

	AGENDA ITEM 4
	PAF/05/19
Committee:	People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	14 February 2019
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Drug gangs, knife crime and county lines

Purpose:

To consider the report attached in Appendix 2 as an introduction to the issue of drug gangs, knife crime and county lines, particularly as it applies to the County of Essex.

To consider the attached draft scoping document (Appendix 1) which can be used to framework future work.

To consider the format and timelines for future work on this issue.

Background:

The incidences and profile of drug gangs, knife crime and county lines operations is increasing nationally and locally. The issue 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.

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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.'*

With the above motion in mind, the Committee Chairman and Vice Chairmen have a had initial discussions with Tanya Gillett, Head of Youth Offending, regarding context and scoping further work. A draft scoping document is attached (Appendix 1) as a guide to framework future work.

In attendance today to facilitate an initial discussion at a more introductory and operational level will be:

Tanya Gillett, Head of Youth Offending

Andy Prophet, Assistant Chief Constable, Local Policing / Crime & Public Protection, Essex Police