

Police and Crime Plan

Quarterly Update

Quarter 4 – 2021/22

Data to March 2022



Version 1.5
Produced April 2022
Performance Analysis Unit, Essex Police

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Contents

Priority 1 – More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing	3-7
Priority 2 – Crack Down on Anti-social Behaviour	8-9
Priority 3 – Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Abuse	10
Priority 4 – Reverse the Trend in Serious Violence	11-12
Priority 5 – Tackle Gangs and Organised Crime	13-14
Priority 6 – Protecting Children and Vulnerable People	15-16
Priority 7 – Improve Safety on our Roads	17

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

We will:

Boost community volunteering, encouraging the Active Citizen Programme and grow the police family - doubling the Special Constabulary, with a Special Constable in every community.

Special Constabulary

- The Special Constabulary headcount is currently 461 (as of 18 March 2022). There are 13 student officers due to attest on 11 April 2022. At the end of February 2022, there were 29 students booked onto future foundation courses. In Q4, Specials have completed a total of 33,750 hours work; they have undertaken 25,394 hours of Operational Policing and attended over 4,972 incidents. 7 Special Constables left to join the regulars in this quarter. A dedicated Essex Specials recruitment campaign (Media, Positive Action and Out Reach programme) is in place throughout 2022 to increase application opportunities.
- There are 15 Community Special Constables supporting 10 Parishes. The Employer Supported Policing (ESP) scheme currently has 52 companies registered, including Essex Police; under this scheme, 100 Specials are provided with paid time off to volunteer as a Special in Essex. Engagement includes Southend City Council to promote ESP within the council and local businesses as well as a targeted general recruitment campaign in the City.

Active Citizens and Police Support Volunteers

- Essex Police currently retains 61 Active Citizens (AC) and 130 Police Support Volunteers (PSV) .
- There are 13 volunteer applicants in the pipeline, with 12 ready for deployment. 7 volunteers were selected for a new role in the Casualty Bureau and will start training shortly. If this role is successful, future recruiting will be considered.
- Two PSVs have been recruited into the Learning and Development Team and into the LGBTQ+ Support Network role. One PSV has been recruited as a FCR Researcher, and two PSVs are deployed with their well-being dogs.
- Further candidates and roles are being progressed in the Learning and Development Team and Trauma Risk Management (TRiM).
- The Councils for Voluntary Services (CVSs) continue to provide support around recruitment campaigns and we are seeking to boost Active Citizens roles in Thurrock, Colchester and Uttlesford. Active Citizens are working with Community Safety Engagement Officers and have returned to support local Coffee with Cops and some street events.
- 3 volunteer induction courses have been conducted for both new and existing volunteers and monthly induction and training courses continue to be provided.
- In the last six months, Active Citizens and Police support volunteers have provided 1,000 volunteer hours.

Volunteer Police Cadets

- There are 340 Volunteer Police Cadets (VPCs) and 80 Volunteer Cadet Leaders across 13 Cadet Units. Recruitment campaigns are ongoing across the force, with 7 events held in the last quarter; this resulted in an increase of 120 VPCs and 10 Leaders. In this period, Cadets have continued to attend community engagement events, with activities including litter picking and giving out Crime Prevention advice.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

We will:

Boost community volunteering, encouraging the Active Citizen Programme and grow the police family - doubling the Special Constabulary, with a Special Constable in every community.

North LPA

- Joint patrols in Colchester were conducted with Councillors. This involved bringing together Community Policing Teams (CPTs), the Rural Engagement Team, Special Constabulary and Business Crime Team.
- Regular training inputs are being arranged to develop the Special Constables attached to the Colchester area. Roles are publicised through Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs) to communities to raise awareness and interest.

South LPA

- In Southend, Specials have continued to provide support. They have completed a number of 'takeover days' to take full responsibility for attending emergency incidents on late shifts, thereby allowing the team on duty to progress investigations. They have also run a number of traffic operations and speed checks in hotspot locations.
- In Basildon, the Special Constabulary have worked tirelessly supporting the night-time economy and carrying out a number of activities, including supporting local policing, warrant execution, and community violence suppression operations.

West LPA

- A programme of engagement has commenced with local faith and wider minority groups. This involves engagement with officers from the LPA Commander to new joining officers and staff, and is aimed at enriching general understanding of difference and maximising opportunities for active citizen recruitment.
- After two fatal road traffic collisions in Waltham Abbey, the Special Constabulary have been assisting local officers by conducting speed checks in the local area, thereby building public confidence and providing some much needed advice to drivers.
- The Special Constabulary assists Brentwood Community Policing Team in conducting high-visibility patrols targeted at the night-time economy and violence against women and girls. This provides a reassuring presence to local businesses and residents (Operation VINKA).
- Special Constables have been conducting licensing visits in Brentwood and Loughton to ensure conditions are being met and schemes such as 'Ask Angela' and drinks spiking awareness campaigns are being promoted. This forms part of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.
- Through partnership working with Health and Social Care, the Special Constabulary has been promoting dementia Buddy Tags across the district to help protect and identify those with dementia who are likely to go missing.
- In Ongar, PCSOs have been engaging with Active Citizens to build community relations and to hear their local concerns.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

We will:

Support increased participation in Community Safety by supporting schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch, Street Pastors, Community Speed Watch, Volunteer Police Cadets and others.

- The Local Policing Support Unit (LPSU) has introduced a LPSU Strategic Coordination Group, which brings together Community Safety Partnerships, Community Safety Managers, Crime Stoppers, Police Support Volunteer leads, District Commanders, Active Citizens, the Special Constabulary, Volunteer Police Cadets, Accredited Persons, Street Pastors, Community Speed Watch and Essex Watch groups. All are focused on delivering organised, proactive community engagements, including more local, visible policing and access to police and partners. Planned mobilisations are in addition to business as usual and are taking place monthly throughout 2022. This has seen a Day of Action delivered during January in Thurrock and an Intensification Week (Operation) in Colchester the following month. March has seen a three-day Specials Weekend of 'NIGHTSHADE' action (high harm reduction) in the north of the county, and plans are in place for further operations and organised mobilisations in the Castle Point and Rochford area during April 2022. This is all being tracked through the Strategic Command Guidance and Force Planning Calendar, with outcomes and results reported to partners and Safer Essex.
- The Essex Watch Liaison Officers continue to work with Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) and, during this quarter, have supported 23 community engagement events and promoted the 7 main Watch Groups by offering crime and fraud prevention advice. They continue to work closely with the farming and rural community; 809 farmers and related businesses signed up to this Watch. Dog Watch continues to grow, with 2,176 individuals and related businesses now members.
- The Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme continues to work in collaboration with Essex County Fire Cadets. There are plans for Fire Safety Training for the Police Cadets and Crime Prevention Training for the Fire Cadets as well as an input around Valuing Women and Girls. Preparations are in place to hold the joint Police and Fire Cadets PFCC Games this summer. Volunteer Police Cadets also continue to support their Local Policing Teams with crime prevention activity.
- Street Pastors continue to work closely with all Local Policing Teams across the districts by offering support, particularly around the night-time economy.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

We will:

Support increased participation in Community Safety by supporting schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch, Street Pastors, Community Speed Watch, Volunteer Police Cadets and others.

North LPA

- In Chelmsford, the Safer Streets fund has paid for extra street pastors and full coverage on Friday and Saturday nights, as well as the SOS bus in the City Centre. Work is ongoing with the Community Safety Partnership to explore a rural engagement equivalent of 'bar and bus'.
- Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) is represented by the Community Safety Engagement Officer at each meeting. There has been recent work in Maldon, whereby information and intelligence passed to Essex Police via the group has led to a warrant being executed and a positive outcome obtained.
- Cadets assisted in a door-to-door burglary intervention / advice operation in an area at a time when a small spike in burglaries was being experienced in the Chelmsford area.
- Tendring has been the pilot area for a collaborative police and fire project, the "Safe and Well" scheme, into which the police refer vulnerable people and victims of crime. The Fire and Rescue Service then visits to support with fire, crime and safety advice.
- Via the community inbox, and in coordination with the Casualty Reduction Section and Speed Watch partnership work, speed enforcement checks have been conducted in Mersea, Layer and Dedham.
- Joint work with the council has been undertaken in Colchester to have traffic calming measures installed.
- Engagement has taken place with Leader of Essex County Council to seek a Public Space Protection Order to reduce anti-social behaviour linked to nuisance vehicles in Blind Lane, Stane's Park.

West LPA

- Under the Safer Streets programme and the force's response to violence against women and girls, a street pastor programme is being set up in Grays.
- The Special Constabulary has been supporting Operation IRISH LION by assisting local officers and partner agencies in tackling nuisance vehicles, breaches of the Public Spaces Protection Order and anti-social behaviour within the Lakeside area.
- A Community Speed Watch group is being set up in Ingatestone, with the assistance of the Community Policing Team. The Epping Community Speed Watch is also being revived after a period of inactivity. Epping's new beat officer is further liaising with their Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) to forge a productive partnership between the Community Policing Team and the local community.
- In Chigwell, the NHW has been a valuable partner in developing intelligence and connecting with the community to rebuild relations after the pandemic.
- Brentwood had a day of action where 400 drivers were interacted with, 14 people processed for careless driving and 55 processed for not wearing a seatbelt. This was conducted in partnership with the Community Safety Hub.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

We will:

Make it easier to contact the police. Improve the 101-response time, encourage online reporting and realise the benefits of the national Single Online Home solution.

The Force Control Room (FCR):

- Emergency call handling decreased by 6% this quarter compared to last quarter, with 82,621 emergency (999) calls received. This is 5,599 fewer calls than the previous quarter. March was the busiest month in the quarter, with 29,041 emergency (999) calls.
- 64,230 non-emergency (101) calls were received in the FCR this quarter. This is a 6% increase when compared to the previous quarter, when there were 60,789 non-emergency (101) calls; this equates to 3,441 more calls.
- There were 2,670 Live Chat interactions this quarter. This equates to an average of 60-80 contacts per day that would otherwise have been dealt with via 101.
- The online reporting facility for anti-social behaviour (ASB) provides another alternative to calling 101 to report various categories of ASB. 273 reports were generated this quarter.
- Despite the increases in calls for service, performance has remained positive. 999 average answer time remained at 9 seconds; 101 average answer time was 2 mins 43 seconds, which is a 30.7% improvement from the last quarter, when it was 3 mins 50 secs.

The Resolution Centre (RC):

- The Resolution Centre (Case Investigations team) is the county-wide resource to manage investigations of crimes reported by the public. 2,343 investigations were received by the team this quarter that would otherwise have been dealt with by front-line officers; 2,060 (87.9%) of these were retained by the RC Case team. This service continues to offer an efficient, centrally-managed service for the public.
- 50,629 Athena Investigations have been recorded and processed by the Resolution Centre demand team in the last quarter. This represents a 19.5% increase (8,205 more investigations) when compared to the same quarter the previous year.
- The average answer time for public calls received at the end of this quarter was 6 mins 30 secs, which is 2 mins 32 secs longer than last quarter, and was caused by an increase in demand.
- During the quarter, 21,214 non-emergency (101) calls were received and dealt with by the RC; this equates to an average of 236 per day. This volume of calls represents a 3% increase compared to the previous quarter (714 additional 101 calls to Demand Team).

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 2 – Crack Down on Anti-Social Behaviour

Working with partners we will:

Target repeat and high harm anti-social behaviour through the continued development of Community Safety Hubs to include police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Community Safety Officers, licensing, housing and environmental health in every police district.

North LPA

- The football project (Play as One) for high schools started in Chelmsford with Chelmsford City Football Club. There are 14 youths identified as being on the cusp of exclusion or a being vulnerable. This eight-week programme will build healthy relationships between students and teachers and the police. There are external agencies employed to come in each week to talk about healthy relationships and explain the dangers and risks of being part of gangs and drug taking. Each week, there are also question and answers with police. In addition, discussions around anti-social behaviour (ASB) take place each week, with the intention of reducing the association of those involved in such behaviours and changing their perceptions of what ASB is.
- A Saffron Walden district Councillor, a PCSO, a Special Constable and a local resident completed speed checks and road safety advice for drivers in the Saffron Walden area following complaints of anti-social driving.
- Following reports of crime and ASB in Frinton and Walton, the Community Policing Team (CPT) managed a joint operation with the British Transport Police (BTP) to identify those responsible. Once identified the CPT Children and Young Person Officers worked with those responsible and their families. The reports of crime and ASB reduced significantly.
- Operation LOCKDOWN focused on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in Jaywick. The CPT re-aligned the boundaries and the areas of responsibility for each of the sergeants, resulting in Jaywick having a specific sergeant and team to support the community. Through proactive work and targeted patrols, recorded crime was reduced by 30%.
- Colchester CPT has commenced Operation MADAGASCAR, which targets ASB committed by young persons on the Greenstead Estate. This is a joint approach with the Council and housing providers and has resulted in 6 arrests. All 6 of these individuals are currently on bail and 9 young persons are being referred to the youth offending team for intervention.
- Referral to the Pegasus Pathway has been introduced in Colchester. Working with the Army, this deals with youth ASB suspects, who will be placed on army training and discipline days.

South LPA

- Operation VIMTO in Southend aims to tackle street prostitution and associated anti-social behaviour (ASB) in problem areas. This is being conducted in partnership with Community Safety Officers and the local community.
- Operation RATCHET in Basildon is designed to tackle ASB that is occurring in and around Wickford High Street. The Community Policing Team (CPT) monitors any crimes that are committed in the area and looks to draw comparisons and identify any patterns and trends.
- A new radio scheme has been launched in Basildon with the CPT and the Business Crime Team, alongside Basildon Council. This means that police can be alerted to anti-social behaviour in the town centre more quickly and can therefore react faster.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 2 – Crack Down on Anti-Social Behaviour

Working with partners we will:

Target repeat and high harm anti-social behaviour through the continued development of Community Safety Hubs to include police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Community Safety Officers, licensing, housing and environmental health in every police district.

West LPA

- The Baker Community Safety Hub in Brentwood opened on 18 March 2022. This hub includes the Community Policing Team (CPT) from Brentwood, Community Safety and Anti-Social Behaviour officers from Brentwood Borough Council, representation from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, the South Essex Parking Partnership, the Probation Service and Social Care.
- In Thurrock, weekly meetings are conducted with the Community Safety Partnership, including council partners, fire and rescue service and the CPT. In these meetings, the areas to focus resources on tackling emerging anti-social behaviour are identified and ongoing target-hardening for the top five local anti-social behaviour (ASB) areas is conducted.
- Operation CAESAR aims to tackle ASB involving off-road vehicles in Thurrock. This is one of the main areas of concern raised by the community and is repeatedly within the top three ASB call types for the district. Essex Police is currently working with partners to obtain a Public Spaces Protection Order to target this.
- Operation IRISH LIONS focusses on cruisers and anti-social vehicle nuisance at Lakeside. It involves developing further cross-border partnership work and utilising partners to deal with nitrous oxide cannister offences that fall outside of legislation.
- In Epping, there are now 3 council funded police constables and 1 police sergeant, demonstrating the new investment in the partnership.
- In Harlow, Operation SENTRY involves conducting targeted foot patrols around transport hubs at times of peak footfall. This is informed by collated data on ASB as a 'hotspots' policing technique, but also as a part of the wider Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.
- Harlow Local Policing Teams work with partners on Operation BYSON, which involves multi-agency visits to licenced premises (those identified as being hotspots for violence and disorder).
- In Loughton, the Children and Young Persons' Officer has been visiting local schools to deliver engagement events to discourage them from committing ASB, with a resultant decrease in incidents.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 3 – Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Abuse (DA)

Working with and through the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board to deliver an ambitious programme of transformation we will:

Support victims and their families affected by domestic abuse to feel safe, cope and recover through targeted help and jointly commissioned services.

North LPA

- A multi-agency partnership group has been established in Braintree District to review and support families that are affected by child on parent abuse, with the aim of preventing crime and offering a wider variety of support.
- Tendring has been working with Next Chapter to improve referrals into the charity to support victims of domestic abuse. Next Chapter has delivered briefings to every shift and the Domestic Abuse Investigation Team (DAIT) has been supplying domestic abuse detectives to support the Local Policing Teams in the DA vehicles.
- The third instalment of Operation WARREN, a week-long proactive operation to arrest outstanding domestic abuse suspects, was conducted. This resulted in the arrest of 19 suspects.
- Community Safety Engagement Officers and PCSOs in Colchester continue to build partnerships and relationships by visiting and engaging with local women's refuges and the Mother and Baby Unit at Newwhythe.

South LPA

- The Southend Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Team (DAPST) has built a relationship with a local homeless and outreach centre called St Vincent's, which is a charity that provides assistance for those in need, and connects victims who have relocated to Southend to flee domestic abuse with their services. They are able to provide immediate aid to families by providing food, clothing, and emergency housing, as well as ongoing support in terms of connecting them to local amenities and services. The DAPST has been instrumental in organising a joint monthly outreach programme with St Vincent's – Women's Wellbeing Wednesdays – whereby services, including sexual health, social care, drug / alcohol support, financial aid, housing and domestic abuse officers are made available for women across the district.

West LPA

- The Force Growth programme has seen the creation of DAPSTs. These teams have successfully engaged with the most high risk and often most reluctant victims. They work with partner agencies to improve the lives of victims of DA and allow for prosecutions against the most entrenched and chaotic DA offenders.
- The new Proactive Orders Enforcement Team will be assisting in officers' procurement of Domestic Violence Protection Notices and other orders to break the cycle of DA. This will be taking place across the district.
- In Loughton and Brentwood, the Community Safety Partnerships have been working with officers to identify high risk DA victims and improve the security of their homes, particularly if they are housed by the council.
- Children and Young Persons Officers in Harlow and Epping have been carrying out education programmes targeting secondary schools to help pupils build healthy relationships.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 4 – Reverse the Trend in Serious Violence

Working with partners we will:

Ensure victims of rape and sexual violence receive the help and support they need, and work with criminal justice partners to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

- Essex Police has reviewed and changed the process of how victims of sexual violence are referred to commissioned support services to ensure that more get the earliest possible access to specialist support. This is designed to decrease the likelihood of victims withdrawing from an investigation.
- Our Standard Operating Procedure has been updated this quarter, reiterating the importance of an offender-centric approach. This follows the advice of Dr Patrick Tidmarsh, a renowned criminologist who works with sex offenders, and is part of the ongoing Operation SOTERIA BLUESTONE learning. The aim of these changes is to ensure investigators thoroughly explore the offender's background, look for any further offending which may be submitted and explore the subject's propensity to commit these crimes, along with any other opportunities there may be to disrupt their offending through the prosecution of other offences or orders (criminal or civil).
- During the Q4 period, the Management of Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) unit has arrested 18 persons and have laid 36 charges against perpetrators. This can be compared to 19 arrests and 24 charges during Q3.
- In January, following a Chief Officer review, the Police On-Line Investigation Team (POLIT) was given the task of leading the investigation of referrals from Online Child Activist Groups (OCAGs). During Q4 it investigated 14 referrals from OCAGs.
- Essex Police has been delivering joint training with the CPS on disclosure and redaction to ensure investigators understand their role and that our criminal justice partners have access to the right information without delay.
- The Proactive Orders Enforcement Team (POET) is now established. POET will assist in the application for civil orders to monitor and disrupt a vast number of offenders subject to civil and criminal orders.
- Operation COMPOUND is a joint initiative between police and partner agencies to tackle an increase in 'drink spiking incidents'. The proactive approach saw overt patrols to identify and protect victims of crime. It also involved the purchasing of testing kits, which were funded through the Violence Against Women fund. The proactive operation led to the arrest of a suspect (the investigation remains ongoing).
- An information sharing group is currently being developed and will include the Community Policing Team, MOSOVO and Proactive Orders Enforcement Team to identify and support those in the Thurrock district.
- Operation AIDANT, which is a force-wide operation, is being delivered in Loughton and Brentwood. This involves visits to nail bars and engagement with staff with a view to identifying and preventing sexual violence.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 4 – Reverse the Trend in Serious Violence

Working with partners we will:

Bring violent offenders to justice through targeted police enforcement, working closely with neighbouring forces such as the Metropolitan Police.

North LPA

- The North Domestic Abuse Investigation Team (DAIT) has developed relationships with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) which has provided training on evidence-led prosecutions. A pathway has also been agreed that will now see the CPS provide early evidential advice for cases where the victim is unsupportive and the police wish to pursue an evidence-led prosecution.
- Operation NIGHTSHADE was utilised to target high harm suspects in the Colchester district.
- Operation RUDD utilised Disruptive Effects Officers in the night-time economy to detect potential perpetrators and prevent violence against women.

South LPA

- In March 2022, the South LPA Disruptor Team executed a warrant alongside the Metropolitan Police at an address belonging to a member of an organised criminal network who was supplying Class A and B drugs. The operation stemmed from an incident whereby a shotgun was discharged. The Disruptor Team worked closely with the Met Police to share information and arrange to execute a warrant. The occupant was arrested, and was subsequently charged and remanded for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

West LPA

- The West LPA fortnightly tasking process has been aligned to the 4Vs (Victims, Violence, Vulnerability and Visibility) of the Policing Plan. Regular attendance is now established with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and various divisions within Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, who contribute intelligence and work on joint operations. This has resulted in a burglary series being interrupted, organised crime groups disrupted and transient / cross border sexual predators being identified and convicted.
- As part of the Force Growth Plan, the introduction of Disruptor Teams has delivered significant results for the community, both through an additional reassuring presence and the targeting of high harm perpetrators, such as drugs suppliers, sexual predators and violent offenders. The Disruptor Teams regularly work with Community Policing Teams (CPTs), Criminal Investigation Dept (CID), Operation RAPTOR and the Serious Crime Directorate (SCD), and also with neighbouring forces such as Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and the MPS.
- Operation TARANTULA is Harlow's operation for tackling serious violence on the streets. This targets 13 nominals who are linked to serious violence and acquisitive crime. There has been a recent charge and remand for offensive weapons and assaults offences, and 27 intelligence reports specifically relating to these nominals in the last quarter, all as a result of this operation.
- Operation LASER BLUE focuses on three Loughton locations identified as hotspots for drug fuelled violence. This has resulted in increased stop checks and disruption.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 5 – Tackle Gangs and Organised Crime

Working with partners we will:

Support victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, including sexual exploitation, working closely with the UK Border Agency (UKBA), National Crime Agency (NCA) and national and regional partners to bring perpetrators to justice.

- Essex Police has retained focus on identifying possible victims of modern slavery over the last 12 months. Despite some forces seeing a decrease in Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) referrals during the pandemic, Essex data continued with an increasing overall trend. Officers are now more knowledgeable of the MSHT signs and this has contributed to increased referrals. Each Local Policing Area has a designated MSHT point of contact to drive the information sharing and sharing of learning out to the staff from the centralised Serious Crime Directorate dedicated team.
- A pilot has now begun to have MSHT cases supported by a qualified MSHT specialist barrister to try to increase conviction rates for specific MSHT legislation. This will also ensure wider prevention orders are used. Work is ongoing to form a partnership that will enhance digital support for victims in this area.
- Essex Police has excellent working relationships with Justice and Care. This partnership has seen 3 Victim Navigators provided by the charity to work within the force (1 within MSHT, 1 within Organised Immigration Crime and 1 within the Force's Violence and Vulnerability Unit). This has greatly enhanced the victim experience within the county, with 42 adult victims and 28 child victims currently being supported. The force also maintains a local safe facility through partnership with Communities and Asylum Seekers Together (CAST) and Justice & Care. The details of how to access this facility have been passed to all supervising officers and within the Force Control Room (FCR). These details are also available within the MSHT advice pages on the force intranet.
- The force has created a learning environment and, with strategic partners, has developed a system that captures learning from police activity to enhance future victim service. Working with 'Stop the Traffik', a victim of sexual exploitation was able to share experiences of how earlier intervention could have been achieved by police had certain behaviours not existed. This information was shared with LPA colleagues via the MSHT SPOCs.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 5 – Tackle Gangs and Organised Crime

Working with partners we will:

Disrupt and prevent organised drug distribution through improved intelligence shared between police partners and local communities to limit the harm drugs cause.

- The Serious Crime Directorate (SCD) has just revamped the quarterly Strategic Serious Organised Crime (SOC) Board, now making it the Strategic Partnership SOC Board. The first iteration of the new board took place in March 2022, which saw senior representation from Trading Standards, HMRC, Environment Agency, Border Force and Crime Stoppers. All key law enforcement agencies have committed to working in partnership to tackle SOC, which has big overlaps with drugs supply.
- Essex Police recorded 64 disruptions against Organised Crime Groups in the latest quarterly regional data, making it the top performing force in the region (regional average: 33 disruptions in this reporting period). Essex Police has maintained the lead force around disruptions for the whole of 2021/2022. This is due to the SOC board structures across SCD and Local Policing, with great partnership support and working across a 4P approach (Prepare, Pursue, Protect and Prevent).

North LPA

A number of operations are in place which aim to disrupt and prevent organised drug distribution in the North LPA. These include:

- Operation BURNS which targets drug supply in the Barnhall area of Colchester.
- Operation LANDSEAR, which proactively targets taxi drivers to reduce the incidence of drug suppliers using them to transport drugs.
- Operation MONACO, which involved a strike on an Organised Crime Group operating in Colchester. This resulted in class A drugs and cash being seized, and a number being remanded and several remaining on court bail.

South LPA

- In March, the South Disruptor Team carried out a strike day for Operation SWEEP, which was a drugs investigation into cocaine supply whereby the main offenders were using females to run the drugs line. Violence was threatened if these females then spoke about their actions in the Organised Crime Group. 12 warrants were executed across Southend and Benfleet by 45 officers; 8 suspects were arrested and charged, and £25,733 in cash and a significant amount of drugs were seized. The results of this were circulated on social media which garnered a positive response from the communities affected.

West LPA

- The Disruptor Team, in conjunction with other partner agencies, has conducted a number of successful warrants resulting in significant custodial sentences for those arrested. They have successfully dismantled a number of drug lines within the Harlow district, preventing the influx of large quantities of drugs into the local communities.
- Operation SPITFIRE is an ANPR operation in Harlow that targeted vehicles with gangs markers around the border with the Metropolitan Police Service. This operation was aimed at targeting Organised Crime Groups that use road networks to facilitate their criminality and resulted in the arrest of eight suspects, including five who were involved in a knife point robbery.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 6 – Protecting Children and Vulnerable People

Working with safeguarding partners and the Southend, Thurrock and Essex Safeguarding Boards we will:

Bring more perpetrators of rape and sexual abuse to justice.

- A member of the MOSOVO (Management of Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders) team identified a Registered Sex Offender (RSO) who was using a gym with a creche. The company had no conditions precluding use of the gym by RSOs. Working with partners in their legal team, they updated their terms and conditions to prevent use by RSOs. A not-for-profit gym industry association that promotes the interests of commercial fitness gyms and community leisure centres is also looking to get the condition added to their terms and conditions. This was quick work to help safeguard the public and will now be a condition in many gyms throughout the UK.
- In Q4, the Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT) executed 68 search warrants, arrested 34 suspects and safeguarded 57 children.
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) days were undertaken with partners on 8 and 9 March, and were directed at Essex Police Child Abuse Investigators. They included inputs from Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs), the Early Intervention Team and Children's Social Care to help equip investigators with tools to better protect children and seek support where concerns are identified.
- Essex Police supported National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day on 18 March 2022 by promoting CSE awareness across social media platforms externally and internally.
- Due to court delays as a result of COVID, some cases are taking longer than usual to get to trial, resulting in some victims withdrawing support. The Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) recently had a case reported in September 2018; this finally reached trial in 2022. At one stage, the young victim wanted to withdraw from the process due to the time it was taking. However, with the support of CAIT staff, and building trust and confidence in the victim, they continued through to trial. This resulted in a guilty verdict, a prison sentence and offender being placed on the sex offenders' register for life.
- Planning has continued for Operation HENDERSON, a joint initiative with partners which focusses on disrupting the transport networks in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) and missing children. This is due to take place on 26 April 2022.
- The National Crime Agency threat assessment has been reviewed and briefed to the Crime & Public Protection (C&PP) Senior Leadership Team to ensure teams across the county are aware of the increasing threat of digital devices that can give offenders opportunities to abuse children.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 6 – Protecting Children and Vulnerable People

Working with safeguarding partners and the Southend, Thurrock and Essex Safeguarding Boards we will:

Improve reporting of hate incidents through improved community engagement, improved reporting through Victim Support and greater use of Hate Crime Reporting Centres.

North LPA

- The North LPA has expanded the number of Hate Crime Ambassadors by providing training to 31 members of various community organisations. including 11 young persons at Saffron Walden County High School.
- Hate Crime Awareness training to 19 other members of the community has been undertaken, as have engagement events with Colchester Culver Square Shopping Precinct, Colchester taxi drivers, and Tendring and Maldon District Councils.
- The Hate Crime Officer has provided safeguarding to 40 victims of hate crime, referred 11 people to Victim Support and attended a number of multi-agency meetings representing victims.
- Hate Crime Reporting Centres have been set up in Chelmsford with the support of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG).
- Braintree and Uttlesford have launched a new initiative to have a dedicated Hate Crime Unit that will attend any live incidents or crimes reported in relation to hate crime in order to provide an improved service to victims and witnesses. This will create more positive engagements and increase the likelihood of positive action against offenders.
- Hate crime reporting awareness has been raised via the orthodox church to gain support within Eastern European communities in Colchester.

South LPA

- There were Hate Crime Awareness training and community engagement events held at the Southend Winter Pride festival.
- Hate Crime Ambassador refresher training was provided to 16 individuals alongside the recruitment of seven new ambassadors.
- The total number of South LPA Hate Incident Reporting Centres (HIRC) increased by 2.
- The Hate Crime Officer has provided safeguarding to 22 victims of hate crime, with 3 referred to Victim Support.

West LPA

- The number of Hate Crime Ambassadors has expanded by 30 people. Hate Crime Awareness Training has also been delivered to 168 people from various community organisations. Engagement has additionally been made with 122 Youth Ambassadors.
- The West LPA engaged with three events across the district in partnership with the NHS for International Women's Day.
- The Hate Crime Officer has provided safeguarding to 21 victims of hate crime, referred 7 people to Victim Support and attended numerous multi-agency meetings representing victims.
- Our Community Safety Engagement Officers work closely with the community and partners to improve engagement by the police and partners with hard-to-reach minority groups.
- Hate Crime Reporting Centres have seen an increase in availability in order that those with protected characteristics are confident in discussing and reporting crime. Thurrock has an increasingly diverse community and this multiagency work allows for improved reporting.
- Hate Crime emergency action plans are implemented in conjunction with partners to identify and monitor community tensions, drawing on expertise from community leaders and departments to tackle this area of crime and support victims.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2021/22 Q4

Priority 7 – Improve Safety on our Roads

Working with Safer Essex Roads Partnership we will:

Reduce the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on our roads through the work of the multi-agency Safer Essex Roads Partnership on enforcement, engagement and education.

- During this quarter, a total of 155 people were killed or seriously injured following road traffic collisions. This compares to 128 who were killed or seriously injured during the same period last year. 9 of those in this quarter were fatalities compared to 3 in the same quarter last year. We await an update on the investigations which are at an early stage.
- In relation to Community Speed Watch, during this quarter a total of 3,129 first time warning letters were sent out from a total 122 groups involving over 1,000 volunteers.
- During Q4 a total of 700 people were arrested for drink / drive offences: 350 for a positive breath test, 252 for a positive drugs wipe and 94 for failing to provide. This compares to 661 arrested in the previous year: 215 for a positive breath test, 369 for a positive drugs wipe and 77 for failing to provide.
- The number of e-scooters seized for this quarter was 44. There were six collisions involving an e-scooter and four traffic offence reports issued (3 were for no insurance and 1 was for failing to stop).
- Uninsured vehicles are a contributory factor in collision data on our roads. Q4 last year saw Essex Police seize a total of 1,059 uninsured vehicles from our roads compared to 778 during Q4 of 2021/22.
- Essex Police investigators review submissions from members of the public to identify offenders / offences to contribute to making the roads of Essex safer.
- During Q4 Extra Eyes received a total of 730 incidents to view which resulted in the following outcomes:
 - 271 Close Pass (cyclists v vehicle) - positive outcome 66.1%
 - 236 Careless Driving - positive outcome 65.3%
 - 52 Red Traffic Light - positive outcome 71.2%
 - 95 Traffic Sign Contravention - positive outcome 51.4%