



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

to

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (MEETING AS THE CRIME AND
DISORDER COMMITTEE)
22 OCTOBER 2020**

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 (CSP) since the last meeting held on 14 November 2019 and be aware of the proposed strategic priorities for 2020 / 21. The scheduled meeting on 19 March 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members review and comment on the current progress of the initiatives undertaken by the partnership to date and note the strategic priorities for 2020 / 21 and note the completed recommendations of the internal audit of the Community Safety Partnership.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 Statutory Duties

- 3.1.1 The strategic assessment was approved at the meeting of the Responsible Authorities Group on 6 February 2020 and the priorities for 2020 / 21 were endorsed. The priorities, listed below, reflect priorities already identified in the current Police and Crime Plan, the Essex Police Crime Prevention Strategy and the current Essex Police Strategic Assessment (control strategy). These priorities were highlighted on the Maldon District Council website. It should be noted that reducing reoffending remains a statutory function for all community safety partnerships and is embedded in the priorities listed below.

- Tackling crime and reducing reoffending (with an emphasis on violent crime, gangs and drug trafficking);
- Driving down anti-social behaviour in public places (with an emphasis on youth nuisance and improving partnership visibility);
- Identifying and supporting vulnerable people (with an emphasis on domestic abuse, social isolation, suicide prevention, mental health and hate crime);
- Increase confidence in identifying and reducing rural crime;
- Promoting road safety and challenging irresponsible driving.

- 3.1.2 These priorities will contribute to the Council’s Corporate Goal of “Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy” and are highlighted as activities in the community safety action plan for 2020 / 21. Each activity has a clear timescale with a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) rating, proposed financial spend and milestone to enable performance monitoring of each project associated to the activity. This was a recommendation of the recent internal audit. Activities are reported quarterly to the Responsible Authorities Group, with a finance report and monthly through the community safety partnership hub tasking meetings. Meetings of the strategic group and the hub are diarised until March 2021.
- 3.1.3 The current Essex Police Maldon performance figures for the rolling year to 30 September 2020 (compared to the same period last year) showed a decrease in all crime by **2.1%** (77 less offences) and an increase in anti-social behaviour by **15.7%** (133 more incidents). It should be noted that there has been a decrease in all crime in Essex by 5.5% with an increase in anti-social behaviour by 12%. A summary of the crime profile for Maldon will be presented at the meeting by Chief Inspector Steve Scott-Haynes from the Chelmsford and Maldon Community Policing Team. A copy of the Essex Police force performance summary for the county is attached as **APPENDIX 1**. Some more local context of the issues surrounding these crime increases will be given at the meeting. The impact of Covid-19 has had a positive impact in terms of reported crime. However, there has been an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) reports to the police and local authority during and post lockdown which is a combination of nuisance behaviour, noise, fly tipping, neighbour disputes and reports of Covid-19 breaches around social distancing. The District Council has received numerous service requests for ASB and fly tipping since 1 April 2020 to the present day. The police analyst has been monitoring these figures for the partnership since March 2020. Another area of increase during lockdown has been for domestic abuse support and the Essex Compass has seen an increase for services during the last six months.
- 3.1.4 The Essex Prevent Action Plan has been completed and is monitored on a quarterly basis at the Prevent Multi-Agency Group. The Maldon CSP Prevent action plan has been refreshed to accommodate these changes. Officers continue to work with the Prevent Team and local Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA) to ensure that local risks are addressed. Officers continue to engage with communities through the Independent Advisory Group which has been meeting monthly on Zoom during the Covid-19 crisis. The last meeting being held on 14 September 2020. This acts as a good forum to discuss community tensions, hate crime and policing interventions such as stop and search, and gives a voice to underrepresented communities. The Community Safety Manager has been attending the Excess Death and Bereavements meetings throughout the crisis and is now a member of the county Faith and Communities Tactical Coordination Group.
- 3.1.5 The partnership has a duty in relation to Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking under the Modern Slavery Act 2005 and as highlighted in the previous report there has been several training sessions delivered and links made with the Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit at Essex Police. A virtual workshop for sixty members of partner agencies in Maldon has been arranged for 14 October 2020. My Mind is Free is being delivered by the Rah Rah Theatre Company with funding supplied by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The Local Government Association has

recently published a useful document on this subject:
<http://www.local.gov.uk/topics/community-safety/modern-slavery>.

3.2 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Update

- 3.2.1 The partnership continues to support the priorities identified in the Police and Crime Plan which has been extended for a further year:
<https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/20200625-Police-Crime-Plan-Extension-DMH-V.04.pdf>.
- 3.2.2 Works continue with several multi-agency groups that support this work locally and across Essex. The Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) has confirmed that core funding for Maldon in 2020 / 21 will be **£12,527**. The Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) will continue throughout 2020 / 21 for partnerships, charities and community groups to access funds which support the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. However, funding for the first round of the CSDF Officers has been earmarked for charities who deliver on the community safety agenda who are being affected by the Covid-19 crisis. Last year's funding assisted financial support for several local initiatives. Funding has also been awarded to pan Essex projects such as Neighbourhood Watch, CrimeStoppers, J9, Stop Hate UK and the Modern Slavery Helpline. The PFCC has also recently allocated more than £700,000 to organisations in Essex helping to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence: <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/news/pfcc-gives-more-than-700000-to-organisations-helping-to-support-victims-and-survivors-of-domestic-abuse-and-sexual-violence/>.
- 3.2.3 The Police, Fire and Crime Panel (PFCP) approved a further increase in the council tax precept for 2020/21 which will see recruitment of another 151 extra officers in 2020 / 21, an increase of 519 officers in the last three years. The Maldon representative for the PFCP is Councillor Michael Helm. A breakdown of precepts for 2020/21 can be found at: <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/EPFCC-Council-tax-precept-leaflet-A5-WEB.pdf>.
- 3.2.4 Last year's increase in policing numbers saw the introduction of Town Centre Teams for Maldon, Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers and the Rural Engagement Team (RET) has also doubled in size which supports the priority of tackling rural crime and is now working very closely with the Council's community engagement officers. As previously reported, last year, the OFPCC made a bid on behalf of Essex to the Home Office early intervention youth fund which was successful and £664,000 has been allocated to Essex to address youth violence. Essex County Council has also contributed £500,000 to this budget for 2019 / 20 and a further £1,160,000 was awarded in September 2019 following a successful bid for the Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VUU). This has seen a central Violence and Vulnerability unit set up in the community safety partnership hub with a budget of approximately £2.2 million for Essex. The Community Safety Manager attends the Violence and Vulnerability Operations Board which reports into a Strategic Board. Officers are involved in the various workstreams from this strategic group: Few Causing Most Harm and Voice of Communities. It should be noted that in addition to funding above the VRU has been successful in being awarded a further £1.1 million for 2020 / 21 through a bidding process and the OPFCC will be topping up this fund by £200,000

and ECC by £500,000 for 2020 / 21. For further information on the VVU they can now be followed on Twitter @EssexVVU.

3.3 **Community Safety Partnership Hub and Progress Update**

- 3.3.1 The Community Safety Partnership Hub for Chelmsford and Maldon meets monthly and has a tasking process which links to the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Tasking has migrated to Microsoft Teams during the Covid-19 crisis with the most recent meeting being on 15 September 2020. There is an individual action plan for Maldon CSP plus a tasking update which is monitored to ensure that partner actions are completed and performance managed. A copy of the current Maldon CSP action plan is attached as **APPENDIX 2**. Subgroups 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. Regular attendees at tasking include council officers and CCTV staff, community policing team, Youth Offending Services, Essex Community Rehabilitation Company, Family Solutions, Peabody, Phoenix Futures, Children’s Health & Wellbeing Service, The Children’s Society, Neighbourhood Watch, Open Road and Social Care with other partners supporting the process when necessary (analytical support, serious organised crime, intelligence etc.). The community safety hub is occupied by CSP officers, the Community Policing Team, the Town Centre Unit and the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU). This has already improved joint working within the respective teams which will provide a much better service for the public in terms of performance, visibility and reassurance. This facility was highlighted as good practice in a recent “Investors in the People” assessment for Chelmsford City Council and during an audit of hubs for the PFCC.
- 3.3.2 Officers attend the MACE 1 and MACE 2 (Missing and Child Exploitation) meetings on Microsoft Teams to ensure that the needs of vulnerable children for the district are addressed and that processes are in place to tackle the criminal and sexual exploitation of young people. Officers also attend Mid-Essex Stay Safe, Mid-Essex Children’s Partnership Board (MECPB), Chelmsford & Maldon Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (BAP), Maldon Youth Strategy Group and the County Safeguarding Leads meeting. Members should be aware that the MACE and BAP groups were both awarded funding by the VVU to support young people who are on the cusp of exclusion or deemed high risk in terms of vulnerability. The bi-monthly ASB forum held with local schools and other partners addresses youth issues and act as appoint of early intervention before behaviour escalates. This forum has paused during the Covid-19 crisis but will commence again in the new academic year and now links better with the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership. Operation Enlightenment continues to prove successful and every secondary school in Maldon, and William de Ferrers in Chelmsford (Maldon catchment) is allocated with a dedicated officer who is a point of contact for issues, poor behaviour and an early intervention opportunity. Officers continue to support registered social landlords in tackling anti-social behaviours cases which in time should upskill partners to enable them to tackle anti-social behaviour more effectively and improve data sharing and intelligence. More complex neighbour disputes are dealt with on a case by case basis. Officers also meet with the community mental health teams on a bi-monthly basis to discuss complex cases and support arrangements for vulnerable persons, the most recent meeting being held on 7 August 2020. The partnership has supported Neighbourhood Watch

(NHW) throughout the Covid-19 crisis and has migrated members to Microsoft Teams which enabled them to continue ongoing dialogue.

- 3.3.3 The community safety team has been busy supporting agencies during the current crisis and has been focussing on delivering general safeguarding and enhanced training on virtual platforms. A suicide awareness flow chart has also been devised to provide basic training on how to respond to threats. Meetings have been held to consider communications and the partnership will be producing a bi-annual newsletter for the community and increasing its social media presence under the Safer Maldon banner. A new police officer, PC Chris Major, is now working in the hub and his role is a new post: Community Safety Engagement Officer which will be dedicated to improving engagement with our communities and will involve engagement on virtual platforms such as Facebook live events. Officers also supported by Essex County Fire and Rescue Services (ECFRS) and other partners deliver a Safe, Well and Secure day of action on 2 and 3 September 2020 in Burnham-on-Crouch. This included the delivery of door step organisation referral sheets and providing free smoke alarms to those residents who do not have them (home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk). Over 800 homes were visited on the two days with 40 referrals being made for a variety of services. Officers from the community safety and community engagement teams will also be supporting a week of action in October to tackle metal theft and illegal waste carriers in partnership with the Essex Police Rural Engagement Team and HMRC. The High Sheriff of Essex attended the first day of action on 12 October 2020. The team has also been supporting Hate Crime Awareness Week by providing daily social media posts for the week (12 – 16 October 2020).
- 3.3.4 The capital project funded by Maldon District Council to replace the CCTV system for Maldon is now complete. A contract for capital works was awarded to Link CCTV Systems and commenced on 1 April 2020. This has seen virtually every camera in Maldon migrate to digital high definition units with full connectivity over a secure video management system and extended areas of coverage. This has seen several corporate sites upgraded including the High Street, Promenade Park, Hythe Quay, Riverside Park in Burnham-on-Crouch and two community centres at Brickhouse Farm and West Maldon. These images have been remotely monitored at the Chelmsford CCTV Control Centre since 1 July 2020 by skilled CCTV operators who are licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and accredited officers under the Essex Police CSAS scheme. This project was officially unveiled by the then Chairman of Maldon District Council, Councillor Bob Boyce soon after the cameras went “live”. These cameras have already been used in several incidents but have also enabled the District Council to make more informed decisions during the Covid-19 crisis around social distancing and the High Street works. Officers have also been assisting Burnham Town Council in the design of a system to cover Burnham-on-Crouch High Street and the quay area.
- 3.3.5 Current concerns for the partnership hub focus around violence and vulnerability, and disruption of organised crime together with monitoring “hot spots” such as Maldon High Street, Promenade Park, Hythe Quay and some of the parks across the district where young people are congregating and consuming alcohol and using nitrous oxide canisters. Officers are currently reviewing the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) for the district with a view to extending the coverage to include the High Street, Hythe Quay and Promenade Park to include alcohol and drug misuse. The continued use of Operations Aegis, Overwatch and Sceptre are proving successful and

in recent weeks there have been significant arrests to disrupt both local and County Line drug networks. Another area which has been highlighted during the lockdown measures is the use of inland waterways: Hoe Mill Lock and Beeleigh Falls. There has been issues with anti-social behaviour, litter, drunkenness and dangerous parking. The South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) has increased patrols to tackle the parking issues in this area and a multi-agency meeting was held on 16 July 2020 to tackle the other problems which will result in effective signage being introduced together with days of action to follow as necessary.

- 3.3.6 The community safety function was subject to an internal audit by BDO in April 2020 with a final report being considered by Maldon District Councils Performance, Governance and Audit Committee on 30 July 2020. The audit received a “moderate” level of assurance for design and operational effectiveness. A copy of the final report was discussed by Responsible Authority Group (RAG) Members at the last meeting held on 8 September 2020 and it was agreed that the highlighted recommendations were complete, and this be reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 October 2020 for sign off. A copy of the report can be accessed on the following link: <https://democracy.maldon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=284&MIId=2179&Ver=4>

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 That Members note the proposed priorities for 2020 / 21 and progress on the CSP action plan. The shared working arrangements between Maldon and Chelmsford continue to support local priorities, high level policing priorities and the priorities of the current PFCC plan and has strengthened with the co-location of the community policing team in March 2019 and additional policing resources in town centres and rural areas. Maldon CSP remains efficient and responsive to emerging issues and more importantly positions itself strongly for future funding arrangements with the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, statutory partners and local / national initiatives.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 These priorities contribute to the Council’s Performance and Efficiency Theme and Planning for the Future Theme, specifically contributing to, “Helping communities to be safe, active and healthy” and are highlighted as activities in the corporate plan.

6. 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 sustainable funding of posts to cover statutory duties will remain a challenge but remain manageable whilst we receive an annual OPFCC grant.

(v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – As above.

(vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 (Essex Police Performance Summary)

Appendix 2 (Maldon CSP Action Plan)

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