



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

to
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (MEETING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER
COMMITTEE)**
2 MARCH 2023

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 20 October 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members review and comment on the current progress of the initiatives undertaken by the partnership to date.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 Statutory Duties

- 3.1.1 Officers are currently completing the strategic assessment, and this will be presented to the Responsible Authorities Group on 23 March 2023 for endorsement. A data review and crime risk matrix scoring exercise is complete. The headline priorities listed below are likely to remain the same as the previous year with some changes to the narrative based on the current risks. The proposed priorities, listed below, reflect priorities already identified in the revised Police and Crime Plan, the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy, and the current Essex Police Strategic Assessment. Officers are also working on Operation Minerva data (female victimisation) to establish areas of risk within the district which may also impact on priorities.

- 3.1.2 The current priorities are highlighted on the Maldon District Council (MDC) 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, drug trafficking and high harm offences);
- 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, violence against women and girls, social isolation, suicide prevention, mental health and hate crime);
- Increase confidence in identifying and reducing rural crime;
- Promoting road safety and challenging irresponsible driving.

- 3.1.3 These priorities will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-23 for the Community, with the goal being "Through our projects, actions, communication, partnerships and policies we will work to support our communities, the health and well-being of our residents, and to provide safe and clean places to live in and enjoy." Projects are highlighted as activities in the community safety action plan for 2022 / 23. Each activity has a clear timescale with a 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 internal audit from 2020. Activities are reported quarterly to the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG), through a finance report and monthly through the community safety partnership hub tasking meetings. It should be noted that the activities of the partnership have recently been subject to the audit process again and the report will be presented at the March Performance, Governance & Audit Committee.
- 3.1.4 The current Essex Police Maldon performance figures for the rolling year to 31 January 2023 (compared to the same period last year) showed a decrease in all crime by **1%** (35 less offences) and a decrease in anti-social behaviour (ASB) by **40.5%** (322 less incidents). It should be noted that there has been an increase in all crime in Essex by 1.6% with a decrease in ASB by 34.3%. A summary of the crime profile for Maldon will be presented at the meeting by a representative from the community policing team. A copy of the Essex Police force performance summary for the county is attached as **APPENDIX 1**. Whilst there has been a decrease in ASB reports to the police, local authority reports continue to be high which is a combination of nuisance behaviour, noise, fly tipping and neighbour disputes. The Council's community engagement officers have been doing joint patrols with Essex Police and other agencies during these busy periods.
- 3.1.5 Officers continue to work with the Essex Police to ensure that local risks are addressed. The Community Safety Manager (CSM) chairs the Essex County Prevent Group and attends the Essex Contest Board. The most recent Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) briefing (Quarter 3) was held on 21 February 2023 and strategic members have been briefed on current risks. The current UK threat remains at "SUBSTANTIAL". Recent work around Prevent has included the delivery of training to schools and early years settings, delivery of training to elected members, and learning sessions on anti-minority narratives, exploring neurodiversity and Incels (online subculture of people who define themselves)/social media influencers. Officers continue to engage with communities through the Independent Advisory Group which meets every two months. The last meeting was held on 23 January 2023. 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 CSM is also a member of the Special Interest Group in Countering Extremism (SIGCE). Local benchmarking for Prevent will be carried out with the Home Office on 22 February 2023. It should be noted that the Independent Review of Prevent by William Shawcross was published on 8 February 2023: [Independent Review of Prevent's report and government response - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-review-of-prevent-report-and-government-response)
- 3.1.6 Forward scanning, new duties that will impact on the work of the partnership will be the Serious Violence Duty (detailed guidance published on 16 December 2022) and the Protect Duty (Martyn's Law) which will come into force next year with draft legislation being available in Spring 2023. Safer Essex has agreed that all districts will work to a pan Essex duty in relation to serious violence and that the Essex Violence Reduction Unit will lead on the preparation of a local needs assessment, linking in with the Health and Wellbeing Boards and the Essex Strategic Coordination Group. The Home Office have also committed to undertake a "full review" of community safety partnerships across England and Wales, to identify how (if at all)

they can increase their overall effectiveness in protecting local communities from crime and ASB.

3.2 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Update

- 3.2.1 Roger Hirst was re-elected as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) following an election on 6 May 2021. The partnership continues to support the priorities identified in the refreshed Police and Crime Plan which was extended until 2024. The most recent public meeting for Maldon was held on 16 May 2022 as a virtual meeting on Zoom linked with Facebook live.
- 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) confirmed that core funding for Maldon in 2022 / 23 was **£12,527** and the necessary funding forms were completed and returned as part of the funding agreement. It has been confirmed that this sum will remain the same for 2023 / 24 following our annual review with the PFCC's office on 27 January 2023. The Essex Crime Prevention Fund will continue throughout 2022 / 23 for partnerships, charities, and community groups to access funds which support the priorities of the Police and Crime Plan. The Community Safety Development Fund is open until 17 February 2023. Two countywide projects that were recently approved for funding were for Cleansheet and The Children's Society. The Police, Fire and Crime Panel (PFCP) approved an increase in the council tax precept for 2023 / 24 on 7 February 2023 (£14.94 for Essex Police and £4.95 for ECFRS per annum for a Band D property): [Creating a safe and secure Essex - Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner \(pfcc.police.uk\)](#)
- 3.2.3 The Maldon representative for the PFCP is Councillor Bruce B Heubner who is also the MDC representative for Responsible Authorities Group as agreed at the annual meeting of MDC, with Councillor Mark Heard acting as substitute. Members may be interested in attending the Rural Crime Open Day which is being held at Layer Marney Tower on 10 March 2023: [Rural Crime Event - Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner \(pfcc.police.uk\)](#)
- 3.2.4 More locally the increase in policing numbers in recent years 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. These new posts will see further increases in town centre and community policing teams, more officers to tackle violence in all forms, more for crime investigation and to tackle organised crime. There has been the introduction of a tri-service pilot to cover the Dengie which is an officer role funded by Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and East of England Ambulance Service. There was also the launch of the initiative to patrol the coastline and waterways of Essex in July 2021 that has included the joint purchase of jet skis for officer use. There is now a community policing team presence based at MDC Offices and is led by Sgt Matt Dalby.
- 3.2.5 As previously reported, the Essex Violence Vulnerability Unit (VVU) was established with members seconded from Essex Police, County Council, Youth Offending Teams (YOT) and Probation and has seen significant Home Office funding come to Essex in 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21. The VVU has recently jointly funded a new knife amnesty bin for Maldon which was installed on 16 January 2023 at Promenade Park. This effective unit now has agreed funding for the next three years (until 31 March 2025) from the Home Office together with annual contributions from the PFCC and

Essex County Council. For further information on the VVU they can now be followed on Twitter [@EssexVVU](https://twitter.com/EssexVVU) or on the new VVU website: www.essexvvu.co.uk

3.3 Community Safety Partnership Hub and Progress Update

- 3.3.1 The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Hub for Chelmsford and Maldon meets bi-monthly and has a tasking process which links to the priorities of the CSP. Tasking has continued to use Microsoft Teams and receives good attendance from a variety of partners. The community safety team also attend fortnightly local tasking with Essex Police. 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. 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, Probation, Family Solutions, Peabody, Phoenix Futures, Children's Health & Wellbeing Service, The Children's Society, Neighbourhood Watch, Open Road, Community 360 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 community safety partnership officers, the Community Policing Team, the Town Centre Unit, ECFRS and Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System. 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. The community policing team now has a hub at the MDC offices comprising of one sergeant and five police constables.
- 3.3.2 Officers attend the MACE 1 and MACE 2 (Missing and Child Exploitation) meetings, and the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership (BAP) 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 continue to support registered social landlords in tackling anti-social behaviour cases which in time should upskill partners to enable them to tackle anti-social behaviour more effectively and improve data sharing and intelligence. The most recent meeting of this forum was 9 February 2023. 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 supported Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) throughout the pandemic and migrated members to Microsoft Teams. Hybrid meetings are now held with the meetings alternating between Maldon and Chelmsford with the last meeting being held on 24 January 2023. Officers also attend Mid-Essex Stay Safe, Mid-Essex Children's Partnership Board (MECPB), Chelmsford & Maldon BAP, Maldon Youth Strategy Group, Safer Essex, Essex Community Safety Network, County Prevent Group, Essex Contest Board, SIGCE, Essex CCTV User Group and the County Safeguarding Leads meeting.
- 3.3.3 The Community Safety Engagement Officer (CSEO) role for Maldon 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 was initially circulated to elected members and parishes and received good feedback. However, this moved to a weekly e-newsletter in August 2022: Dispatch, Maldon Edition. The CSEO works closely with Community Engagement Officers and the tri-service role funded by police, fire, and the ambulance service. This work has involved the creation of a fraud aware booklet for distribution in rural communities, delivering safe and well inspections, supporting numerous events and

recent partnership working in Burnham-on-Crouch, Southminster, Heybridge, Bradwell, Tollesbury and Heybridge to look at various areas of public concern.

3.3.4 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. The continued use of Operations Trespass, Aegis, Overwatch and Sceptre are proving successful and in recent months there have been significant arrests to disrupt both local and County Line drug networks. Essex County Fire & Rescue Service has recently presented some case studies in relation to fire fatalities whereby the victims were living alone, socially isolated with hoarding tendencies and this is an area of work the partnership is keen to address by working with communities to help with early identification.

3.3.5 Crucial Crew was delivered to Year 6 primary school students in May 2022 with a mixture of face-to-face and virtual delivery using a provider called Tic Box Productions, this production and workshop focussed on exploitation and awareness around knife crime and drugs. This has been booked for 13 – 15 June 2023 for the coming year. The community safety team worked with partners to deliver a safety awareness event at Promenade Park which included a cycle marking initiative on 8 April 2022. Similar events were held on 11 August and 31 August 2022 in Tollesbury and Burnham-on-Crouch. Officers from MDC, Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS), Crimestoppers and Essex Watch all attended and there was some positive engagement with the public. A Senior Safety Silver Sunday event was organised on 3 October 2022 at Maldon Football Stadium for over 65s and over eighty persons attended this event. The event was delivered with the Safer Chelmsford Partnership, Essex Police, ECFRS, health providers, ECC Trading Standards and NHS East of England Ambulance Service, and a variety of contributing partners. Maldon Youth Strategy has funded a professional drama by a professional drama company to be delivered in both secondary schools. The drama: ‘Unacceptable’, focused on tackling sexism, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment against young women. The community safety and community engagement team are involved in several initiatives across the district that impact on community safety:

- Maldon Street Week was held on 29 July – 5 August 2022
- Public engagement events in Maldon, Heybridge, Tollesbury and Burnham-on-Crouch
- Trucam is currently being delivered across 18 parishes at 45 different locations and a new unit has been ordered to improve capability
- PREVENT Duty met and scored 3 (standard met) by Home Office
- Effective use and joint working using CCTV with annual compliance reported to Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner
- Safeguarding awareness training delivered
- Hate crime awareness sessions in Burnham-on-Crouch and supporting hate crime awareness week
- Joint patrols with Essex Police and the Tri Service Officer to tackle community concerns
- Officers have recently gone through the Essex Police Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) reaccreditation process and are now accredited until 31 January 2025
- Close working relationship with Essex Police RET to tackle issues such as fly tipping and unlicensed waste carriers
- Partnership working with Essex Police in the form of joint patrols to encourage responsible dog ownership

- Supporting Coffee with Cops
- Joint patrols with ECC Youth Service at key locations
- Intelligence sharing with secondary schools to safeguard any identified vulnerable persons
- Engagement with youths through the Just Play football initiative
- J9 Domestic abuse awareness training supporting domestic abuse awareness week
- Healthy relationships and exploitation awareness sessions for schools
- Operation Snowy was delivered on 21 December 2022 with the Business Crime Team
- A new knife amnesty bin was installed at Promenade Park on 16 January 2023

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 That Members note the proposed priorities for 2023 / 24 and progress on the community safety partnership. The shared working arrangements between Maldon and Chelmsford continue to support local priorities, high level policing priorities and the priorities of the revised PFCC plan has strengthened with the co-location of the community policing team in March 2019 and additional policing resources in town centres and rural areas. The increased footprint for the community policing team at MDC offices will strengthen this partnership further. 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 vision of “Through our projects, actions, communication, partnerships and policies we will work to support our communities, the health and well-being of our residents, and to provide safe and clean places to live in and enjoy.”

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 PFCC grant.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – As above.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 (Essex Police Performance Summary)

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