

Dear all,

I hope this email finds you all well.

Around 18-months ago many of you received some correspondence from our then Assistant Chief Constable Nick Downing to inform you that our force was looking to take part in a fly-on-the-wall documentary series following our Major Crime Teams as they investigated murders, from the point of the offence occurring through to conclusion at court.

After 18-months of hard work, the results have now come to fruition and our resulting programme, Murder 24/7, will air from next Monday 24 February at 9pm on BBC Two. The title reflects how the series has captured each investigation as it unfolds from the first minutes through the following months of hard work as our teams piece together the clues to catch the suspects and bring them to justice. Our full media release is below and we will be tweeting on each day of broadcast so feel free to share our posts etc if you are able.

All it remains for me to say is thanks to all those who have supported us – whether that's been practical help when a homicide has happened or filming has taken place in your area, or through briefing your internal colleagues or just generally for the many messages of support when the project got underway – it has been very much appreciated.

Hope you all get time to watch it and thanks again.

ESSEX MURDER DETECTIVES ARE THE FOCUS OF MAJOR NEW BBC TWO DOCUMENTARY

The painstaking dedication that goes into investigating a murder will be the focus of a new BBC Two documentary series filmed with Essex Police.

Murder 24/7 follows three murder investigations which happened in the county from the moment the crime happens right through to arrest and conclusion at court.

The programme, which begins on Monday 24 February at 9pm on BBC Two, follows Essex Police's Major Crime team detectives as they piece together the clues in each case to lead them to the suspects.

The documentary series shows how officers from across Essex Police come together to support each other when a murder happens - from Senior Investigating officers, who lead a murder investigation to manhunt specialists, blood spatter and forensic specialists, phone and intelligence analysts and uniformed officers who are often the first to arrive at the scene of a crime.

Murder 24/7 is the first time that Essex Police has opened its doors to the public, allowing unprecedented access to a team of filmmakers from production company Expectation Factual, to show the work of our Major Crime team detectives who investigate the most serious of crimes.

Chief Constable BJ Harrington said: "We know our detectives here in Essex are amongst the finest in the world and that's why we took the opportunity to showcase just some of their work through this BBC documentary.

"When a murder happens, which is thankfully not very often, our detectives work around the clock, often at great personal sacrifice, to follow up every lead, support devastated families and hunt those responsible.

"But what this programme really captures is, that while our detectives will lead the investigation and the hunt for suspects, it really is a force-wide effort to support victims, solve crime, hunt offenders and bring them to justice.

"Murder 24/7 really shows that when these terrible crimes happen our whole force comes together to catch a killer."

Det Supt Morgan Cronin, Essex Police's Head of Major, Economic and Cyber Crime, said: "At the heart of every murder or manslaughter is a victim who has lost their life and a devastated family left

behind.

“We hope that this programme shows the residents of our county that when the very worst happens we work determinedly to piece together what happened, catch those responsible and ensure they face justice.

“Murder 24/7 captures in real time, the dedication and commitment of all of our officers as well as the complexity of an investigation and the painstaking work that goes into gathering evidence - from trawling CCTV to intricate forensic work and mobile phone analysis – which is often frustrated by those seeking to avoid capture and justice.

“We hope this programme gives the public and the residents of Essex a greater understanding of the challenges of these investigations but also reassures them of the professionalism, determination and commitment of our officers.”

Ruth Kelly, Executive Producer at Expectation Factual said: “We wanted to produce a police documentary series with a unique approach, rooted in what really happens when someone is murdered.

“The result is Murder 24/7, made possible by the privileged access Essex Police gave us to their Major Crime Teams.

“We hope that the series shines a light on the extraordinary team of detectives, forensic investigators and specialists who come together, working round the clock, to solve murder cases.”

Across five episodes the programme will follow detectives as they investigate: the fatal stabbing of 49-year-old Carl Hopkins and the attempted murder of his friend in Colchester on 10 February 2019; the murder of 36-year-old Courtney Valentine-Brown who was stabbed to death in Southend on 21 February 2019; and the manslaughter of June Knight who was thrown from her care home in balcony in Southend on December 10 2018.

Murder 24/7: Essex will air at 9pm on BBC Two on Monday February 24, Tuesday February 25, Wednesday February 26, Monday 2 March and Tuesday 3 March.

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