



**Safer
Chelmsford**

ONE CHELMSFORD PARTNERSHIP – 14 JULY 2023

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

AGENDA ITEM 9

1.	<u>Purpose</u>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to inform the One Chelmsford Board members of a range of issues impacting on community safety since the last meeting on 3 March 2023.
2.	<u>Statutory Obligations</u>
2.1	<p>Partners agreed the priorities for 2023/24 based on the data review, risk matrix discussions and action planning meetings. They reflect priorities already identified in the revised Police and Crime Plan, the current Essex Police Strategic Assessment, and the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025. It should be noted that reducing reoffending remains a statutory function for all community safety partnerships and serious violence must also feature as part of the new duty previously highlighted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Tackling violent crime and reducing reoffending (with an emphasis on serious violence, gangs, drugs and county lines, knife crime, high harm offences, and night-time economy disorder)❖ Driving down anti-social behaviour in public places (with an emphasis on youth nuisance, ASB associated with rough sleeping and improving communications with our residents)❖ Identifying and supporting vulnerable people (with an emphasis on emotional health and wellbeing, violence against women and girls, emotional mental health, domestic abuse, social isolation, suicide prevention, hate crime and a proactive approach to those at risk of exploitation)❖ Tackling rural and environmental crime
2.2	<p>The current Essex Police performance figures for the cumulative year to 31 May 2023 (compared to the same period last year) showed an increase in all crime by 0.2% (34 more offences) and a decrease in anti-social behaviour by 32.4% (761 less incidents). It should be noted that there has been a decrease in crime in Essex by 2.9% and a decrease in ASB by 31.3%. A copy of the performance data is attached as Appendix 1 and the Hate Crime data as Appendix 2. An explanation of the current performance will be given by the police representative attending the meeting. Anti-social behaviour reports to the local authority which is a combination of nuisance behaviour, noise, fly tipping and neighbour disputes appear to have levelled off in recent months. However, there is also a marked increase in theft and shoplifting offences which may be attributable to the impact of the cost-of-living</p>

	<p>crisis. The Chief Inspector and Public Protection Manager presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 February 2023 as part of our statutory requirements and the annual face the public meeting with the Essex PFCC was held on 13 March 2023 at the Civic Centre in the Council Chamber. Colleagues at Essex County Council have provided a useful legislation overview for community safety partnerships on behalf of Safer Essex which is attached as Appendix 3.</p>
2.3	<p>Officers continue to work with partners to address the Prevent agenda. A copy of the Eastern Region Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) for Quarter 1 was presented by the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit on 23 May 2023 and has been reviewed by officers. Regional priorities are extreme right-wing terrorism, self-initiated terrorism, extremism in prison, and the online risk being an enabler. Most referrals for Essex are from education, with the 0-17 age range being the most common (60%). The current UK threat remains "SUBSTANTIAL". The Public Protection Manager is Chair of the Essex Prevent Delivery Group and reports to the Local Contest Board and Safer Essex. The local benchmarking exercise for Essex was carried with the Home Office on 22 February 2023 and the feedback from the Home Office is attached as Appendix 4. Whilst the duty has been met and the score is good for an unfunded area, there has been significant progress since last year it was disappointing to see that Essex was scored "two" for training and communications, particularly since these are areas where the Home Office had not supplied suitable resources at the time of the assessment. This letter has been passed to the Local Contest Board and we will be meeting to discuss the response with our Eastern Region Advisor this month. Three training sessions for elected members across the Eastern Region were delivered during June 2023.</p>
2.4	<p>Martyn's Law(Protect Duty) has now moved ahead another step in the legislative process with draft legislation being published on 2 May 2023: Martyn's Law progresses as government publishes draft legislation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) The duty is aimed at placing a requirement on publicly accessible venues and locations (PALS) to consider the threat of terrorism and put in place appropriate mitigation measures. It is anticipated that the duty will receive Royal Assent in Autumn 2023 with the duty becoming law soon after.</p>
2.5	<p>Board Members will also be aware of the tragic murder of the Canadian national Ashley Wadsworth on 1 February 2022. A male was sentenced on 10 October 2022 following a guilty plea and has received a life sentence with a minimum of 23.5 years imprisonment. The DHR for this case is ongoing and a draft report will be available soon. The partnership was informed another potential DHR in October 2022, scoping has been completed and the SETDAB panel decided that this case did not meet the threshold since it was a suicide related DHR with little evidence of domestic violence. The Home Office has challenged this decision, but SETDAB has responded on behalf of the partnership to provide rationale for not commencing a DHR, discussions are ongoing. Members should also be aware of the tragic murder of sixteen-year-old Andy Wood who was a victim of a knife related incident. An eighteen-year-old male has been arrested and charged for this crime. This has had a significant community impact in the vicinity of the crime and at Chelmsford College where the victim was a student. The partnership has been providing reassurance patrols and is working with Chelmsford College to provide ongoing support for students and Essex VVU has offered</p>

	<p>financial support for interventions at Chelmsford College and a PRISE (Prepare, Respect, Inspire, Safe, Engage) week will be delivered at the college commencing 9 October 2023. Officers were informed of another tragic homicide in Great Baddow recently and a chair has been appointed by SETDAB for this DHR and a terms of reference meeting is being held on 13 July 2023.</p>
2.6	<p>The Serious Violence Duty final statutory guidance was published on 16 December 2022: Serious Violence Duty - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), and it was agreed at Safer Essex that all districts will work to a pan Essex duty and that VVU Round Table is well placed to coordinate work around the serious violence duty. The VVU will lead the preparation of a local strategic needs assessment relating to serious violence, linking in with the Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Essex Strategic Coordination Group. Members of the Essex VVU will be attending this meeting to give an overview of the strategic needs assessment.</p>
2.7	<p>Essex has been chosen as one of the forces to take part in the National ASB Hotspot Pilot. Ten zones across Essex have been identified with one being in Chelmsford. This zone will benefit from additional police and accredited officer patrols from 17 July 2023 – 31 March 2024. The partnership has committed to completing three patrols each week of a three-hour duration and eight nights of action until the end of the financial year. A funding sum of £44,190 has been allocated by the PFCC to cover the costs of these additional patrols for partnership staff with a slightly higher figure being available for police patrols. The Home Office will be appointing an independent consultant to undertake an evaluation of the ASB Hotspot Pilots across the country. The PFCC will also have analyst capability for the endurance of the pilot.</p>

3.	<u>Police and Fire Crime Commissioner (PFCC), VVU, Safer Streets, Minerva and GRIP Update</u>
3.1	<p>The partnership continues to support the priorities identified in the Police and Crime Plan which was extended until 2024: Police-and-Crime-Plan-2021-2024.pdf (pfcc.police.uk) The OPFCC has confirmed that core funding for Chelmsford in 2023/24 will be £19,191 and the necessary funding forms have been completed and returned as part of the funding agreement. The annual partnership update meeting was held on the 2 February 2023. The Police, Fire and Crime Panel (PFCCP) approved an increase in the council tax precept for 2023 / 24 on 7 February 2023 (£14.94 for Essex Police and £4.95 for ECFRS per annum for a Band D property): Creating a safe and secure Essex - Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner (pfcc.police.uk)</p>
3.2	<p>As previously reported, the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU) was established in 2018 and has seen significant Home Office funding come to Essex since this date. The Home Office has also confirmed that the unit will receive a three-year settlement of £1.16 million for 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25 together with ECC and PFCC funding sources. This three-year funding agreement has enabled the VVU to recruit more posts to support policy, projects, and evaluation. The Public Protection Manager attends the Violence and Vulnerability Operations Board which reports to a Strategic Board (Roundtable). For further information on the VVU they can now be followed on Twitter @EssexVVU and have a website: www.essexvvu.co.uk</p>
3.3	<p>Chelmsford was identified for 2023/24 as an area eligible for additional support for violence reduction based on analysis around violence and contributing factors such as domestic abuse persistence, disorganised neighbourhoods, unemployment, deprivation and Class A drug use and supply (Insight Analysis). Officers met with the VVU Inspector on 26 June 2023 to agree interventions that would benefit from the £25,000 funding stream to tackle violence reduction. Projects include interventions delivered by Reach Every Generation, support for Chelmsford College, commissioning Street Doctors and Self Defence Classes.</p>
3.4	<p>Officers prepared a funding bid for Operation GRIP (Home Office - Gangs Reduction Intervention Project) which was successful. Chelmsford previously had two GRIP zones: around Chelmsford Rail Station and Chelmsford High Street/Backnang Square that are regularly patrolled by Essex Police and City Council CSAS accredited officers. The successful bid for additional CCTV and lighting: £19,310, works were completed in April 2023. The GRIP zone for 2023/24 has changed to cover a larger area so officers will look at opportunities to improve safety in this area.</p>
3.5	<p>Officers have worked with partners to identify Minerva zones for Chelmsford using the data mapping tool developed by Nottingham Trent University. This was funded by the Home Office STAR Programme. Minerva zones are areas of female victimisation, and the mapping tool uses a variety of layers and crime generators to identify risks. Three sites have been identified and officers are awaiting an analyst product to support a funding bid. The PFCC will be allocating a sum of £10,000 to each district to carry out projects to make each identified area safer. Bids need to be submitted by 24 July 2023.</p>

3.6	<p>Members will recall that Chelmsford received £550,000 Home Office Safer Streets Funding (Round 3) for 2021/22. This scheme is now complete with the final project: women's safety charter being launched on 17 November 2022. This project has been well received and forty businesses in Chelmsford have already signed up to the scheme and have undertaken training. Training for Years 2 (23/24) and 3 (24/25) of this project has been secured from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. There has also been a significant amount of interest from other sectors with presentations being delivered to ARU Safe and Inclusive Communities, Greater Anglia, SETDAB, Kent Police, Eastern Region Crime Prevention Officers, Chelmsford College and Mid and South Essex NHS Trust. A public launch of the Women's Safety Project will be held on 27 July 2023 at Chelmsford Theatre.</p>
3.7	<p>Details of the PFCC Safer Streets Funding was circulated on 28 June 2023. There will be almost £4 million available for Essex for projects to be completed by 31 March 2025. The purpose of the PFCC's Safer Streets Fund is to address the issues of crime, ASB and feelings of safety by focusing on physical and environmental protective factors in hyper local areas. Whilst evaluation will be weighted towards those areas that have not successfully applied for Safer Streets Funding previously, there are still opportunities to consider bids that focus on crime data and those that are aligned to the Police and Crime Plan. Matched funding of 50% of the total value of the application will be required, this includes in kind contributions. Officers are meeting to discuss potential projects and completed bids need to be submitted by 21 July 2023.</p>

4.	<p><u>Community Safety Partnership Hub</u></p>
4.1	<p>The community safety partnership hub for Chelmsford and Maldon now meets fortnightly and has a tasking process which links to the priorities of the community safety partnership. The community safety team also attend fortnightly local tasking with the police. There is an individual action plan for Chelmsford plus a tasking update which is monitored to ensure that partner actions are completed and performance managed. A copy of the current action plan is available on request. Subgroups of the partnership continue to meet on a regular basis and work streams for each individual group are effectively impacting on various areas of community safety. The community safety hub is occupied by Public Health and Protection Services, the Community Policing Team, and the Town Centre Unit. Community safety officers from Essex County Fire and Rescue and officers from the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System. This has already improved joint working within the respective teams which will provide a much better service for the public in terms of performance, visibility, problem solving and reassurance.</p>
4.2	<p>Officers attend the MACE 1 and MACE 2 (Missing and Child Exploitation) and BAP (Behaviour and Attendance Partnership) meetings on Microsoft Teams to ensure that the needs of vulnerable children for the district are addressed and that processes are in place to tackle the criminal and sexual exploitation of young people. Officers continue to support registered social landlords in tackling anti-social behaviours cases which in time should upskill partners to enable them to tackle anti-social behaviour more effectively and improve data sharing and intelligence. More complex neighbour disputes are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Officers also meet with the community mental health teams on a bi-monthly basis to discuss complex cases and support arrangements for vulnerable people. Officers also attend Mid-Essex Stay Safe, Mid-Essex Children’s Partnership Board (MECPB), Chelmsford & Maldon Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (BAP), Chelmsford Youth Strategy Group, Safer Essex, Essex Community Safety Network, Essex Prevent Group, Essex Contest Board, SIGCE, Women’s Safety Roundtable, CASP, Essex CCTV User Group and the County Safeguarding Leads meeting.</p>
5.	<p><u>Projects (since April 2023)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chelmsford City Council has published its CCTV annual report for 2022/23, highlights include dealing with 9,984 incidents leading to 477 arrests, the full report can be found here: cctv-annual-report-2023.pdf (chelmsford.gov.uk) ❖ Artists were commissioned to paint safety themed street art on six CCTV columns as part of Concrete Canvass ❖ Operation Henderson (exploitation awareness) was delivered at Chelmsford bus and rail station on 5 April 2023 ❖ Skate Jam was delivered in Central Park on 12 April 2023 with Active Essex and ECC Youth Service ❖ Crucial Crew was delivered to Year 6 students from primary schools in June 2023, this year we commissioned Tic Box Productions to do a professional drama: “Lines” focussing on exploitation, 1,050 students attended the sessions ❖ Papermill Lock enforcement day was held on 13 April 2023 with an engagement day scheduled for 16 August 2023

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A men’s mental health project: “On Your Team” was delivered for twelve weeks from April – June 2023 and received excellent feedback from the 16 attendees ❖ A 999-community engagement day is scheduled for 23 August 2023 at Saltcoats Park, South Woodham Ferrers ❖ Partners attended a dementia awareness event at Chelmsford library on 17 May 2023 ❖ Operation Sceptre was supported in May 2023, this included school visits, knife arch deployments and a night of action ❖ A pop-up safety engagement event was held at Broomfield Hospital on 28 June 2023, this was well attended, and the NHS are analysing the data from 120 completed questionnaires ❖ A “Get Ready for Winter” public engagement event is scheduled for 28 September 2023 at Chelmsford High Street ❖ A Silver Monday event is scheduled for October 2023 to provide advice for over 65s on scams, personal safety, health and wellbeing, fire safety and seated exercise sessions ❖ PRISE (Prepare, Respect, Inspire, Safe, Engage) week will be delivered at the college on week commencing 9 October 2023 ❖ Accredited officers continue to patrol Operation GRIP areas in the city centre as part of the initiative to reduce violent crime by using high-viz patrols at peak times ❖ Knife Angel - the knife angel sculpture, Alfie Bradley contributed to the recent graffiti art project at Central Park underpass and Keep It 100 has been awarded some funding for a legacy statue that will be unveiled at Frank Whitmore Green in Spring 2024, a planning application has been submitted on behalf of Keep It 100 ❖ Problem solving discussions are continuing with a variety of partners to target vehicle nuisance around Middlemead (West Hanningfield) and Hawkwood Road (South Hanningfield): Operation Windshield, a deployable CCTV camera has been installed at the Hawkwood Road site to assist Essex Police with Section 59 powers (Police Reform Act 2002) – CCTV was used to support four police actions recently ❖ Operation Community was supported on 27 June 2023 with a focus on anti-social behaviour at key locations
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>Board members are asked to note the contents of this report.</p> <p><u>Contact Details for Information</u></p> <p>Spencer Clarke, Public Protection Manager – 01245 606477 Spencer.clarke@chelmsford.gov.uk</p>