

Police and Crime Plan

Quarterly Update

Quarter 2 – 2020/21

Data to September 2020



Version 1.1
Produced October 2020
Performance Analysis Unit, Essex Police

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

Contents

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

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

Priority 1 - More Local, Visible and Accessible Policing

We will:

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

- The Special Constabulary headcount stood at 506 at the end of September, compared with 516 at the same time last year. In the last quarter, four courses have commenced. Course intake sizes remain reduced to ensure a safe environment.
- In the last quarter there have been 245 applications to join the Special Constabulary. The breakdown of applicants reflects strong growth in valuing difference: (18% BAME: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic, 31% Female). In the last three months, 36 people have joined as a Special Constable with 41 leaving. 15 of these left to become Regular Constables. There is a healthy pipeline of candidates for 2020/21.
- In the last quarter, Special Constables have recorded 18,014 hours of high visibility policing. The hours worked are equivalent to having an additional 105 full time officers, who would attract an annual salary cost of £5.4m.
 - Special Constables led policing has supported Operation SERVATOR (support at INTU Lakeside) and Operation GAMBLER (a cross boarder policing campaign with the Metropolitan Police Service). Special Constables fully managed the transportation of prisoners and the custody process which allowed specialist trained drivers to remain on the roads, bringing more offenders to justice.
- Essex Police currently has 47 Parish / Town Councils signed up to Community Special Constables (CSCs) from across the county with agreements to fund 116 posts. 10 CSCs are actively patrolling for six councils (Witham, Halstead, Canvey Island, Little Clacton, Birchanger and Springfield). The remainder are in training or at various stages of the recruitment pipeline. Over the last three months, CSCs have contributed a total of 429 hours to visible and accessible policing. This is a decrease from 590 hours the previous quarter, likely as a result of two CSC officers stepping down and Specials Constables returning to work after furlough.
- Essex Police currently retains 130 Active Citizens / Police Support Volunteers and continues to work with all Councils for Voluntary Services (CVSs) to boost volunteer numbers. A recovery plan is being developed to return volunteers back to the workplace and to resume activities such as Coffee with Cops and Crime Prevention Campaigns once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
- Essex Police currently retains 410 Volunteer Police Cadets across the 13 Cadet Units. Due to COVID-19, Units are currently closed but Cadets remain in contact with their Leaders through social media. A recovery plan is being developed to return Cadets to their Cadet Units.
- The Employer Supported Policing (ESP) scheme (whereby staff are given paid time off to volunteer as a Special Constable) currently has 27 companies registered. 74 Special Constables provided 916 hours over the quarter, in line with the same period last year (912 hours).

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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.

- Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) currently has approximately 105,000 registered members and over 3,000 NHW Coordinators. NHW works closely with the four Essex Watch Liaison Officers promoting NHW and the various Watch Schemes including Business Watch, Farm Watch, Caravan Watch and Dog Watch. They also work in partnership with the Citizens in Policing Team with respect to crime prevention, fraud and scams.
 - A NHW coordinator in Mersea is receiving the 2019/2020 Gold Award in recognition of volunteering for 20 years.
 - Following successful speed checks conducted by Special Constables in Chelmsford, NHW and other community groups are seeking speed watch training to help tackle the issue of speeding in their local areas.
 - As lock down eased, Jaywick NHW and Community Policing Teams carried out joint community drop-ins to discuss local issues.
- The Essex Watch Liaison Officers continue to work with the Business Crime Team and have re-launched the information application form which works in conjunction with the Business Crime Team Newsletter. Local businesses have found this really useful.
- Street Pastors continue to work closely with all Local Policing Teams across the districts offering support particularly around the night time economy.
- The Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme is working in collaboration with Essex County Fire Cadets which will include providing fire safety training for our Police Cadets and crime prevention training for our Fire Cadets. This is planned to commence from early 2021.
- West LPA: During the quarter, Community Safety Engagement Officers were introduced which has had a positive impact on partnership and public messaging.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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):

- Call-handling demand was high during this quarter with 91,425 emergency calls (999) received; an increase of 16,975 (22.5%) on the previous quarter. August was the busiest month with approximately 2,500 more emergency calls than July.
- 78,753 non-emergency calls (101) were taken compared to 76,803 the previous quarter, an increase of 1,950 (2.5%), with August seeing 1,800 more calls than July. The smaller quarter on quarter increase may be due to other methods of contact being used for non-emergency contacts as outlined below.
- Live Chat has seen 4,999 interactions in this quarter, an average of 80 per day, indicating that the system is becoming embedded as a viable alternative for the public to calling 101.
- The online reporting facility for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), which launched on 24th May, provides an alternative to calling 101 to report various categories of ASB. There have been 910 reports generated this quarter, an average of 10 per day. This supports other methods of reporting such as reports of COVID-19 breaches being dealt with by the Quality of Service Team.

The Resolution Centre (RC):

- The Resolution Centre (Case Investigations) 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. 3,507 investigations were received in this quarter, an increase of 627 from last quarter of which 80.7% (2,832) were retained and dealt with by the RC.
- 51,304 crime investigations have been processed by the Demand element of the RC (previously known as the Crime Bureau).
- During the quarter 23,556 public calls were processed by the RC, a decrease of 5,551 on the same period last year. 5,564 online reports were received.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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 Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Community Safety Officers, Licensing, Housing and Environmental Health in every police district.

- The national Single Online Home (SOH) Programme is strong and performing well. Its main aim was to offer more choice and ease of access to members of the public who wish to report Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) by providing an online service that is as effective as the traditional telephony-based service.
- There has been a significant increase in reports of ASB which are directly linked to reported breaches of COVID restrictions.
- Local Policing Support Unit : Numerous successes with repeat and high harm reduction including:
 - Thurrock: A vulnerable tenant was suffering cuckooing and potential drug use at their flat. A partnership approach between Police, Thurrock Council, the housing association and the tenant's support team resulted in a Community Protection Warning (CPW) being issued to the suspect which, following breach, has now received a full Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).
 - Southend: Southend Council Community Safety Officers, alongside the police town centre team, have secured a CPW and two CBOs in relation to prolific drinkers and beggars.
 - Castle Point and Rochford: Following police targeting of a prolific gang causing assaults and ASB in Rayleigh, three defendants have been charged with awaited guilty pleas and additional CBO applications. Further CPWs and notices have been issued to other linked suspects.
 - Basildon: Following community engagement to identify hotspots, police and partners are patrolling areas to disrupt and deter ASB, in particular use of nitrous oxide canisters and nuisance vehicles in parks and open spaces.
- South LPA:
 - Basildon: Operation OXYGEN dealt with park related ASB and in particular the issues and dangers associated with nitrous oxide cannisters. Joint patrols were undertaken with the county's Youth Service alongside strong media messaging (through the Safer Basildon and EP Facebook pages) to educate youths and attempt to curb this trend in substance misuse. The park wardens and council's ASB team helped to pull together information and intelligence to form patrol plans.
 - Canvey Island: Operation ERASURE focussed on named youths connected with a distinct ASB problem, working in partnership to disrupt offending and provide interventions.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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 Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Community Safety Officers, Licensing, Housing and Environmental Health in every police district.

- North LPA:
 - Colchester:
 - Following work with CCTV and Zone Wardens in Colchester, an individual was charged with multiple counts of criminal damage and given a CBO to ensure he does not continue to offend.
 - Colchester has run nights of action with licensing teams to enforce licensing conditions across the district.
 - Chelmsford:
 - Operation LUSCOMBE targets aggressive begging by provide a multi-agency approach to homelessness. With partner support and use of CBWs, the number of homeless persons in Chelmsford has been reduced.
 - Strong joint use of licensing laws to deal with ASB and violence linked with public houses has seen one premise closed following a licensing review in Chelmsford.
 - Saffron Waldon: Partnership problem solving approaches continue to be used to good effect, ensuring a variety of legislation is used to address issues. One such example is with an unauthorised traveller encampment at the 'Friends' School in Saffron Walden. The issue was resolved in conjunction with the Community Safety Partnership including the Police, Fire and Rescue Service, the Environment Agency, the landowner and developer.
 - Braintree: A report of illegal disposal of rubbish by a landowner was reported to police who worked with officers from Environmental Health, the Parish Council and the Environment Agency to ensure enforcement action was taken.
 - Clacton: The Town Centre Team held its first partnership Town Tasking Group in September 2020 to bring together major stakeholders and to work jointly to tackle ASB and high harm violent and weapon enabled crime through targeted partnership activities.
- West LPA
 - Newly appointed Community Safety Engagement Officers (CSEOs) are working with partners and members of the community to identify ASB trends and hotspots in order to reduce the impact on the local community.
 - New COVID-19 legislation is now more likely to be used to enforce COVID related ASB where appropriate through Operation TALLA. Given a well balanced 4E approach (Engage, Encourage, Explain, Enforce), actual enforcement has been very limited.
 - Epping Forest: Measures introduced to manage the increase in ASB related issues seen during the lockdown period continued. Essex Police, the local authority and forest rangers worked together to limit the disruption to the local community and appropriately deal with those responsible.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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.

- Project Papillion is a project to investigate the use of Conditional Cautions for domestic abuse perpetrators. Post approval and funding, this will be piloted in North Essex.
- Operation CONSIDER is a operation to maximise opportunities to secure a Domestic Violence Protection Notice / Order (DVPN/O) when responding to any DA incident. Appropriate training and support has been provided to officers.
- The Operation ENCOMPASS pilot, through which schools are made aware if children have been present at a DA incident that the police have attended, was launched on 2nd January 2020 in Thurrock. This has provided significant learning for Essex Police in developing the plan for wider roll-out in December 2020.
- North LPA:
 - Colchester Police is leading a project to encourage reporting of DA from members of the police service using peer to peer support and partner forces to sign up to investigate giving confidence in a transparent process.
 - Training given to officers at better supporting the victims of DA has improved quality of evidence led prosecutions. Although the victim may not be willing to support a prosecution, given the seriousness of the crime, there was enough evidence to lead to a charge.
 - Tendring: The arrests of several particularly violent, high risk domestic abuse perpetrators were secured with victims being suitably safeguarded and protected from further abuse by the suspects.
- South LPA
 - Continues to provide two dedicated officers to provide additional support to vulnerable victims, putting them in regular contact with appropriate partner agencies. In Southend alone, 63 victims have been offered this service, resulting in securing charges against 14 suspects where victims may otherwise have been reluctant or scared to give evidence.
- West LPA:
 - Operation SHIELD II is a trial operation tackling repeat high risk / violent DA offenders through enhanced local police activity.
 - Post a successful pilot, Operation ENVISION is now being run to understand why victims of DA were not supportive of police action and then use any learning to improve processes.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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 (MPS).

- North LPA
 - Colchester: Working with the Operation RAPTOR teams, the Colchester Community Policing Team (CPT) has executed a number of warrants, leading to the arrest and disruption of county lines. Partner activity with Colchester Borough Homes has achieved closure orders and partial closure orders on a number of premises, with suspects from London receiving conditions not to enter Colchester.
 - Tendring: The Multi Agency Coordination Panel and Community Policing Team in Harwich have safeguarded the victims and communities affected by organised criminal gang (OCG) criminality by arresting and bringing suspects to justice.
- South LPA:
 - Rochford: Operation CLOCKWORK was put in place following concerns about violent crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the Grove Woods area. A group of perpetrators was identified and the CPT used proactive patrols, knife sweeps, community intelligence and powers under ASB legislation to target activity and reduce offending. As a result, every identified member of the group is either remanded in custody or their activity curtailed.
 - Basildon: An investigation and targeted activity was carried out in relation to a series of 15 violent bag snatches from elderly victims across the district in late August. The suspect was arrested and charged with eight offences and remanded in custody.
- West LPA
 - Operation WILDCAT (part of Operation SCEPTRE) and Operation GAMBLER (a cross border operation with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) tackling violent crime and vehicle crime) take place regularly, focussing on the borders with the MPS and targeting prolific offenders and those known and wanted for weapons, drugs and theft of motor vehicle offences. To date, over 200 offenders have been arrested across 19 operations.
 - Operation MARSHALL is an operation that targets the small proportion of people who commit the majority of crime in the area. It is designed to focus activity on repeat offenders. Similar work is being trialled to do the same for repeat high risk / violent DA offenders (Operation Shield II).
 - A cross border meeting at command level has taken place with MPS equivalents to ensure intelligence is shared in the most efficient way. MPS colleagues can join local tasking meetings enabling joint focus on those that are causing most harm in the community.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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 introduced the 'victim first' programme which sees all victims of sexual offences receive a referral to an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) within 24 hours of reporting the offence to Police. This aims to improve the timeliness and consistency of referrals. Furthermore Police and their ISVA will, wherever possible, jointly visit a victim to offer investigation outcome updates and support.
- Operation SULFUR relates to the attempted rape of two females in Great Dunmow within a 24 hour period. These offences were linked, due to a number of similarities, and the offender was arrested and charged with two assault offences with a trial scheduled for January 2021.
- Operation WHITING relates to the rape of a female in Witham. The suspect was arrested, charged and remanded on three counts of rape.
- Crime Scene Investigators (CSI), supported by other forensic departments, will assist the enquiry team with additional forensic submissions and advice to ensure the completeness of the final forensic evidence. During the quarter, CSI attended 48 rape / sexual assault scenes. They photograph and record in detail forensic evidence and evaluate the best methods of identifying an offender(s) and to place them at the scene.
- The Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Investigations Team went live in July. The purpose of the team is to investigate the most serious, complex and organised CSE, proactively targeting suspects who are prolific abusers and protecting victims. The team will identify and develop opportunities where victim led investigations cannot be progressed and work alongside multi-agency partners to develop a safeguarding framework. The team will also utilise preventive orders to protect victims and restrict the criminality of offenders.
- Development plans are underway to establish Victim Feedback Panels utilising victim commissioned services within domestic abuse, Rape Crisis and Witness Care to provide victim feedback to frontline teams, identifying recurring themes to shape future services.
- Crime and Public Protection has developed an Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) Quality Operational Working Group in order to review existing practices and identify options to deliver sustainable improvements to the quality of ABE interviews and improve outcomes for victims. As part of this, Essex Police has implemented Section 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act (YJCEA) 1999 from August. This allows vulnerable and intimidated witnesses, who have given their evidence by ABE interview, to video record their cross-examination before trial.
- During the quarter, the Police Online Investigation Team (POLIT) worked closely with the Essex Safeguarding Children's Board regarding suitable content for inclusion in the online exploitation and safety media campaign in August 2020.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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 UK Border Agency (UKBA), National Crime Agency (NCA) and national and regional partners to bring perpetrators to justice.

- Operation MONACO relates to a criminal exploitation investigation around class B drugs which is being run by the modern day slavery team. Whilst this operation has run since November 2019 and recovered £2.1 million worth of cannabis, additional activity was organised which resulted in the arrests of 11 suspects with seven charged and remanded for conspiracy to supply class B drugs as well as other offences. During this investigation, Essex Police worked with the NCA to establish if any suspects were known overseas and worked with partner agencies to support the victims.
- During August, teams partnered with local Community Policing Teams (CPTs), local Councils, Crimestoppers, Neighbourhood Watch and the media to promote a new unit and to highlight modern day slavery and human trafficking offences. The aim was to encourage victims to come forward and for anyone who might have information / intelligence to speak with officers.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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.

- Since 1st July 2020, Essex Police's Serious Organised Crime Unit has completed significant activity in tackling Class A drug importation and distribution. Efforts have also been made to drive activity to tackle the criminal use of firearms in the county by organised crime groups and gangs. A total of 22 people have been arrested following the execution of 28 warrants, which resulted in 1.5kg of Class A drugs being seized along with eight firearms and £125,000 in cash. In the same period nine suspects were charged and remanded while three suspects received a combined 54 years' custodial sentences for their role in organised crime.
- Operation PRODUCE focused on county lines activity in the South LPA over a two week period in September 2020. This is a revolving operation which focuses on each LPA for a two week period of time. Further weeks are planned over the coming months. There have been 57 arrests, 10 warrants executed, 28 stop and searches conducted, seven vulnerable people identified and safeguarded, £35,000 of heroin, crack and cocaine seized and various weapons recovered. Specific operations with the British Transport Police (BTP) resulted in a knife arch operation, with a drugs dog in support, which accounted for eight of the overall arrests. Six known lines have been disrupted to date with more activity planned.
- North LPA:
 - Colchester: Through our multi-agency coordination panel, intelligence is shared on suspects involved in the supply of drugs. This has led to the arrest of a number of nominals who cause harm to our community.
 - Chelmsford:
 - Shared intelligence to identify cuckooed addresses has led to a number of successful warrants and closure orders on premises causing anti-social behaviour (ASB) associated with county lines.
 - Working alongside British Transport Police (BTP) and using both drug dogs and knife arches to disrupt county lines attending the city has resulted in a number of arrests for Possession With Intent to Supply and the recovery of a number of knives.
 - Braintree and Uttlesford: CPT & Town Team officers conducted regular 'days of action' focusing on emerging low level gangs in Witham, with successful drug warrants at various locations and traffic operations.
 - Tendring: Over the last six months, Tendring Community Policing Team has dedicated 476 officer hours to targeting county drug lines in Clacton town centre. This has resulted in 14 suspects being arrested and remanded in custody for drugs possession / supply, 23 positive outcomes relating to drug offences and 95 stop and searches of individuals suspected of being in possession of drugs or concerned in the supply of drugs.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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.

- South LPA:
 - Rochford and Castle Point: Operation FALCON has seen six warrants executed in the last quarter to target drug-related activity. All have achieved a positive outcome with large numbers of plants seized as well as a quantity of class A drugs and two firearms.
- West LPA:
 - The 'Ports as a Community' project looks to increase intelligence sharing between law enforcement agencies to strengthen our borders and support victims of organised immigration crime. This growing intelligence picture will lead to better sharing / joint operations between port enforcement partners. The project has significantly increased visibility of policing across international ports, increasing interactions with port communities, the local community and key border partners. It also provides accessible policing for victims of human trafficking and aims to create richer intelligence for the targeting of organised immigration criminals across county borders.
 - Continued to use Operation GLOSS to identify and target those importing weapons including knives, CS gas and tasers. This has seen the successful execution of warrants and removed dangerous weapons from the streets. This operation continues throughout 2020.
 - Disruptive activity against an organised crime group in Harlow continues which is subject to regular partnership approaches across both the local and county council and, to date, has secured a number of convictions for acquisitive crime.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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.

- Operation BARBERSHOP is a multi-partner operation, including the Management of Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders (MOSOVO) team, airports, Criminal Records Office and foreign law enforcement, to assess the risk and manage dangerous sexual and violent offenders when they arrive at Stansted airport having been deported from Australia and the United States of America at the conclusion of their custodial sentences. This also includes ensuring they are served with Notification Orders, register in this country as a Registered Sex Offender (RSO) and work with charities to provide housing.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

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.

- The Strategic Hate Crime Partnership (SHCP) has set new priorities for the Essex Hate Crime Strategy and delivery plan for 2020/2021. Priorities include tackling online hate crime, raising awareness of hate crime, delivering education to young people, support to vulnerable groups and prevention activity.
- The network of Hate Incident Reporting Centres (HIRCs) remains active . There are now 60 HIRCs county wide with 850 trained volunteers, facilitating the reporting of 97 hate crimes. Two volunteers have been recruited to help with administration of the HIRC network.
- North LPA:
 - Colchester:
 - Early engagement with Black Lives Matter organisers led to them joining the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) and providing a network to support reporting. The membership of the Colchester IAG has increased, which in turn has increased reporting and the number of HIRCs in Colchester.
 - Chelmsford
 - The IAG continues to support the reporting of hate crimes and has engaged with the Chinese community which was under-reporting bilking offences (making off without payment).
 - Children and Young People (CYP) Officers located and intercepted two high risk and vulnerable young people missing from a residential care home. By engaging with them and liaising with the home they were able to return them safely.
- South LPA:
 - Canvey Island: Engagement with the local Haredi community continues in order to develop the reporting of hate crime. The Community Safety Engagement Officer (CSEO) meets regularly with community leaders to identify and address concerns.
- West LPA:
 - New platforms of engagement are in development which include virtual meetings and the wider sharing of Stop and Search data and narrative at all IAGs. Harlow, Epping and Brentwood IAGs continue to meet regularly and are seeking new methods of attracting IAG members that have not historically been supportive of police activity
 - The newly appointed CSEOs continue to work within the community and the IAGs to build stronger relationships with harder to reach groups to encourage reporting of hate crime and instil trust and confidence in Essex Police.

Police and Crime Plan – Quarterly Update 2020/21 Q2

Priority 7 – Improve Safety on our Roads

Working with the Safer Essex Roads Partnership we will:

Build on the success of reducing those killed or seriously injured on our roads by working with our partners on the Safer Essex Road Partnership to set an ambitious long-term target for significant further reductions.

- There were 254 Killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties in the last quarter, up from 238 KSI casualties in the same period in 2019/20. 16 of these were fatalities, up from 10 in the same period in 2019/20. Traffic volumes have started to increase again since lockdown restrictions were eased.
- During Q2 Roads Policing has looked to enhance its speed enforcement activity in response to increased levels of concern across a number of policing districts. Each weekend during Q2 a policing district has been selected for additional policing activity. These districts have included Uttlesford, Braintree, Chelmsford, Maldon, Epping Forest, Harlow, Colchester and Tendring. In an effort to promote this operation, telematics data was used to form a heat source map which provides communities with pictorial information highlighting the policing footprint. Each operation has detected on average 500+ offences for excess speed. This type of enforcement activity is known as “unpredictable visibility” and analysis of speed enforcement tactical options shows an improved level of re-offending through the use of devices such as TRUCAM (14%) and the conventional road side static GATSO equipment (25%).
- 12 new Roads Policing Officers have successfully completed a new Roads Policing Skills course. This course provides officers new to the Roads Policing Command with the skills and knowledge to perform this specialist role and in particular skills and knowledge of legislation pertaining to enforcing road traffic offences known as the Fatal 4 (speed, mobile phones, seat belts, and drink / drug driving). These additional officers will make a significant contribution to improving the safety on our roads.
- A new secure digital platform has been introduced to support the Extra Eyes Project. The Egress system allows members of the public to send digital footage of poor or dangerous road user behaviour to Essex Police for investigation via the Egress portal. This aims to enhance the overall customer / victim experience with the generation of unique reference numbers which further improves follow up enquiries. The system also provides greater security, protecting the force and members of the public with storage and evidential standards.
- Operation CALLA has been a Roads Policing response supporting Local Policing Areas by providing resources and other tactical options to mitigate the risk to public safety from car cruise events and high end anti-social use of the road network by young drivers. This has included specific deployments and support to areas including Harlow, Basildon, Thurrock, and Colchester including Abberton Reservoir which has been an area subject to racing on the highway during Q2.