCD supports national intensification periods that tackle drug driven criminality linked to gangs and county lines by providing specialist support to operations which target potential perpetrators.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 3 - Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse

*Our objective is to give a voice to those who need protection, support the vulnerable and reduce the number of people who become the victim of crime in their communities or their homes.*



### Key Points

- Domestic Abuse offences have increased significantly from 2016/17 Q1 to 2022/23 Q4. This can partly be attributed to changes in Home Office recording, new national initiatives and additional ways of reporting to Essex Police in this period:
  - 2018 April – Change in Stalking and Harassment (S&H) Crime recording Rules introduced
  - 2021 January - ‘Ask for ANI’ (‘Action Needed Immediately’) initiative introduced<sup>1</sup>
  - 2021 October - DA definition made broader<sup>2</sup>
  - 2021 December - DA incidents able to be reported via the Essex Police website.
  - August 2022 – Crime Data Accuracy Review initiated into recording of S&H offences<sup>3</sup> identified over recording.
  - Due to a number of operations targeting Domestic Abuse in the last quarter the number of reported DA offences continued to decrease.

### Performance

- DA crime reduced by 9.3% in the 12 months to March 2023 compared to the 12 months to March 2022. This is linked to a reduction of both Stalking and Harassment Offences and other crime types.
- DA Solved rate increased to 11.2%, from 10.1% in the same period. (High Risk: 27.2% v. 23.4%, Medium Risk: 17.1% v. 16.9% and Standard Risk: 7.6% v. 7.1%).

<sup>1</sup> A codeword scheme that enables victims of domestic abuse to discreetly ask for immediate help in participating pharmacies and Jobcentres.

<sup>2</sup> Individuals who are personally connected included and economic abuse which replaces financial abuse. “What does change is how the two parties are associated with each other (making it wider than it is now), dictating that the parties need to be ‘personally connected’.”

<sup>3</sup> Essex Police are auditing and, where appropriate, cancelling S&H offences to ensure additional crimes have not been unnecessarily recorded. Essex Police have also been educating those working within the Resolution Centre are ensuring they fully research the individuals involved in these types of offences before they create new crimes; where previous records exist, these additional incidents are instead referred to the relevant officer(s) in order that they can be investigated together.



# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 3 - Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse

*Our objective is to give a voice to those who need protection, support the vulnerable and reduce the number of people who become the victim of crime in their communities or their homes.*

### • Partnership

- A joint 'DA perpetrator' funding bid with PFCC, SETDAB (South Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board) and commissioned services to the Home Office was successful; this will provide funding for increased perpetrator behaviour programs, a new stalking perpetrator pilot, and diversionary caution pilot, alongside a project manager and project evaluation programme

### • Innovation

- **Kulpa App.** Essex Police took part in a national 14 week 'proof of concept' with the Home Office Accelerated Capability Environment<sup>2</sup> (ACE), Police Digital Service and Crown Prosecution Service to test the 'Kulpa App'. The proof of concept is formally considered a success; DA victims reported feeling 'empowered' and 'safer', and police officers noting significant potential for efficiency savings as a result of using the app. We are hopeful of moving to a longer term pilot to formally measure the opportunities this app could provide.
- **DA 'Threat To Life' Cohort.** Iteration three of the DA 'Threat to Life Cohort' (formally Op Puffin Cohort) design is under review by an Independent Ethics Board prior to 'go live'. The ethics board sees the value of the cohort and is working with the design team to provide independent scrutiny and feedback. There is significant national interest in this cohort design, with the College of Policing and the Home Office in regular communication and monitoring the evolution. Identifying the highest threat perpetrators will enable police to disrupt them and reduce the risk they pose to victims.

<sup>1</sup> Data 12 months to March 2023 v. 12 months to March 2022.

<sup>2</sup> The Accelerated Capability Environment solves public safety and security challenges arising from rapidly changing digital and data technologies. It brings together expertise from industry and academia to innovate collaboratively and deliver front line mission impact at pace.

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- Continued Resilience Team trial for 12 months, led by a Detective Sergeant (DS) in Public Protection Investigation Unit (PPIU) South for Adult Sexual Abuse Investigation Team (ASAIT) repeat victims and suspects, the majority of which are DA victims. Interventions put in place via early strategy discussions to identify the best placed lead agency.
- An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) co-location pilot within Police Stations in the South (Basildon and Southend) continues this quarter, to provide a direct link to investigative teams as well as a suitable venue for victim meetings. This enhances the working relationship between Police and ISVAs to provide higher quality victim service. Children's Social Care North and Mid Joint Working are co-locating on a weekly basis as part of a programme launched in the North alongside the Child Abuse Investigation Teams (CAITs).
- The Essex Stalking Intervention Panel (ESIP) was held on 30th January 2023. Agencies work together to ensure a robust criminal justice response is paired with perpetrator intervention, complimenting survivor-centred and trauma-informed enhanced protection to those victimised. ESIP aims to reduce risk and reoffending by identifying and addressing the specific patterns of fixated and obsessive behaviour at the earliest possible stage.
- Chelmsford and Harlow Management of Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) hubs remain 'outstanding' as the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) audit continues. Furthermore, to support the teams, a ViSOR Masterclass input has been delivered to all MOSOVO Sergeants to support high volume and tackle repeat perpetrators.
- The Proactive Order Enforcement Team (POET) reviews high-risk stalking cases each week in order to identify any opportunities around preventative orders. It also reviews precursor offences such as indecent exposure and public indecency and links in with the Officer in Charge (OIC) to discuss preventative opportunities in relation to orders.

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## Priority 3 - Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse

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### North LPA

- Next Chapter<sup>1</sup> continues to work with local officers in Tendring, attending incidents and making referrals with victims of DA directly. The support they offer victims remains invaluable. They also work with officers from the investigations teams and provide support around high-risk victims of DA offering relevant referrals and ongoing support.
- Braintree and Uttlesford Community Partnership Team (CPT) will be working with Licensing on the 'ASK Angela'<sup>2</sup> campaign within licenced premises to educate staff in the hospitality industry and raise awareness of the signs of domestic abuse and offer a place of safety for victims of domestic abuse to come forward.
- Braintree and Uttlesford are looking to promote and support the 'Strut Safe' campaign, which further supports work to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG),. Any individual walking home from an evening out can call the Strut Safe call centre and remain on the line until the individual is safely home. We will look to engage and promote with Great Dunmow licenced premises, gaining assistance from the Town Council and District Authority to start with, with a view to rolling out further during the year.
- Chelmsford District has dedicated Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Team (DAPST) officers who specialise in tackling repeat perpetrators of domestic abuse and use a number of tactics to disrupt this behaviour. Their workflows include Op PUFFIN which was born out of the Ashley Wadsworth murder investigation. They also work closely with Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to manage violent offenders. Their workstreams are:
  - OP PUFFIN: Managing a cohort of high harm offenders identified as posing a risk of committing domestic homicide.
  - MAPPA: Statutory requirement to manage a cohort of offenders where DA is a trigger. Not always linked to OP Puffin as a nominal.
  - DA based civil orders: They monitor and enforce all DA based civil orders such as Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPNs), Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs).
  - Arresting DA offenders: Assisting in locating and arresting high risk DA offenders.
  - Domestic Abuse Investigation Team (DAIT) referrals for victims: Will engage and provide additional support to victims with complex needs.

### South LPA

- The DAPST team has changed from being victim to perpetrator focused, with the objective being to manage the highest risk perpetrators in Essex. This enables disruption of offending behaviour and to not lose sight of alternative victims once the perpetrator leaves a particular relationship.
- In alignment with wider Essex Police teams, a number of officers have been posted into the Domestic Abuse Investigation Teams with the aim to reach full capacity across the LPA. This will ease the investigative burden on the officers already in post and strengthen the skills of the new officers entering when it comes to domestic abuse.

<sup>1</sup> Next Chapter - service providing information and support for Domestic Abuse victims.

<sup>2</sup> Ask Angela - campaign used by bars and other venues to keep people safe from sexual assault by using a codeword to identify when they are in danger or are in an uncomfortable position.

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## Priority 3 - Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse

*Our objective is to give a voice to those who need protection, support the vulnerable and reduce the number of people who become the victim of crime in their communities or their homes.*

### South LPA (continued)

- High harm offences and domestic abuse investigations are scrutinised by supervisors closely to ensure all avenues of investigations are explored, ensuring victims are safeguarded and learning opportunities are identified.
- There is continued training in both police and court issued orders (e.g. SPOs, DVPNs and DVPOs) which means officers are able to effect a wider means of disrupting criminal activity and preventing harm to the most vulnerable alongside regular investigations.

### West LPA

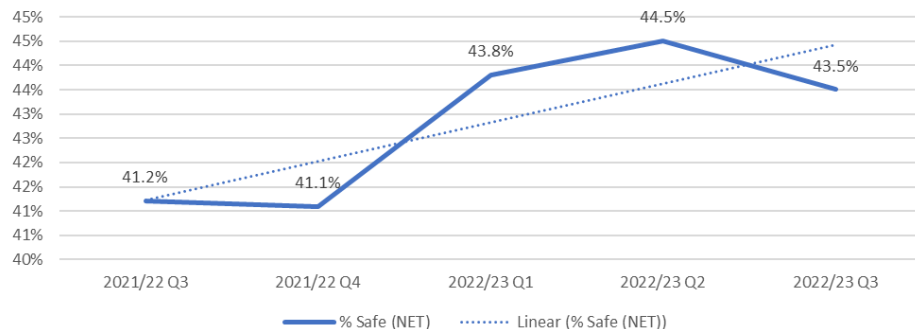
- There continues to be reductions in the number of hate crime and domestic abuse investigations in the 12 months to March 2023 compared to the 12 months to March 2022.
- Epping saw a 9.3% reduction and Brentwood a 10.6% reduction in the number of domestic abuse offences reported over the last 12 months. There was a 1.3% increase in solved rates in Brentwood but a 3.5% reduction in Epping in the same period.
- Solved rates for hate crimes have continued to improve over the year, and the principles under “Op Reconsider” are now well established in the Community Partnership Teams (CPTs). Op Knowledge referrals to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have also taken place to obtain quick time advice on investigations.
- A male sex offender was imprisoned after appearing at Chelmsford Crown Court in January, where he was sentenced to 27 years in prison after being found guilty of multiple sexual offences against young girls. He will also serve a further five years on license.
- There was also a high profile conviction of reality TV star Stephen Bear. An investigation into the suspect began in December 2020, after Essex Police was contacted regarding an intimate video being shared online to multiple social media platforms. He has been given a 21 month custodial sentence.

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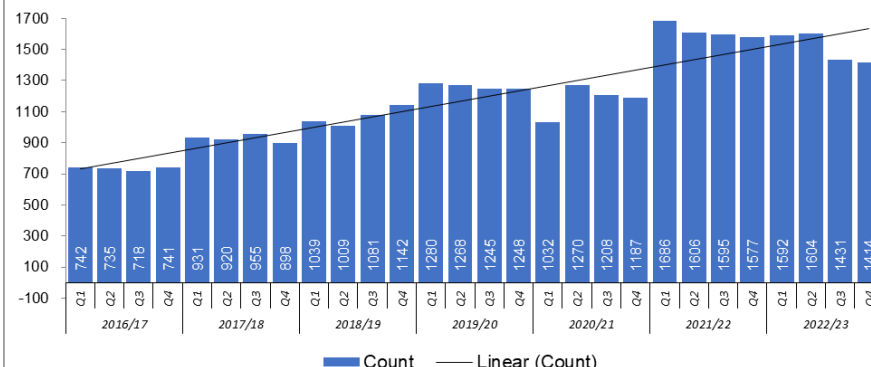
## Priority 4 - Reducing violence against women and girls

*Our objective is to support a cultural change within society and provide strong, consistent, and vocal support for the safety of women and girls whether they report crimes against them or not.*

Percentage of females who feel safe walking alone in their area after dark  
Data to December 2022



Sexual offences



### Key Points

- Female confidence in walking alone after dark<sup>1</sup> has remained stable from 2021/22 Q3 to 2022/23 Q3. This is despite Policing events in the national news primarily relating to the Metropolitan Police.
- Confidence levels resulting from actions taken in 2022/23 Q4 will be received at the end of April 2023.
- There is an upward trend in Sexual Offences from 2016/17 Q1 to 2022/23 Q4 with decreases being reported in 2022/23 Q3 and Q4.

### Force-wide

- On 30<sup>th</sup> March, Crime and Public Protection had a “Working Smarter Event” which was themed around child sexual exploitation and VAWG. The VAWG Lead spoke about what current work is ongoing and there were also case studies presented and Question and Answer sessions designed to highlight best investigative practice.
- The work with Targeting Organised Exploitation Crime (TOEX) continues to increase our ability to highlight and deal with high risk offenders. Recently an offender under the age of 18 who had already committed multiple offences was subject to a Sexual Risk Order which is unusual for a juvenile offender. This has since resulted in the offender being charged and remanded.
- Building on the successful prosecution of Stephen Bear for sharing private sexual images. Essex Police is working with Nottingham Trent University to build a set of national recommendations for policing on how to respond effectively to offences involving the sharing of private sexual images.

<sup>1</sup> The confidence question was added to the internal survey in September 2021.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 4 - Reducing violence against women and girls

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### **North LPA**

- Op Minerva remains in the planning stages – however we have now identified the VAWG hotspot areas within Tendring. One of these is Clacton town centre which will be subject to the Minerva patrols and Community Safety Partnership (CSP) action to ensure that all partners can come together to target offenders. These patrols will link in with investigations to identify who offenders target and consideration will be given to prevention orders for offenders attending these locations to commit crime.
- A number of successful prosecutions have taken place with the work undertaken by Essex Police teams and supported by partner agencies such as Next Chapter.
- Chelmsford has a 9.3% positive outcome rate from domestic abuse at the moment. We are also seeing an uplift of six officers in the DAIT by 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and a commitment to holding no vacancies, which will support the team in providing quality investigations to victims.
- The embedded prison liaison team works closely with colleagues at HMP Chelmsford, targeting offenders who still offend while in custody. One successful outcome of note saw a five year sentence in addition the current sentence for a prisoner who committed indecent exposure against prison staff in establishments across other prisons before arriving in Chelmsford. The team took a proactive approach to gather material and gain a successful prosecution. This male was initially convicted of exposure, and the extended sentence will further protect the public.
- Funding has recently been approved for the Safer Streets project. This will see upgrades and new CCTV cameras placed in and around Clacton to improve our “eyes on” approach and identify any incidents and record best evidence for investigations. The funding will also see improvements to lighting in hotspot areas and provide more staffing through our care line operators. With this funding we are seeking to make the area a safer place for women and girls and provide better evidential opportunities to solve any reported crime against them.
- In Colchester, Operation Kirn, a partnership operation with cadets, tested whether young people would be able to book hotel rooms in the district and potentially expose themselves to harm. Officers also deployed with cadets to test the response in bars and clubs across the Town regarding the “Ask Angela” initiative. Many of the bars and clubs performed really well. Hotels performed less well and are now receiving bespoke vulnerability training from the Business Improvement District which came about through Colchester’s successful Safer Streets Fund Bid.
- Working alongside the CSP, we have recently formed a working group with young local females to understand better the issues they face within the Chelmsford City Centre area, with a particular emphasis on the night time economy. Additionally the carpark closest to the train station shuts prior to the last trains coming in, meaning people had to walk further later at night. Lighting, CCTV and opening hours will be looked at by the council to improve people’s experiences (not just females’), when using carparks.
- Testing and exercising training was completed with licensed premises, bars and clubs in Chelmsford City Centre to understand how they respond to incidents of drink spiking, “Ask Angela” requests and those that feel they are suffering harassment, stalking or misogyny.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 4 - Reducing violence against women and girls

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### South LPA

- Each district holds Independent Advisory Groups with members drawn from a variety of backgrounds, who provide a direct link between the community and the police.
- The Community Safety Engagement Officer (CSEO) role has been developed and officers in this role ensure that communication with the public can be done through multiple means, not just online or in person. Regular community meetings are held across all districts and updates are provided around the work done on a regular basis with the opportunity for the community to feed back what is important to them.
- Each district has “Victim Champions”, who share best practice amongst their teams to support victims.
- With regard to Victim Care Contract (VCC) compliance, there is an agreement made between victims and officers around regularity of contact. This is scrutinised at command team meetings and had led to a reduction in “failed” VCCs where officers have not updated or recorded their updates to victims. The focus is now on the quality of the updates and how officers explain police processes to victims.
- A review is being conducted of how best to develop / utilise existing survey formats, so that Essex Police can better serve communities.

### West LPA

- VAWG offences, repeat VAWG victims and suspects and general trends are now part of fortnightly tasking process, and cases are discussed with options looked at for further support or enforcement options.
- Offences reported are continuing to decline in the West LPA.
- We have been working with our Community Safety Partnership (CSP) on the development of Op Minerva, which is the hotspot tracking of VAWG locations. At the most recent meeting three top areas based on hot spot maps were identified. The next stage will be for research of those areas before awareness and preventative work commences.
- We have launched ‘Walk With Us’ which is the idea of women and girls going on a walk with officers from Essex Police and the Community Safety Partnership in an area and pointing out where there are safety concerns, for example ‘the street lighting in the alleyway would prevent me walking through it’. These events currently take place once a month in each area in the evening. Officers identify a location that is a VAWG or ASB hotspot. At each event there is a crime prevention stall in a central location which is full of items aimed at keeping people safe, including personal attack alarms, drink spiking test kits, purse bells etc. The public’s reaction to these events has been really positive.
- Two Walk with Us events have been conducted in the last quarter in Brentwood, on 20<sup>th</sup> January on the High Street and on 4<sup>th</sup> March at Thorndon Country Park. At both these events we have had over 200 questionnaires completed. Two events have also been completed in Epping in the last three months, outside Debden and Loughton Tube Stations, with over 250 questionnaires completed. The questionnaires will be shared with the relevant partner agencies so work can be completed to make the area safer, such as fixing broken street lighting and to identify targeted patrol requirements.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 4 - Reducing violence against women and girls

*Our objective is to support a cultural change within society and provide strong, consistent, and vocal support for the safety of women and girls whether they report crimes against them or not.*

### **West LPA (continued)**

- We have begun to make arrangements with our Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to fund self-defence classes for women and girls. Funding has been agreed and Community Safety Engagement Officers (CSEOs) in both areas will be finalising the plans for this over the next month. On top of this our CSP is rolling out self defence classes in Ninefields, Waltham Abbey from Safer Streets funding.
- Operation Brave was set up between Police and Thurrock Council as a result of street safe data highlighting Grays High Street as an area of vulnerability for VAWG. Officers patrolled with the council and supporting agencies aiming to engage with females, carry out high visibility policing (HVP) and identify areas where crime prevention target hardening could be considered.

### **North LPA**

- Op Worrall formalises a joint approach between North LPT and North DAPST focusing on high harm and complex offending, robustly targeting repeat DA offenders, which includes a review of historic allegations made against the same offender. The team has increased the number of preventative orders being submitted to the legal department following the change in the threshold.
- Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) case clinics connect allocated lawyers to officers, specifically focussing on cases over 12 months old to enable more efficient decision making and streamlining work towards case completion.
- An internal forum discussing misogyny and how to tackle it has identified the need for specific guidance and support for victims of DA where the perpetrator is an employee of Essex Police. Perpetrators will be robustly targeted, processed and prosecuted as part of a newly implemented procedure.



# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 4 - Reducing violence against women and girls

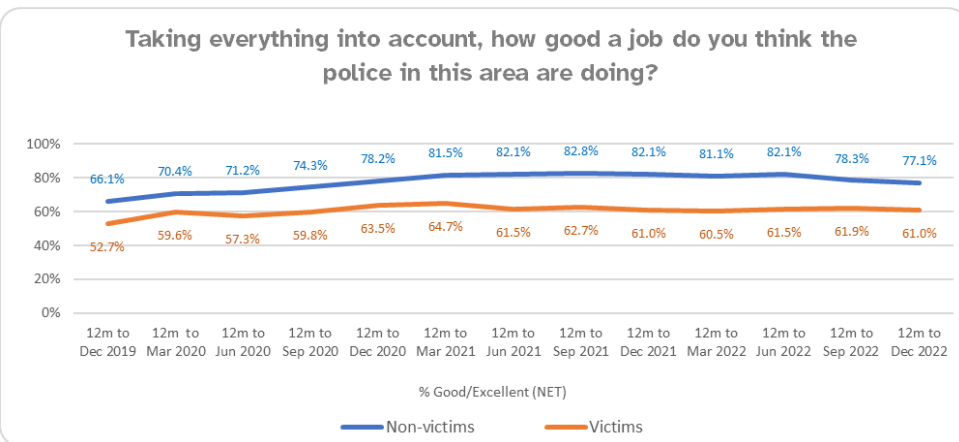
*Our objective is to support a cultural change within society and provide strong, consistent, and vocal support for the safety of women and girls whether they report crimes against them or not.*

- The Victim Closure Document (VCD) has been rolled out across the whole of the Crime and Public Protection Command (C&PP), providing good insight into victim service, enabling us to share good practice, address gaps and understand what we can do differently to inform our future work.
- A force-wide Vulnerability Event highlighting all strands of vulnerability has been held. Delegates heard from many external speakers including an ex-sex worker who talked about her experience, and crucially what we can do differently to identify and support vulnerability.
- The latest Community Engagement Group (CEG), formed of representatives from the diverse communities we serve, has recently met and discussed indecent images of children, how the offence can be committed, the effect this has on the individual and the support available to those affected through engagement with Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs).
- Essex Police has worked with victims of VAWG offences and their families to raise the awareness of what Essex Police will do to support victims. This has been supported by the media department which has launched very successful and popular media campaigns raising awareness. This includes the coverage of the Stephen Bear trial and conviction and the Reflect<sup>1</sup> campaign.
- Essex Police has been engaging with headteachers from Essex schools, raising awareness of VAWG offending, sexism and misogyny. This is designed to increase awareness within schools and to maximise information sharing between education authorities and schools to ensure victims come forward and report crimes.
- The force's VAWG lead will be attending the next Victim Feedback Panel to talk about what Essex Police is doing to tackle VAWG and hear what victims feel needs to be done.
- Essex Police continues to focus on its own internal culture and behaviour. This is in order to maintain and improve public confidence. Essex Police has completed a survey of its workforce on views of the current culture towards VAWG and the issues of sexism and misogyny. This has also involved listening groups to capture officers' and staff's views on how to improve awareness and dealing with such issues.
- Essex Police continues to conduct operations in the night time economy to both target offending and provide community re-assurance. An event in Chelmsford on the 17<sup>th</sup> March was attended by MP Vicky Ford who wrote "It was particularly moving that so many women took the time to thank the police for being out in force and for taking their safety so seriously."

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 5 - Improving support for victims of crime

*Our objective is to recognise and prevent the harm caused to victims by the crime they experience, and the need to protect those who are most vulnerable to becoming victims.*



### Key Points

- Confidence among victims (assessed through the independent survey commissioned by the PFCC and Essex Police) is at 61.0% for 2022/23 Q3 (results to the 12 months to December 2022). Although this is 16.1% lower than confidence of non-victims for the same period (77.1%), the gap has narrowed slightly from 16.4% compared to Q2.
- Confidence levels resulting from actions taken in 2022/23 Q4 will be received at the end of April

### Force-wide

- There has been a focus on the restorative justice process with training sessions delivered that have highlighted the possible non-custodial resolutions for crime types within the scope of the Crime and Public Protection Command (C&PP).
- Enhanced training for Stalking Ambassadors has been delivered. This achievement can be measured by the recent Stalking Protection Order (SPO) review which highlighted that Essex Police had *all* the SPOs it applied for granted and none refused, putting Essex in the top three forces for success in SPO application.
- Essex Police has funded the training of six new Independent Stalking Advocate Caseworkers (three per LPA). These ISACs tailor support to victims, working alongside Essex Police to facilitate positive outcomes, supporting them to have the confidence to report crime.
- 50% of all investigations finalised as outcome 16 (victim does not support a prosecution) have been reviewed. The cases were correctly finalised and the review highlighted some excellent practice and demonstrated officers and managers are tailoring support along with the victim's needs and respecting their decision not to prosecute where they do not wish and cannot be supported to engage.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 5 - Improving support for victims of crime

*Our objective is to recognise and prevent the harm caused to victims by the crime they experience, and the need to protect those who are most vulnerable to becoming victims.*

### North LPA

- In Tendring, Operation Lancaster is a Community Partnership Team (CPT) led operation whereby victims who have investigations undertaken by the Contact Management Command are visited by PCSOs to offer advice and reassurance in respect of their reported crime. This has dramatically enhanced the service we provide to our victims who would not normally expect to see anyone from Essex Police. The PCSOs can give crime prevention advice, reassurance and referrals to other agencies for additional support whilst addressing the concerns of the victim in our community.
- Chelmsford works closely in partnership with a number of external agencies, including Next Chapter. Next Chapter engages with and provides support to victims of DA. They will, when requested, provide an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) who will work with the victim even when they are unsupportive of an investigation and prosecution. The IDVAs are excellent in providing safe support away from the police and a number of victims have consented to this support when they are not ready for, or do not want, a formal prosecution. For example, a recent victim of a serious domestic assault who had no interest in supporting a prosecution as they did not feel ready was referred to this process. They are now being effectively supported and safeguarded, which is what they wanted when reporting to police.
- Chelmsford is also taking part in a national trial of a new app where the victim can collate and keep evidence on a secure cloud. When they are ready to support a prosecution or want more police support they can submit it through to the police and it comes through in a evidential format. We saw our first referral through this process last week. This is still in the early stages of rollout but is an innovative idea to support victims and work at their speed, giving them control.
- The Town Centre Team (TCT) has run Op Snowy - regular engagement events in different locations throughout Chelmsford city centre. These are pop up stalls put in prime locations to offer support and advice to predominantly the elderly and vulnerable communities around theft from the person, fraud and other offences which effect them. We have worked with the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and provide various crime prevention materials. We also offer support and guidance around crime reporting, ensuring people feel confident in reporting incidents to us.
- The Clacton Domestic Abuse Investigation Team (DAIT) has developed an innovative training package delivered to student officers in Tendring district. It gives them better understanding of coercive and controlling behaviour, stalking and non-fatal strangulation. These are areas identified as being the most misunderstood and yet amongst the most common DA crimes. There has been very good feedback and this will soon be rolled out LPA wide.
- The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) place victims at the heart of decision making, understanding their needs, providing support and reassurance and appropriate safeguarding, and works with victims to ensure they are confident to support prosecution. As a result of this, one example of recent feedback received from a carer of an elderly vulnerable victim of crime stated: *"The officer has been absolutely brilliant in a very, very stressful time. The officer was precisely the right person to be doing this with a vulnerable elderly person, who is really, really pleased and happy with the provided information and support"*.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 5 - Improving support for victims of crime

*Our objective is to recognise and prevent the harm caused to victims by the crime they experience, and the need to protect those who are most vulnerable to becoming victims.*

### South LPA

- Victim care cards have been created which contain contact details for the Officer in Charge (OIC) of their investigation and any relevant reference numbers as well as details of what support they are entitled to. One of the main drivers of dissatisfaction was not being updated in a timely manner and not knowing how to get an update. This direct link aims to overcome this barrier.
- Actions continue to ensure hard-to-reach communities have trust in reporting crimes to Essex Police. For example, in Canvey Island, to address the historically low rates of reporting crimes amongst the local Haredi population, there have been extensive policing outreach initiatives. This has resulted in increasing numbers of reported crimes, allowing an appropriate response.
- Increased training introduced in Restorative Justice has been expanded to all staff. A number of posters and internal training documents have also been posted in every station.
- A new initiative, working with social prescribers in the NHS, will soon be trialled in Canvey Island. This will enable matters involving juveniles to be addressed by a joint approach. The results of this trial are being monitored by researchers from the University of Essex and, if successful, will be expanded.

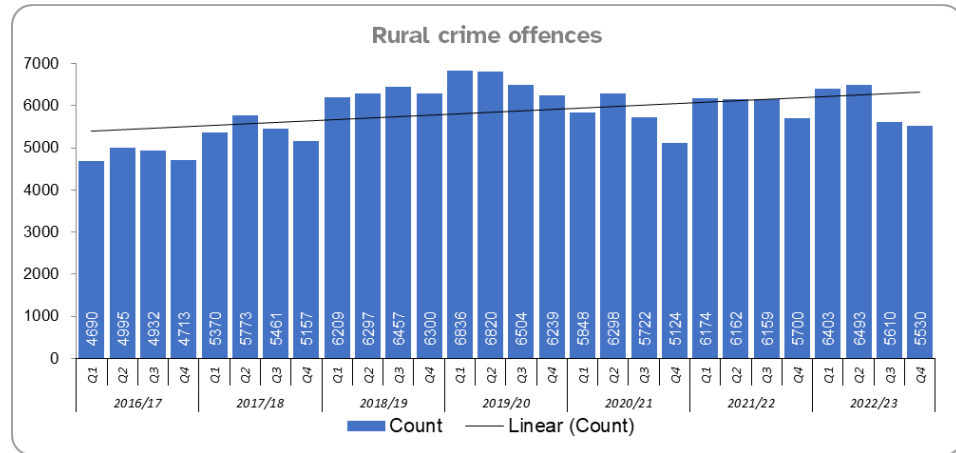
### West LPA

- We have continued to build on the lessons learnt through Op Reconsider, and solved rates for hate crimes have continued to increase. Brentwood's solved rate was 16.8% for the 12 months to March 2023, an increase of 3.4% compared to last year,
- Op Knowledge has been running over the past few months, which gives the OICs of investigating hate crime offences the chance to have a scheduled appointment with a Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Solicitor to discuss case progression and Realistic Prospect of Conviction (RPOC) without having a full file completed or the investigation finished. Its objective is to reduce the time it takes from initial investigation to resolution, driven by a focused investigation following liaison between the OIC and CPS lawyer. The trial period is still ongoing.
- A range of tailored operations have been conducted across the districts including burglary operations during peak times, theft of motor vehicle proactive patrols, Op Henderson with the British Transport Police (BTP) trying to identify vulnerable and exploited young persons on the transport network, Op Makesafe to educate hotel staff on signs of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and many more.
- The Local Action Group (LAG) for Thurrock continues to support vulnerable victims and give all agencies a platform to come together to discuss joint ideas to protect vulnerable victims and communities.
- Officers, together with the fraud officer, have conducted fraud prevention talks at local sheltered housing schemes to make the residents aware of the current scams and how to prevent themselves from becoming a victim.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 6 - Protecting rural and isolated areas

*Our objective is to work with rural communities to help them build greater resilience and keep them safe.*



### Key Points

- The new Rural Crime Strategy launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> March providing a refreshed strategy to protect rural and isolated areas.
- There is a slight increasing trend in the number of rural crime offences in the period 2016/17 Q1 to 2022/23 Q4, however the number of offences reported in Q4 decreased compared to Q3.
- The Farm and Rural Watch group increased the number of its members to 757 at the end of Q4, up by 10, compared to the end of Q3.

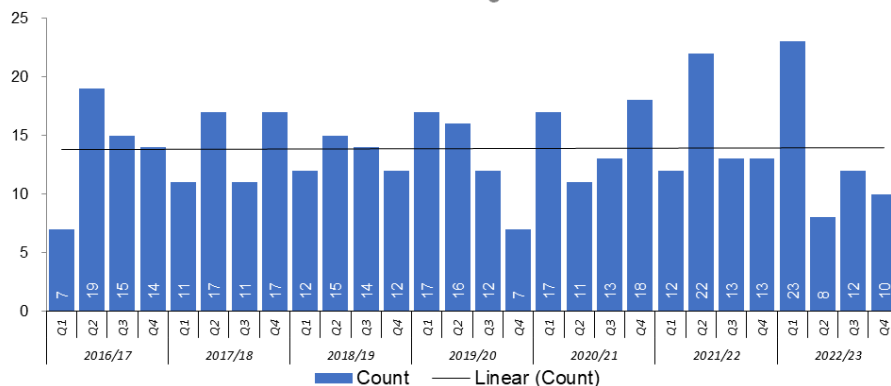
- The Rural Engagement Team (RET) oversees all unauthorised encampments. During this period there were five encampments and policing powers were used on one of these occasions (note that encampments are seasonal).
- Farm and Rural Watch coordinated by the Essex Watch Liaison Officers currently consists of 757 members (up 10 members compared to the end of Q3) who receive a weekly report regarding crimes relating to the rural community in order that they can be aware of what is happening throughout the county and take necessary precautions. They also receive occasional topical crime prevention advice and a copy of the Rural Engagement Team's Newsletter. All members are encouraged to report crimes and any suspicious activity through the proper channels.
- The Rural Engagement Team has undertaken 763 hours of patrols (up 24%), 471 traffic offence reports (no change), 45 Stop and Searches (up 100%), 6 arrests (down 50%), 99 intelligence reports (up 20%) and 39 vehicle seizures (down 32%) compared to the previous quarter. The Rural Engagement Team has undertaken 12 community engagement events including farm watch meetings, parish council presentations and dog owner engagement events.
- The Rural Engagement Team has achieved a national first by securing a dog banning order for hare coursers. They participated in the all party parliamentary group on animal welfare to provide insight and launched a partnership with New Holland Agriculture using a marked Police tractor as an engagement tool.
- This quarter has resulted in a three ongoing investigations into ten suspects for hare coursing related offences where suspects have been identified and are likely to lead to prosecution. Additionally, nine Community Protection Warnings / Notices have been issued for hare coursers.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 7 - Preventing dog theft

*Our objective is to do more to protect our pets and build confidence in how Essex Police handle dog thefts.*

Number of dog thefts



### Key Points

- The number of dog thefts<sup>1</sup> remained stable in the period 2016/17 Q1 to 2022/23 Q4.
- The Dog Watch Group increased its membership by 34 in the last quarter to 2,721, up from 2,687 at the end of Q3.

### Force-wide

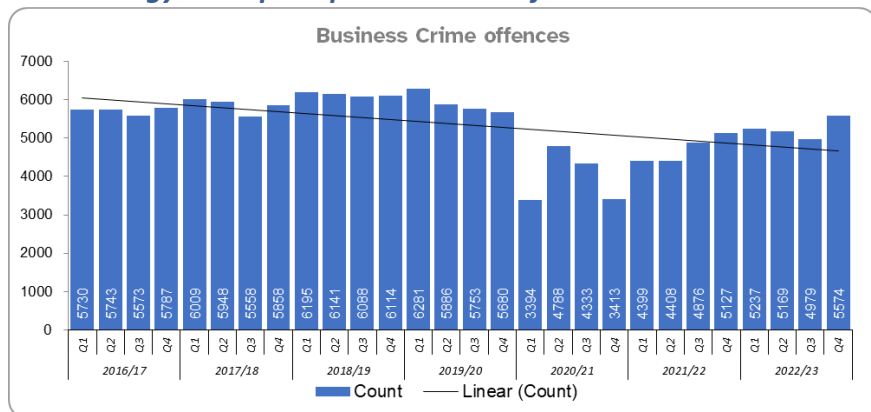
- The Rural Engagement Team (RET) has held four dog owner engagement events in this quarter in Maldon, Chelmsford, Brentwood and Basildon. 80 dog owners were engaged with, and provided with dog theft awareness advice and microchip scanning.
- All dog theft investigations are reviewed by a specialist within the RET. Stranger dog theft remains very low. Victims are contacted and enhanced support is provided ensuring a high level of service due to the impact of such a crime. There were 10 reported dog theft incidents this quarter. One of these was stolen from a back garden.
- Dog Watch is led by our Essex Watch Liaison Officers. There are currently 2,721 members, up from 2,687 at the end of the previous quarter.
- Any intelligence received by Essex Watch Liaison Officers from Dog Watch Members direct is submitted through the proper channels and, where applicable, is highlighted to the Dog Theft SPOC and local community policing teams.

<sup>1</sup> This is number of thefts in which dogs were stolen, and not quantity of dogs stolen in each theft. Data are based on theft offence crimes and robbery offence crimes where the 'property code' is 'pet animal – dog' and the 'property status' is 'stolen' and/or 'stolen/recovered'.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 8 - Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime

*Our objective is to work with businesses and individuals to tackle the surge in fraud and cyber-crime and to support Essex Police's Business Crime Strategy to help keep businesses safe.*



### Key Points

- There is a downward trend from 2016/17 Q1 to 2022/23 Q4 but this can be attributed to the lower number of offences recorded during the period of Government restrictions due to COVID-19 when businesses were not allowed to open fully. The two periods with the strictest restrictions, 2020/21 Q1 and Q4, have the lowest number of recorded crimes in the whole period.
- The previous quarter recorded the highest number of offences since 2020/21 Q1, returning close to pre-pandemic levels.

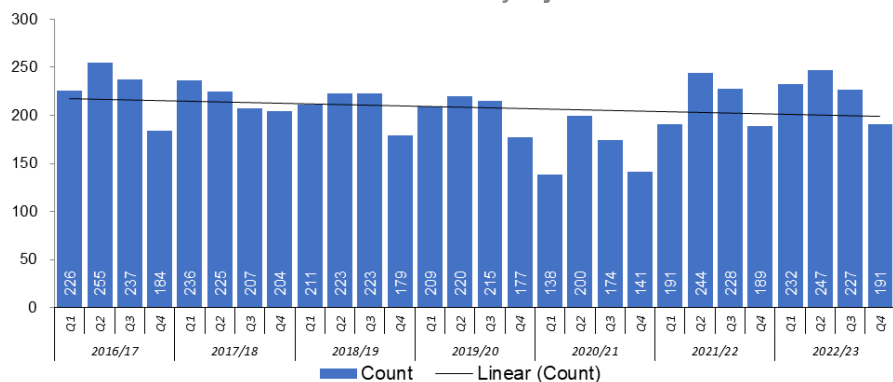
- In Cyber Protect, Essex Police continues to support and work closely with the regional Cyber Resilience Centre (CRC) and has been recognised as having the highest number of confirmed membership referrals in the Eastern Region. This achievement is in no small part due to the work of the Essex Cyber Prevent and Protect Officer, and with this team now seeing growth with an additional officer, it is expected that engagement with businesses across Essex will continue to grow and therefore improve the cyber resilience of the county against this emerging and complex type of criminality.
- Engagement with the business community via various forums, including a recent conference on cyber fraud, ensures that cyber resilience, cyber threats and mitigation / education remain in the forefront of business leaders' minds to ensure Essex Police is in the best place to prevent cyber-attacks. This even prompted the Essex Prevent and Protect Two Year Plan aimed at improving collaboration between Essex Police, Essex businesses and our partner agencies to improve reporting by businesses.
- The Cyber Prevent Team also remain engaged with the Essex Digital Partnership (EDP). The partnership, made up of cyber technicians from Essex County Council and the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, meets monthly to discuss current threats and trends along with mitigation opportunities, ensuring sharing of information across the county's services to build resilience.
- Essex Fraud Protect is leading the way nationally in respect of providing support and information to victims and the public in relation to fraud. The Romance Victim Peer Support Group, run by and facilitated by Essex Fraud Protect and Victim Support, is unique in the way victims of this devastating crime offer support by sharing survivor accounts and coping mechanisms between themselves. Essex Fraud Protect is also working with various agencies and voluntary organisations in order to provide a fully joined up approach to supporting victims of fraud. This approach is the first in the country and is being monitored with interest by the Home Office and academia. The Fraud Coordinators continue to provide support to hundreds of the most vulnerable victims to prevent them from becoming repeat victims.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 9 - Improving safety on our roads

*Our objective is to continue to improve safety on our roads, promote safer driving behaviours and robustly target those who cause the most harm.*

Killed or Seriously Injured



### Key Points

- There is a very slight downward trend in the period 2016/17 Q1 to 2022/23 Q4 but this data is skewed by the low numbers recorded in 2020/21 Q1 and Q4 when the strictest COVID-19 restrictions were in place.<sup>1</sup>
- There were 897 KSIs recorded in 2022/23. This is the second highest annual number recorded in the seven year period since 2016/17 (902 KSIs).
- Q4 recorded the lowest number of KSIs in the previous 12 months.
- There are over 87 Community Speed Watch groups and over 1,000 volunteers working with Essex Police to reduce casualties on the roads

### Force-wide

- During this quarter, a total of 187 people were killed or seriously injured following road traffic collisions. In this quarter 10 were fatalities compared to 11 in the same quarter last year. The force has recorded zero fatalities involving motorbikes and two involving pedestrians this quarter.
- The newly rebranded Vision Zero roads policing operation, which has been running since June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022, targets 'Fatal Four' offences (speeding, drink and drug driving, driving while distracted and non-wearing of seatbelts) on strategic roads and, this quarter, generated 676 seatbelt, 344 mobile phone related, 108 careless driving, 136 driving with no insurance, 447 other road traffic offences, 160 drink / drug driving arrests and 1,121 speed offences. There have been 30 additional Vision Zero operations this quarter, targeting the Fatal Four offences as well as the National Police Chiefs Council objectives, such as uninsured / unlicensed vehicles and drivers, eyesight requirements (*drivers must be able to read (with glasses or contact lenses, if necessary) a car number plate made after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2001 from 20 metres*) and Power2Wheeler vehicles.
- Officers attended school crossing patrol sites in support of operatives, assisting with the promotion of the 'Stop Means Stop' road safety campaign. February 2023 saw the first pilot school multi-agency day of action, working alongside vulnerable road users from schools across the county, as well as School Crossing operatives, teachers, parents, Essex police officers, Safer Essex Roads School Liaison Officers, Parking Partnership enforcement officers, local Councillors and media teams.

<sup>1</sup> Data from January 2021 amended monthly.



# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 9 - Improving safety on our roads

*Our objective is to continue to improve safety on our roads, promote safer driving behaviours and robustly target those who cause the most harm.*

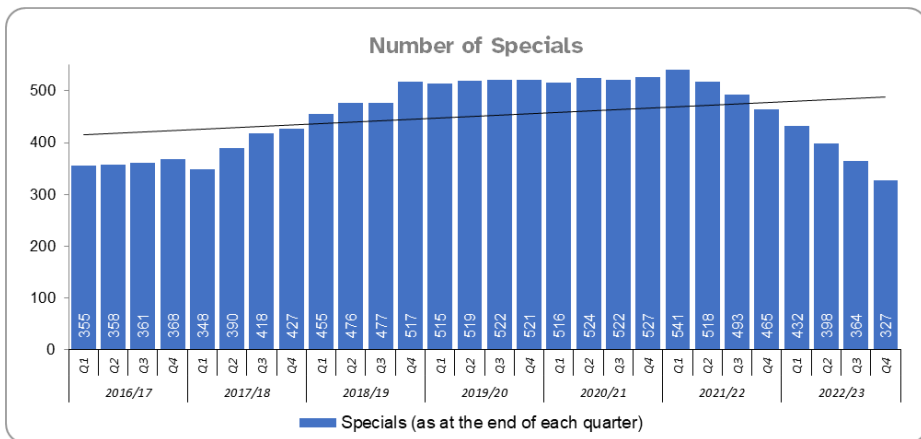
### **Force-wide (continued)**

- There are 87 Community Speed Watch groups and over a 1,000 volunteers working with Essex Police to reduce casualties on the roads. Officers visited 43 Community Speed Watch and 25 School Speed Watch sites with over 600 hours of engagement in support of our schools and volunteers, enforcing, engaging within the local community, and promoting the Vision Zero campaign.
- Officers enforced at over 60 sites as a result of analysed speed survey data and localised complaints across North, South and West of the county, supporting the Essex Police 'You Said We Did' campaign.
- Essex Police introduced six new police officers on the motorcycle team to patrol the North, South and West of the county.
- Essex Police introduced 37 new vehicle tint measuring devices for front line officers at the roadside.
- Essex Roads Policing Unit created 200 social media articles promoting operational success within the county in conjunction with our partners. This message was widening with further support across local authorities, parishes and local policing districts delivering further the Vision Zero road safety message.
- The Extra Eyes road safety initiative continues to gain momentum with 1,198 submissions and 44% positive outcomes. This includes 450 for Careless Driving, 197 for Careless Driving (Close Pass), 46 for mobile phone related offences, and 66 related to driving through red traffic lights.
- There was an increase over the last quarter in submissions from our vulnerable road user groups including 239 pedal cyclists, 191 pedestrian and nine horse riders, with a positive outcome for 58% pedal cyclists, 33% horse riders and 26% pedestrians.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 10 - Encouraging volunteers and community support

*Our objective is to work with our communities to prevent crime, support victims and ensure that criminals have no place to operate.*



### Key Points

- Despite an upward trend since April 2016 the number of Specials has fallen each quarter since 2021/22 Q1.
- The total number of Watch Groups increased by 50 in Q4 compared to Q3.
- The Essex Horse Rider Volunteer Scheme was launched in November, initially as a trial sponsored by Uttlesford Council within its district. There are now four volunteers signed up and active in this area with continued promotion of the scheme and further applicants being progressed.
- Three volunteer induction courses / drop-in events for Active Citizens and Police Support Volunteers have been conducted for both new and existing volunteers.
- The Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme continues to work in collaboration with Essex County Fire Cadets.

### Essex Special Constabulary

- Headcount is currently 327<sup>1</sup>. This quarter, Specials have completed a total of 24,009 hours and they have undertaken 19,071 hours of operational policing. 32 Special Constables resigned, with two retiring and 16 joining regulars, including two joining other forces.
- The revised #MyOtherLife dedicated recruitment campaign was very active on social media, as well as through adverts in local gyms and Channel 4 Catch Up. Recent activity includes an internal campaign to encourage friends and family to sign up and we have seen a small increase in applications in the last month. Further activity around the campaign is planned in 2023.
- There are 14 Community Special Constables (CSCs) supporting 11 Parishes who completed 63 duties and 420 hours during January and February.
- The Employer Supported Policing (ESP) scheme currently has 64 companies registered with 83 Special Constables benefitting. We continue to work with Chamber of Commerce and local Parishes to promote schemes.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 10 - Encouraging volunteers and community support

*Our objective is to work with our communities to prevent crime, support victims and ensure that criminals have no place to operate.*

### **Active Citizens and Police Support Volunteers**

- Essex Police currently retains 155 Police Support Volunteers (PSVs) of which 55 are Active Citizens (ACs)<sup>1</sup>. There are four volunteers in the pipeline, with eight ready for deployment.
- The Domestic Abuse Investigation Team (DAIT) has now had approved six roles to operate from the North District DAIT. The volunteers for these roles have been selected and are in the process of getting enhanced vetting.
- Our Police Support Volunteers and Active Citizens have supported several Street Week Events across the county .
- Duty Sheet training continues via online and drop in training sessions with a third of volunteers now trained. In addition, 27 SPOCS have received training in managing volunteers via the Duty Sheet. A Citizens in Policing (CiP) Volunteer role is now being utilised to contact those volunteers who still need training to encourage engagement with the Duty Sheet and training.
- Three volunteer induction courses / drop-in events have been conducted for both new and existing volunteers.

### **Volunteer Police Cadets**

- There are 221 Volunteer Police Cadets (VPCs) and 87 Volunteer Cadet Leaders across 13 Cadet Units<sup>1</sup>. There is ongoing recruitment activity for Cadet Leaders to support the three units not yet back to full strength post-Covid. Southend is planning to re-open by Easter with Braintree and Chelmsford to follow. Cadets continue to assist at various community events.
- The Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme continues to work in collaboration with Essex County Fire Cadets. There are now plans for a joint Police and Fire Cadets PFCC Games for 2023. We are also working with volunteers from the Fire and Rescue Service to relaunch the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. VPCs continue to support their local Policing Teams with crime prevention and attending local community engagement events.

<sup>1</sup> – Data to end of February 2023

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 10 - Encouraging volunteers and community support

*Our objective is to work with our communities to prevent crime, support victims and ensure that criminals have no place to operate.*

The Local Policing Support Unit (LPSU) Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), continues to bring together our 14 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), partners and agencies along with the 10 District teams within Essex Police. The SCG has successfully mobilised support for Street Week activities across the county every calendar month, and more recently in Chelmsford and Colchester.

- **January 2023:** 217 additional resources were deployed - 178 Special Constables, four Essex Police Volunteers, three Essex Watch Members, seven Business Crime Team Officers, nine Essex Fraud Coordinators and 16 Rural Engagement Team Officers.
- **February 2023:** 99 additional resources were deployed - 70 Community Policing Team Officers, 22 Special Constables, two Business Crime Team Officers, one Essex Fraud Coordinator and four Rural Engagement Team Officers.
- **March 2023:** A Street-Week has been organised for 27<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 with over 100 additional volunteers being mobilised in the West LPA, Thurrock area.
- The LPSU is launching 'Operation Community' next quarter, which is a dedicated monthly Neighbourhood Policing Day of Action across all 10 Policing Districts, tackling crime and ASB, focusing on our response, the "We will.." statements and public confidence.

### Essex Watch

- The Essex Watch Liaison Officers (EWLOs) continue to work with Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and support community engagement events with the Rural Crime Team and Fraud Coordinators, providing crime prevention advice. This quarter, work includes a talk to Shotley Wives Club to support International Women's Day and a stand at the Rural Crime Strategy Launch.
- EWLOs continue to work closely with the farm and rural community, consisting of 757 members and 104 Business Watch Groups.
- Dog Watch continues to grow, with 2,721 individuals and related businesses now members.
- The Essex Horse Rider Volunteer Scheme was launched in November, initially as a trial sponsored by Uttlesford Council within its district. There are now four volunteers signed up and active in this area with continued promotion of the scheme and further applicants being progressed.

### Street Pastors

- Street Pastors continue to support the LPAs in the night time economy and to link in with the SOS buses in Colchester and Southend.

### Crimestoppers

- Crimestoppers continues to work with the Citizens in Policing Team around promoting its Crime Stopper Zone initiative.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 11 - Supporting our officers and staff

*Our objective is to ensure that the officers, staff and volunteers in Essex Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's office receive the support they need to keep delivering an outstanding service to the public, that they reflect all of our communities across Essex and can go about their work safely.*

### Sickness - Average hours lost per person

| Officers                |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |       | Staff (excluding PCSO)  |      |       |      |      |       |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------------------------|------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Financial Year          | Apr  | May  | Jun  | Jul  | Aug  | Sep  | Oct   | Nov  | Dec  | Jan  | Feb  | Mar   | Financial Year          | Apr  | May   | Jun  | Jul  | Aug   | Sep   | Oct   | Nov   | Dec   | Jan  | Feb   | Mar   |
| 2015/2016               | 9.02 | 9.60 | 9.56 | 9.27 | 8.67 | 7.89 | 8.45  | 7.60 | 8.62 | 8.17 | 9.02 | 9.16  | 2015/2016               | 5.46 | 5.15  | 5.49 | 5.30 | 5.82  | 5.45  | 6.05  | 5.38  | 6.80  | 6.23 | 6.56  | 7.25  |
| 2016/2017               | 7.64 | 8.04 | 7.16 | 7.57 | 7.04 | 7.30 | 8.94  | 8.69 | 8.59 | 7.71 | 6.64 | 6.64  | 2016/2017               | 5.41 | 4.99  | 5.25 | 5.30 | 5.22  | 5.37  | 6.05  | 5.44  | 5.95  | 5.26 | 4.68  | 4.70  |
| 2017/2018               | 6.20 | 6.74 | 6.85 | 7.83 | 6.94 | 7.46 | 9.01  | 7.72 | 7.71 | 7.78 | 6.95 | 6.91  | 2017/2018               | 4.22 | 3.87  | 4.08 | 4.85 | 5.14  | 4.92  | 6.55  | 6.45  | 7.49  | 8.16 | 6.75  | 5.73  |
| 2018/2019               | 5.62 | 5.78 | 6.01 | 6.73 | 6.34 | 6.29 | 6.94  | 6.60 | 6.21 | 6.49 | 6.32 | 6.49  | 2018/2019               | 5.14 | 5.57  | 5.09 | 5.08 | 4.68  | 5.71  | 6.91  | 6.43  | 6.17  | 6.33 | 6.67  | 6.50  |
| 2019/2020               | 6.19 | 6.17 | 5.87 | 5.94 | 5.13 | 5.23 | 6.47  | 6.75 | 7.35 | 7.00 | 6.19 | 6.10  | 2019/2020               | 5.78 | 5.60  | 6.04 | 5.60 | 5.76  | 6.25  | 7.62  | 7.03  | 7.55  | 6.68 | 6.59  | 7.46  |
| 2020/2021               | 4.80 | 3.98 | 3.75 | 3.89 | 4.31 | 4.46 | 4.97  | 4.60 | 4.84 | 4.93 | 4.22 | 4.27  | 2020/2021               | 4.58 | 3.68  | 4.09 | 4.38 | 3.43  | 4.20  | 4.54  | 4.33  | 4.86  | 6.02 | 4.28  | 4.62  |
| 2021/2022               | 3.63 | 4.25 | 3.87 | 5.17 | 5.62 | 5.80 | 8.00  | 6.45 | 7.68 | 5.77 | 5.43 | 6.79  | 2021/2022               | 4.46 | 4.51  | 4.86 | 5.42 | 5.09  | 5.88  | 7.22  | 6.70  | 7.10  | 5.38 | 5.40  | 6.81  |
| 2022/2023               | 6.08 | 5.46 | 5.73 | 6.91 | 6.10 | 5.96 | 6.62  | 6.96 | 8.87 | 6.35 | 5.98 | 5.53  | 2022/2023               | 5.05 | 4.42  | 5.34 | 6.33 | 4.62  | 4.24  | 6.04  | 5.54  | 6.85  | 5.53 | 5.24  | 5.73  |
| 22/23 Variance to 21/22 | 2.45 | 1.21 | 1.86 | 1.74 | 0.48 | 0.16 | -1.38 | 0.51 | 1.20 | 0.58 | 0.55 | -1.26 | 22/23 Variance to 21/22 | 0.59 | -0.09 | 0.48 | 0.91 | -0.47 | -1.64 | -1.18 | -1.16 | -0.25 | 0.15 | -0.16 | -1.08 |

### Ethnic Minority employees

|  | 31/03/2022 | 31/03/2023 | % pt. change | Black or Black |
|--|------------|------------|--------------|----------------|
| % of Total Work Force                          | 4.36       | 4.11       | -0.26        | 0.52           |
| % of Police                                    | 4.17       | 4.09       | -0.08        | 0.39           |
| % of Staff (excl PCSO)                         | 4.48       | 4.16       | -0.11        | 0.69           |
| % of PCSO                                      | 0.97       | 0.00       | -0.97        | 0.00           |
| % of Specials                                  | 6.02       | 5.20       | -0.82        | 0.92           |
| Ethnic Minority Economically Active population | -          | 11.15      | -            | 3.68           |

### Key Points

- The average number of hours lost per person due to sickness showed an improvement for both officers and staff in March 2023 when compared to March 2022.
- Over the past 12 months more total hours have been lost due to sickness for officers, and less hours lost for staff, when compared to the same period last year.
- There has been a slight decrease (0.26%) in the proportion of ethnic minority employees at the end of 2022/23 Q4 (270) compared to the same period in the previous year (286); this equates to 16 fewer employees. This is 7.04% lower than the ethnic minority economically active population in Essex (11.15%).
- 0.52% of the total workforce are Black or Black British employees. This is 3.16% lower than the Black or Black British economically active population in Essex (3.68%).

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 11 - Supporting our officers and staff

*Our objective is to ensure that the officers, staff and volunteers in Essex Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's office receive the support they need to keep delivering an outstanding service to the public, that they reflect all of our communities across Essex and can go about their work safely.*

### **Force-wide**

- Essex Police has a workforce headcount of 6,509 of which there are 3,757 officers (an increase from 3,707 as at 31 December 2022), 2,303 staff, 109 PCSOs and 340 Specials. Overall workforce representation is 4.1% from ethnic minority backgrounds and 47.9% females (as at 28 February 2023).
- The 'We Value Difference' recruitment campaign continues with 330 candidates in the pipeline, of which 11.2% are from ethnic minority backgrounds and 47.3% are female.
- During this reporting period, five training sessions have been delivered to frontline officers. Topics included Career Progression, Positive Action and Professionalism. In total 921 officers received this input. The Diversity & Inclusion Manager has also provided three inputs for new recruits and newly promoted officers.
- The Police Race Action Plan (PRAP) has been delivered across the force, with related presentations by the D&I Manager. The PRAP has also been presented to the newly launched 'Black Communities Discussion Circle' to very positive feedback.
- On 9<sup>th</sup> February, a joint Police and ECFRS (Essex County Fire and Rescue Service) event was held to mark Race Equality Week. The theme being 'It's Everyone's Business', the event had inspirational speakers from both services sharing their lived experiences and what we can do to further improve the inclusive culture in the working environment.
- An event in acknowledgement of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stephen Lawrence racist murder is in the final planning stages, and will take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. The Force is honoured to have the brother of Stephen, Stuart Lawrence, as its keynote speaker.
- February was 'LGBT History Month' and was acknowledged with the raising of the Progress Flag at various police stations across the county.

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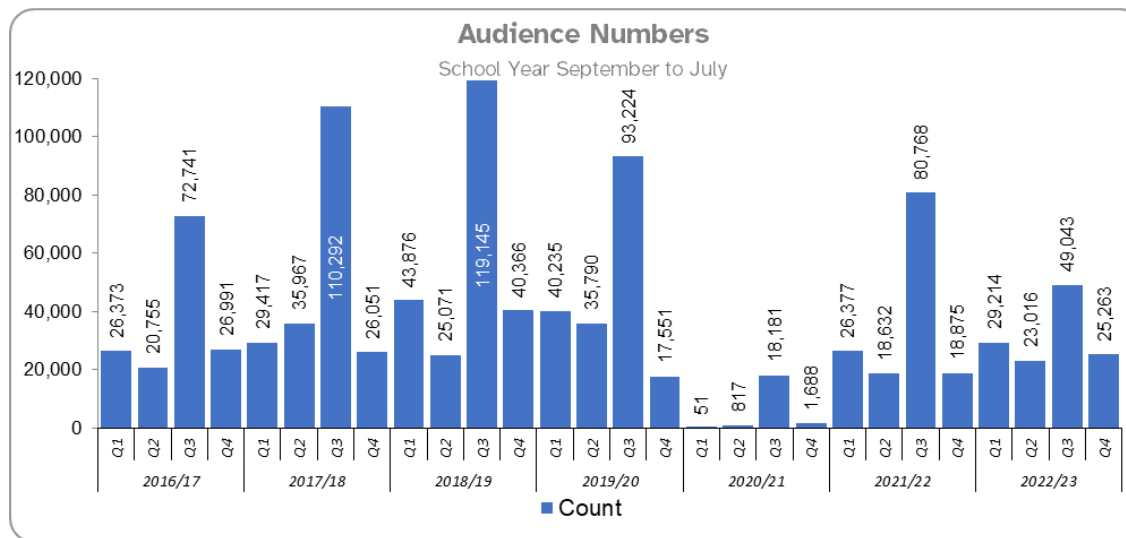
### **Force-wide (continued)**

- The Positive Action team is working with LPSU and CPTs to map communities across the county. The objective is to evidence a rich picture of our communities to assist with operational decision making and delivery; providing community reassurance, and supporting the management of critical and major incidents as well as effective engagement and recruitment outreach. Community policing teams, Community Safety Engagement Officers (CSEOs) and PCSOs have been tasked to scope and collate a variety of locally sourced information, linked to protected characteristics and Force Plan crime types, to populate a living database held on SharePoint. A Connexions tile and dedicated Mobile Data app are being developed to ensure information is accurate, contemporary and accessible.
- The Positive Action team is leading on a project reviewing a number of maternity / paternity leave and flexible working related matters with a view to suggesting enhancements to service provision and delivery for all staff. A working group has been formed comprising of representatives from the various support networks and staff associations to ensure views are obtained from a wide network.
- The Positive Action Team and other key stakeholders are planning for events including the 'Towards Excellence' conference, Stephen Lawrence Memorial Day, Community Goals and National Inclusion Week. All events will have objectives around health and wellbeing and staff engagement as well as potential external recruitment opportunities.

# Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 – Quarterly Update 2022/23 Q4

## Priority 12 – Increasing collaboration

*Our objective is to build a culture of collaboration and to continue to unlock resources to reinvest so we can provide even better emergency services in Essex.*



- This data is provided by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service as part of the Joint Essex Fire and Rescue and Police Education in Schools Programme and are for the school year only (September to July).
- The audience numbers decreased by 12.5% in the 12 months to March 2023 (126,536) compared to the previous 12 months (144,652) and decreased by 39.6% compared to the 12 months to December 2019.

### Please note:

- Q2 in each year shows data for June and July only.
- 2020/21 School closures due to COVID-19:
  - Q1 – April, May, June
  - Q2 – July
  - Q4 – January