



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY**

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to  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING AS THE CRIME AND  
DISORDER COMMITTEE  
7 OCTOBER 2015**

**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 Maldon Community Safety Partnership.

**2. AREA FOR DECISION / ACTION**

**2.1 Statutory Duties**

2.1.1 The current key priorities are listed below and following the completion of the strategic assessment for the period 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014 officers recommended that these broad priorities remain in place for this coming year with an emphasis on emerging trends and new responsibilities, such as child sexual exploitation and safeguarding concerns. This was accepted and endorsed by the Responsible Authorities Group on 20 March 2015. It should be noted that reducing re-offending is a statutory duty for all community safety partnerships.

- Maintain and Reduce Existing Levels of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Protecting Vulnerable People;
- Tackling Alcohol and Drug Misuse;
- Tackling Serious Acquisitive Crime.

2.1.2 These priorities contribute to the Council's Corporate Goal of "Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy" and are highlighted as activities in the new business plan for the directorate for 2015 / 16. Each activity has a clear timescale and milestone to enable performance monitoring of each project associated to the activity. The most recent crime figures for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 July 2015 (compared to the same period last year) show a decrease in all crime by 1.3% (10 less offences) and a decrease in anti-social behaviour by 1.7% (7 less incidents). The areas of good performance are highlighted as theft and vehicle crime, and areas for improvement being highlighted as dwelling burglary and sexual offences. A copy of the most recent Essex Police strategic management performance data is attached as **APPENDIX 1**. The Community Safety Manager and District Commander recently met with police analysts who have been commissioned to produce a document to identify crime trends dating back to October 2010 which will give a true comparison

of crime increases and decreases for the district. It should be noted that Maldon remains one of the safest districts in the county.

- 2.1.3 Members should note that the partnership was notified by Essex Police that a domestic homicide had occurred in the district during July 2015. Following a meeting on 4 September 2015 between Officers, Essex Police and Essex County Council a decision was made to notify the Home Office that the incident met the criteria of a Domestic Homicide Review which under Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 the community safety partnership has a statutory duty to undertake. The Home Office has acknowledged this letter and look forward to receiving the report and findings of the review when the work is completed.
- 2.1.4 The Community Safety Manager now attends strategic meetings which also support the Essex Police high level strategic priorities which include child sexual exploitation, gangs and vulnerabilities, and counter terrorism and radicalisation. A copy of the new high priority strategic themes is attached as **APPENDIX 2**. The Prevent Strategy and accompanying action plan has been refreshed to include the new duties for local authorities and partnerships since 1 July 2015 following the introduction of the Counter - Terrorism and Security Act 2015. The new responsibilities require *local authorities* to ensure that publicly owned premises are not used to disseminate extremist views. Maldon District Council may be able to access a one-off grant of £10,000 from the Home Office to facilitate local training within the District. An Officer from the team, Ali Burlington, has already undertaken WRAP (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) training and will be cascading this training to frontline staff and community safety partners.
- 2.1.5 The next scheduled Overview and Scrutiny meeting to discuss the performance of the partnership will be this current meeting on Wednesday 7 October 2015. The annual face the public event was held in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Essex Police on Wednesday 24 June 2015 at Lower Plume School where thirty members of the public attended to discuss a variety of community concerns. A copy of the report and public briefing note on this event can be viewed on the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) website via the following link: <http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk/2015/07/a-lively-public-meeting-in-maldon/>.
- 2.1.6 The partnership continues to carry out public consultation at a number of community events and attendance at action groups (i.e. Neighbourhood Watch, Neighbourhood Meetings, Crimestoppers and forthcoming events such as the Burnham-on-Crouch Carnival and Christmas Fayre) to measure the fear of crime and crime concerns. The current response show the highest crime concern for those responding as **speeding** and **anti-social behaviour** with a majority of responders feeling very safe in the community which they live. Team members ensure that they have knowledge which is current and have also attended training on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Professional Curiosity, Prevent (WRAP), Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, Child Internet Safety, New Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs), Gangs and Vulnerability, Child Sexual Exploitation and Missing Children, Modern Day Slavery and Safeguarding.

## 2.2 Police and Crime Commissioner Update

- 2.2.1 Members should note that the current PCC, Nick Alston, has indicated that he will not be standing for re-election so the process for appointing a new commissioner will commence soon with the election taking place on 7 May 2016.
- 2.2.2 Maldon District Council continues to work closely with the OPCC on a number of strategic issues such as the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Review, Domestic Abuse and Youth Strategy, and has been chosen as a pilot location for Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) for Essex. The IOM review is now complete and the findings of the review have been presented to the Essex Reoffending Board. The VPC troop currently has twenty members and now meets on Thursday evenings operating from Essex Boys and Girls Club. Essex Police will continue to recruit the cadets of which 25% are expected to be from a crime vulnerable background. The cadets will be expected to deliver against the key priorities for each respective community safety partnership. This current troop, the first in Essex, had their passing out ceremony on Saturday 19 September 2015 at 10.30hrs at Essex Police Headquarters and one of their first public tasks will be to attend Burnham-on-Crouch Carnival on 26 September 2015.
- 2.2.3 Core funding for 2015 / 16 has been confirmed and is based on a new formula which combines elements on an area's population (30%), level of deprivation (30%) and crime rate (40%). The level of contribution for 2015 / 16 will decrease by £1,765 to £14,235. The necessary funding forms have been sent to the OPCC and approved and will be paid in quarter 1 and quarter 3. The partnership has also been successful in obtaining funds from the OPCC for an underpass project working with offenders and safeguarding training for taxi drivers from the Community Safety Development Fund and Hidden Harm Fund, which are highlighted later on in this report. A copy of an evaluation carried out by the OPCC on funding for community safety partnerships is attached as **APPENDIX 3**. A copy of the Police and Crime Plan is currently available and can be viewed on the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) website at: [www.essex.pcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pcc.police.uk).

## 2.3 Victim-Offender-Location

- 2.3.1 The 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 where appropriate. Team members regularly attend police tasking on a fortnightly basis and Operation Insight / Element data to ensure that the partnership remains responsive to emerging crime trends such as monitoring of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort and prolific offenders. Members should note that the tasking documents now feature the police high level priorities and, therefore, there is less focus on local policing matters which in turn requires a good working relationship with the neighbourhood policing team and the use of Essex Community Messaging to support local functions.
- 2.3.2 Victim - The Victim sub group which is shared between Chelmsford and Maldon meets on a quarterly basis and monitors repeat and vulnerable victims of crime and anti-social behaviour. It is chaired by the District Commander, Alan Cook. This group has been reviewing complex anti-social behaviour cases to ensure that a joined

up multi-agency response is used to support victims and target perpetrators. The last meeting was held on 10 September 2015 and the next scheduled meeting is on 16 December 2015. The group links well with the Independent Advisory Group which is now receiving good attendance from a number of different community groups and young people. The last IAG meeting was on 17 September 2015 where members will be briefed on Dementia Friendly Communities, Prevent and Gangs & Vulnerability. The group now has representation from the volunteer stop and search panel from Essex Police. The Keep Safe project is a good example of supporting 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 again this year on 19 June 2015 with a joint day of awareness around the County with the Maldon event being held on the promenade. 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. Hate crime awareness days are currently planned 3 October 2015 at the Mayland Fluathon and week commencing 12 October 2015 at Tesco.

**2.3.3** Offender - An officer continues to attend bi-monthly Local Area Groups (LAG) meetings and Drug Testing on Arrest (DTOA) steering group meetings to ensure that the partnership can address any issues which require attention, and as mentioned earlier in the report the Community Safety Manager is linked into the work around Gangs & Vulnerability. He recently attended a MET Police briefing on the impact of Hackney Gangs on Essex and will be attending a Gangs Workshop at Tendring District Council on 22 October 2015. Officers from the community safety team working in partnership with Chelmsford City Council have just completed a project to improve the pedestrian underpass at Mill Lane, Heybridge which has involved members of the IOM cohort and youth offending teams. As mentioned earlier this project was part-funded by the OPCC. Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) has arranged an opportunity for partners to see their new way of working following their transfer to the Sodexo and Nacro partnership. This meeting was held on Wednesday 30 September 2015.

**2.3.4** Location - The Location sub group which is now chaired by Inspector Andy Sawyer and meets quarterly basis and has a very active multi-agency attendance. It monitors a wide range of projects delivered by the partnership together with interventions and education. Projects for the forthcoming year include Crucial Crew for young people, elderly people and adults with learning disabilities, Reality Roadshow, crime prevention workshops, Stay Safe This Summer, Dementia Friendly Communities, Southminster door step club and the underpass project named above. Existing initiatives such as Mayland Boxing Club, Seven Freerun and the Just Play football are monitored on a regular basis. Whilst there are no major ASB hot spots within the district officers continue to monitor reports of youth nuisance, alcohol and substance misuse, and more recently the use of nitrous oxide canisters. The issue to vehicle cruising was discussed at the recent meeting and it was decided to invite the Essex Police Casualty Reduction Manager to the Strategic RAG meeting on 1 October 2015 in order to receive a full briefing. The key work on alcohol continues through the Alcohol Structured Interventions contract for Mid-Essex which commenced on 1 July 2014. This has been commissioned by Essex County Council Public Health and will be delivered by Choices (Open Road and Essex Young People's Drug and Alcohol

Service (EYPDAS)) over a five year period with a contract value of £231,000 per annum.

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

**2.4.1** The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 became effective on 20 October 2014 and introduced simpler, more effective powers to tackle anti-social behaviour that provide better protection for victims and communities. 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 and BAG meeting (Maldon and Burnham Action Groups) 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, ASBOs, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs), mediation, nuisance letters plus any complex cases of note. At the time of writing there are currently ten active cases, six ongoing ABCs and two warning letters served for Community Protection Notices (CPNs). The role requires a good working relationship with housing, environmental enforcement, registered social landlords, neighbourhood policing teams and the Council's ranger service.

**2.4.2** Members may have noted recent press coverage in relation to the Essex Police response to anti-social behaviour following a letter from Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Wortley to local authority Leaders and Chief Executives. The response has been discussed at recent Essex Community Safety Network meeting with key officers from Essex Police and the new ASB policy has been circulated which involves each case being assessed on the new THRIVE call assessment model. This ensures that each report is risk assessed for threat, risk and harm before allocation for a response or to a partner agency (i.e. a noise complaint would be referred to Maldon District Council). The partnership continues to work with Essex Police to ensure that there is a smooth transition whilst these changes are introduced.

## **2.5 Achievements, Successes and Events**

**2.5.1** A training event to educate taxi drivers working in Mid Essex was held on 10 July 2015 at Hylands Pavilion with 52 drivers attending and focussed on safeguarding and child sexual exploitation. It included presentations from Essex Police and Catch 22. This was part-funded by Maldon, Chelmsford and Braintree Councils with matched funding coming from the OPCC Hidden Harm Fund. There have already been some positive outcomes from this training with one driver reporting increased confidence in tackling a safeguarding issue.

**2.5.2** Following the countywide launch of Drug Testing on Arrest on 26 May 2015 Officers continue to support this project by attending the DTOA Steering Group. The number of positive tests has increased significantly since going countywide with recent figures for the first three months showing 37% for the whole of Essex. More importantly, people entering the treatment system via the Criminal Justice System has

increased. The top three testing offences continue to be theft, burglary and Class A drug offences. National statistics suggest that for those who engage in treatment programme there will be a positive impact by reducing their re-offending by 26%. The Community Safety Manager presented on this subject to Safer Essex on 23 September 2015.

## **2.6 Door step clubs**

- 2.6.1** Southminster has continued to run since May 2014 and numbers are between 10 - 20 attendees, ages 15 - 17 years which is our ideal target age group. However, volunteers are needed to ensure sustainability. Current funding for this project ceases in November 2015 so further funding options are being sought.

## **2.7 Mill Lane underpass project**

- 2.7.1** The artwork at the A414 Mill Lane underpass is complete and has received some excellent press coverage and glowing reports from local users of the underpass. The original ideas for the completed artwork came from students of the Plume School with the graffiti artist Brave Art carrying out the design and painting with officers and young offenders. The official opening was carried out by Councillor Henry Bass, Vice-Chairman of the Council and Lindsay Whitehouse, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner on 2 September 2015 with Councillors Ian Dobson and Ron Pratt also in attendance. Essex County Council has also installed lighting at the underpass and CCTV will be installed in the near future.

## **2.8 Crucial Crew**

- 2.8.1** An educational event for all year six students took place on 21 - 25 September 2015 at the Stow Maries Aerodrome Centre. Sets included park safety, internet and chat room safety, alcohol awareness, fire safety, road safety, waste and recycling, anti-bullying and first aid. This involved partner agencies from the Plume School, Essex Police, Alcoholhelp, Essex County Council road safety, East of England Ambulance Service, Essex Fire & Rescue and Officers from the directorate of Customers and Community.

## **2.9 Stay Safe This Summer**

- 2.9.1** An educational event was held in July 2015 at the Plume School to deliver awareness around alcohol and substance misuse. There was a particular emphasis on the use of Legal Highs and over 300 students attended the session.

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

- 3.1** These priorities contribute to the Council's Corporate Goal of "Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy" and are highlighted as activities in the new business plan for the directorate for 2015 / 16.

#### 4. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Members should note that ASB Coordinator role is now fully funded by Maldon District Council. Additional revenue cost of £15,000 per annum for 2015 / 16 and following years.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – As above.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 That Members note the progress on the delivery plan for 2015 / 16 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 2015 / 16 and the success of the initiatives undertaken by the Partnership.

Background Papers: Appendix 1 – Essex Police Performance Summary (July 2015), Appendix 2 – Essex Police High Priority Strategic Themes and Appendix 3 – OPCC Evaluation of CSP Funding

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