



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

---

to

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (MEETING AS THE CRIME AND  
DISORDER COMMITTEE)  
11 MARCH 2021**

**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 22 October 2020 and to inform Members of the strategic priorities for 2021 / 22 (listed in paragraph 3.1.1 below).

**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 2021 / 22.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

**3.1 Statutory Duties**

- 3.1.1 The strategic assessment will be presented at the meeting of the Responsible Authorities Group on 4 March 2021 and the priorities for 2021 / 22 will remain the same as the previous year following a countywide decision to endorse this due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. 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. It should be noted that Essex Police will launch a new Crime Prevention Strategy on 16 March 2021 which has been to Safer Essex as part of the consultation process. The current priorities are 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 Strategic Theme 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 as per recommendations 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 for the calendar year with the next meeting (at the time of writing) being held on 4 March 2021.
- 3.1.3 The current Essex Police Maldon performance figures for the rolling year to 31 January 2021 (compared to the same period last year) showed a decrease in all crime by **2.9%** (108 less offences) and an increase in anti-social behaviour by **56.5%** (456 more incidents). It should be noted that there has been a decrease in all crime in Essex by 10.5% with an increase in anti-social behaviour by 34.4%. A summary of the crime profile for Maldon will be presented at the meeting by Inspector Kelly Thurston from the Community Policing Team. A copy of the Essex Police force performance summary for the county is attached as **APPENDIX 1**. Some more local contexts 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 Council’s Community Engagement Officers have been doing joint patrols with Essex Police under Operation Talla to reinforce the message around social distancing which is a recommendation but not law.
- 3.1.4 Officers continue to work with the Prevent Team and local Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA) to ensure that local risks are addressed. The Community Safety Manager attended the County Prevent Group on 9 February 2021. The next CTLP (Counter Terrorism Local Profile) briefing (at the time of writing) is on 4 March 2021. It should be noted that the terrorist alert has recently been reduced to substantial. 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 was held on 25 January 2021. 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 is also 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 partner agencies in Maldon was arranged for 14 October 2020. My Mind is Free was delivered by the Rah Rah Theatre Company with funding supplied by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. Officers are continuing to work with colleagues across Essex to see what further measures can be put in place to tackle modern day 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 was extended for a further year following the decision to delay the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) election for one year. A copy of the PFCC annual report for 2019 / 20 can be found at: [20210201-Annual-Report-2019-2020.pdf \(pfcc.police.uk\)](https://www.pfcc.police.uk/20210201-Annual-Report-2019-2020.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 2021 / 22 will be **£12,527**. The Community Safety Development Fund (CSDF) will continue throughout 2021 / 22 for partnerships, charities and community groups to access funds which support the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. Funding for the first round of the CSDF was awarded to charities who deliver on the community safety agenda who are being affected by the Covid-19 crisis. Last year's funding assisted in 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 allocated more than £700,000 to organisations in Essex 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 2021 / 22 (4.98% or £9.90 per annum for a Band D property) for policing which will see recruitment of another 184 extra officers in 2021 / 22. There will be no increase in the precept for fire services. The Maldon representative for the PFCP is Councillor Mark Heard. An article on the explanation of the precept increase can be found at: [Building a safe and secure Essex - Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner \(pfcc.police.uk\)](https://www.pfcc.police.uk/building-a-safe-and-secure-essex-essex-police-fire-crime-commissioner).
- 3.2.4 The total of extra officers for Essex since 2016 by April 2021 will be 519. More locally the increase in policing numbers saw the introduction of Town Centre Teams for Maldon, Chelmsford and South Woodham Ferrers, the introduction of Community Safety Engagement Officers and the reintroduction of the Marine Unit (based at Burnham-on-Crouch), a new Business Crime Team 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, the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU) was established with members seconded from Essex Police, Essex County Council (YOT) and Probation and has seen Home Office funding to the value of £3.584 million brought in Essex in 2018 / 19 and 2019 / 20. The VVU is hosted by Chelmsford City Council in the community safety partnership hub shared with Maldon CSP officers. The Community Safety Manager attends the Violence and Vulnerability Operations Board which reports to a Strategic Board (Roundtable). Officers are involved in the various workstreams of this strategic group: Few Causing Most Harm and Voice of Communities. It should be noted that in addition to funding above the VRU was successful in being awarded a further £1.1 million for 2020 / 21 through a bidding process and the OPFCC topped this fund by £200,000 and Essex County Council (ECC) by £500,000 for 2020 / 21. The Home Office has also confirmed that the unit will receive £1.16 million for 2021 / 22. For further information on the VVU they can now be followed on Twitter @EssexVVU. An annual report on the work of the VVU

has recently been submitted to the Home Office and a summary will be available for partners soon.

### 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 18 February 2021. 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, ECC Youth Services and 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.

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. Members should be aware that the MACE and Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (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 acts as a point of early intervention before behaviour escalates. This forum has paused during the Covid-19 crisis but will commence again once lockdown eases now links better with the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership. 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 people. 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 and access training opportunities such as the session on 23 February 2021 providing advice on Fraud, Scams and Cyber Protection Online. Officers also attend Mid-Essex Stay Safe, Mid-Essex Children's Partnership Board (MECPB), Chelmsford and Maldon Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (BAP), Maldon Youth Strategy Group, Safer Essex, Essex Community Safety Network, County Prevent Group and the County Safeguarding Leads meeting.

- 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. New police officers, PC Chris Major (Chelmsford) and PC Rosie Smith (Maldon), are now working in the hub as Community Safety Engagement Officers which will be dedicated to improving engagement with our communities and will involve engagement on virtual platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. A copy of the Essex Police monthly newsletter is circulated to elected members and has received good feedback. In September, officers supported Essex County Fire and Rescue Services (ECFRS) and other partners to deliver a Safe, Well and Secure in Burnham-on-Crouch. There will be an opportunity to increase this type of engagement in the Dengie with the pilot of a new tri-service role with a new officer funded by police, fire and the ambulance service. Officers from the community safety and community engagement teams also supported a week of action in October to tackle metal theft and illegal waste carriers in partnership with the Essex Police Rural Engagement Team and HM Revenue and Customs (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 in October 2020 and will be arranging hate crime training in March 2021.
- 3.3.4 The capital project funded by Maldon District Council to replace the CCTV system for Maldon is now complete. 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 Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS). 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 by providing pedestrian counts and to keep a watchful eye on river levels during storm surges in the autumn. From inception to the present day the system has been used for 72 logged incidents which has resulted in six arrests ranging from drug supply, public order to vulnerable missing persons. 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 on 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 Maldon High Street, Hythe Quay and Promenade Park, and Burnham Riverside Park to include alcohol and drug misuse. Members have approved the plans to move the PSPO to consultation stage which will open in March 2021. 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.

- 3.3.6 The partnership continues to promote referral pathways for victims of domestic abuse and recently presented at the Parish Clerks Forum on 20 January 2021 on this subject. A copy of the presentation is attached as **APPENDIX 3**. It has also arranged community J9 training sessions throughout the year and more recent sessions for elected members on 11 February 2021 and 16 March 2021.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 That Members note the proposed priorities for 2021 / 22 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 CORPORATE GOALS**

- 5.1 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 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)
- Appendix 3 (Parish Clerks Presentation)

Enquiries to: Spencer Clarke, Community Safety Manager.