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CSP - Chair introduction

Comments from Community Safety Manager – Caroline Wiggins

This has been a most difficult year for Community Safety, with the very sad and unexpected loss of Councillor Gary Waller, Chair of the Community Safety Partnership.

Gary was a real advocate for Community Safety and worked hard to support and protect the more vulnerable members of our community, using his knowledge, passion and skills to help maintain a high profile for the work of the CSP and Council's Community Safety Team. He also played an important and active role within Essex, as part of the Police and Crime Panel and Safer Essex forum and was held in very high esteem by his fellow Members and all staff and partners who worked with him. His commitment, sensitivity and wealth of experience will be greatly missed.



Overview of 2016/17

Over the last year, we have seen a relentless escalation in incidents of crime and disorder in the Epping Forest District, which has impacted significantly on the workload of the Council's Community Safety Team, who are responsible for addressing the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership. Notably, there has been an increase in the number of ASB and particularly youth nuisance issues across many areas of the district. The Council's Community Safety Team has worked in very close collaboration with colleagues from Essex Police in order to pool resources to address these issues, with some excellent successes.

Other elements of Community Safety work have been further developed in partnership with local and county-wide colleagues, include the excellent J9 Domestic Abuse initiative, which has been expanded across Essex and now provides much needed training, support and resources to teams in Job Centres, local authorities and the voluntary sector.



Raising awareness of Domestic Violence: In September 2017 Colchester Jobcentre showed their support to the J9 Domestic Abuse initiative by displaying the J9 logo.

The great work carried out on 'Secure By Design', which is a partnership between the Council's Community Safety Team and Essex Police has also achieved high level recognition from Secured by Design at the national Association of Public Service Excellence conference in September. The initiative was promoted as an exemplar across the county and nationally.

The introduction of the concept of Community Safety Hubs by Essex Police and the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner in 2016/17, has helped to consolidate the ethos of partnership working across agencies to address crime and ASB, and in the Epping Forest District, it has assisted the further strengthening of what was already a valuable and important relationship between local partners.

How the Community Safety Partnership works

Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) were first introduced nationally in 1998, to provide a multi-agency solution in 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.

Epping Forest CSP consists of a mix of statutory and voluntary sector bodies, including; Essex Police, Epping Forest District Council, Essex Fire and Rescue, the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), the National Probation Trust, Trading Standards and Voluntary Action Epping Forest. Other agencies are also invited to attend, including local Town and Parish Councils, The Corporation of London (Epping Forest), Epping Forest College and representatives from Health.

The Strategic Board of the Partnership meet on a quarterly basis and much of the work emanating from the CSP is undertaken and lead by the Council's Community Safety Manager and Team, who work to address priorities identified within the District Strategic Intelligence Assessment, which is undertaken annually.

Day to Day Operation

Representatives from the Community Safety Team participate in Essex Police District Tasking meetings on a fortnightly basis, to assist with the response to any emerging issues within the district and address the selected priorities adopted within the annual strategic assessment. District Tasking is currently carried out by a call conference facility, saving officer time travelling to a police station, but there are plans underway to install a video conferencing facility within the Council's Community Safety offices in 2017/18.

The Council also provides hot desking facilities in the Community Safety office, which continues to be used regularly by police colleagues, including Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor, Essex Watch Coordinator, district police Management, the Community Policing Team and other specialist officers. Essex Police have also implemented a daily call briefing with the Council's Community Safety Team, which enables review of significant incidents over the previous 24 hours and a valuable forum for discussion in respect of any planned deployment of resources, or operational activity.

A further enhancement to this collaborative working with Essex Police has been the installation of police radio communications in the Community Safety Office in January 2017, which had increased the effectiveness of the councils' CCTV systems, allowing CCTV to communicate directly with Essex Police Force Control Room in times of urgency. This has greatly improved 'real time' communication and enabled an effective and efficient response to incidents throughout the district.

The combination of these actions has had a very positive effect in respect of coordinated working and highly effective intelligence sharing between Essex Police and the Community Safety Team.

Analytical and other Support

Responsibility for analytical support for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was transferred from the Council to Essex Police in late 2016 and the police now host dedicated analysts for each Local Policing Area (LPA) at their headquarters. Analytical information is essential for a targeted and cost effective approach to community safety work and ensures good management and performance oversight.

The regular hosting of the local Essex Police Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor (CPTA) has proved to be very successful, with his 'designing out crime' skills contributing to the oversight of the Council's new house building strategy. All new social housing commissioned by the council now will meet Secured By Design standards in terms of layout, design and security.

Work with High Risk Victims of Abuse

Work to protect high-risk victims of abuse is high on the CSP agenda and the Community Safety Team addresses this by carrying out security assessments, jointly with the Police Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor (CPTA). Following a visit to the home of a victim, a range of recommendations are made to improve physical security of homes and agree risk management action planning.

In extreme cases where a victim is at serious and imminent risk of harm, the Council's Housing Services and Community Safety Team provide funding for a Sanctuary or Safe Room Scheme. Recipients of this scheme do not need to be Council tenants to qualify. A home visit is arranged with the victim that includes the Council, a police representative and officer from the Fire Service, who advise on an adequate means of escape and arrange for physical safety measures to be installed. The installation is completed by the Council's Repairs Team or approved contractors and the works are approved to Home Office recommendations. Following this, a final 'sign-off' visit is undertaken by police and Community Safety to ensure the victim is confident in using the equipment and that it functions as it should.

The council also delivers a similar home security assessment and advice service to medium-risk victims, using the skills of a volunteer who is a retired police Crime Reduction Officer.

CSP Casework - examples of vulnerable residents

The following case studies provide examples of the type of cases that are dealt with by CSP partners, who work together to support vulnerable victims.

Case one

Police alerted EFDC to a very high-risk domestic abuse victim. The perpetrator had served prison sentences for committing violent crime including armed robbery and the manslaughter of a partner, whilst living abroad. He was also suspected of killing a second person. The perpetrator was the biological father of the victim's young son, but had never seen him. The perpetrator had been diagnosed as being psychotic and unstable and was due to be released from custody to an Approved Premises imminently.

Case one continued

The Council's Community Safety Team was asked to arrange and carry out an urgent Sanctuary Room survey, as the assessment and any subsequent installation was time critical. Officers from Community Safety, Police, Fire Service and EFDC Repairs Team carried out a joint assessment and with the knowledge and agreement of the victim, commenced work on target hardening the house immediately. Work was completed within two working days and successfully signed off.

Case two

The Council's Community Safety Team Investigator was tasked with dealing with a serious ASB case. The investigation was complex and involved a very real and serious risk of harm to an elderly housebound lady, by her neighbour. The investigation involved the collaboration of officers from EFDC Safeguarding and Housing Team, the Police, Social Care and Mental Health teams. A comprehensive plan of action was developed involving all officers led by the Council's Investigator. As a result of a co-ordinated response, the actions taken to protect the lady were successful with a very positive outcome to the case. The Council's ASB Investigator's actions were formerly recognised by the Police Commander of the *West local Policing Area (LPA)* with a citation which stated, *'West LPA Command Team wishes to formerly recognise Paul Southgate of Epping Forest District Council – for the professionalism and dedication shown in managing the risk around a male with mental health issues, who presented a serious danger to members of the public - we thank you for your continued commitment and contribution towards protecting and serving Essex.'*

Case three

The Community Safety Team identified a housing property where the occupant was being exploited by drug dealers and his home was being used for the supply and use of drugs. Working with local residents affected by the problem, Housing Officers and the Police 'Operation Raptor' Gangs Unit, the Community Safety Team obtained a Closure Order for the property excluding anyone entering it who was not name on the order. Police carried out a pro-active investigation and arrested a drug dealer in the act of re-supplying Class A drugs to the house. They proceeded to raid the property, arresting two further males for possession of Class A drugs. As a result, the tenant was referred to Social Care and is no longer being exploited and the property is back in the Council's control. Three men appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court charged with drugs offences. One pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply heroin and crack cocaine. He received a sentence of 40 months imprisonment. The other two men pleaded guilty to possession of Class A drugs and received prison sentences of six and four months. This case demonstrates the Council's Community Safety Team being involved in a coordinated investigation with many different service areas, organisations and the public, to obtain a positive result, which has improved the quality of life for all those affected.

CSP funding 2016-2017

Organisation	£
Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) – core funding 25,896.00	
ASB Contingency	750.00
J9 DA Week	1,500.00
Partnership Analyst	2,100.00
Home Safety Scheme	5,500.00
Volunteer Police Cadets	750.00
CSP Contingency	4,296.00
OP Teutonic	3,500.00
Gangs Project	1,500.00
Education & Training	2,000.00
PCC Funding J9	4,920.00
PCC Funding Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)	4,000.00
Epping Forest District Council - £24,080.00	
Community Safety Volunteering	2,400.00
Partnership Co-ordinator	5,000.00
Older Peoples Safety Event	2,500.00
Safe & Sound	5,500.00
Crucial Crew	8,030.00
Volunteer Police Cadets	650.00
High Sheriffs Funding J9	750.00
Essex Fire & Rescue – Firebreak	4,000.00
CSP Section 106 Funding – CSP Admin Support	1,000.00
Schools funding (Crucial Crew)	11,322.00 (breakdown below)
Epping Forest Schools	6,672.00
Brentwood Schools	4,650.00
Overall total	78,874

Performance summary highlights 2016-17

1. Crucial Crew

Crucial Crew is an annual initiative which is facilitated and delivered by the Council's Community, Health & Wellbeing Team in liaison with the Community Safety Team. It is specifically designed to educate and encourage primary school pupils in Year 6 (10 years), to be aware of personal health and safety at home and in the community.

In the review year, over 1500 pupils participated in 10 interactive scenarios, lasting 10 minutes each, which were delivered by a range of agencies. These scenarios are reviewed and modified each year, to ensure the themes covered are relevant and appropriate and take into consideration emerging trends or issues. In 2016, the scenarios were as follows: -

- Online safety, cyber bullying and child sexual exploitation (CSE) – Essex Police
- Alcohol and drug awareness – AlcoHelp
- Bullying and peer pressure – Red Balloon Family
- Healthy eating and physical activity – ACE (NHS)
- Smoking awareness - Provide (NHS)
- Anti-social behaviour and environmental responsibility – EFDC
- Road safety awareness - Essex County Council
- Fire safety – Essex County Fire & Rescue Service
- Safety around construction sites – Mears
- Safety around large vehicles – Sainsbury's

Every pupil who attended the event was given a special Crucial Crew work book, to help them remember the messages of the event and to assist teaching staff to re-visit and explore these in more detail after the event. In addition, each school was provided with a Teacher's Information Pack, which contained lesson plans associated with each scenario and provide links to additional resources available, in order that follow up classroom work can be facilitated.

Crucial Crew was staged at Debden House in Loughton for the first time in 2016, as for 9 years prior to this the initiative took place at the Gilwell Park Scouting Headquarters in Epping Forest. The decision to relocate to Debden House in 2016 was taken following notification that there would be an increase of £2,000.00 in rental costs for Gilwell Park facilities. The cost and availability of alternative venues is reviewed on an annual basis, along with the need to accommodate the ever changing scenarios that will be delivered and large assembly space required. Debden House proved to be an excellent alternative venue, which offered flexible room space and an inspiring setting from which to deliver the impactful scenario sessions.

2. J9 Domestic Abuse Initiative



As mentioned in the CSP Overview, the J9 Domestic Abuse Awareness Programme which originated in Epping Forest has gone from strength to strength and has been running in West Essex for over 5 years. Named in memory of Janine Mundy, who was killed by her estranged husband which he was on Police Bail, the J9 initiative was set up by Janine's family and the local police in Cambourne, Cornwall, where she lived. It aimed to raise awareness of domestic abuse and assist victims to seek the help they so desperately need, by promoting its pink heart (J9) branding, to show people where they can access support.

J9 training is delivered in Essex, by Safer Places, who are a Third Sector organisation who provide a safe haven and wide range of support for victims of abuse. It is designed to ensure that attendees from all agencies are provided with the knowledge and confidence to enable them to respond appropriately and effectively to any concerns that are presented to them.

The project now has a mailing list of over 600 professionals and service providers across Essex who have attended the training and who promote the initiative within their respective organisations. All resources from the training are available on a dedicated site hosted on the Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) Website and where possible, Epping Forest CSP provides regular updates and twice yearly newsletter to all attendees. The website, J9 resources and the mailing list is currently maintained by the Epping Forest Community Safety Manager.

In 2016-17, J9 was rolled out to all Job Centres across Essex and a grant was secured from the High Sheriff of Essex, via Epping Forest CSP, to deliver training in the Department of Work & Pensions Service Centre in Basildon.

This initiative and work of the Council's Community Safety Manager, Caroline Wiggins in developing it, was formally recognised at the High Sheriffs Awards, which were held at Hylands House in Chelmsford, on the 15th March 2017, where the J9 Domestic Abuse Project was awarded the Essex County Council 'Bowl' in recognition of its' valuable service to community safety in the County.



3. Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)

The CSP has been responsible for undertaking one Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) in this review period, as part of its' statutory obligation for the Epping Forest District.

The review arose from the death of a female resident of the district, aged 35 years, who died as a result of an assault by her husband.

The DHR was conducted by a Review Panel in accordance with statutory guidance under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

The Review Panel was chaired by a retired Detective Chief Inspector and made up of representatives from organisations that were directly involved in the case or those who could provide advice on the review, to the panel.

The review examined agency responses and any support provided to the victim prior to her death and considered their involvement and contact with the victim and perpetrator, for the period 1 May 2015, until the victim's death in February 2016.

The review was completed and sent to the Home Office for approval in August 2017.

The perpetrator was convicted of murder and arson and was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term, before parole, of 24 years.

4. Future DHR Reviews

The statutory requirement for initiating and undertaking a DHR has to date been the responsibility of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in which 'the victim was normally resident' or where 'the victim was last known to have frequented.'

However, in future, within Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) it has been agreed that this process will be centralised and coordinated by the SET Domestic Abuse (DA) team.

Centralisation of DHR's will not mean withdrawal of responsibility for DHRs from individual local CSPs, as they will still hold the statutory responsibility as per Home Office guidance. The changes that will be made include: -

- Centralised co-ordination of all DHR processes;
- Support for all DHR Panels;
- A central point liaison on all DHR issues for all agencies;
- The ability to monitor and report on the implementation of all DHR recommendations to CSPs and the Home Office.

DHR "Core Groups" will be drawn together and chaired by the SET DA team, with local CSP representation to establish whether a DHR is appropriate. If it is agreed that a DHR should be initiated, the DHR Core Group will instruct the SET DA Team to appoint a DHR Independent Chair/Report Writer. The SET DA Team will then arrange a briefing meeting with the appointed DHR Independent Chair and will inform the Coroners' office of the commencement of a DHR. The Independent Chair of the DHR, with advice from the SET DA Team and DHR Core Group, will agree the membership of the Review Panel for the DHR.

5. Community Safety Certificates Achievement

The review year, has seen acknowledgement of a range of community safety work delivered in the Epping Forest District, including individual recognition highlighted within this report.

In addition to accolades related to specific pieces of work, **Paul Gardener**, Community Safety Officer at the Council and **Tony Ellis**, volunteer Crime Prevention Assistant for the district in a ceremony at Essex Police Headquarters. They were presented with Certificate of Achievement awards on 31 January 2017.

These were part of the presentations made to over 50 volunteers who work to support Essex Police. They were presented by The High Sheriff of Essex Lorna Rolfe, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex Jane Gardner and Assistant Chief Constable Maurice Mason.



In addition, Paul Gardener received a special presentation from Assistant Chief Constable Maurice Mason, acknowledging the commitment to working in partnership with Essex Police, the first award of its kind.



6. Trading Standards - Fireworks Test Purchasing



As part of its work to reduce fear of crime and protection of vulnerable victims, the CSP works with organisation such as Trading Standards to address issues such as telephone and doorstep fraud and under-age purchasing.

In the run-up to Bonfire Night 2016, Essex County Council Trading Standards Officers worked with the Council's Community Safety Team to provide businesses with advice on preventing the sale of fireworks to those who are underage. By law, people have to be 18 years old to buy fireworks and shopkeepers are encourage to follow the Challenge 25 initiative, whereby they ask anyone who does not look like they are 25 years old, for ID.

Test purchasers of 18 years old were sent in to try and buy fireworks at 15 shops across the Epping Forest District, and under 'Challenge 25' the volunteer should have been challenged in every shop. However, three of the shops failed to check for ID and sold fireworks to our volunteers. These three shops were given further advice before being test purchased again, this time with a 16 year old volunteer. Two out of the three shops sold again, this time making an illegal sale.

Protecting young people from purchasing age restricted products, such as fireworks, is a priority of the CSP and this exercise demonstrated that the majority of local businesses did take on board the advice provided by officers – helping to ensure that everybody has a safe and enjoyable Bonfire Night this year. Further action has been taken in regard to the two underage sales.

Appendix one

Essex Police performance summary - March 2016 to April 2017

Top Level		Offences			
Crime Type	% DA 2017	2016	2017	# diff.	% diff.
Anti-Social Behaviour (incidents)	-	3554	3668	114	3.2
All Crime (excl. Action (NFIB) Fraud)	9.9	7519	8616	1097	14.6
- State Based Crime	3.7	753	949	196	26.0
- Victim Based Crime	10.7	6766	7667	901	13.3
Victim Based Crime		Offences			
Crime Type	% DA 2017	2016	2017	# diff.	% diff.
Violence Against the Person	34.0	1818	2101	283	15.6
- Homicide	-	2	0	-2	-100.0
- Violence with Injury	36.6	692	807	115	16.6
- Violence without Injury	32.5	1124	1294	170	15.1
Sexual Offences	13.0	123	146	23	18.7
- Rape	19.6	37	56	19	51.4
- Rape - Under 16 yrs	0.0	11	21	10	90.9
- Rape - Over 16 yrs	31.4	26	35	9	34.6
- Other Sexual Offences	8.9	86	90	4	4.7
Robbery	1.0	84	103	19	22.6
- Robbery of business property	0.0	6	6	0	0.0
- Robbery of Personal Property	1.0	78	97	19	24.4
Theft Offences	0.4	-	4254	-	-
- Burglary	0.0	-	1188	-	-
- Burglary Residential	0.0	-	758	-	-
- Burglary Business & Commercial	0.0	-	430	-	-
- Burglary Dwelling (pre-Apr 17 definition)	0.0	670	747	77	11.5
- Burglary Other (pre-Apr 17 definition)	0.0	388	441	53	13.7
- Vehicle Offences (incl. Interference)	0.3	1246	1455	209	16.8
- Theft from Vehicle	0.2	708	864	156	22.0
- Theft of Motor Vehicle	0.0	412	428	16	3.9
- Vehicle Interference	0.0	126	163	37	29.4
- Theft	0.7	1554	1611	57	3.7
- Theft from the Person	1.3	83	75	-8	-9.6
- Theft of Pedal Cycle	0.0	71	55	-16	-22.5
- Shoplifting	0.0	444	481	37	8.3
- Other Theft	1.1	956	1000	44	4.6
Criminal Damage inc. Arson	6.5	883	1063	180	20.4
- Criminal Damage	6.7	861	1037	176	20.4
- Arson	0.0	22	26	4	18.2
Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences	0.9	70	106	36	51.4
Hate Crime HO Definition	4.1	98	169	71	72.4
State Based Crime		Offences			
Crime Type	% DA 2017	2016	2017	# diff.	% diff.
Drug Offences	0.0	191	216	25	13.1
- Trafficking of Drugs	0.0	46	33	-13	-28.3
- Possession of Drugs	0.0	145	183	38	26.2
Possession of Weapons	2.3	44	43	-1	-2.3
Public Order	4.4	416	568	152	36.5
Miscellaneous Crimes against Society	7.4	102	122	20	19.6



October 2017