

**Agenda Item 4**  
**EPFCP/03/23**

<b>Report title:</b> Police and Crime Plan Performance Measures – Quarter 2 2022/23	
<b>Report to:</b> Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel	
<b>Report author:</b> The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex	
<b>Date:</b> 21 March 2023	<b>For:</b> Noting and comment
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> 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, based on data and other information to the end of September 2022.

**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 Performance and Resources Board chaired by the Commissioner, provides highlight reporting against the priorities set out in the Plan.
- 3.2 This is the last iteration of the report in this format that will be presented to the Panel. Future reports will chart progress against a key set of metrics as well as highlighting areas of challenge and in need of improvement along with successes.
- 3.3 During Quarter 2, highlights with regard to performance include:
- Much good work continues to be done in collaboration with local community safety partners. For example, each district policing team continues to work with CSP partners to provide a visible, multi-agency presence to provide community reassurance and prevent offending in violent crime hotspots as part of Operation Grip. There were also joint patrols of police and Council ASB teams throughout the summer in Brentwood, Loughton, Waltham Abbey, Purfleet and Tilbury to tackle anti-social behaviour and disorder during the good weather. Operation Union once again provided high visibility across Southend during the summer, including through joint patrols with Council officers.

- “Street Weeks” are being held each month, bringing together Community Policing Teams, the Rural Engagement Team, the Business Crime Team, the Fraud Prevention Team, “Watch” schemes, Crimestoppers and local CSP partners to deliver a week of coordinated community engagement activities. Each event includes joint days of action tackling fly tipping and industrial scale waste.
- Southend became the first policing team in the UK to use “Open Gates”, a weapons searching system which can simultaneously check multiple people, which was funded by the CSP.
- The North Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Team (DAPST) alone supported the arrest of 77 offenders during Quarter 2. Of its cohort of 26 high threat perpetrators, six were remanded into custody as a result of its work.
- During Quarter 2, the North DAPST also obtained the first Stalking Protection Order for a high-risk victim of domestic abuse to feature the use of a Buddi-Tag condition.
- Volunteers also continue to make a notable contribution to the work of the force. Every Domestic Abuse Investigation Team (DAIT) in the north of the county now has Active Citizens embedded within them. In another national first, these volunteers provide additional capacity to enable the highest level of support to be provided to victims. In the South Local Policing Area (LPA), Victim Champions provide call backs to victims for an in-depth discussion of their experiences to help inform and improve police practice.
- Awareness of the Street Safe app has been reinvigorated to ensure anyone who feels unsafe can report areas of concern. Up to the end of September 2022, 71 reports had been received via the app, with concerns raised about street lighting, drug and drink use. By the end of December 2022, this number had risen significantly to 317 reports submitted.
- Work was conducted with the University of Essex and Anglia Ruskin University to deliver prevention training to students regarding consent, alcohol, drugs and personal safety at the start of the academic year. Engagement with students continues through a partnership approach and a dedicated police officer.
- The final part of section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act – the special measure to allow pre-recorded cross examination of intimidated victims of sexual and modern slavery offences – launched in Essex on 26 September 2022, with the Special Measures Assessment having been completely rewritten to ensure that eligible victims of crime are correctly identified and offered the most appropriate support early in the proceedings.
- The Rural Engagement Team (RET) continues to oversee all unauthorised encampments. During Quarter 2 there were 26 encampments, with policing powers used on 10 occasions. New legislation which came into effect in 2022 was enforced on one of these occasions.
- The Braintree and Uttlesford Districts pioneered a Victim Improvement Strategy which will be rolled out across the North LPA and potentially the force. This aims to increase the confidence of victims of crime through victim needs assessments, targeted street beats, victim cards, revisits and letters as well as the increased use of restorative justice and referrals into partners.

3.4 The quarter saw many positive results from targeted operations including:

- Operation Pan, which led to the identification and arrest of two suspects involved in a criminal gang using explosives to blow up ATMs and steal cash from within. Both pleaded guilty.
- Operation Semitone, which identified what appears to be an ongoing feud between two organised crime groups (OCGs) involved in the supply of drugs, with multiple incidents relating to the people involved. Two suspects have been identified, arrested and remanded awaiting trial.
- Operation Perform, which ran in Harlow throughout the summer, providing dedicated cycle patrols every day on the district's cycle paths and open spaces. Several arrests were made for possession of an offensive weapon and robbery during the operation.

### 3.5 In terms of areas for continued focus:

- Working to improve the solved rate for sexual offences remains a priority.
- During Quarter 2, 12 people were killed and 208 were seriously injured following road traffic collisions, compared with 16 fatalities and 228 serious injuries during the same period the previous year. Whilst this shows an improving direction of travel, performance in this area remains a significant departure from Vision Zero. In order to address this, a new Vision Zero roads policing operation has been running since 22 June 2022 to target offences on the strategic roads network. Up until the end of Quarter 2, this had identified 442 seatbelt offences, 87 mobile phone offences, 42 careless driving offences, 58 offences relating to a vehicle having no insurance, 1,119 speed offences and 125 other road traffic offences. The operation had also resulted in 13 arrests for drink / drug driving. The Extra Eyes road safety initiative also continues to gain momentum, with 1,339 submissions during Quarter 2, 895 (66.8%) of which resulted in a positive outcome. Quarter 2 saw an increase in submissions from vulnerable road users, including 376 pedal cyclists, 195 pedestrians and five horse riders.
- Call answering times remain a focus of attention. Additional resources are being allocated to assist with this and improvement is expected by the end of summer 2023.

## 4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024 Quarterly Update – Quarter 2 2022/23