

Select Committee Agenda



Stronger Communities Select Committee Tuesday, 30th March, 2021

You are invited to attend the next meeting of **Stronger Communities Select Committee**, which will be held at:

Virtual Meeting on Zoom
on **Tuesday, 30th March, 2021**
at **7.00 pm**

G Blakemore
Chief Executive

**Democratic Services
Officer**

R Perrin- 01992 564532
Email: democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

Councillors D Sunger (Chairman), J McIvor (Vice-Chairman), A Beales, I Hadley, J Lea, A Mitchell, D Plummer, S Rackham, J Share-Bernia, J H Whitehouse and D Wixley

SUBSTITUTE NOMINATION DEADLINE:

6:00 pm

1. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

This virtual meeting is to be webcast. Members are reminded of the need to unmute before speaking.

The Chairman will read the following announcement:

“I would like to remind everyone present that this meeting will be broadcast live to the internet (or filmed) and will be capable of repeated viewing (or another use by such third parties). Therefore by participating in this virtual meeting, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should ensure that their video setting throughout the virtual meeting is turned off and set to audio only.

Please also be aware that if technical difficulties interrupt the meeting that cannot be overcome, I may need to adjourn the meeting.”

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare interests in any item on the agenda.

5. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 3 - 10)

To agree the notes of the meeting of the Select Committee held on 14 January 2021.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE & WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 11 - 16)

(Chairman/Lead Officer) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have agreed the Terms of Reference and work programme for this Select Committee. Members are invited at each meeting to review both documents.

7. PRESENTATION FROM THE DISTRICT COMMANDER FOR EPPING FOREST AND BRENTWOOD

To receive a presentation from the District Commander for Epping Forest and Brentwood, Chief Inspector Ant Alcock on current policing and crime issues in the District.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT AND REVIEW OF THE DISTRICT STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT (Pages 17 - 58)

To note the Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership Annual Strategic Assessment, Annual Report and Partnership Plan.

9. SIX-MONTH REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL FUNDED POLICE OFFICERS (Pages 59 - 60)

To consider the attached report on the work of the Council-funded Police Officers over the last six months.

10. DATE OF FUTURE MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Select Committee will be held virtually at 7.00pm on 22 April 2021.

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY 2021
IN VIRTUAL MEETING ON ZOOM
AT 7.00 - 8.40 PM**

Members Present:	D Sunger (Chairman), J McIvor (Vice-Chairman), A Beales, I Hadley, J Lea, S Rackham, J Share-Bernia (Vice-Chairman of Council), J H Whitehouse and D Wixley
Other members present:	R Brookes, S Murray, S Kane, A Patel and H Whitbread
Apologies for Absence:	A Mitchell
Officers Present	N Dawe (Chief Operating Officer), J Leither (Democratic Services Officer), D Fenton (Service Director (Housing Revenue Account)), J Gould (Service Director (Community & Wellbeing)), S Lewis (Customer Services Manager), R Pavey (Service Director (Customer Services)), R Perrin (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer) and R Moreton (Corporate Communications Officer)

20. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Chairman made a short address to remind all present that the virtual meeting would be broadcast on the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

21. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitutes reported at the meeting.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were declared pursuant to the Council's Member Code of Conduct.

23. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor D Wixley enquired whether an invitation to the District Police Commander had been made in relation the minute 16. (Six-Month report on the work of the Council -funded Police officers). The Chairman informed the Committee that the District Police Commander had been invited to the meeting on 30 March 2020 and officers were awaiting a response.

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the meeting held 15 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

24. TERMS OF REFERENCE & WORK PROGRAMME

The Select Committee noted the terms of reference and work programme.

25. OPERATIONAL CHANGES AT BROADWAY HOUSING OFFICE

The Housing Revenue Account Service Director, D Fenton presented a report on operational changes to the Broadway Housing Office.

She advised that operational changes were being requested following a review of the Housing Management Services and feedback from tenants, to ensure that the best use of resources and delivery of a customer centric service were being delivered.

The Committee were advised that following the Civic Office refurbishment, the Income Recovery Team would reposition itself alongside the Estate and Land Team at Debden Broadway and that the Broadway Office would be reinvented as a drop-in hub on Mondays and Tuesdays alongside the cash office. This would enable both a cash office and the opportunity for residents to engage with a range of services such as the Rehousing Team, Housing Benefit, Council Tax, Citizens Advice Bureau, Peabody Trust and potentially provide digital upskilling by Digital Buddies. This would enable the Council to continue to support the High Street, offer a cash collection service which was popular amongst residents and offer a wider range of services on the two days the office is open to the public and allow housing officers the flexibility to have an active presence on the estates, when office was closed to the public for the remainder of the week.

Councillor D Wixley raised a number of issues that this report had raised, which included the removal of the notice board in the window of the office; the reduction in opening days and whether this would effect the opening hours; what area of the district did the office cover; and whether Ward Councillors could be invited to and meet the Housing Officers. The Housing Revenue Account Service Director advised that the removal of the notice board had been completed in consultation with Loughton Town Council and an alternative position in the community had been offered. In regards to the opening days and hours, the number of residents attending the offices were around 13 per day with the majority collecting recycling bags, housing officers time could be put to better use, out in the community. In addition to ward members attending the office, the Housing Revenue Account Service Director advised that housing officers could also take members to look at the social housing and improvement projects.

The Customer Service Director, R Pavey advised that there were no plans to withdraw the cash desk at this office although the Council continued to review different ways to collect payments.

Councillor S Rackham asked how officers would engage with the residents going forward. The Housing Revenue Account Service Director advised that officers would be have more meetings, knocking on doors, completing tenancy and estate audits and visiting tenants with arrears directly rather via the telephone for a more holistic approach.

Councillor J H Whitehouse asked whether tenancy satisfaction survey could be brought to future meetings, so that members could have a chance to view the feedback; and whether the complaints received regarding repairs service, which had now transferred to Qualis, could be scrutinised by this Committee. The Housing Revenue Account Service Director advised that the tenant satisfaction survey were only completed every three years and she was not aware that it had previously been submitted to this Committee. The Chief Operating Officer, N Dawe advised that the repairs issues, formed part of the Service Level Agreement between the Council and Qualis and he would ensure a report would come forward in due course.

Councillor R Brookes enquired what percentage of tenants had replied to the tenant's satisfaction survey; what reasons were given for tenants using cash as a method of payment; and whether the Tenants Panel had approved this decision. The Housing Revenue Account Service Director advised that the Tenants Panel had been consulted and were broadly in favour. In regards to cash payments, the Service Manager Customer Service advised that the reasons given were payments by carers, people not having bank accounts or other methods of payment.

The Communities & Wellbeing Service Director advised that 9% of tenant had responded to the survey which translated into 565 responses out of the 6346 Council tenants.

Councillor S Murray comments that officers should collaborate with the St John's on the Broadway hub to prevent any doubling up on services as this also provides community services. The Housing Revenue Account Service Director advised that the relevant officer had the contact details of the St John's hub and officers would contact them.

The Committee were broadly supportive of operational changes.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee was supportive of;

1. the Broadway Satellite Office being retained to enable customers to access the Council's cash desk;
2. the reduction in the hours that the Broadway Housing advice counter was open from 5 days a week to 2 days a week; and
3. the Broadway Housing Office be repurposed, by bringing together a range of internal and external partners to provide a range of services on the days that the office was open.

26. ROUGH SLEEPING UPDATE

The Community & Wellbeing Service Director, J Gould presented a report on the Council's response to rough sleeping in the district throughout the pandemic and the additional funding secured to support the service.

The Committee were advised of the following points;

- A total of 27 clients presented as rough sleepers between April and 23rd December 2020;
- 3 were found to of had a priority need and were accommodated in line with Part VII Housing Act 1996 (as amended);
- 4 were made offers of accommodation but failed to engage and contact was lost;
- 20 were accommodated in emergency, nightly paid accommodation.
- 15 of the 20 were accommodated in response to the Everyone In directive and the remaining 5 were accommodated post October via the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NASP).
- Funding for Rough Sleeper Initiative Grant and Next Steps Accommodation Programme had been achieved for 2020/21 and the costs associated with the

Everyone In directive would be returned to the Government as part of EFDC's additional Covid-19 spending strain.

- To assist with EFDC rough sleeper service delivery and housing solutions, a specialist link worker with particular expertise in assisting rough sleepers had been established in the homelessness team and progress was currently being made to secure a dedicated mental health specialist.
- In addition, a six-bed house of multiple occupation within the district had been secured which would provide long-term accommodation for single homeless clients on an assured shorthold tenancy basis and;
- A unit of EFDC's own housing stock was being leased to Chess to provide next step, supported accommodation to rough sleepers.

Finally, the Government had made a commitment to continue Rough Sleeper Initiative Grant funding and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme into 2021/22, which the council would work look to secure a share of the future funding.

Councillor J McIvor enquired whether the Council could work more closely with neighbouring authorities in addition to current collaborations. The Community & Wellbeing Service Director advised that currently the Council was in a working partnership with Braintree, Rochford, Chelmsford and Maldon, where discussions and initiatives were discussed. She advised that opportunities with Harlow District Council would also need to be explored, as many of the district rough sleepers sought services in Harlow rather than Chelmsford and this would need to be investigated over the next year.

Councillor S Rackham what happened to rough sleepers who continually refuse help. The Community & Wellbeing Service Director advised that it could be difficult, as the Council did not have any enforcement powers, although officers tried to keep in regular contact, offer help and had used some of the funding for a dedicated mental health specialist.

Councillor D Wixley enquired where mental health issues had been a factor in the increased figures of rough sleepers or if there was any other common reasons. The Community & Wellbeing Service Director advised that she would find out and report back to him. Although from experience, many rough sleepers had multiply and complex needs.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee was updated on the Council's response to rough sleeping throughout the pandemic between the period of April and 23 December 2020;
2. That additional funding from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government had been secured; and
3. That robust prevention and relief services had been developed.

27. HEALTH AND WELLBEING - WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Chairman advised the Committee that he had attended a briefing to update the key stake holders and community representatives on the progress of the Whipps Cross Hospital Development. It was noted that no substantial updates had arisen since the presentation given at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman of the Epping Forest Health & Wellbeing Board, Councillor A Patel advised that he would ask officers to submit the general information of the Epping Forest Primary Care Networks in the Council Bulletin.

28. DIGITAL INCLUSION UPDATE

The Customer Service Director, R Pavey gave an update on the work taking place around the Digital Inclusion project. He advised that the pandemic had been a real challenge in reducing digital exclusion, in particular to providing a face to face services to support customers.

He highlighted the work being undertaken and planned by the Council and other partners within the Digital Inclusion Network as follows;

- Internal Digital Buddies – EFDC trained staff who were willing to assist residents and collaborate with other service areas and external partners to provide some initial digital support to residents;
- Community Based Digital Inclusion Programme - Projects being developed to reduce health inequalities and aid social recovery from Covid-19;
- Digital Inclusion Zone including Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN); Digital Inclusion Project; Digital Support for the High Street; Ultrafast Broadband; DIZ Event Programme; MDU Fibre Broadband Project.

The Digital inclusion is one of the key themes of the Customer Service Strategy and future updates around this would be provided within the wider Strategy update.

Councillor D Wixley enquired what was an Alcove phone. The Community & Wellbeing Service Director advised that they were video care phones, which had predominantly been installed in the Paternoster and the Shelley wards in sheltered housing schemes. They allowed residents who were isolating to contact various people via video.

The Customer & Corporate Support Services Portfolio Holder, Councillor S Kane advised that the Community hub's planned for Epping and Waltham Abbey would become bases for the Digital buddy network scheme to operate from and have equipment available for residents to use.

Councillor I Hadley commented that there could be an opportunity for the provision of a basic free broadband service. The Finance & Economic Development Portfolio Holder advised that the Council had considered an number of options to improve the broadband service although with competition rules would prevent this and it was probably a consideration for Government rather than local authorities.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted that updates given on the Digital Inclusion schemes in the District.

29. CUSTOMER SERVICE UPDATE

The Service Manager for Customer Services, S Lewis, presented an update on what the customer was telling the Council and the Customer Strategy.

The following points were highlighted;

- Overall customer satisfaction for quarter 3 was 80%. - Customers had reported that the key frustration had been around missed waste collections and bin deliveries which had been due to scheduling issues. This was being addressed and feedback on the ease of finding information on the website would be addressed via the digital strategy.
- First point resolution was 45% - Call causation codes had been reintroduced to identify the reasons for contact and whether they could be dealt with at first contact. There was still a large amount of call transfers required to Qualis and the Planning department and this would be monitored.
- Complaints – 85% within the SLA – There had been 81 complaints received including noise issues; a delay in repairs in relation to availability of materials concerning Qualis and waste complaints.
- Call Volumes for quarter 3 -21,506 – Consistent with previous quarters.
- Corporate Communications – webcasting equipment was being upgraded for hybrid meetings and investigations into creating a community platform.
- Customer Strategy – Launched via the website and internal audit had completed an audit of the Customer Service Transformation plans which had received substantial assurances.
- Fix the Basics – the call centre would be using customer feedback to improve the customer experience.
- Customer shoes – Behavioural training to assist with difficult customer conversations.
- Embracing New Technology working group;
- New welcome lounge at Civic Office; and
- Members technology & contact process review for members enquiries.

Councillor D Wixley asked about the missed bin collections and what was Perkbox. The Customer Service Manager advised that the missed bins had been scheduling issues and Perkbox was a staff incentive platform, which allowed staff to access various benefits.

Councillor J McIvor asked whether any benefits had been seen with regards to the behavioural training for staff. The Customer Service Manager advised that the training had been completed in December 2020 and feedback was expected in a month time.

The Committee wanted to acknowledge the efforts of the Waste service in these difficult times.

30. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Co-opted Member

The Chairman advised that a request had been received for the Chairman of the Tenant's and Leaseholders Forum, Mr Wyn Marshall to become a non-voting Co-opted Member of the Stronger Communities Select Committee.

The Committee were advised that Mr Marshall had previously been a member of the Housing Select Committee but following the review of the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee Framework in 2019 and a subsequent review of the protocol for co-opted members his co-option had been removed. It was now requested that Mr Marshall, as the Chairman of the Tenant's and Leaseholders Forum become a non-

voting co-opted member of the Stronger Communities Select Committee to ensure that tenants had a voice at this level of scrutiny.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Committee agreed to the Co-option of Mr Marshall; and
2. The co-option would be recommended to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval.

District Police Commander attendance on 30 March 2021

The Chairman asked that questions for the District Police Commander be submitted to democratic services before the meeting to ensure that a details response could be given. This would not preclude members from asking question on the evening and a reminder would be placed in the bulletin.

31. NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the date of the next meeting would be held on 30 March 2021.

This page is intentionally left blank

STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE 2019/20

Core Areas of Responsibility

- (1) To provide scrutiny for the following corporate projects:
 - Customer Excellence - Delivering services that put the customer at the heart of everything we do;
 - Behaviours and Insights - Future-proofing the Council's service provision by understanding customer needs and expectations over the next ten years and beyond; and
 - Partnerships - Working with public, private and third sector partners to deliver and develop services to our community, businesses and visitors to the district including shared and cross-border working.
- (2) To monitor levels of customer satisfaction and provide scrutiny of services that are not performing to standard and develop proposals for their improvement. This will also include matters of concern that are identified by the Stronger Council Select Committee in its review of Corporate Key Performance Indicators.

Scrutiny Role of the Select Committee

- (1) To engage in policy review and development, with a focus on improvement and how this can be best achieved;
- (2) To develop a work programme each year that effectively scrutinises the areas of responsibility outlined above;
- (3) To consider any matter referred by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet or a Portfolio Holder and to make recommendations as appropriate;
- (4) To look outwards and show community leadership;
- (5) To consider the effect of Government actions or initiatives that affect the Select Committees areas of responsibility and the impact on customers, residents, businesses and visitors to our district, and to respond to consultation activities as appropriate;
- (6) To establish working groups and task and finish panels to undertake any activity within these terms of reference;
- (7) To undertake pre-scrutiny through the review of specific proposals of the Council and its partner organisations or other local service providers to help develop policy;
- (8) To monitor and review relevant projects and associated closure and benefits reports; and
- (9) To engage with the community and encourage community engagement.

This page is intentionally left blank

Stronger Communities Select Committee

Work Programme 2020/21

Chairman: Cllr D Sunger

Stronger Communities Corporate Programme Alignment focuses on corporate objectives and Customer Excellence and partnerships

No.	Item	Deadline	Progress and Comments	Owner (Officer)	Programme of Meetings
1.	Presentation from the Loughton based group GROW Community Garden who help people who are socially isolated.	21 Jul 2020	COMPLETED	Cllr D. Wixley	21 July 2020 15 September 2020 14 January 2021
2.	Impact of Covid-19 on EFDC's Housing Communities	21 Jul 2020	COMPLETED	D. Fenton	30 March 2021 22 April 2021
3.	"What are our customers telling us?"	21 Jul 2020	COMPLETED (a) Quarter 1 report	S. Lewis/ R. Pavey	
		15 Sept 2020	COMPLETED (b) Quarter 2 Report		
		14 Jan 2021	COMPLETED (c) Quarter 3 Report		
		22 Apr 2021	(d) Quarter 4 Report		
4	Health and Wellbeing Strategy – To consider outcomes for the district.	21 Jul 2020	COMPLETED	F. Ferrari/ G. Wallis	
5.	Universal Credit and its impact on our customers and services	15 Sept 2020	COMPLETED Initial findings and recommended actions from the officer working group	R. Pavey	

		22 April 2021	6 Monthly update report	R. Pavey	
6.	Customer Service Strategy	15 Sept 2020	COMPLETED Update on key objectives	R. Pavey	
		22 April 2021	6 Monthly Report		
7.	Digital Inclusion	14 Jan 2021	COMPLETED		
8.	Rough Sleepers	14 Jan 2021	COMPLETED		
9.	Loughton Broadway Report	14 Jan 2021	COMPLETED	R Smith/ D. Fenton	
10.	Health and Wellbeing	14 Jan 2021	COMPLETED Verbal update on the Whipps Cross Hospital Development Programme (meeting attended on behalf of EFDC)	Cllr D. Sunger	
11.	Presentation from the District Police Commander	30 Mar 2021	Annual Report	C. Wiggins	
12.	Community Safety Partnership annual report and review of the district Strategic Intelligence Assessment	30 Mar 2021	Annual Report	C. Wiggins	
13.	Social Recovery	22 April 2021		J. Gould	
14.	Six-month report on the work of the Council-funded Police Officers	15 Sept 2020	COMPLETED	C. Wiggins	
		30 March 2021			
15.	Data insight led review of customer service outlets	Report to deferred until the next municipal year.	Options and recommendations for short, medium and long-term options		

16.	Service reviews as a result of performance concerns	TBC		L. Wade	
17.	EFDC Museum Collections	TBC	To consider the high-level action Plan for the programme of work over 3 years, sent out in the Corporate performance Reporting Q3 and requested at O&S on 19.11.20.	J. Gould / L. Wade	
18.	Waltham Abbey Community & Cultural Hub (Feasibility on Epping Forest culture and community hub)	June 2021	Detailed proposal to be considered	J. Gould	

This page is intentionally left blank



SCRUTINY



Report to Stronger Communities Select Committee

Date of meeting: 30 March 2021

**Portfolio: Housing & Community Services
Cllr. Holly Whitbread**

**Subject: Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership Annual Strategic Assessment,
Annual Report and Partnership Plan**

Officer contact for further information: Caroline Wiggins – Specialist Technical Services

Democratic Services Officer: R Perrin

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To consider the attached Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership Annual Strategic Assessment, Annual Report and Partnership Plan.

Report:

Community Safety Partnerships are required to complete an annual Strategic Assessment which is used to direct and guide their activities, under the requirements as responsible authorities, of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

A strategic assessment includes

- an analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area.
- an analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns since the previous strategic assessment.
- an analysis of why those changes have occurred.
- the matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.
- the matters which the persons living and working in the area consider the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.
- an assessment of the extent to which the partnership plan for the previous year has been implemented.

Epping Forest District work closely with Essex Police analysts to produce this document, which this year is a common template for all two tier local authority areas. The strategic assessment for 2020-21 is attached for members perusal.

As part of our assessment 'of the extent of the Partnership Plan has been implemented for the past year' the CSP has produced an Annual Report which is available for consideration. The timescales have been extended within this Report to take into account the unprecedented impact of Covid on the CSP and wider agencies over the year.

The CSP Plan on a Page is a new addition of the Partnership and provides information at a glance on the planned delivery of Epping Forest CSP going forward.

Options considered and rejected: N/A

Consultation undertaken: N/A

Resource implications: N/A

Legal and Governance Implications: N/A

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications: N/A

Consultation Undertaken: N/A

Background Papers: CSP Strategic Assessment, Annual Report and Plan attached.

Impact Assessments: N/A



Epping Forest Strategic Assessment 2020-21

Document Owner: **Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership**

Author: **Kim Stalabrass, Criminal Intelligence Analyst
Trish Mound, Criminal Intelligence Analyst**

Date: **26th January 2020**

This cover sheet must not be detached from the report to which it refers.
No part of the report should be disseminated or copied without prior approval of the document owner.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Aim & Purpose

The aim and purpose of this document is to assist the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to determine the strategic priorities for the financial year of 2021-22.

These priorities will inform the Partnership's 2021/22 Action Plan, which will assist in the allocation of appropriate resources to tackle the issues identified.

1.2 Data Parameters

Unless otherwise stated all data will be 01/10/2019 – 30/09/2020.

Section source will be identified under the section heading.

Data has been taken from the following sources (any open source data will be referenced) –

- Essex Police's crime recording system, Athena
- Essex Police's incident reporting system, STORM
- Epping Forest District Council reporting system, M3

1.3 Strategic Priorities

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places responsibility on the Community Safety Partnership to annually review levels and patterns of crime and disorder. This will support local communities to counter the perception, threat and consequence of criminal and anti-social behaviour by striving to reduce both crime and the fear of crime, and to reduce reoffending.

Community Safety work encompasses Anti-Social Behaviour, disorder and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.

Covid 19 Restrictions

The pandemic restrictions have impacted on crime committed and reported in 2020 resulting in crime types experiencing unprecedented significantly reduced or increased levels. As restrictions have changed, crime levels have continually readjusted. As the data set significantly reflects crime within a pandemic environment the data may not accurately inform priorities for the following year where similar restrictions may not be in place.

The previous Strategic Assessment dated 19th December 2020 was published shortly before the pandemic restrictions were implemented on 23 March 2020. In this circumstance, the Partnership has agreed to adopt the priorities identified in the previous assessment for the year 2021-22 as there has not been an opportunity to address them. Therefore, as last year, the priorities for the coming year will be as follows -



Violence



Vulnerability



Serious
Acquisitive Crime

2 THE PARTNERSHIP

In addition to the statutory partners of Epping Forest Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, Essex Community Rehabilitation Company, the Partnership has maintained the list of previously engaged additional Partners.

This year Phoenix Future Horizons Project were welcomed to the Partnership.

To increase support to Community Safety Partnerships, Essex Police have introduced Community Safety Engagement Officers to each district. The first 10 officers were introduced in July 2020 and a further 10 arrived in October 2020.

Their main responsibilities include the following:

- To build relationships within and as part of the Community Safety Hub, enhance and strengthen information sharing between agencies and ensure a more comprehensive and joined-up operational approach is taken to crime reduction, public safety and enhancing community trust and confidence.
- Work with partners to identify and understand the public's community safety concerns undertaking community engagement to capture community intelligence.
- Evaluate the level of public confidence and reasons for it from feedback obtained from public engagement activities and CSP/Police activity. Liaising with partners and internally within Essex Police to identify themes/trends and actions to address and improve trust and confidence.
- Communicate with local communities and hard to reach diverse groups to encourage their engagement and inclusion, demonstrate that public concerns are understood and describe how they are being addressed/resolved within the partnership.
- Develop, improve and promote CSP media channels and Police channels in support of CSP objectives. Manage public facing websites and use social media as appropriate to support the work of the CSP and Community Policing Team to improve public confidence. Conduct face-to-face outreach with diverse groups and communities where appropriate to build trust and unity with those groups.
- Actively seek to coordinate and align Public Engagement, Communications and Inclusion strategies with those of the CSP, and activity undertaken in support of them, to improve trust, confidence and credibility in the CSP and Essex Police.

2.1 Police Fire and Crime Commissioner

Source: Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

The PFCC has extended his Police and Crime Plan following the delay in the PFCC election due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Extended Plan builds on the priorities set out in the 2016 Police and Crime Plan and sets ambitious new goals. While significant progress has been made there is still more to do and of particular focus in the next year will be our joint efforts to reduce violence and violent crime in our communities. This is being led by the Violence and Vulnerability Partnership and involves strong preventative action to stop young people and the vulnerable being drawn into a life of crime. Another increasing area of focus in the Extended Plan is the need to break the cycle of domestic abuse. We are working hard through the SETDA partnership and with Essex Police to achieve this by preventing it happening in the first place, supporting victims, and bringing perpetrators to justice. We continue to prioritise this work and are looking to CSPs and Community Safety Hubs to work with our Violence and Vulnerability Unit to ensure a consistent, targeted, and evidence-based approach to tackling this issue.

Our approach will continue to be based on building positive local relationships and to collaborate with our key partners to deliver collective success against our shared priorities.

3 PUBLIC PERCEPTION & HEALTH

3.1 Health Profile

Source: Essex County Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Based on 2016 population projections, there are an estimated of 335.6 people aged 65+ per 1000 working age people in Essex. This is higher than the England rate of 286.8. This demonstrates a potential vulnerable population requiring support and advice.

In 2018 there were 1.08 rough sleepers per 10,000 households in the county. This was nearly half the national average of 2.01 and considerably below the regional average of 1.88 per 10,000 households.

Alcohol related measures for Essex reflected figures below the national average per 100,000 population in 2017/18. Hospital admissions across Essex were 1935.7, considerably lower than the national average of 2224.8 and alcohol-related mortality was estimated to be 41.90, lower than the England average of 46.15.

The age-standardised mortality rate from drug misuse per 100,000 population across Essex was 3.63 over the period of 2015 – 2017 compared to the England rate of 4.33.

3.2 Public Perception

Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit

Essex Police regularly survey county residents to gather and evaluate public perception of crime and efforts to address crime.

Responses to Quarter 1, 2020/2021 survey which include the initial pandemic lockdown provide the following insights –

80% of countywide respondents agreed that the police understood community issues.

In addition to the regular questions the survey asked Covid19 specific questions. 73.3% of those surveyed have confidence in the approach Essex Police is taking in pandemic policing. 78.5% fully support the Essex Police approach to the pandemic.

Complaints about police in relation to Covid19 were led by lack of face coverings and social distancing by Essex Police officers.

69% of respondents felt that Essex Police and partner organisations were dealing with ASB and 63% felt the same partners were working to prevent crime.

Essex residents who think crime and ASB has become more of a problem continued to decrease significantly from 27% in the same quarter 2019/20 to 20% in 2020/21.

4 2020 COMMUNITY PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Source: Epping Forest Community Safety Team

The majority of the community projects have not gone ahead due to Coronavirus as we have not been able to have face to face contact with the community. However, we have been able to deliver some sessions virtually which have proven to be effective.

Crucial Crew

In June 2020 Crucial Crew was launched digitally on the Epping Forest District Council's website. Crucial Crew is an educational programme for year 6 pupils. The aim of the training is to provide important community safety messages to the young people at a time before their transition to secondary school. It was therefore paramount to continue the delivery of Crucial Crew and doing so virtually was the only way to do make sure everyone received the training. The topics that are covered include; road safety, online safety, fire safety, bullying, substance misuse and physical and mental health.

J9 domestic abuse initiative

The J9 Domestic Abuse initiative aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse and assist victims to seek the help they so desperately need. In Essex, the initiative was started by Epping Forest District Council and now training is available all over the county. J9 training sessions are intended to raise awareness and increase knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse for staff in public and voluntary sector organisations. In the course of their work, these staff may come into contact with someone they suspect is a victim of domestic abuse, or a client may reveal they are suffering abuse. The training aims to ensure that staff are equipped to respond appropriately and effectively. Where the J9 logo is displayed in a premise it alerts victims that they can obtain information which will help them to access a safe place where they can seek information and the use of a telephone. During the pandemic there has been an increase in domestic abuse cases, it is therefore paramount that the training is continued to be delivered, it has therefore been delivered virtually this year. 50 sessions have been held and 373 professionals have been trained. The feedback from the sessions was really positive and delegates remained engaged throughout the training.

Cross Border meetings

Cross border meetings are held every 4 weeks with representatives from EFDC, Essex Police and Metropolitan Police. Epping Forest District is bordered by Metropolitan land, it is therefore important for us to work collaboratively and share intelligence on local issues that may affect our district. The intelligence shared at the meetings lead to proactive operations with Essex and Metropolitan Police.

Training

The Community Resilience team have arranged several training sessions to support the CSP statutory functions. Training has been delivered virtually via Teams and covers the following subject areas;

child sexual exploitation, gangs, county lines, modern slavery/ human trafficking and hate crime. Training is offered to all frontline professionals within the Epping Forest District, the delivery is essential to continue to equip professionals with the relevant knowledge of the current local issues to further their development and be able to spot signs and report concerns.

Enforcement

Emerging issues and trends have changed this year which has been predominately due to the pandemic. We have had to adapt to the current issues and deploy resources accordingly.

Mansion parties

There has been an increase in mansion house parties in the district, this has been due to the country being in lockdown and pubs and bars not being open. There have been various properties across the district that were having numerous parties, not only causing a public health concern with the contamination of the virus but also causing serious nuisance and disorder to the local community. In June 2020 there was a fatal shooting in Water Lane, Roydon, the property was being rented out for parties and attracted 100's of individuals attending. Epping Forest District Council obtained a Closure Order at the property which closed the property down for 3 months. Magistrates agreed that the property had been used for disorder, offensive and criminal behaviour which is why the Closure Order was granted.

Corporation of London

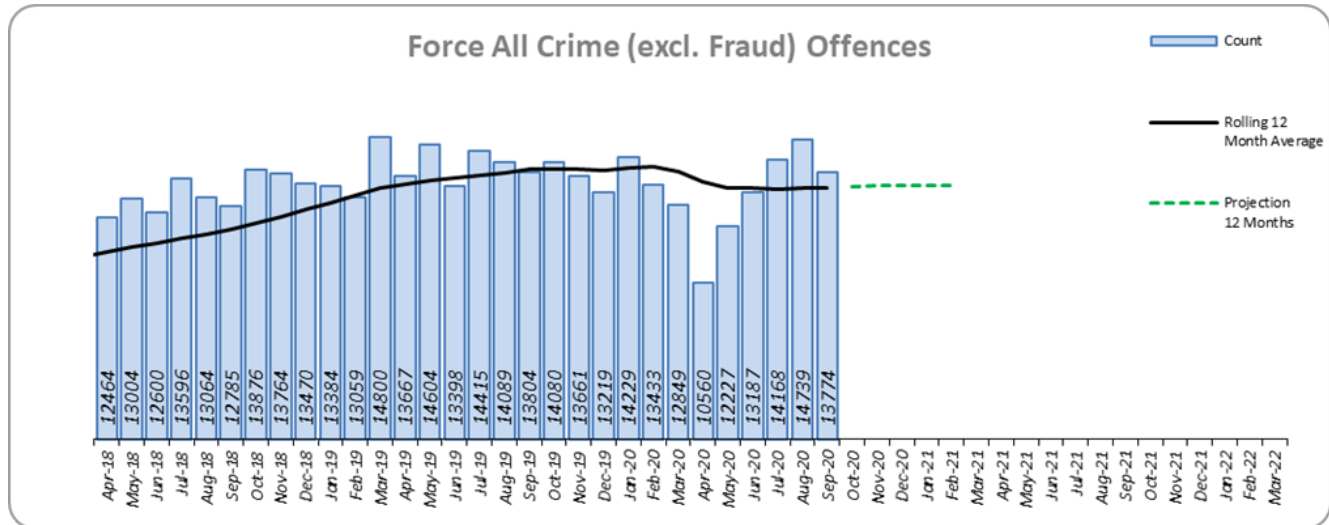
The Corporation of London own and manage land within the Epping forest district, during this year there have been numerous occasions where the forest has been misused. The main area of concern has been High Beech, joint work has been undertaken by Corporation of London, Essex Police, North Essex Parking Partnership and Epping Forest District Council. Joint enforcement operations have been undertaken and positive action has been taken to deter people from misusing the forest. Partnership work has commenced with the Corporation of London to explore funding avenues to gate parts of the district between specific hours to further deter people from causing a nuisance.

The Community Resilience Team will continue to adapt to any trends that emerge during these unprecedented times.

5 CRIME

5.1 Essex Trends

Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit.



5.2 District Level Police Data

Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit.

Crime Type	Offences						
	DA	% DA 2020	2019	2020	# diff.	% diff.	% All 2020
Anti-Social Behaviour (incidents)	-	-	2718	3320	602	22.1	-
All Crime (excl. Action (NFIB) Fraud)	1800	16.5	11356	10899	-457	-4.0	100.0
Violence Against the Person	1459	37.9	3714	3848	134	3.6	35.3
Sexual Offences	68	29.2	242	233	-9	-3.7	2.1
- Rape	48	48.5	121	99	-22	-18.2	0.9
- Other Sexual Offences	20	14.9	121	134	13	10.7	1.2
Robbery	1	0.8	161	122	-39	-24.2	1.1
- Robbery of business property	0	0.0	9	8	-1	-11.1	0.1
- Robbery of Personal Property	1	0.9	152	114	-38	-25.0	1.0
Theft Offences	45	1.2	4731	3784	-947	-20.0	34.7
- Burglary	7	0.9	1077	803	-274	-25.4	7.4
- Burglary Residential	7	1.1	821	632	-189	-23.0	5.8
- Burglary Business & Community	0	0.0	256	171	-85	-33.2	1.6
- Vehicle Offences (incl. Interference)	12	0.8	1930	1574	-356	-18.4	14.4
- Theft from a Vehicle	2	0.3	959	724	-235	-24.5	6.6
- Theft of a Vehicle	10	1.8	678	563	-115	-17.0	5.2
- Vehicle Interference	0	0.0	293	287	-6	-2.0	2.6
- Theft	26	1.8	1724	1407	-317	-18.4	12.9
Criminal Damage inc. Arson	141	13.7	972	1029	57	5.9	9.4

OFFICIAL

- <i>Criminal Damage</i>	141	15.2	879	930	51	5.8	8.5
- <i>Arson</i>	0	0.0	93	99	6	6.5	0.9
Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences	0	0.0	101	151	50	49.5	1.4
Hate Crime HO Definition	6	2.2	184	269	85	46.2	2.5
Domestic Abuse	1800	100.0	1778	1800	22	1.2	16.5
- <i>High Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	151	100.0	109	151	42	38.5	1.4
- <i>Medium Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	160	100.0	225	160	-65	-28.9	1.5
- <i>Standard Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	1422	100.0	1325	1422	97	7.3	13.0
- <i>No Risk Assessment</i>	67	100.0	119	67	-52	-43.7	0.6
Drug Offences	0	0.0	326	482	156	47.9	4.4
- <i>Trafficking of Drugs</i>	0	0.0	59	44	-15	-25.4	0.4
- <i>Possession of Drugs</i>	0	0.0	267	438	171	64.0	4.0
Possession of Weapons	1	1.1	66	87	21	31.8	0.8
Public Order	55	4.9	916	1123	207	22.6	10.3

6 PARTNERSHIP DATA

6.1 Anti-Social Behaviour – Essex Police

Source: Essex Police Storm system and Essex Police ASB Manager

Across Essex, ASB reporting increased by 11.76%, 48233 calls in this period compared to 43158 the previous year. In comparison Epping Forest increased by 21.88%.

ASB levels in Epping Forest were affected by the 4 new ASB categories recorded by Essex Police.

New categories	No	Explanation
Covid breach	96	Includes premises open when prohibited, failure to wear masks etc
Covid Quarantine	37	Persons not quarantining on return from listed countries
Social distancing	315	Dwelling, business and public spaces where Social Distance guidelines are not met
Rule of Six	12	Groups/gatherings in excess of 6 permitted persons

Overall there were 3314 ASB incidents in the District and the highest ASB types, excluding Covid specific types, were Disturbance (539) and Nuisance (710). There were 112 Nuisance Neighbour calls.

Drug related calls increased to 319 in this period compared to 213 in the previous year, equating to a rise of 49.76%.

Essex Police have developed an **Anti-Social Behaviour Development Plan** which is aimed to reduce the impact on victims, especially the most vulnerable and to provide a visible deterrent to such behaviour and thereby improving the public perception that this is being effectively tackled using a partnership approach.

The Plan has five objectives:

- **Victims:** Providing a greater focus on the impact of anti-social behaviour on victims and their needs.
- **Data Collection and Accuracy:** Utilising data to target resources and for preventative methods to be adopted to protect communities.
- **Training:** Ensuring officers are equipped with the knowledge and tools to be proactive when dealing with anti-social behaviour.
- **Collaborative Working:** Working together with partners to ensure the best results for victims.
- **Internal and External Communications:** Using communication both internally and externally to combat anti-social behaviour.

The Development Plan provides a comprehensive package which encompasses a progressive approach to tackling the complexities of anti-social behaviour which is constantly reviewed in order to provide the best service to the community and victims.

ASB data is regularly reviewed as regards to the escalation of incidents and this was evident recently when there was an increase of reports which were primarily online. This was mainly due to the pandemic where there has been a rise in complaints of ASB. These have been in relation to breaches of Covid rules and this is anticipated to continue as new restrictions are imposed there will be further complaints of individuals failing to comply.

6.2 Crime Prevention

Source: Essex Police Local Policing Support Unit

Essex Police are committed to develop a stronger new Crime Prevention Strategy (2021-24). The dedicated Superintendent and Local Policing Support Unit in collaboration with thematic leads have progressed to schedule the delivery of an ambitious programme to be launched in January 2021.

Utilising insight and analytical predictors it has been possible to identify cross command and partnership thematic areas which are anticipated to cause the biggest threat, harm and risk to Essex communities from 2021 onward; these are the strands for the Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-24 and are grouped as Serious Violence, Organised Crime and Complex Needs.

Serious Violence

- Knife Crime
- Rape
- Night-Time Economy

Organised Crime

- Cyber Crime and Fraud
- High Impact Organised Crime
- County Lines

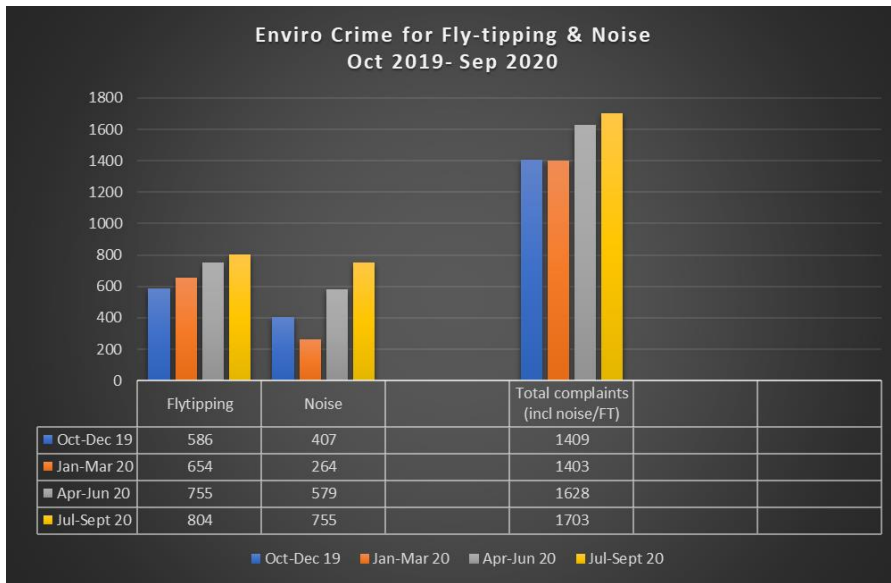
Complex Needs

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery • Domestic Abuse • Mental Health • Prevent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hate Crime • Child Sexual Abuse/Child Sexual Exploitation • Drugs |
|--|---|

There is clear synergy between the Strategy and the priorities identified by each of the Community Safety Partnerships. Essex Police will continue to work in partnership with our partners in order to deliver this plan across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.

6.3 Local Authority data – Fly-tipping and Noise

Source: Epping Forest Council M3 data base system



When looking at the statistics of environmental crime, the Environmental Enforcement Officers have dealt with 6,143 complaints. This is a significant increase from the statistics from last year. There is a substantial increase in complaints from March 2020-September 2020 of fly tips and noise nuisance, this has been due to more people being at home during lockdown.



Anti-social behaviour complaints that EFDC have received during the time period is 340 which shows a slight decrease from last year's statistics of 377.

6.4 ECFRS

Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

District	Home Safety/Safe and Well Visits	Safeguarding referrals	Firebreak	Cadets
Basildon	441	37	1	
Braintree	347	45		
Brentwood	157	16		
Castlepoint	319	16		
Chelmsford	467	45	1	28
Colchester	837	79	1	
Epping	258	26		
Harlow	211	48	1	22
Maldon	241	19		
Rochford	228	18		
Southend	624	123		31
Tendring	872	83	1	53
Thurrock	375	58	3	20
Uttlesford	187	23	2	
Total	5564	636	10	154

During the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions all Firebreak and Cadet interventions ceased. Safeguarding referrals continued to be received, actioned and signposted. Internal safeguarding interventions moved to phone calls rather than face-to-face, however those most at risk and needing smoke alarms received visits as necessary.

Current recovery plans involve the approval of risk assessments to restart delivering Firebreak and Cadets with the use of operational staff and premises, ensuring the safety of participants and staff. ECFRS have reviewed education packages for schools and have continued to deliver education activities utilising technology and virtual sessions.

ECFRS continued to deliver Road Safety Activities in partnership with SERP.

6.5 CRC

Source: Essex Community Rehabilitation Company

Essex CRC have continued to strive to deliver the best possible service to the most people despite the COVID-19 landscape. ECRC continued to deliver throughout lockdown but had to change its mode of delivery where possible. In September 2020 close to 20% of cases were face-face, as were interventions such as Building Better Relationships and the Unpaid Work scheme. Remaining work was conducted remotely.

Due to COVID-19 the court service significantly reduced also, and a period of limited new sentences occurred. This impacted on the CRC where there was a drop in overall caseload (4000 in the community approx in March – 3600 in the community approx September 2020). However, these numbers are expected to rise as court work returns to previous levels and resumes sentencing.

There will be a period of increased and quicker sentencing which will require close management. Because of the impact on the courts, it is not possible for CRC to identify trends in offending or sentencing at this current time. The CRC remains committed to its partnership commitments across the next year as we move towards unification with the NPS in July 2021.

7 HIDDEN HARMS

7.1 Domestic Abuse

Source: Essex Police

Across Essex there were 41834 DA Investigations (Crime and Non-Crime) in the year ending September 2020 compared to 42857 in the previous 12 months. This was a decrease of 2.39%.

In Epping Forest there were 2512 DA Investigations in the year ending September 2020 compared to 2496 in the previous 12 months. This was an increase of 0.64%.

During lockdown that commenced 23 March 2020, DA incidents reported to the police decreased noticeably. This was anticipated as whilst the abuse may occur there were reduced opportunities for the victim to report it outside the presence of the perpetrator.

The National Domestic Abuse Helpline reported an 80% increase in calls in June 2020. Women's Aid Survivor Survey reported in April 2020 that 67% of respondents felt that abuse levels had escalated during lockdown whilst 78% also reflected restricted opportunities to seek assistance. Reported incidents to Essex Police have not increased by similar levels.

It is anticipated that opportunities for reporting abuse incidents may increase as restrictions alter and as children return to education and therefore reporting rates may increase significantly over subsequent months. Any increased restrictions may hinder delayed reporting.

The Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 is currently processing through government stages and will introduce various strategies to tackle this crime. This will include monitoring of local authority and agency responses and placing a duty on local authorities to support victims and families, including provision of accommodation and refuge.

7.2 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT)

Source: Essex Police Modern Slavery Team

In the year to 6th December 2020 there were 80 referrals into the National Referral Mechanism by Essex Police. In addition to that, 228 MS1/DTN (Duty To Notify) forms were completed. The MS1/DTN form serves to notify the Home Office of a suspected victim of MS/HT who is, however, not engaging with the NRM process.

Nationally, there was a 33% increase in referrals in Quarter 1 2020 in comparison to the same period in 2019. The top 5 nationalities were British, Romanian, Chinese, Vietnamese and Polish and the top types were Criminal, Labour and Sexual Exploitation.

Pandemic Restrictions did impact this vulnerable group as restrictions affected the prevalent business types i.e nail bars and building/home renovations. In some cases, victims may have increased acceptance of unsafe work and home conditions or decreased pay or received no pay at all.

OFFICIAL

Exploitation probably continued but changed operational methods or exploitation types, such as exploitation of the Furlough scheme where exploiters may have claimed grants but passed this onto workers.

On the 17/09/2020, the Home Office published the UK National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Statistics for Quarter 2 2020 (1 April to 30 June).

For the UK in Quarter 2 2020, 2,209 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the NRM; a 23% decrease from the preceding quarter, and a 5% decrease from the same quarter in 2019.

In 2019, there were 10,627 people across the UK referred into the NRM which is a 52% increase on the 6,986 referrals made in 2018, and the largest recorded year-on-year increase of NRM referrals.

NGOs and partners have responded to the pandemic impact by moving support online and utilising technology where possible. However, there are still gaps in understanding the impact of the pandemic on victims, such as displacement to new work/living conditions and arrangements, changes to existing exploitation MOs and health and care implications for any victims who have contracted Covid19. Ongoing restrictions are likely to hinder understanding of the changing MSHT landscape.

7.3 Hate Crime

Data Source: Essex Police Hate Crime Officers.

Across Essex there were 3797 Hate Crime incidents in the year ending September 2020 compared to 3395 in the previous 12 months. This was an increase of 10.95%.

In Epping Forest there were 298 Hate Crime incidents in the year ending September 2020 compared to 220 in the previous 12 months. This was an increase of 35.45%.

The pandemic restrictions saw slight increases in Hate Crime where the victims were from the IC5 (Chinese, Thai, etc) community. However, anecdotally this community are less likely to report crimes and so the true level of Hate Crime affecting them may actually be higher. It may be advisable to engage with the East Asian communities to promote trust and encourage crime reporting.

Hate Crime associated to Night-Time Economy has decreased understandably as many premises have been closed, alcohol consumption has increased at home and as the public when gathering have done so in open spaces rather than licenced premises.

In addition, there has been an increase in neighbour on neighbour Hate Crime incidents. This is in line with a cross county increase in Nuisance Neighbour category ASB.

7.4 CSE

Source: Essex Safeguarding Children Board

During lockdown the number of children reported as missing decreased, however levels are now returning to pre lockdown levels. During lockdown, risk assessment levels changed as many children were reassessed by Social Care from High to Medium and Standard risk levels as the opportunity for them to be at risk diminished in the restrictions.

OFFICIAL

Exploitation types have also altered in levels and types. There has been a slight increase in Child Sexual Exploitations (CSE) of 6% and a slight reduction in Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) of 6% of all young people with CE Social Care flags.

Social media and online contact are increasing in levels, both in CSE and CCE, where online contact can be a recruitment avenue and facilitation of the crime. For CSE this can be sharing of images and content and in CCE as a cyber enabled crime to exchange funds etc. Year on Year it has increased and in the last year CSE technologically based investigations increased by 16%.

There is an increase in peer on peer exploitation where over the last three years half of suspects have been under 18 years old.

To tackle this ECSB, in conjunction with partners, is running an online awareness programme to inform parents and children from preschool to teenagers to inform and support safe online behaviour.

Anecdotally, females were found to be less likely to be challenged in using public transport during lockdown and it is possible that they will continue to be groomed into County Line networks.

As a result, ECSB will be running a campaign throughout 2020 to raise awareness in transport hubs for partners to identify potential exploitation victims and for victims to be aware of support opportunities and contacts. There are 4 initial hubs for the campaign, but other districts are also encouraged to take part.



Annual Report 2019-2020

Contents

Epping Forest District Community Safety Partnership Foreword	3
COVID-19	5
Community Safety Partnership	6
CSP Funding 2019-20	8
Performance Summary Highlights	9
1. Engagement.....	9
1.1. Crucial Crew.....	9
1.2. Halloween	9
1.3. Crime Prevention engagement event.....	10
2. Prevention.....	11
2.1 Horizons Project - Phoenix Futures.....	11
2.2 J9 Domestic Abuse Initiative	12
3. Enforcement.....	12
3.1 Mansion parties	13
3.2 Corporation of London	13
3.3 Cross Border Activity	13
Epping Forest Community Safety Team Policing Hub Activity.....	15
Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 2020-21	18

Epping Forest District Community Safety Partnership

Foreword

I have taken on the portfolio for Housing and Community Services following on from Councillor Nigel Bedford, and with chairmanship of the district's Community Safety Partnership (CSP). I am pleased to be working with such a well-established partnership focused on making our communities a safer place to live.

This year has provided new focuses and demands on the partnership due to the global pandemic of Coronavirus. It has created new challenges that the partnership has had to adapt to quickly. Everyone has worked extremely hard to ensure we are still delivering a first-class service to our residents within the Epping Forest District.

Collaborative working with statutory and voluntary partners is a strength of the partnership. We will continue to grow looking at new and innovative ways of working. Crime in general has changed in the way that it has been committed, becoming more organised and more borderless in its various manifestations. We have adapted to this and are working with partners such as the Metropolitan Police and British Transport Police on cross border operations. These operations derive from the monthly cross border meetings held in the district. Criminals don't have borders so why should we? Joint operations have been a great success which we will continue to engage with in the year to come.

Early intervention is something that I am passionate about. It is important to steer children in the right direction and equip them with information they need whilst going through the transition from child to adult life. Our community safety projects and initiatives are great to provide key community safety messages and tackle emerging trends within the community.

Crucial Crew has been delivered virtually this year, but the key messages have remained. We haven't been able to deliver all our normal interventions in schools due to Coronavirus however we hope next year we can reintroduce #consequences which is delivered in secondary schools and focuses on gangs, drugs and knife crime. Gangs play an increasingly active part in crime within the district and proactive policing and intelligence gathering, early intervention and education are paramount.

J9, our award-winning domestic abuse signposting project is not only helping support victims of this underreported crime but has also been adopted by many other local authorities as best practice. National lockdown has seen an increase in domestic abuse so educating both professionals and members of the community on the signs to look out for has been as important this year as it has ever been.

One of the unforeseen consequences of the pandemic is that we have seen an increase in house parties which have resulted in serious nuisance and disorder within the district. In June 2020 there was a fatal shooting in Roydon which instilled fear into the local community. Officers worked quickly in partnership to gain a Closure Order at the property, utilising all the powers available to them. This is just one example of the emerging trends we have had to face in these unprecedented times.

Going forward into 2020-21 our priorities will remain the same as last year:

- Violence
- Vulnerability
- Serious Acquisitive Crime

Strategic priorities will enable us to continue to protect our most vulnerable while detecting and deterring crime.



Cllr. Holly Whitbread

Housing and Community Services
Portfolio Holder

COVID-19

Due to the global pandemic, COVID-19 this report will reflect the work undertaken in the last 18 months. The pandemic has created anomalies in reported crimes and different trends have emerged as a result. Strategic priorities are therefore going to remain the same for the year ahead. Adaptations have had to be made on how events have been delivered and how Officers have dealt with the emerging trends.

Community Safety Partnership

Community Safety Partnerships were first introduced nationally in 1998 to provide a multi-agency response to crime and the fear of crime within communities. They support the work of the Police and other statutory agencies and are widely considered as the most effective approach to finding joint solutions to local community safety issues.

In Epping Forest District, the responsible authority group is made up of Epping Forest District Council, Essex Police, Essex Fire & Rescue Service, Essex Community Rehabilitation Company, Essex County Council and National Probation Service. It has a statutory responsibility to:

- Reduce crime and disorder
- Protect the community
- Reduce reoffending
- Combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
- Help people feel safe

However, the delivery of the community safety agenda is not restricted to the agencies identified as responsible authorities, and the partnership includes and works with other agencies and voluntary sector groups including Neighbourhood Watch and Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF). This year we have welcomed Full Circle - Phoenix Futures to the partnership.

The work of the CSP does not replace the work of the Police or the day-to-day business of the organisations involved, instead it is a channel for agencies to work together, delivering against agreed priorities, co-ordinating resources, achieving efficiencies and value for money.

The Strategic Board of the partnership meets on a quarterly basis and much of the work emanating from the CSP is undertaken and led by the Council's Community Resilience Team.

Strategic Assessment

Each year the CSP is required to produce a Strategic Assessment (SA) about crime and disorder levels in its area. The results of the SA are provided by Police Analysts and the findings used to identify themed priorities for the coming year.

Strategic Priorities for 2019-20 were:

- Violence
- Vulnerability
- Serious Acquisitive Crime

Daily Briefing and Tasking

The district has adopted a dynamic daily briefing and tasking structure which has the ability to directly respond to areas of concern and address local issues. This ensures a relevant, justified and cost-effective use of resources.



Epping/Brentwood Daily Call Daily 8.30am

Internal: Participants PIN:

1. **Critical incidents on FCR briefing or highlighted by any partner**
2. **Social Media update – Community Concerns and good news stories**
3. **Overnight Arrests**
4. **Overnight incidents of note (CID Nightbook) -**
5. **Crimes recorded over the preceding 24 hrs and any actions needed to progress/allocate**
6. **Hate Crimes**
7. **Partner incidents/concerns**
8. **Resources & Plans for the Day**
9. **Any other business.**

CSP Funding 2019-20

Organisation	Funding received	Expenditure
Police Fire Crime Commissioner (PFCC) - core funding	£19268	
Burglary Project		2,000.00
Community Safety Volunteers		1,500.00
Home Safe		2,500.00
J9 Epping Forest		1,500.00
Trading Standards		1,000.00
Volunteer Police Cadets		500.00
Active Citizens		1,500.00
CSP Contingency		6,768.00
CSP Education /Training		2,000.00
Police Fire Crime Commissioner (PFCC) – Community Safety Development Funding (CSDF)		
Community J9	20,000.00	20,000.00
PFCC Volunteer Award	300	300.00
Dept Work & Pensions		
New Horizons Project	43,404.00	43,404.00
Essex Public Health		
Community J9	20,000.00	20,000.00
Epping Forest District Council	£26,189	
Partnership Co-ordinator		2,500.00
Homesafe		2,500.00
PFCC Volunteer Award		300.00
#Consequences		3,037.00
Essex Fire & Rescue		
Firebreak Match funded/CSP	£2000	2,000.00
Overall total		

Performance Summary

Highlights

1. Engagement

Engagement events have been limited due to Covid-19 and wherever possible have been delivered virtually . Engagement events in person will resume as and when safe to do so.

1.1. *Crucial Crew*

Epping Forest District Council has run Crucial Crew since 2004. Ordinarily, it is a 'learning by seeing and doing' event for Year 6 children which aims to support them as they move onto secondary school, giving them the tools to stay safe, fit and healthy.

This year, due to the global pandemic, Crucial Crew was run virtually. EFDC provided online resources for local schools to download and use to educate their children on the current community safety related issues.

Crucial Crew is organised by the Community Health and Wellbeing team who bring their knowledge and experience in running large events.

1.2. *Halloween*

Historically, Halloween and bonfire night have caused challenges to the district in relation to youths being anti-social and committing criminal acts. In 2020 Epping Forest District Council worked closely with the Police to produce a plan around enforcement and engagement. PCSOs from the Community Policing Team and Officers from the Community Resilience team visited all shops that sold fireworks, eggs and flour. Posters and literature were given to the shop keepers to put up in their shops and advice was given to not sell these items to youths as they are frequently misused on Halloween and bonfire night. The Community Policing Team and EFDC- funded Police Officers divided the district up and allocated officers to patches geographically to patrol on the nights of Halloween and bonfire night. In addition to the Police activity, the CSP funded Parkguard uniformed officers to carry out high visibility patrols across the district to increase public confidence and offered reassurance to the community as well as deter anti-social behaviour and criminality.



1.3. Crime Prevention engagement event

Epping Forest District Council Community Safety Investigator received ongoing concerns about bogus callers at a sheltered older persons' housing scheme. Visits were conducted by EFDC and PCSOs giving advice to the elderly residents and distributing literature and crime prevention materials. The visits were successful and resulted in residents feeling safer within their community. Engagement events are crucial so officers can ascertain concerns within the community and address them and offer support where needed. Engagement events will resume when permitted and safe to do so.

2. Prevention

2.1 *Horizons Project- Phoenix Futures*

The Horizon project supports clients who are identified as suffering from Significant Multiple Disadvantage - substance issue, offending behaviour and homelessness. The cohort is limited to a maximum of 10 clients at any one time enabling practitioners to spend as much time with the client as they need. They work in a multi-agency platform, bring experts from a range of services to the table with the aim of providing wraparound support to each client. Agencies meet on a regular basis (every 6-8 weeks) to discuss the cohort and make plans to move each individual forward with their needs.

Here are two case studies:

- Client W came on to the cohort as homeless, actively misusing substances and with a long history of regular offending. Their engagement with services was sporadic at best and there was mistrust of services. Phoenix contacted them on a regular basis (3 or 4 times a week) just to discuss the sign up process and outline what they could support them with. W was able to work with the same practitioner from Full Circle which allowed a relationship to build. Their practitioner attended appointments with W, advocated for them and supported them to fill out application forms. W soon became stable on his methadone script, was not needing to offend and was attending appointments without needing a reminder text or call. As a result of this improvement, W was able to move back in with family, started a full-time job with their father and is now saving a deposit so that they can source their own accommodation.
- Client C was referred to the Horizon Project by an organisation supporting veterans. They were sleeping on the streets, had no benefit claim in place, was begging on a daily basis and drinking high levels of alcohol. C was being supported by members of the public who were providing food, tobacco and alcohol. Through regular outreach visits and telephone calls, we were able to sign C up to the project quite quickly ensuring that their case could be discussed at length at the multi-agency meetings. Thanks to this multi-agency approach C is now living in temporary accommodation, is registered with a GP, has a benefits claims in place and has been referred for support around their alcohol use.

2.2 J9 Domestic Abuse Initiative

The J9 Domestic Abuse initiative aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse and assist victims to access the help they so desperately need. In Essex, the initiative was started by Epping Forest District Council and now training is available all over the county. J9 training sessions are intended to raise awareness and increase knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse by staff in public and voluntary sector organisations. In the course of their work, these staff may come into contact with someone they suspect is a victim of domestic abuse, or a client may reveal they are suffering abuse. The training aims to ensure that staff are equipped to respond appropriately and effectively.

The new J9 Community Training Model has been developed to provide training that is accessible for all. Funding was provided by Essex Public Health and Police Crime Commissioners Office for the whole of Essex. Epping Forest CSP manages the project on behalf of Essex.

Where the J9 logo is displayed in a premise it shows victims that they can obtain information which will help them access a safe place and use of a telephone. During the pandemic there has been an increase in domestic abuse cases, it is therefore paramount that the training is continued. Sessions are now delivered virtually. In 2020 50 sessions were held and 373 professionals and members of the community have been trained.

Feedback from this year's training:

"Very professional, informative and very well presented"

"The training was delivered well in an interactive format and with a good mixture of useful information, statistics and discussion"

"Great session. Even though I work within the DA arena, there was plenty of further information I gathered. And I found the chance to speak about the issues with others great"

"Based on this experience, I would recommend the virtual Community J9 training to others"



3. Enforcement

3.1 Mansion parties (Large House Parties)

There has been an increase in mansion house parties in the district due to unscrupulous landlords taking advantage of national restrictions where pubs and bars cannot open. Various properties across the district were having frequent parties, not only causing a public health concern with contamination from the virus but also serious nuisance and disorder to the local community. In June 2020 there was a fatal shooting in Water Lane, Roydon, the property was being rented out for parties and attracted 100s of individuals. Epping Forest District Council obtained a Closure Order at the property, closing it down for 6 months. Magistrates agreed that the property had been used for disorder, offensive and criminal behaviour and consequently the Closure Order was granted.

3.2 Corporation of London

The Corporation of London owns and manages land within the Epping Forest District and during this year there have been numerous occasions where the forest has been misused by people travelling against national restrictions to the area. The main area of concern has been High Beech. Joint working has been undertaken by Corporation of London, Essex Police, North Essex Parking Partnership and EFDC Community Resilience Team. Joint enforcement operations have taken place and positive action taken to deter people from misusing the forest. Partnership work has commenced with the Corporation of London to explore funding avenues to gate parts of the district between specific hours to further deter people from causing a nuisance.

3.3 Cross Border Activity

Since 2012 Epping Forest District Council's Community Safety Investigator has led a monthly cross-border intelligence sharing meeting involving Essex Police Community Policing Team, British Transport Police, Operation Raptor (Gangs Unit), EFDC dedicated police Community Safety Team and Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Officers covering Hainault, (which borders Grange Hill). The meeting has a regular information exchange about crimes and criminals of mutual interest to both areas.

The meeting has led to many proactive operations including in October 2020 when the Community Safety Team (CST) led a joint operation with Metropolitan Police (MPS) officers focussing on the areas of Woodford, Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill. The operation involved the sharing of specialist resources, intelligence and the use of Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) technology to target transient criminals. Metropolitan officers set up a static ANPR site in Woodford. This was in addition to a multitude of other permanent Essex cameras near the border. ANPR activations were circulated over a shared radio channel with the aim of making the areas 'borderless' for the day – criminals don't care about borders so why should we? The operation was very effective. As well as several positive results the overnight crime figures show that there were many fewer crimes committed in the areas mentioned. Whilst it can never be proven to be a direct result of

the operation, significant disruption was caused to criminality in both Epping Forest and the northern part of Redbridge.

There were a number of vehicle pursuits as well as a significant amount of vehicles stopped as a result of ANPR information or just through arousing suspicion.

Some highlights:

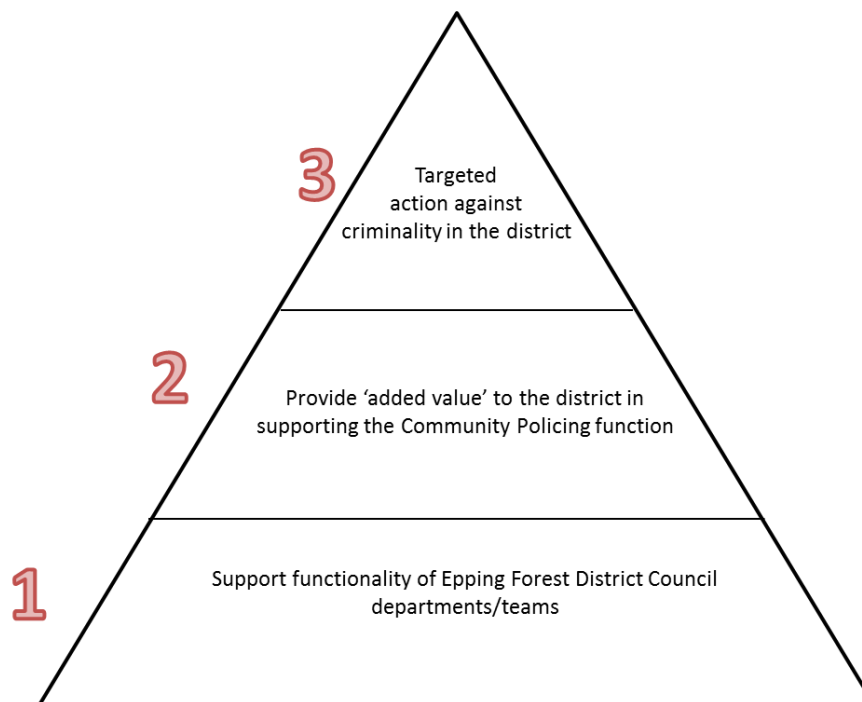
- Pursuit in Loughton with MPS dog units. Vehicle crashed into a wall. Driver was arrested, taken to hospital and has since been interviewed and released under investigation
- Pursuit in Oakwood Hill, Loughton which resulted in 2 arrests for being concerned in the supply of drugs. A house search in Chingford revealed cannabis grown in the person's bedroom.
- Pursuit through Epping Forest and into London where the subject vehicle drove onto Wanstead Flats. The vehicle was recently stolen from the Loughton area. One arrested for various offences.

Aside from this, on the Essex side there were 10 stop & searches and 25 ANPR activations responded to. A significant amount of valuable intelligence has been gained through stopping cars that are known to be linked to crimes in both Essex and MPS.

Epping Forest Community Safety Team Policing Hub Activity

The Epping Forest District Council funded police team became officially operational on 20 July 2018 the team consists of one sergeant and two constables.

The team is tasked every two weeks, aligned to the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) Policing Plan priorities and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) local priorities as identified in the annual strategic assessment. The primary functions of the Community Safety Team are outlined in the diagram below:



A close professional working relationship has developed between Police officers and members of the Council's Community Resilience Team, which allows integrated working between police, ASB officers, CCTV, Safeguarding, and Environmental Enforcement Officers. The officers are also known to front-line council staff and have supported them with their duties as and when there is a need.

The Community Safety Team has achieved a number of significant results across the district, a few examples being:

In February 2020 Op Hemlock was an investigation into an organised crime group based in Epping Forest District, committing thefts of high-value motor vehicles across London and Essex. The team was tasked to the Loughton area to target motor vehicle crime when they arrested a suspect for theft of a motor vehicle and possession of a diagnostic device to steal Land Rovers. That arrest randomly overlapped with a British Transport Police operation targeting car park thefts and opened up a huge strand of intelligence. Fast forward a few months and the team was heavily involved in the planning and execution of a policing operation with 12 people arrested, a large amount of cannabis recovered as well as criminal property to the value of approximately £1million.

The team has supported the council on a number of jobs which include, supporting Planning Enforcement executing warrants, supporting the Community Resilience Team applying for Criminals Behaviour Orders, Injunctions and Closure Orders, assisting Environmental Health with visits to ensure premises are complying with Covid regulations and patrolling ASB hotspots.

The Community Safety Police Officers won the award 'Community Service Team of the Year' in the Epping Forest District Council Civic Awards. The award is given to a team of people that can make a difference in our community. The team has developed expertise in using intelligence-led policing which has significantly contributed to reducing crime and disorder and making the district a safer place to live, work and visit. In the last year the team has seized stolen property or criminal assets. They regularly support council officers in carrying out their core duties, particularly if they present a risk of violence or intimidation. They demonstrate great professionalism, integrity and determination in delivering local pro-active policing and are a beacon of best practice in Essex. The Officers that were commended for their work were Sgt Neil Ross, PC Karl England and PC Steve Bowering.

This year PC England and PC Bowering have moved onto different policing teams within the district. The Community Safety Team currently consists of Sgt Neil Ross, PC Ben Keith and PC Tom Baggley.

Epping Forest District dedicated Police Community Safety Team



PC Tom Baggley, Sgt Neil Ross, PC Ben Keith

Community Safety Partnership Priorities for 2020-21

Our priorities for 2020-21 will remain the same as the previous year:

- Violence
- Vulnerability
- Serious Acquisitive Crime

We will take an intelligence led approach to address these priorities. We will continue to work towards early intervention, prevention and detection of crime and continue to ensure that our communities remain safe.

We are already working on projects for 2021, some of them include:

- Working with the Corporation of London to get gates for the forest. The funding has been agreed by the Police Fire Crime Commissioner so works will be commencing in 2021.
- Pelly Court, Epping a sheltered living scheme that has endured youth anti-social behaviour for many years. Plans are in progress to make the area a secure gated complex as a physical deterrent to youths entering.
- 'Stay well this winter' is a senior safety day to keep older vulnerable residents safe, provide them with information and give them crime prevention materials. It is unlikely this will be a face-to-face event this year however the Community and Wellbeing team will adapt and will deliver goody bags direct to residents containing literature on keeping safe this winter and crime prevention materials.
- Virtual training 'Walk Online' has been arranged for Year 5 pupils in primary schools across the district. The training is delivered by the '2 Johns' - former police officers who now run their own company EST training, delivering key community safety messages to child and parents about the online world.
- Sanctuary Scheme will be reintroduced in 2021. This is a victim centred service for domestic abuse victims and involves installation of security measures in and around properties to enable households at risk of domestic abuse to live safely in their home. The Community Resilience Team will be working in partnership with EFDC Homelessness Team to deliver this service.
- Debden Broadway improved security fencing in an hotspot area.

The Crime statistics for Epping Forest District Council for 01.01.2020-31.12.2020 are presented in the table below:



Top Level		Offences				Solved Outcomes				Solved Rates %		
Crime Type	% DA 2020	2019	2020	# diff.	% diff.	2019	2020	# diff.	% diff.	2019	2020	% pt. diff.
Anti-Social Behaviour (incidents)	-	2665	3806	1141	42.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Crime (excl. Action (NFIB) Fraud)	16.3	11439	10633	-806	-7.0	1071	1586	515	48.1	9.4	14.9	5.6
- State Based Crime	4.8	1588	1953	365	23.0	475	784	309	65.1	29.9	40.1	10.2
- Victim Based Crime	18.9	9851	8680	-1171	-11.9	596	802	206	34.6	6.1	9.2	3.2
Victim Based Crime		Offences				Solved Outcomes				Solved Rates %		
Crime Type	% DA 2020	2019	2020	# diff.	% diff.	2019	2020	# diff.	% diff.	2019	2020	% pt. diff.
Violence Against the Person	37.1	3871	3775	-96	-2.5	313	408	95	30.4	8.1	10.8	2.7
- Homicide	0.0	1	2	1	100.0	1	0	-1	-100.0	100.0	0.0	-100.0
- Violence with Injury	43.4	890	772	-118	-13.3	117	135	18	15.4	13.1	17.5	4.3
- Death or Serious Injury caused by unlawful driving	0.0	3	7	4	133.3	4	8	4	100.0	133.3	114.3	-19.0
- Violence without Injury	43.4	1576	1487	-89	-5.6	116	149	33	28.4	7.4	10.0	2.7
- Stalking and Harassment	27.8	1401	1507	106	7.6	75	116	41	54.7	5.4	7.7	2.3
Sexual Offences	28.9	247	197	-50	-20.2	10	19	9	90.0	4.0	9.6	5.6
- Rape	49.4	116	81	-35	-30.2	5	5	0	0.0	4.3	6.2	1.9
- Rape - Under 16 yrs	11.1	32	18	-14	-43.8	5	4	-1	-20.0	15.6	22.2	6.6
- Rape - Over 16 yrs	60.3	84	63	-21	-25.0	0	1	1	-	0.0	1.6	1.6
- Other Sexual Offences	14.7	131	116	-15	-11.5	5	14	9	180.0	3.8	12.1	8.3
Robbery	0.8	150	119	-31	-20.7	11	8	-3	-27.3	7.3	6.7	-0.6
- Robbery of business property	0.0	10	7	-3	-30.0	1	1	0	0.0	10.0	14.3	4.3
- Robbery of Personal Property	0.9	140	112	-28	-20.0	10	7	-3	-30.0	7.1	6.3	-0.9
Theft Offences	1.2	4541	3604	-937	-20.6	214	282	68	31.8	4.7	7.8	3.1
- Burglary	0.4	917	758	-159	-17.3	37	39	2	5.4	4.0	5.1	1.1
- Burglary Residential	0.5	682	592	-90	-13.2	20	28	8	40.0	2.9	4.7	1.8
- Burglary Business & Community	0.0	235	166	-69	-29.4	17	11	-6	-35.3	7.2	6.6	-0.6
- Burglary Dwelling (pre-Apr 17 definition)	0.6	534	476	-58	-10.9	19	28	9	47.4	3.6	5.9	2.3
- Burglary Other (pre-Apr 17 definition)	0.0	383	282	-101	-26.4	18	11	-7	-38.9	4.7	3.9	-0.8
- Vehicle Offences (incl. Interference)	0.8	1926	1436	-490	-25.4	28	32	4	14.3	1.5	2.2	0.8
- Theft from a Vehicle	0.1	954	676	-278	-29.1	9	4	-5	-55.6	0.9	0.6	-0.4
- Theft of a Vehicle	2.1	672	512	-160	-23.8	18	19	1	5.6	2.7	3.7	1.0
- Vehicle Interference	0.0	300	248	-52	-17.3	1	9	8	800.0	0.3	3.6	3.3
- Theft	2.1	1698	1410	-288	-17.0	149	211	62	41.6	8.8	15.0	6.2
- Theft from the Person	1.8	62	56	-6	-9.7	0	4	4	-	0.0	7.1	7.1
- Theft of Pedal Cycle	0.0	31	39	8	25.8	1	0	-1	-100.0	3.2	0.0	-3.2
- Shoplifting	0.0	595	566	-29	-4.9	119	165	46	38.7	20.0	29.2	9.2
- Other Theft	3.9	1010	749	-261	-25.8	29	42	13	44.8	2.9	5.6	2.7
Criminal Damage inc. Arson	14.1	1042	985	-57	-5.5	48	85	37	77.1	4.6	8.6	4.0
- Criminal Damage	15.6	936	892	-44	-4.7	46	81	35	76.1	4.9	9.1	4.2
- Arson	0.0	106	93	-13	-12.3	2	4	2	100.0	1.9	4.3	2.4
Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences	0.0	116	162	46	39.7	11	30	19	172.7	9.5	18.5	9.0
Hate Crime HO Definition	2.2	184	276	92	50.0	18	39	21	116.7	9.8	14.1	4.3
State Based Crime		Offences				Solved Outcomes				Solved Rates %		
Crime Type	% DA 2020	2019	2020	# diff.	% diff.	2019	2020	# diff.	% diff.	2019	2020	% pt. diff.
Drug Offences	0.0	338	541	203	60.1	306	509	203	66.3	90.5	94.1	3.6

- <i>Trafficking of Drugs</i>	0.0	48	53	5	10.4	37	37	0	0.0	77.1	69.8	-7.3
- <i>Possession of Drugs</i>	0.0	290	488	198	68.3	269	472	203	75.5	92.8	96.7	4.0
Possession of Weapons	1.2	68	82	14	20.6	33	50	17	51.5	48.5	61.0	12.4
Public Order	5.6	965	1128	163	16.9	91	176	85	93.4	9.4	15.6	6.2
Miscellaneous Crimes against Society	14.9	217	202	-15	-6.9	45	49	4	8.9	20.7	24.3	3.5

Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

PLAN ON A PAGE 2020/21

Priorities

1. Violence

- Domestic abuse
- Gangs, drugs and county lines
- Knife crime
- Anti-social behaviour



Reducing re-offending



- Fortnightly Police Tasking
- J9 training
- CCTV
- Gangs awareness #consequences
- Halloween operation
- Parkguard patrols
- Local Action Group (LAG)
- Horizons project

2. Vulnerability

- Hate Crime
- Individuals that are at risk of exploitation
- Emotional health and wellbeing



- Hate crime incident reporting centre
- Missing and Child Exploitation Group (MACE 1&2)
- Independent Advisory Group (IAG)
- Essex Safeguarding Adults Board
- Essex Safeguarding Child Board
- Senior person Safety awareness day
- Crucial Crew
- Year 5 training- walk online
- West Stay Safe

3. Serious Acquisitive crime

- Robbery
- Theft of motor vehicle
- Burglaries



- Daily Police morning call
- Early identification of 'hotspots' and preventative/disruptive measures put in place
- Cross Border collaboration between EFDC, Essex Police, BTP and Met Police.
- 'Darker Nights' initiative
- Targeted policing operations

Page 57

This page is intentionally left blank



SCRUTINY



Report to Stronger Communities Select Committee

Date of meeting: 30 March 2020

**Portfolio: Community & Partnerships
Cllr. Holly Whitbread**

Epping Forest District Council

Subject: Bi-Annual Report on the work of the Council-funded Police Officers

Officer contact for further information: Caroline Wiggins

Democratic Services Officer: R Perrin

Recommendations/Decisions Required: None

That the Committee receives a six-month report on the work and range of operations of the Council's funded Police team.

Report:

The Council continues to fund the employment of an additional Police Sergeant and 2 Police Constables to supplement existing local policing resources. The team were incepted in July 2018 with an initial 3-year contract, which has now been extended for a further two years. The team are tasked in-line with District Community Safety Partnership (CSP) priorities which are identified through the Annual Strategic Assessment and aligned with the priorities set by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC). As well as working to those priorities, the team can be requested, via a tasking process, to support any Council department where there is an identified threat, harm or risk to staff. A service level agreement is in place to prevent abstraction of the officers except in extreme cases or high priority incidents. This also covers staff sickness and extended training periods through credit to the Council from Essex Police.

The team accepted and completed 50 tasking requests in 2020 in spite of the challenges presented by COVID-19 (2019 had 52)

Highlights of the work completed include:

- In response to an increase in serious acquisitive crime in the south of the district, the team lead on a cross border operation with the Metropolitan Police, sharing resources and tactical assets to target key routes in and out of the district. The operation resulted in 4 arrests, 4 pursuits, 10 stop searches, 25 successful ANPR activation responses (i.e. where there was a 'live' marker and the vehicle was stopped)
- Supporting council officers with joint visits at licenced and business premises highlighted to be committing COVID legislation breaches.
- Support Planning Enforcement with the initial site visit and subsequent service of injunction at a location where there is threat, harm and risk to staff.
- Site visit with Planning Enforcement and Community Resilience at a venue where the occupant presents risk to staff.
- Site visits and representation at professionals meeting in relation to high-risk homeless person.
- Targeted patrols at three separate locations in the district which were at risk of persistent ASB and current problems for both police and council.

- Proactive arrest of youth riding a stolen moped and in possession of a large knife in Loughton. Subsequently passed to the Youth Offending Team for a disposal decision.
- Following increase in acquisitive crime in Waltham Abbey, the team deployed to a recent catalytic converter theft. Whilst on route a second unrelated car failed to stop. The driver was arrested. Enquiries showed the car to have been recently stolen from the town.
- Whilst on patrol in the Roydon area the team saw a van that was known to be cloned. The offenders tried to make off but were detained. The driver is a prolific offender who was wanted on a recall to prison. The van and driver were linked to multiple thefts in the district. The driver was sentenced to 42 weeks imprisonment.
- The last 3 months has seen the team recover 11 stolen vehicles to the value of approximately £900k. This was as a result of the team interpreting various data streams to locate vehicles stolen from the district. A particular highlight is the recovery of a rare Brabus 6x6 truck stolen by burglary in Loughton.

Options considered and rejected: N/A

Consultation undertaken: N/A

Legal and Governance Implications: N/A

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications: N/A

Consultation Undertaken: N/A

Background Papers: None

Impact Assessments: N/A