



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY**

to
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (MEETING AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER
COMMITTEE)**
10 OCTOBER 2024

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 29 February 2024.

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 The Maldon strategic assessment was endorsed by the Responsible Authorities Group on 14 March 2024. This process involves a crime data review, crime risk matrix scoring and analysis of public perception data. The crime risk matrix scores for Maldon District showed the following offences of highest concern: domestic abuse (high and medium risk), rape, trafficking of drugs, robbery, and dwelling burglary. The strategic group agreed the following priorities and narratives which are highlighted on the Maldon District Council (MDC) website:

- Tackling crime and reducing reoffending (with an emphasis on serious violence, 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, poor mental health, hate crime and a proactive approach to those at risk of exploitation)
- Increase confidence in identifying and reducing rural crime (focussing on acquisitive crime)
- Promoting road safety and challenging irresponsible driving

- 3.1.2 These reflect priorities already identified in the current Police and Crime Plan, the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy, MDC's Corporate Plan (2023-27), One Maldon District priorities and the Essex Police Strategic Assessment. The joint strategic needs assessment that is now a requirement under the Serious Violence Duty has

been completed by Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU) and officers receive monthly data sets on Power Bi from the data scientist to help identify trends and ward hotspots in the district.

- 3.1.3 The current Essex Police Maldon performance figures for the rolling year to 31 August 2024 (compared to the same period last year) showed an increase in all crime by **0.0%** (1 more offences) and a decrease in anti-social behaviour by **5.3%** (14 less incidents). A summary of the crime profile for Maldon will be presented at the meeting by Chief Inspector Paul Ballard. A copy of the Essex Police force performance summary for the county is attached as **APPENDIX 1**. The partnership also receives a monthly data pack for hate crime which is shared with community safety partners and the Independent Advisory Group (IAG).
- 3.1.4 Officers continue to work with the Essex Police and partners to ensure that local risks are addressed in relation to the Prevent agenda (preventing violent extremism). The Community Safety Manager (CSM) chairs the Essex Prevent Delivery Group that reports back to the Essex Local Contest Board and Safer Essex. The partnership receives a regular briefing called the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and regional priorities are extreme right-wing terrorism, self-initiated terrorism, extremism in prison, and the online risk being an enabler. The local benchmarking for Prevent was completed with the Home Office in March 2024 and members will note that we are exceeding or met in all areas with one area for improvement being communications and engagement. However, during the recent disorder across the country in August 2024 the response to disinformation worked well and was effectively led by the Essex Communications Group.
- 3.1.5 As mentioned earlier in this report, Essex VVU produced a joint strategic needs assessment for serious violence (new statutory duty) and the partnership receives regular data. Serious violence is defined as; homicide, manslaughter, violence with injury, personal robbery, rape, and other sexual offences where offences occurred outside the home, were not domestic in nature, a knife, bladed article, firearm, or other weapon was recorded as being used, or the offence was recorded as linked to county lines or gangs. Maldon has a low rate of serious violence with **0.26** offences per 1000 population (17 offences per annum). Copies of the Essex Serious Violence Strategy and Essex Serious Violence Needs Assessment can be found here: [VVU Documentation - Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit \(essexvvu.co.uk\)](https://www.essexvvu.co.uk/documentation)
- 3.1.6 New duties that will impact on the work of the partnership will be the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill commonly known as Martyn's Law. This bill was introduced to parliament on 12 September 2024. Martyn's Law will impose requirements on premises and events to increase their preparedness for, and protection from, a terrorist attack. The law will require premises to take proportionate steps, depending on the size and nature of the activities that take place. This will be based on qualifying premises and capacity thresholds: standard tier (capacity of 100 or more, enhanced tier (800 or more) and places of worship (standard tier regardless of capacity). The government has produced some useful factsheets on the bill: [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Bill 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/factsheets/terrorism-protection-of-premises-bill-2024)

3.2 Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Update

- 3.2.1 Members should note Roger Hirst was re-elected to the role of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex on 2 May 2024. The partnership continues to support the priorities identified in the current Police and Crime Plan with a new plan being available soon following a period of consultation.

- 3.2.2 Works continue with several multi-agency groups that support this work locally and across Essex. The Maldon representative for the Police Fire and Crime Panel is Councillor Simon Burwood. The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) confirmed that core funding for Maldon in 2024 / 25 was **£12,527** and the necessary funding forms were completed and returned as part of the funding agreement. Officers had their annual meeting with the PFCC office on 8 February 2024 to review performance. The annual PFCC conference was held on 29 February 2024 at Boreham House, and the CSM presented at this conference on anti-social behaviour with the Deputy Chief Constable.
- 3.2.3 Maldon District was awarded funding for three projects from the PFCC Safer Streets funding for 23/24 and 24/25, and officers will be updating members on progress at this meeting:
- Safety projects to complement the design of the new Maldon promenade skate park - **£132,252**
 - A women's safety project for Maldon District - **£16,000**
 - A CCTV scheme for Burnham-on-Crouch - **£40,874**

3.3 Community Safety Partnership Hub and Progress Update

- 3.3.1 The Community Safety Partnership Hub Tasking for Maldon was launched in August 2024. The new style meetings are held monthly and has a tasking process which links to the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The new process will include a tasking update from the CPT Sgt, licensing, a monthly forecast, identified hotspots, patrol plans, communications, complex cases, and organised crime groups. Fortnightly tasking with Essex Police and the Community Safety Team is also held on Tuesdays. 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. The Essex Police Maldon Town Team now share the community safety hub with the Community Safety and Community Engagement Teams, and a new interview room for shared use was completed in August 2024 with funding from the community safety partnership.
- 3.3.4 Current concerns for the partnership hub focus on violence and vulnerability, and disruption of organised crime. Education sessions are being planned with secondary schools to provide awareness of risk in the community and vulnerability. 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 misusing drugs is undertaken by the effective use of CCTV and officer patrols by the partnership. The main area for antisocial behaviour in recent months has been around Hoe Mill Lock and officers are working with local partners to prepare a funding bid to improve security and raise awareness of safe practices around water Partnership operations are proving successful and in recent months there have been significant arrests to disrupt both local and County Line drug networks. Officers are also dealing with some complex antisocial behaviour complaints where mediation has been offered to parties to resolve the situation. Meetings to discuss the road safety issues on the Lower Burnham Road are also ongoing between a variety of partners. The partnership has been providing support to communities that have been impacted by dwelling burglary incidents.

3.3.5 Current project works for 2024/25 include:

- Community engagement events at Promenade Park, Burnham Riverside Park, Tollesbury, Heybridge, Heybridge Basin and Bradwell (Ride London, TollsFEST, 999)
- Hoe Mill enforcement patrols with police, South Essex Parking Partnership, and the Environment Agency
- Safe and Well visits with Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and community partners on 23 and 24 May 2024 in Heybridge and Dengie villages
- Make Space for Girls consultation at the Plume Academy was delivered over a three-day period commencing 8 July 2024
- A Night of Action was delivered at Maldon High Street on 19 July 2024
- Water safety visits in Burnham, Bradwell, Maldon and Heybridge Basin
- A Community Mindfulness event is being held at Heybridge Parish Council on 10 September 2024 to mark National Suicide Awareness Day
- Operation Lester (drinks spiking awareness) is being delivered on 18 September 2024 around High Street licensed premises.
- Senior safety events are planned for October 2024 where officers will visit a variety of premises.
- Crucial Crew was delivered on 3 – 5 July 2024 at Maldon Fire Station (Year 6 education)
- Hate crime training was delivered at Ormiston Rivers Academy for 9 and 10 July 2024
- Trucam is currently being delivered across 18 parishes at 45 different locations – there have been 1904 captures for Q1 and 2 (1 April 2024 – 31 July 2024)
- Close working relationship with Essex Police Rural Engagement Team (RET) to tackle issues such as fly tipping and unlicensed waste carriers, a recent operation resulted in over 70 vehicles being stop checked.
- Partnership working with Essex Police in the form of joint patrols to encourage responsible dog ownership.
- Supporting the community policing team addressing dangerous parking around schools
- Administration and attendance at Neighbourhood Watch meetings (next meeting at Maldon District Council on 24 September 2024)
- Joint patrols with the community safety partners (police, fire and youth service)
- Case management for the ASB housing forum
- Supporting the 999 Community Safety Event and Bike Marking Initiatives
- Supporting Let's Talk with Essex Police
- Intelligence sharing with secondary schools to safeguard any identified vulnerable persons.
- Engagement with youths through the Just Play football initiative.
- The Community Engagement Team delivered another Op Fume event in February 2024 with Essex Police
- The Maldon Community Hub had a community safety focus and was held in Maldon Town Hall

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 That Members note the priorities for 2024 / 25 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 and has strengthened with the co-location of the community policing team 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 (including fraud implications)** – 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 and other funding opportunities.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – As above.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 (Essex Police Performance Summary)

Enquiries to:

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