

# ***Report to the Council***

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 28 April 2018

**Subject:** Safer, Greener & Transport

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor S Kane

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## **Recommending:**

**That the report of the Safer, Greener & Transport Portfolio Holder be noted.**

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## **Community Safety**

### **Development of Community Safety Hub:**

The project to introduce direct funding of police officers to work with the council's Community Safety Team is progressing well. The team has undergone a security review and inspection by Essex Police Strategic Designing Out Crime Officer and Information Management Officer which included the physical security of the accommodation, together with working practices such as information sharing agreements and vetting status of all officers. A further inspection was made of the council's server room.

A small project team which includes operational stakeholders is in place, to determine further policing requirements and to re-structure the Community Safety Office to accommodate the increased numbers, as well as facilitating the council's transformation requirements for hot desk working.

### **Vulnerable Victims:**

Vulnerable victim referrals continue to be regularly received into the Community Safety team, from internal and external bodies, including EFDC housing, Safer Places, Essex Police and Health Visitors. These are dealt with by our Community Safety Officer with either the police Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor (if assessed as high risk) or, our volunteer active citizen and Crime Prevention Advisor if they do not fall into the high risk category. However, I have to advise, that the police Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor who was working from the Community Safety office has now advanced to a specialised team with national responsibilities and it is not yet known about replacement proposals by the police.

### **Parkguard:**

Parkguard have been employed by the council since the end of January 2018 to provide high visibility targeted engagement. In particular, they have been used to deter 'purse dippers' in Epping High Street during the Monday market. They have also provided high visibility presence at Limes Farm, Chigwell and The Broadway, Loughton, including Epping Forest College where they have worked with staff to identify and challenge unacceptable behaviour. There have been other deployments in relation to reported anti-social behaviour at Hill House, Waltham Abbey, Parklands, Coopersale, Birch View, Epping, St Margarets Hospital, Epping, and noise nuisance at Macdonalds, Waltham Abbey. Their depolyments activities are constantly changing depending on demand at the time. Parkguard officers also assisted our Housing teams to re-possess a property in Loughton which was subject of a Closure Order and provided security for officers whilst re-possessing a council garage in Waltham Abbey. The council has received a letter of thanks from a member of the public who Parkguard assisted after her vehicle broke down on Epping New Road.

### **'Mates' Crime:**

A current ASB investigation concerns 'mates crime.' This is where perpetrators befriend a person with vulnerabilities and persuade, threaten or bully them into handing over cash. It normally happens around the time that benefits are paid and in many cases, the victims are too frightened to come forward and report it and just pay up to make the perpetrators go away. Working with Integrated Offender Management and Community Policing Team our investigator has issued the perpetrators with a Community Protection Notice Warning letter, setting out strict restrictions on contacting the victim. Failure to comply with the warning will result in the issue of a Community Protection Notice which, if breached, can be dealt with by issuing a fixed penalty fine or court appearance. Since the warning was issued there has been no further contact with the victim by the perpetrators.

### **Neighbour Dispute:**

ASB investigators were asked to assist Housing colleagues with an ongoing and complex neighbour dispute in Waltham Abbey, following a number of complaints from two neighbours concerning the anti-social actions of each other. Numerous attempts to diffuse the situation had failed and the situation was becoming a considerable drain on council resources. The ASB investigator determined that an approach of mediation would be a viable option and as a result, was able to obtain consent from both parties to try mediation. Both were referred to Essex Restorative Justice and Mediation Service, which is a service provided by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. I am happy to report that as a result of both parties participating with this service they have reconciled their differences and complaints have ceased. This shows the benefit of this service and the practical outcome it can achieve.

### **Safeguarding:**

Our safeguarding team have dealt with **28** new cases this month which include a total of 12 children and 23 adults. Mental health concerns are currently the highest factor in cases identified, often in addition to other issues and cases related to our tenants with mental health issues who commit ASB, tend to be very time consuming and complex, and often involve several EFDC departments.

### **CCTV**

**New Systems:** A new CCTV system is currently being installed at Norway House. This replaces the old system as well as expanding its coverage and is being placed in a more secure area after the recent break in. Further to this a second stage of CCTV development is being proposed which will include coverage for the new single occupancy pods expected to be installed later this year. Planning applications are being submitted for additional CCTV along High Road Epping to extend as far as Tesco's and we are ready to install a CCTV system as part of the ongoing car park improvement program at Quaker Lane Car park.

**Hill House & Leisure Centre:** CCTV design has been submitted to the project team to install external car park CCTV at the new leisure centre at Hill House, this will also incorporate a permanent CCTV system for the residential area and shopping precinct. Estimated completion for both parts autumn 2018.

**Successful Outcomes:** Broadway CCTV captured incident involving an ATM robbery of an elderly male, suspect was captured and arrested and 4 insurance claims received where EFDC have charged a total of £480 for our services. Surveillance is continuing in one area where a number of vehicle registrations and fly-tips have been captured.

**Training:** Our career grade CCTV Assistant Terri Gill, has completed a BTEC level 3 CCTV Foundation course.