

		AGENDA ITEM 6
		PAF/28/19
Committee:	People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	14 November 2019	
Enquiries to:	Name: Graham Hughes Designation: Senior Democratic Services Officer Contact details: 033301 34574 Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk	

Drug gangs, knife crime and county lines – update on the work of the Task and Finish Group

Purpose:

- (i) To consider an oral update from the Task and Finish Group established to look at issues around drug gangs, knife crime and county lines;
- (ii) To note that the full report of the Task and Finish Group will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee on 16 January 2020.

Background:

The issue of drug gangs, knife crime and county lines was discussed at Full Council on 12 December 2018 and the following motion passed:

'This Council recognises the impact of drug gangs, knife crime and county lines as a local, regional and national issue.

This Council commends the work of multi-agency statutory and voluntary partners in Essex, Southend and Thurrock in relation to these issues, particularly given the judgement of "Outstanding" by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, following a recent inspection.

This Council is pleased to see this work is being recognised by the Home Office in awarding the sum of £640k to the Police, Crime and Fire Commissioner's Office to further expand this multi-agency work.

This Council therefore:

- *Calls upon all political parties to work together to drive down the impact of drug gangs, knife crime and county lines on the residents of Essex.*
- *Requests that the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee Has oversight of and contributes to the multi-agency strategy and its development.'*

Cont....

The Committee had introductory briefings on the issue at both its February and April 2019 meetings and a link to the meeting papers for both those meetings is here:

[PAF 14 February 2019 meeting papers](#)

[PAF 11 April 2019 papers](#)

Thereafter, it was resolved to establish a Task and Finish Group to look at the issue in more detail (scoping document attached as Appendix). To date the Group has met five times to hold discussions with the following contributors:

Ian Davidson, Chief Executive of Tendring District Council, ex-Chairman of Safer Essex and representative of the Essex Community Safety Partnerships.

Duncan Evans, National Crime Agency Co-ordinator for County Lines (representing the NPCC National Police Chiefs Council)

Jane Gardner, Deputy Police, Fire, Crime Commissioner.

Tanya Gillett, Head of Youth Offending.

Councillor Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member - Education.

Tracey Harman, West LPA Commander, Chief Superintendent 2220, West Local Policing Area, Essex Police

Ben Hughes, Head of Wellbeing and Public Health, Essex County Council

Clare Kershaw, Director – Education.

Councillor Dick Madden, Cabinet Member – Performance, Business Planning and Partnerships

Michael O'Brien, Head of Specialist Education Services

James Pearson, Team Manager Youth Offending Service/Team Manager ISSP, Essex County Council

Jane Ryan, Practice Supervisor, Youth Offending Team

The following additional contributors are planned for a meeting mid-November:

Councillor Louise McKinlay, Cabinet Member – Children and Families.

Rachel Brett, CEO: Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS) and possibly representation from the Children's Commissioner and faith communities. Further discussion and presentation from Youth Offending Team.