

Essex Police Performance Report – Quarter 4 2019/20

Reference number: EPFCP/08/20

Report title: Essex Police Performance Report – Quarter 4 2019/20	
Report to: Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel	
Report author: The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex	
Date: 4 June 2020	For: Noting and comment
Enquiries to: Anna Hook, Head of Performance and Scrutiny – Policing and Crime) Tel: 01245 291616 / Email: anna.hook@essex.police.uk	
County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1. Purpose of 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 the end of March 2020.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That members of the Panel note and comment / seek clarity as appropriate on the content of the report and attached appendix.

3. Context / Summary

- 3.1 The attached quarterly report, produced by Essex Police and scrutinised at the monthly Performance and Resources Board chaired by the Commissioner, provides highlight reporting against the seven priorities set out in the Plan.
- 3.2 It should be noted that call-handling demand on the force remains high. 82,344 emergency (999) calls were taken by Essex Police in Quarter 4 of 2019/20 compared to 72,401 in the same quarter last year (an increase of 13.7%).
- 3.3 During Quarter 4, highlights with regard to performance include:
- The Mental Health Street Triage Team, based within the Force Control Room, attended 33% more incidents than in the previous quarter, providing specialist support to those in mental health crisis, thereby reducing the demand on other front-line resources, including local A&E departments.
 - The Resolution Centre continues to embed as a county-wide resource, managing investigations into crimes reported by the public that would previously have been dealt with by front-line officers. 25,123 public calls were processed by the Resolution Centre during Quarter 4 (an increase of 2.4% on the same period the previous year). In addition, 4,174 investigations were received by Essex Police in Quarter 4, of which 93% (3,900) were retained and dealt with by the Resolution Centre.

Essex Police Performance Report – Quarter 4 2019/20

- The force continued to use the tools available to tackle anti-social behaviour. Several Community Behaviour Orders (CBOs) were obtained against repeat nuisance callers and individuals causing disruption in town centres. Southend town centre in particular has also seen increased use of Community Protection Warnings and Notices and related prosecutions.
 - The Thurrock Town Team was expanded during Quarter 4, using Council funding, to include Purfleet and Tilbury.
 - Stalking Protection Orders went live in January 2020. These new civil orders enable early police intervention, pre-conviction, to address stalking behaviours and protect victims from more serious harm. A number of applications were made, resulting in three interim orders being granted by the courts, with a further three waiting to be heard at the end of the quarter.
 - Operation Consider was launched across Essex to increase the number of Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders used to protect domestic abuse victims by preventing perpetrators from entering their home address. Quarter 4 saw 69 successful applications granted by the courts, a 40.8% increase compared with the same quarter the previous year.
 - A pilot of Operation Encompass was launched in Thurrock in January 2020. This allows Essex Police to inform schools if a child has been present, or ordinarily resides, at an address where a medium risk domestic abuse incident has occurred. Following positive feedback from schools, this approach will now be rolled out to schools around the county during the 2020/21 academic year.
 - The network of Hate Incident Reporting Centres (HIRCs) continued to grow. There are now 60 HIRCs countywide with 850 trained volunteers to support these centres. Up to the end of Quarter 4, the network had facilitated the reporting of 81 hate crimes which would otherwise not have come to the attention of Essex Police.
 - Numerous successful operations were executed during the quarter, including Operation Topaz, an investigation into money laundering over a six-year period linked to the supply of Class A drugs worth over £2 million. 12 warrants were executed and nine suspects arrested, four of whom were remanded into custody. This operation completely dismantled that organised crime group (OCG). Operation Produce (two weeks' sustained activity focused on gangs and county lines) was also carried out during the quarter and resulted in multiple arrests for drugs and weapons offences as well as the seizure of weapons, drugs and cash.
 - During Quarter 4, Essex's Serious Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) also carried out 16 disruptions of OCGs and executed 16 warrants. Consequently, 26 suspects linked to organised crime were remanded in custody.
 - During Quarter 4, the "Extra Eyes" road safety campaign moved onto a new cloud-based system, allowing far greater capacity to process offences and store images in a manner that can be used by the courts, as well as to enforce, educate and influence road user behaviour.
- 3.4 Although there was a slight reduction in the number of people killed and seriously injured on Essex roads in Quarter 4 of 2019/20 compared with Quarter 4 of 2018/19 (from 170 to 168), there was an increase in the number of these that were fatalities (from 8 to 12).

Essex Police Performance Report – Quarter 4 2019/20

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Essex Police Quarterly Performance Report – Quarter 4 2019/20