



## REPORT of DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY

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to  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING AS THE CRIME AND  
DISORDER COMMITTEE  
8 OCTOBER 2014

### MALDON DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 Members are asked to note the progress of activities undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership and the impact of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014.

#### 2. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION

##### 2.1 Statutory Duties

- 2.1.1 The partnership carries out a *strategic assessment* each year and publishes a *partnership plan* on the Maldon District Council website. The partnership operates an effective *Victim-Offender-Location* model which involves a shared working agreement with Chelmsford City Council for staffing and resources. The current key priorities are listed below and are based on analysis of crime data and public consultation:

- Maintain and Reduce Existing Low Levels of Crime and ASB;
- Protecting Vulnerable People;
- Tackling Alcohol and Drug Misuse;
- Serious Acquisitive Crime.

These priorities contribute to the Council's Corporate Goal of "Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy" and the desired outcome of "People living, working and visiting the District feel safe from crime and antisocial behaviour". It should be noted that *reducing re-offending* is a statutory duty for all community safety partnerships and is a clear area of focus under the current transforming rehabilitation agenda. The most recent crime figures for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 August 2014 (compared to the same period last year) show an increase in all crime by 17.4% (147 more incidents) and a decrease in anti-social behaviour by 17% (106 less incidents). In addition to this the all crime solved rate has decreased to 19.15% (3.9% worse than last year). The areas of good performance are highlighted as dwelling burglary and areas for improvement being highlighted as theft from vehicles and other violence against the person. A copy of the most recent Essex Police strategic management performance data is attached as **APPENDIX 1**. The current District Commander for

Maldon and Chelmsford is Chief Inspector Alan Cook. It should be noted that Maldon remains one of the safest districts in the county.

2.1.2 The partnership continues to carry out **public consultation** at a number of community events and attendance at action groups (i.e. Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Neighbourhood Meetings, Crimestoppers and events) to measure the fear of crime and crime concerns. A new website survey is being conducted to measure crime concerns. Last year, the survey received 293 responses and the highest crime concern for those responding was anti-social behaviour, burglary and vehicle crime (in that order) with a majority of responders feeling very safe in the community which they live. The launch of the Essex Community Messaging on 1 October 2014, a joint venture between Essex Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Neighbourhood Watch will ensure improved community engagement and awareness. The team has delivered a series of awareness events focussing on vehicle and other community safety issues. Team members ensure that they have knowledge which is current and have also attended training on Professional Curiosity, Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, Child Internet Safety, New Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs), Child Sexual Exploitation, Modern Day Slavery and Safeguarding.

2.1.3 The partnership works closely with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Essex and ensures that local services delivered link with the Police and Crime Plan. A refreshed copy of the Police and Crime Plan is now available and can be viewed on the PCC website at: [www.essex.pcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk). The main areas of focus for the PCC will continue to be:

- Ensuring local solutions meet local problems;
- Reducing domestic abuse;
- Supporting our victims of crime;
- Reducing youth offending and all types of re-offending;
- Tackling the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse and mental health issues;
- Improving road safety;
- Improving crime prevention;
- Increasing efficiency in policing through collaborative working and innovation.

The next PCC consultation event will be on **4 June 2015** (location to be confirmed).

## **2.2 Progress on Action Plan – Education, Interventions and Enforcement**

### **2.2.1 Education**

2.2.1.1 The role of the Community Safety Projects officer is to deliver, monitor and evaluate projects. Early intervention through education is a key priority for the partnership because it safeguards vulnerable persons. A key area is the education of young people. Crucial Crew was delivered to all primary schools within the district from 15 – 19 September 2014. This involves teaching approximately 600 Year 6 students about important issues such as alcohol, internet safety, stranger danger, bullying, dealing with emergencies, road safety and fire safety. In addition to this the team delivers alcohol and drug awareness sessions at the Plume School and Ormiston

Rivers Academy to Year 9 and 10 students. The Plume School has also participated in the Essex County Council early intervention project called Risk Avert. This involves Year 7 students being screened with teachers delivering training sets during Year 8 on issues such as drugs, alcohol, peer pressure and sexual health.

2.2.1.2 The team worked closely with the Brownstock promoters this year and arranged for the Angelus Foundation to visit local schools on 7 July 2014 to provide awareness on New Psychoactive substances (legal highs). The Angelus Foundation was also present on site throughout the festival to provide awareness to revellers.

2.2.1.3 Tackling hate crime and providing reassurance to vulnerable members of the community is addressed by the team. Team members have recently undertaken intensive hate crime training with Essex Police and Maldon District Council has now been approved as a Hate Incident Reporting Centre (HIRC). The Keep Safe project is a good example of supporting people with learning disabilities. The project continues to be successful and is now running in Maldon, Chelmsford, Braintree, Witham, Halstead, Colchester, Brentwood, Rochford and Clacton, and aims to encourage businesses to support and help “keep safe” people with learning disabilities. There are currently 50 users signed up to the scheme in Maldon with 11 venues participating. Essex Keep Safe Day was celebrated on 20 June 2014 with a joint day of awareness around the County. Users can now sign up on-line on the Maldon District Council website. The Keep Safe project continues to attract members with the Maldon Pioneers playing a key role in recruiting from the community. Team members will be attending the Dementia Café on a regular basis to attract more members to register on the scheme.

## 2.2.2 Interventions

2.2.2.1 The team continues to work in partnership to deliver interventions which impact on anti-social behaviour and promote good citizenship. Two good examples where the partnership have accessed funding for projects for pump priming and they now continue as sustainable projects are Mayland Boxing Club and Seven Freerun in Burnham-on-Crouch. The diversionary parkour project delivered by Seven Freerun continues to be successful. They have now extended their provision by delivering two sessions a week, a beginner’s session from 18.00 – 19.30hrs followed by an advanced session from 19.30 – 21.00hrs which regularly attracts over fifty participants each week. The team promotes this project where possible through various partnership outlets. The Mayland Boxing Club continues to be successfully delivered by Essex Boys and Girls Club.

2.2.2.2 The community safety team (working with community and sports development) supported Heybridge and Southminster Parish Councils in preparing a successful bid for Doorstep Sports Clubs from the PCC New Initiatives Fund (NIF). This is for a six month project to set up two Door Step Sports Clubs for 11 - 19 year olds within the Maldon District in partnership with the Parish Councils, Moat Housing and Essex Boys and Girls Club. These clubs have commenced and the initial feedback by Essex Boys and Girls Club it that are successful and proving popular with local youths.

2.2.2.3 The ever popular Halloween event has been arranged at the Plume School on 31 October 2014. This is an intergenerational project where over seventy elderly persons will be invited for a Fish and Chip supper served by young people. At the same time

diversionary projects such as parkour and boxing will be delivered with the Council's Sports Development Team. The focus of this event is to make elderly persons feel safe at a time of the year when they feel most vulnerable, provide education and signposting for services, and to provide activities for young people thus deterring them from causing nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

- 2.2.2.4 The recently awarded Alcohol Structured Interventions contract for Mid-Essex commenced on 1 July 2014. This has been commissioned by Essex County Council Public Health and will be delivered by Choices (Open Road and EYPDAS (Essex Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service)). The Community Safety Manager has worked closely with Open Road and facilitated introductory meetings with registered social landlords and Family Solutions. This service will provide outreach in targeted areas across the district and will rely on partnership working in order to deliver these services in areas of need.
- 2.2.2.5 The District Commander and Community Safety Manager both attend the Independent Advisory Group. This links with the Victim sub group which is chaired by the District Commander. This meeting is now receiving good attendance from a number of different community groups. This will give both the police and partnership a better knowledge of community cohesion and hate crime in the community. The Community Safety Manager regularly receives community tension data from Essex Police as part of Operation Element. The Prevent Strategy and action plan has recently been refreshed and has been approved by the counter terrorism unit at Essex Police Headquarters (HQ). A copy of this strategy is available on request. It should be noted that a decision to raise the national threat level to "Severe" was made on 29 August 2014.

### 2.2.3 Enforcement

- 2.2.3.1 Team members regularly attend police tasking on a fortnightly basis and are provided with Tactical Assessment prior to attendance to ensure that the partnership remains responsive to emerging crime trends such as monitoring of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort. The Community Safety Manager is a member of a review panel which is currently assessing the impact of IOM. The transforming rehabilitation agenda continues with the separation of the public and commercial sectors complete. There is now a National Probation Service (public) and Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) (commercial). Essex CRC is now a Responsible Authority under these changes. The new offender manager for Maldon will be Neil Walters who provides performance data on offending and details of community payback being delivered within the district. The Drug Testing on Arrest pilot which has been operating in Chelmsford for the last eighteen months will now extend to cover the whole of Essex following an award by the Home Office from the Police Innovation Fund (£718,000). This will encourage offenders who test positive for Class A substances to engage in a treatment programme which in turn may reduce their offending behaviour.
- 2.2.3.2 Tackling anti-social behaviour is a key priority of the partnership and an area where this has been continued success in reducing incidents and supporting victims. The ASB Coordinator deals with each report on a case by case basis and facilitates multi-agency responses where appropriate. The Officer attends the Location sub group to monitor hot spots and the Victim sub group to provide a multi-agency response to

complex cases. The officer also arranges a quarterly MAG (Maldon Action Group) and BAG (Burnham-on-Crouch Action Group) meeting to ensure that a problem solving approach is adopted for dealing with issues. Effective case management is recorded on the Council's Uniform database. The performance of the function is reported to the Responsible Authorities Group on a quarterly basis. The report highlights ongoing cases in terms of numbers and types, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), mediation, nuisance letters plus any complex cases of note. At the time of writing there are currently eight active cases with four ongoing ABCs. The role requires a good working relationship with housing, environmental enforcement, registered social landlords, neighbourhood policing teams and the Council's ranger service.

## **2.3 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

- 2.3.1 The ASB, Crime and Policing Bill received Royal Assent by in the Spring session at parliament. This will be fully implemented on 20 October 2014, and will introduce simpler, more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour that provide better protection for victims and communities. The new Community Trigger and Community Remedy will empower victims and communities by giving them a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints of ASB and in out-of-court sanctions for offenders. The other main areas of focus include injunctions, criminal behaviour orders, dispersal powers, community protection notices and orders, public space protection orders, closure of premises and dangerous dogs. An overview of the act will be presented to members at the meeting and a copy of the Home Office guidelines for practitioners will be supplied as a background paper.
- 2.3.2 The Community Safety Manager and Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator attended a briefing to inform partners on the introduction of the Community Trigger on 2 July 2014 at Wat Tyler Park in Basildon. An Essex model has been approved by Safer Essex for local partners to agree and introduce. A copy of the proposed model for introduction is attached as **APPENDIX 2**. Officers attended a new tools and powers session on 10 September 2014 and additional training to look at case management and prosecutions under the act has been arranged for 10 October 2014.
- 2.3.3 A working group to look at the Community Remedy has been set up to ensure that a menu of options is available for police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to use on 20 October 2014. A copy of the draft document is available as **APPENDIX 3**. There will be a short period of consultation where the public can comment on the proposals. It should be noted that all press related issues and publicity concerning the Community Trigger and Community Remedy will be undertaken by the OPCC working with local Council communications teams to ensure that there is a consistent pan Essex approach.

## **2.4 Essex Police and Crime Commissioner**

- 2.4.1 The partnership has developed a good working relationship with the OPCC. The most recent public meeting was held on 11 June 2014 and the Commissioner also attended the Maldon District NHW meeting on 27 August 2014. Maldon District Council continues to work closely with the OPCC on a number of strategic issues with Councillor Mrs P A Channer CC acting as representative on the Police and Crime Panel. The Community Safety Manager and Sports Development Officer will be

attending a PCC / Essex County Council (ECC) workshop on 24 September 2014 on youth crime and offending.

- 2.4.2 The funding agreement forms for 2014/15 have been returned to the OPCC requesting a sum of **£16,000**. This sum is based on a new model of funding with 50% being made available on a simple grant funding basis and the other 50% being made available for in-year Community Safety Partnership (CSP) commissioned activity that meets the outcomes in the Police and Crime Plan. It is likely that the figure for 2015 / 16 will be subject to a new formula which could be based on population and/or crime rates. It should be noted that funding for the Door Step Sports Clubs currently being run in Heybridge and Southminster are following a successful bid to the PCC New Initiatives Fund (NIF). Last year, the team delivered a mentoring project with Chelmsford YMCA at the Plume School and Ormiston Rivers Academy following the award of PCC NIF grant.

## **2.6 Safer Essex and Essex Community Safety Network**

- 2.6.1 The Community Safety Manager represents the partnership at Safer Essex, the overarching strategic group which oversees community safety issues across Essex, and the Essex Community Safety Network which monitors performance of projects and escalates matters to the strategic group where necessary. The minutes of these strategic meetings are circulated to RAG members for information purposes.

## **2.7 Victim – Offender – Location (VOL)**

- 2.7.1 Sub groups of the partnership continue to meet on a regular basis and work streams for each individual group are effectively impacting on various areas of community safety. There is a natural cross cutting of projects across the respective groups which allow partners to feed into actions and set up Task and Finish Groups where appropriate. The most recent changes to the structure include an event twice a year to look at priorities and performance which will effectively act as a steering group. These will be held at the planning stage of each financial year following the completion of the strategic assessment and during the autumn to assess performance against the strategic priorities and annual action plan. In addition to this the Independent Advisory Group has been set up to monitor community tension and hate crime, improve cohesion between under-represented groups and oversee the Prevent agenda. The current structure is set out below:

### Victim (Maldon/Chelmsford)

Chair: Chief Inspector Alan Cook (Essex Police)

### Offender (Maldon/Chelmsford)

Virtual Group: IOM Lead Officer: Karen Buttress (Maldon/Chelmsford CSP)

### Location (Maldon)

Chair: Inspector Chris Kilgallen (Essex Police)

### Location (Chelmsford)

Chair: Spencer Clarke (Maldon/Chelmsford CSP)

### Independent Advisory Group (Maldon/Chelmsford)

Chair: Ayman Syed (Chelmsford Muslim Society)

## **2.8 Neighbourhood Meetings**

- 2.8.1 Team members continue to attend and help arrange meetings at Maldon Town, Burnham Town and Heybridge. They are also actively involved with Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Watch to ensure that these interventions meet the needs of the community and address relevant community safety issues. The Essex Community Messaging system mentioned earlier in this report will help improve information sharing further.

## **3. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS**

- 3.1 The continued work of the community safety partnership ensures that the Council meets its high level outcome of people living, working and visiting the District feel safe from crime and anti-social behaviour. The partnership also plays a key role in reducing inequalities, engaging local communities and promoting healthy lifestyles.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Members should note the introduction of the Community Trigger and Remedy.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Members should note the introduction of the Independent Advisory Group.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Members should note the continued financial pressures impacting on the partnership which may result in a reduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner Grant for 2015 / 16.
- (v) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The progress on the delivery plan for 2014 / 15 has been good and the shared working arrangements between Maldon and Chelmsford continue to drive forward efficiency changes which are seen as good practice locally and nationally. Maldon CSP remains efficient and responsive to emerging issues and more importantly positions itself strongly for future funding arrangements with the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner, statutory partners and local/national initiatives.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

That Members note the progress on the delivery plan for 2014 /15 and the success of the initiatives undertaken by the partnership and note the timescales for the full introduction of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Background Papers:

Home Office guidelines for practitioners for the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (a copy has been placed in the Members' Room).

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