

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet
Date: 29 July 2021
Subject: Community & Regulatory Services
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Aniket Patel

Recommending:

That the report of the Community & Regulatory Services Portfolio Holder be noted.

Community Resilience:

The team have successfully moved into their new accommodation at the Civic offices. CRT management are continuing to review current role of the Environmental Enforcement Service reviewing and drafting several new procedures, this includes a review of the out of hours offer and summer months staffing provision to assist with providing a more resilient and sustainable service in the future.

Senior EEO Mike Richardson has now left EFDC, we are currently out to recruit to the vacant post, however this will likely cause additional pressure on the team during this time. The area covered by the Senior EEO has been redistributed amongst remaining officers and will cause some impact leading into the busy summer period. Support may be called upon from ExJob services as and when required.

Environmental Enforcement:

2 noise abatement notices served:

- 1 for poultry in Grange Crescent, Chigwell
- 1 for loud music from The Blue Boar in Abridge

1 successful prosecution for a dog barking - Mustafa Soydag of Orchard Gardens, Waltham Abbey entered a guilty plea that resulted in;

- Fine of £150 for breach of CPN and
- £200 for breach of s80 noise abatement notice.
- Contribution to costs of £997

Anti-Social Behaviour:

- New cases: 30
- Data requests: 28
- Community Trigger: 1
- Sanctuary Referrals: 3

Activity

- Highwood Lane, Loughton re aggravated burglary, enquiries continuing
- Hillyfields, Loughton possible cuckooing
- Further links established with Epping Forest College security
- Closure Order obtained – Caneland, Waltham Abbey

- Closure Order obtained - Amesbury, Waltham Abbey, Court date 16th June 2021
- Partnership Work/Intelligence passed to Op Raptor
- Cannabis Warning Letters sent - Theydon Gate, Station Approach, Theydon Bois
- 1 x Mediation referral– New Farm Drive
- 2 x Intelligence passed to Essex police (Margaret's close/Barncroft Green Loughton)
- Joint monthly meetings with Op Raptor set up to share information about properties that are involved in drug dealing

Safeguarding

We have received a request to complete the S11 Audit by the Essex Safeguarding Children Board by end of September 2021. The Board states: "S11 is required as set out in the Children Act 2004 which places duties on a range of organisations, agencies and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children."

We had 59 new cases and 18 that rolled over this equates to 77 'live' cases at present. 8 children only; 39 adult only; 12 both adult and children. There were 34 opportunities for children to be harmed and 53 opportunities for adults to be harmed

Referrals;

- 3 to Social Care
- 6 to Police
- 4 to the Mental Health Team
- 7 External referrals

There has been a significant increase in cases by volume but also by complexity, including a major increase in domestic abuse, mental health, and threat of suicide cases.

We are continuing to encounter properties that are being cuckooed by teenagers as part of County Lines. The officer is liaising with colleagues to ensure that tenants are given support if they are vulnerable and background information is provided to partners where relevant. This is evidenced by the increase in Child Criminal Exploitation cases this month and the number of requests to attend professionals' meetings.

- The new Senior Social Worker for the Epping Forest Specialist Mental Health Team is proving to be a valuable contact and has already called 4 professionals' meetings for clients who are council tenants. This has been very useful as it helps us decide if housing should take actions for ASB/tenancy breaches or provide additional support and work with the MH Teams instead.
- A Stage One Professional Disagreement has been raised with Adult Social Care (ASC) regarding a 92-year-old lady with dementia. ASC closed the case which we felt was inappropriate.
- We had an excellent example of teamwork this month, the officer walked past a rough sleeper in Epping High Street and flagged it with our Directorate Specialist who arranged for an organisation she's working with to visit him, he has a sign saying he's ex-military and one of their staff is too. They reported back and details were passed to the Homeless Team Manager who sent them to the MH RSI Liaison Worker. The man had lied but one piece of info was correct – that he'd been in a high security mental hospital. This enabled the MH team to establish his identity and promptly call an urgent Professionals' Meeting due to the level of risk. Whilst not currently wanted by the Police, all agencies who might offer support were advised to take extra precautions as he is a very dangerous individual.
- The Top Ten Domestic Abuse cases for the Police are flagged at Tasking, four of these cases are known to us; two are council tenants, one is housing association who is being helped via the Sanctuary Scheme and the other involves a young person who returned home after completely destroying the privately rented room we had found for her. We were

able to provide MARAC with valuable background information for their Conference on all cases.

CCTV:

A new CCTV contractor has been appointed to work on our largest public space CCTV system in Debden Broadway. Link CCTV started work on the project in May.

There have been 24 requests over the past month, which is 3 less than last month.

- 15 Police related
- 8 Internal (EFDC)
- Chargeable

There are 4 Rapid Deployment Cameras in operation at present,

- 2 at Low Hill Road in Roydon to combat persistent fly tipping issues.
- in Loughton to assist in identifying COVID breaches on grass and surrounding areas near to a public house.
- 1 to cover the rear car parking area at Epping Civic Offices.

The Triton equipment has been deployed in Stapleford Abbots to address reported fly tipping incidents. Whilst deployed, the camera captured the disposal of a vehicle which was set alight in the process. The vehicle that towed the dumped vehicle was identified through its index and the information passed to Police. EFDC are checking for any damage to the highway in case of claims being brought against any of the perpetrators if they are identified.

Activity:

- High risk missing person in Loughton / Epping Forest area.
- Identifying suspect passing counterfeit bank notes in Epping High Street.
- Young female assaulted by other young females, Debden Broadway.
- Illegal motorcycles incident outside North Weald Airfield.
- Knife crime incident Hillhouse Shops Waltham Abbey.
- Drug Dealing investigation at Barrington Hall & Broadway.
- Vehicle taken suspiciously from Norway House parking area.
- Fly tipping incidents in Burton Road & Vere Road Debden.
- Illegal dumping of rubbish at recycling bins at Loughton car park.
- Queens Rd CCTV upgrade has now been commissioned and Loughton Way CCTV is currently being upgraded.

Out of Hours Support:

- Out of Hours call out for fatal hit & run incident in Waltham Abbey.
- Out of Hours call out for stabbing and assault incident at Borders Lane on Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May