



*Annual Scrutiny Report*

safer  brentwood

April 2021

## Introduction

Brentwood Community Safety Partnership is the local statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for Brentwood. The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a strategic and collaborative approach to addressing local crime and disorder within the Borough by reducing the levels of disorder including crime, anti-social behaviour, the misuse of drugs and reducing re-offending. However, the partnership is committed to delivering beyond our statutory obligations and understand the importance of wider community safety issues to local communities such as Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), Speedwatch activity and continuing to develop home safety activity with our partners such as Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECFRS).

The partnership is made up of both Statutory and Community organisations as detailed below.



The CSP is currently chaired by Cllr Chris Hossack and Essex Police, Chief Antony Alcock is Vice Chair. Each year the CSP are required to prepare a Strategic Intelligence Assessment to review existing priorities and identify any new or emerging priorities that the partnership should focus on.

Following this analysis and identification of the strategic priorities a Partnership Plan is produced detailing the partnerships activities for the forthcoming year to address the issues raised in the Strategic Intelligence Assessment.

The Partnership Plan is a public facing document which details the priorities identified by residents and data from the Strategic Intelligence Assessment. The document includes detailed action plans for each priority area and sets out how the partnership will work together over the next twelve months to tackle crime and disorder and achieve its priorities.

This plan also has regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) Police and Crime Plan.

The priorities identified from the 2020/2021 Strategic Assessment are:



## **Policing Structure and Resources**

**Brentwood Borough** forms part of Essex Police West Local Policing Area (LPA), which also includes the districts of Epping Forest, Harlow and Thurrock. The Borough accounts for 22% of the area and 17% of the population of the LPA.

Since November 2017 Essex Police moved into the Town Hall to their new base. This has further improved communication and partnership work with the Council. The community safety team have access to the police station and have further developed their working relationships with local officers. The CSP are currently in the process of securing a Brentwood Community Safety Partnership Base for the opportunity to work even closer on a regular basis.

The **Community Policing Team (CPT)** delivers community policing within the borough and comprises of:

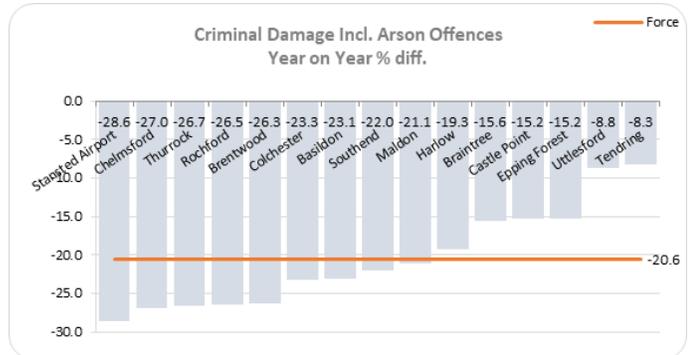
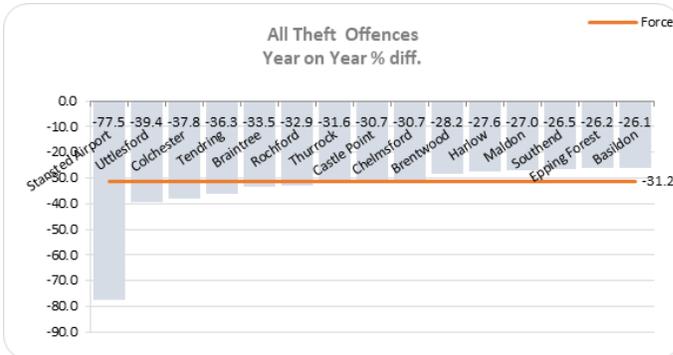
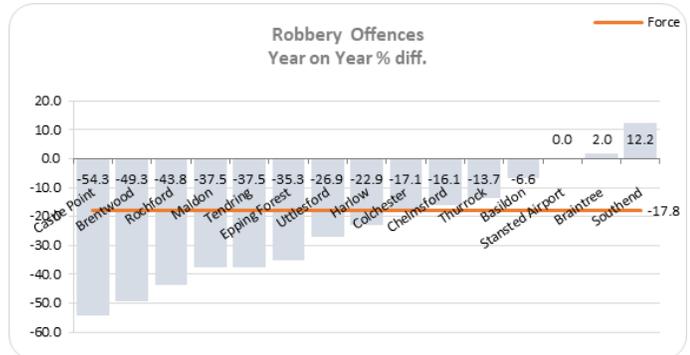
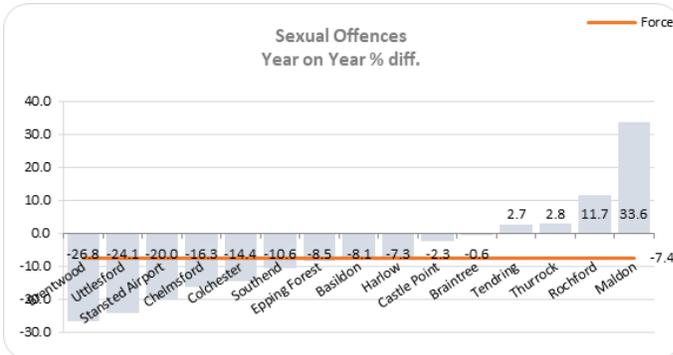
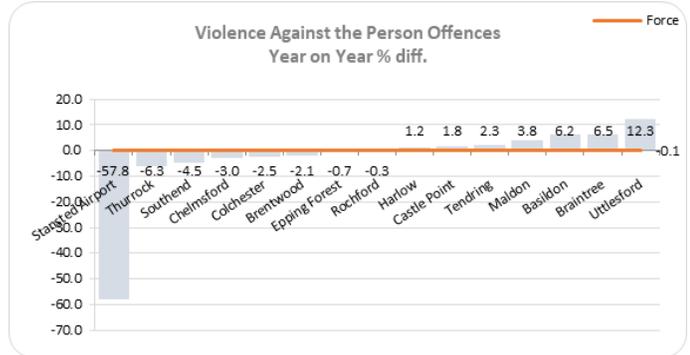
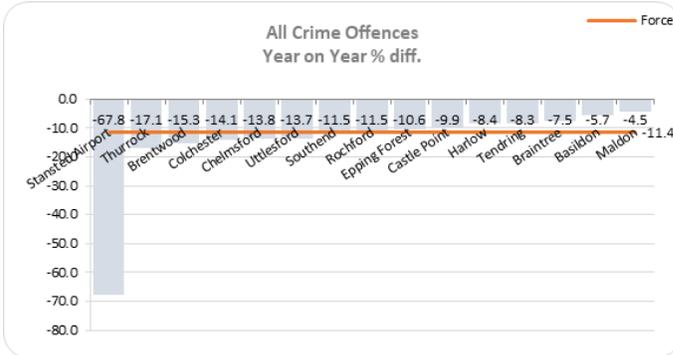
- **1** Inspector, covering Epping Forest and Brentwood
- **1** Sergeant covering Brentwood
- **8** Constables, covering Brentwood (Including **2** Town Centre Team)
- **2** Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) for Brentwood.
- **1** Rural Community Officer who is shared with Epping Forest
- **1** Children and Young Persons Officer.
- **20** Special Constables at Brentwood working closely with CPT. There have been several Brentwood specials that have gone on to join the regulars which has temporarily reduced our numbers.

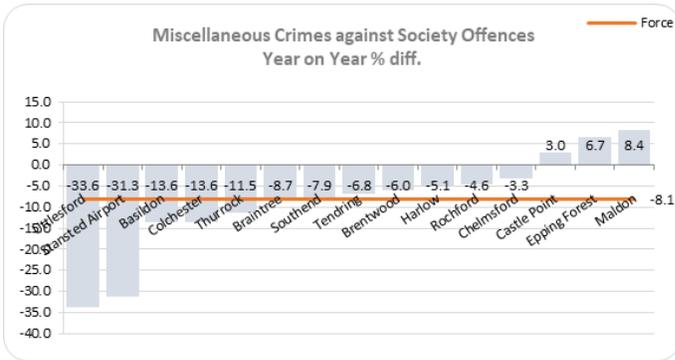
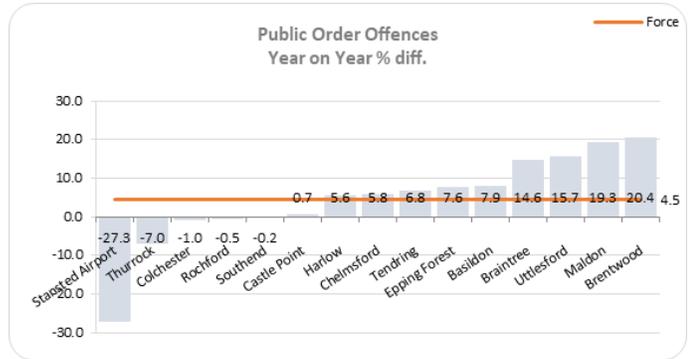
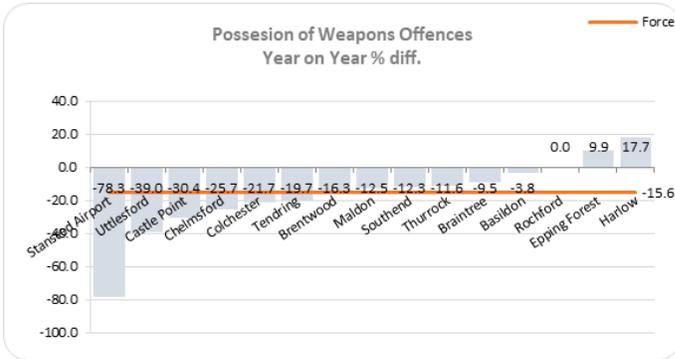
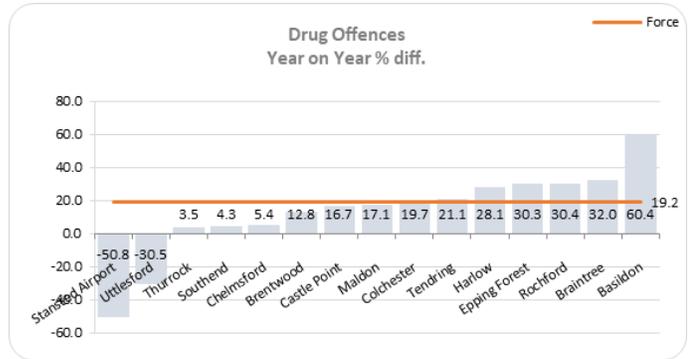
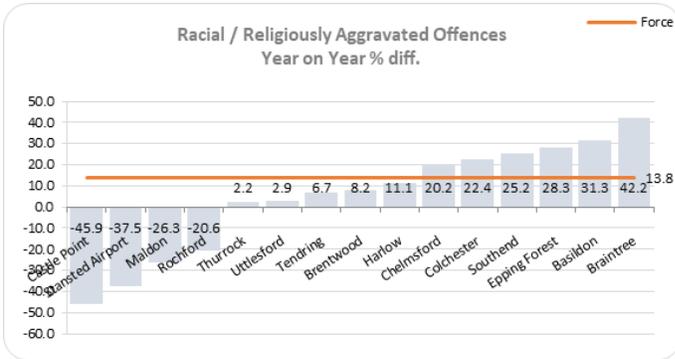
There has been even further investment in more local, visible, and accessible policing by putting money towards 184 more officers, taking the force up to 3,553 officers – an overall growth of 703 police officers since May 2016, all working in our communities to keep you safe. This includes;

- 44 more officers tackling serious violence, including doubling the size of the serious violence team
- 36 more officers tackling domestic abuse, including a new domestic abuse problem solving team

- 37 more officers tackling serious and organised crime
- 35 officers in new disruptions teams to deal with crime in local districts
- 32 more officers for teams such as roads policing and dog handlers

Below are tables relating to crime statistics Force Wide across Essex. Overall Brentwood sits on the lower end of the crime statistics across Essex.





# Brentwood

## Rolling 12 Months to March

Top Level		Offences				Solved Outcomes				Solved Rates %		
Crime Type	% DA 2021	2020	2021	# diff.	% diff.	2020	2021	# diff.	% diff.	2020	2021	% pt. diff.
Anti-Social Behaviour (incidents)	-	1361	2489	1128	82.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Crime (excl. Action (NFIB) Fraud)	16.4	6456	5466	-990	-15.3	635	629	-6	-0.9	9.8	11.5	1.7
- State Based Crime	5.7	809	914	105	13.0	236	268	32	13.6	29.2	29.3	0.1
- Victim Based Crime	18.5	5647	4552	-1095	-19.4	399	361	-38	-9.5	7.1	7.9	0.9
Victim Based Crime		Offences				Solved Outcomes				Solved Rates %		
Crime Type	% DA 2021	2020	2021	# diff.	% diff.	2020	2021	# diff.	% diff.	2020	2021	% pt. diff.
Violence Against the Person	38.9	1907	1867	-40	-2.1	149	199	50	33.6	7.8	10.7	2.8
- Homicide	-	0	0	0	-	0	1	1	-	-	-	-
- Violence with Injury	49.3	446	371	-75	-16.8	48	53	5	10.4	10.8	14.3	3.5
- Death or Serious Injury caused by unlawful driving	0.0	2	1	-1	-50.0	4	0	-4	-100.0	200.0	0.0	-200.0
- Violence without Injury	43.7	802	792	-10	-1.2	69	105	36	52.2	8.6	13.3	4.7
- Stalking and Harassment	28.0	657	703	46	7.0	28	40	12	42.9	4.3	5.7	1.4
Sexual Offences	17.0	153	112	-41	-26.8	20	16	-4	-20.0	13.1	14.3	1.2
- Rape	40.0	66	40	-26	-39.4	3	0	-3	-100.0	4.5	0.0	-4.5
- Rape - Under 16 yrs	0.0	21	13	-8	-38.1	3	0	-3	-100.0	14.3	0.0	-14.3
- Rape - Over 16 yrs	59.3	45	27	-18	-40.0	0	0	0	-	0.0	0.0	0.0
- Other Sexual Offences	4.2	87	72	-15	-17.2	17	16	-1	-5.9	19.5	22.2	2.7
Robbery	5.7	69	35	-34	-49.3	10	7	-3	-30.0	14.5	20.0	5.5
- Robbery of business property	0.0	1	2	1	100.0	2	2	0	0.0	200.0	100.0	-100.0
- Robbery of Personal Property	6.1	68	33	-35	-51.5	8	5	-3	-37.5	11.8	15.2	3.4
Theft Offences	1.9	2917	2095	-822	-28.2	175	109	-66	-37.7	6.0	5.2	-0.8
- Burglary	1.5	718	343	-375	-52.2	41	28	-13	-31.7	5.7	8.2	2.5
- Burglary Residential	2.1	493	235	-258	-52.3	25	18	-7	-28.0	5.1	7.7	2.6
- Burglary Business & Community	0.0	225	108	-117	-52.0	16	10	-6	-37.5	7.1	9.3	2.1
- Burglary Dwelling (pre-Apr 17 definition)	3.3	339	150	-189	-55.8	24	17	-7	-29.2	7.1	11.3	4.3
- Burglary Other (pre-Apr 17 definition)	0.0	379	193	-186	-49.1	17	11	-6	-35.3	4.5	5.7	1.2
- Vehicle Offences (incl. Interference)	1.1	1044	802	-242	-23.2	22	19	-3	-13.6	2.1	2.4	0.3
- Theft from a Vehicle	0.5	517	405	-112	-21.7	8	8	0	0.0	1.5	2.0	0.4
- Theft of a Vehicle	2.5	399	280	-119	-29.8	8	8	0	0.0	2.0	2.9	0.9
- Vehicle Interference	0.0	128	117	-11	-8.6	6	3	-3	-50.0	4.7	2.6	-2.1
- Theft	2.7	1155	950	-205	-17.7	112	62	-50	-44.6	9.7	6.5	-3.2
- Theft from the Person	0.0	54	22	-32	-59.3	2	0	-2	-100.0	3.7	0.0	-3.7
- Theft of Pedal Cycle	0.0	73	62	-11	-15.1	2	0	-2	-100.0	2.7	0.0	-2.7
- Shoplifting	0.0	387	329	-58	-15.0	75	38	-37	-49.3	19.4	11.6	-7.8
- Other Theft	4.8	641	537	-104	-16.2	33	24	-9	-27.3	5.1	4.5	-0.7
Criminal Damage inc. Arson	12.6	601	443	-158	-26.3	45	30	-15	-33.3	7.5	6.8	-0.7
- Criminal Damage	13.6	525	397	-128	-24.4	44	29	-15	-34.1	8.4	7.3	-1.1
- Arson	4.3	76	46	-30	-39.5	1	1	0	0.0	1.3	2.2	0.9
Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences	1.5	61	66	5	8.2	3	11	8	266.7	4.9	16.7	11.7
Hate Crime HO Definition	5.4	104	129	25	24.0	5	14	9	180.0	4.8	10.9	6.0
State Based Crime		Offences				Solved Outcomes				Solved Rates %		
Crime Type	% DA 2021	2020	2021	# diff.	% diff.	2020	2021	# diff.	% diff.	2020	2021	% pt. diff.
Drug Offences	0.0	179	202	23	12.8	145	162	17	11.7	81.0	80.2	-0.8
- Trafficking of Drugs	0.0	26	36	10	38.5	11	17	6	54.5	42.3	47.2	4.9
- Possession of Drugs	0.0	153	166	13	8.5	134	145	11	8.2	87.6	87.3	-0.2
Possession of Weapons	5.6	43	36	-7	-16.3	22	18	-4	-18.2	51.2	50.0	-1.2
Public Order	5.5	470	566	96	20.4	39	68	29	74.4	8.3	12.0	3.7
Miscellaneous Crimes against Society	17.3	117	110	-7	-6.0	30	20	-10	-33.3	25.6	18.2	-7.5

- *All Crime has decreased by 15.3% (990 more offences). This is in line with national decreases due to COVID-19.*
- *Anti-Social Behaviour is up 82.9% (1128 more offences). This has been the largest increase in Brentwood and Essex as a whole. Due to COVID-19 Essex Police and Local Councils/Housing Associations have received an increased number of reports.*
- *Burglary has decreased by 52.2% (375 less offences). This increase is in line with other areas and the Community Safety Team, Essex Police and Neighbourhood Watch will continue to engage with the public and promote home safety as and when safe to do so.*
- *Hate Crime offences have increased by 24% (25 more offences). There has been further joint work in promoting the reporting of Hate Crime, there is also some relation to some ASB Cases.*
- *Drugs Offences, Possession of Weapons, Shoplifting, Public Order and Vehicle Theft have all decreased.*
- *ASB, Stalking and Hate Crime were the only categories to increase. This is in keeping with Force Wide stats due to the impact COVID-19 has had across the Country.*

## Partnership Activity and Achievements

The **Councils CCTV Team** now sit with the Community Safety Team and have worked extremely hard to support activity undertaken by the Council and Essex Police. A Police Airwave Radio is permanently located in the CCTV control room so that operators have direct access to Essex Police. CCTV have seen the replacement and upgrading of HD cameras in Shenfield and Brentwood. 4 New Cameras have also been installed in Ingatestone High Street. Alongside the installation of the new HD cameras a new wireless network has been put in place, this has reduced the running costs of transmission to zero. The Coptfold Road Multi-Story Car Park has been fully refitted with 30 HD cameras. Data is also shared with partners in relation to the use of CCTV in the interest of Community Safety.

The Community Safety & CCTV Manager is continuing to work closely with Parish Councils and local communities to continue to upgrade CCTV in the harder to reach areas.

**Community Engagement** - The partnership has continued to deliver as many community engagement events across the borough and wider Essex where possible. As with the rest of the Country a vast number of our campaigns have had to be moved online until it is safe to meet face to face. Below are some of the topics we have been able to deliver during the pandemic:

1. High Street – General Safety & CSP
2. High Street – Project EDWARD
3. Navestock Village Hall – CSP & Flytipping
4. Town Hall – CSP & Partners
5. Doddinghurst – Road Safety
6. Doddinghurst – Safety for Dog Walkers
7. Scam Awareness Week (virtual)
8. Strawberry Fair (virtual)
9. BRAKE Road Safety Week (virtual)
10. Safer Internet Day (virtual)

The above engagement and online events were in addition to regular tweets and social media posts which include; crimestoppers, PFCC campaigns, Essex Police, Safer Brentwood, BBC Enforcement and the promoting of crime prevention and other relevant information. The sessions are delivered by the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Co-ordinator, Peter Salmon. The aim is to provide crime prevention advice and give residents the opportunity to give their views on community safety issues.

**Community Safety Roadshows** is a real partnership effort with representatives from the Council's community safety team, Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue, Crimestoppers and NHW. The team visit groups, schools, clubs, sheltered schemes to provide information and advice on a range of safety issues including crime and safety awareness, fraud, fire safety and burglary.

**Neighbourhood Watch (NHW)** - Brentwood is extremely privileged to have such a dedicated volunteer, Peter Salmon who co-ordinates NHW across the Borough. He is extremely proactive driving the scheme across Brentwood and further afield.

The NHW co-ordinator attends the CSP Strategy Panel meetings and represents Brentwood at County-wide meetings. It is recognised by the partnership that without the support of our local co-ordinator we would not be able to deliver such a comprehensive engagement programme.

As well as promoting NHW across the borough he has also distributed information leaflets/booklet and crime prevention items such as:

- Window Alarms
- ID Magnifier
- Personal Alarms
- Purse Bells
- Purse Cables
- Property Marker Pens
- Timer Switches

- Sat Nav Cloths
- Key Ring Torches
- Door Chains
- Leaflets including: Lock Em Out, scam booklet, community safety booklet, junior highway code booklet, and much more

The NHW volunteer co-ordinator also produces a monthly 'be wary' information leaflet with key current community safety topics that is displayed in many key locations across the borough and is also shared with Parish Councils and wider partners.

**Crimestoppers** is an independent charity with a **33**-year history of providing anonymity for anyone wishing to report crime without having to go to the authorities. They are an integral member of the partnership, and have supported our work including (up to Feb 21):

This year (20/21), COVID lockdown has had a significant impact on the regular operations of Crimestoppers with partner meetings limited to video sessions and with all public events and external meetings cancelled. Throughout this period however, Crimestoppers has continued to the fullest extent possible to maintain links with groups of people who reflect the diversity of the local community (e.g. IAG group in Brentwood and Ongar) and other pan county 'Business' e.g. PFCC Rural Crime Forum. Increased investments have also been made in Social Media and targeted web based brand awareness campaigns on Organised Immigration crime, Violence Against Women, Serious Violence and Drink and Drug driving.

Fearless is the young person's arm of Crimestoppers, and has recently commenced a social media based campaign targeting young people about the risks of criminal exploitation and the risks of gang recruitment through grooming. The campaign is running until at least Aug/Sept and will explain how Fearless provides non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality and helps solve crimes by giving young people a safe place to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously. In

addition to social media, Fearless will be distributing electronic and hard copy workbooks to youth organisations and secondary schools.

## **Statistics**

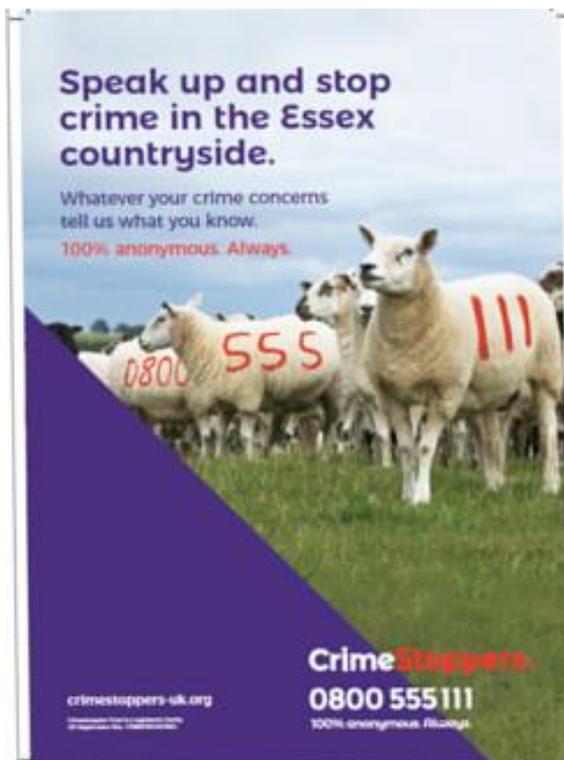
From April to March (20/21) during a period of Covid rules restricting movement, 4,478 reports were disseminated by Crimestoppers to Essex Police which represented a 13% reduction over prior year.

Police actionable results (which) represented 25%.

**The top four crime reports to Crimestoppers in Essex were** about drugs, drink/drugs driving, possession of weapons and assault/harassment.

During the lockdown periods, there has been a significant increase in the reporting of calls about Domestic abuse.

Subject to resources/priorities , new activities are planned to include working with Housing and Elder people Associations



## CrimeStoppers. MarineAlert

### Drugs and human trafficking are BIG business in Essex

Drugs and human trafficking are serious high-volume crimes leading to violence, child exploitation and abuse.

Boats and yachts are used by gangs to carry out illegal imports at ports and marinas especially those with limited or no checks.

#### Suspicious activities

- Attempts to test or research security -
- Late night or early morning activity -
- Suspicious deliveries -
- People in the wrong place or behaving unusually -
- Unusual presence of boats or yachts -
- A vessel that has been unusually modified -
- A boat or yacht owner being evasive about passengers or routes -
- Boat or yacht owner ignoring marine regulations or filing misleading or false reports -
- Concealed cargo -
- Packages or passengers being transferred to dinghies, other boats or waiting cars -
- Items being handled suspiciously.



Speak up. Stop crime. Stay safe. 100% anonymous. Always

Please be vigilant at all times around these locations.

If you see a crime in progress, then you should report it to the police immediately using the 999 number. Do not try to get involved.

Alternatively, you can safely contact the charity CrimeStoppers.

We give people the power to speak up to stop crime. By phone and online, 24/7, 365 days a year. You'll remain

100% anonymous.

We've been around since 1988. We're independent. We won't ask your name. Won't judge.

Just listen to what you know. When you hang up the phone (0800 555 111) or click 'send' (crimestoppers-uk.org) you're done.

No police contact.

No witness statements.

No courts.

We will pass on any information to the police.

Our service is designed to pro-

tect your identity, whether you call us or submit information online.

**CrimeStoppers.**  
0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.

#CountyLines

### Drug gangs are exploiting vulnerable people in your area

Using violence and abuse, criminals are getting others to act as couriers for drugs and cash. Sometimes taking over the homes of the victims.

Speak out. Tell us what you know.

**CrimeStoppers.**  
0800 555 111  
100% anonymous. Always.

crimestoppers-uk.org

**Local Independent Advisory Group** - The partnership has continued to support the joint LIAG with Essex Police and Epping Forest District Council. The aim of the group is to review police working practices, to assist Essex Police better understand how its processes and policies can affect our local communities and to give communities a voice on key issues. The group meet quarterly.

**Social Media** is key to communicate strongly with communities is key. There is a very active social media programme including the use of Twitter with over 700 followers, a dedicated website and quarterly CSP Newsletter which is posted on our website and is also distributed to Members, Parish Councils, local businesses through the Federation of Small Business (FSB), local community groups, schools who then forward the newsletter on to parents, and more. It is estimated that the newsletter reaches over 3000 readers.

CSP Website: [www.saferbrentwood.com](http://www.saferbrentwood.com)

Twitter: @saferbrentwood

Just a few examples of our good work



**Anti-Social Behaviour** - Since April 2020 the following has been achieved:

- 254 reports of Anti-Social Behaviour with 24 open cases under investigation.
- 10 Notices of Seeking Possession have been served for a variety of different reasons
- 41 Community Protection Warning served
- 2 Community Protection Notice served
- 2 Injunctions obtained
- 1 Closure Order obtained

The officer also attends monthly Community Safety Tasking and is working on ensuring all cases are recorded on the Council's case management system.

**Community Safety Projects** - The CSP has remained committed to tackling such a key issue for local communities. This year has been a different year compared to others and a lot of projects have had to be delivered online or deferred to the following year. These projects are aimed at a vast cross section from nursery age, young people to the vulnerable and elderly.

Listed below are some of those projects:

**Two Johns** is an online safety workshop aimed at educating young people how to keep themselves safe whilst online. The project has been commissioned for four local schools to over 2000 young people.

**Power of Love** is a hard-hitting theatre performance which will be delivered to students in years 9 & 10 and explores key areas such as Bullying, exploitation, domestic violence, intimidation, respect & trust.

**Door Chain Project** has still been continued despite the ongoing pandemic and door chains are installed into the homes of vulnerable or elderly residents. Other safety items or additional security measures are also available, such as carbon monoxide detectors, personal safety alarms etc.

**Speedwatch** has continued to grow despite being forced to hold off on activity during certain parts of the year. A dedicated Speedwatch email is in place for Speedwatch groups to utilise and a speed gun is available for groups to use which is located at the Town Hall and co-ordinated by the Community Safety team & volunteers. Whilst this scheme is primarily to target speeding drivers it is also a very visible presence in a locality which can only help to assist with discouraging burglars.

**The Essex Restorative and Mediation Service** holds offenders to account and helps them take responsibility for the harm they have caused. Both parties discuss next steps and the perpetrators can then make amends.

Victims are given the chance to explain the impact the crime or conflict has had on them, ask questions of the perpetrator and seek an apology. It enables offenders to be held to account for what they have done but also take responsibility for the harm they have caused. If a face to face meeting is not appropriate, they can do so indirectly via letters or messages.

Representatives from the Restorative Justice (RJ) Hub attend local monthly meetings to discuss cases and consider whether an RJ referral would be appropriate.

Since January 2016 a total of 1864 referrals have been made to the RJ Hub in Essex 1177 coming from Essex Police.

**Seasonal Burglary Operation** The partnership has been involved in targeting and preventing the seasonal increase in burglaries that occurs across the whole county over the Winter months. The force wide operation was Operation Mercury and highlighted the clocks going back and darker nights.

Essex Police have performed extra patrols (both visible and uniform) between November and February. They have deployed Automatic number plate readers (ANPR) resulting in number of arrests linked to burglary and other offences.

The Casualty reduction bureau has also assisted by deploying road safety checks/speed checks in areas of high burglaries so as well as road safety they are also using their technology to look for Burglars and travelling criminals using ANPR.

A number of other units within Essex police also provided assistance:

- Serious Crime Directorate was sought for advice.
- The Operational Support Group assisted in arresting suspects.
- The Special constabulary assisted in all aspects and particularly in preventative patrols.
- Active Citizens were also used to distribute crime prevention leaflets and advice
- The dog section attended and exercised their dogs in burglary hot spot areas.
- Cross border work with British Transport Police (BTP) and the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) have carried out which resulted in the identification of a suspect who was subsequently arrested.

**Operation Insight** consists of a system of analysis and the deployment of resources into 'hot spots' likely to suffer burglaries, reducing the chance of them occurring. This policing operation enables the police to use resources more efficiently and maximises the opportunity to prevent crime. Intelligence is produced weekly to highlight areas for more intensive patrolling based on their vulnerability to offences.

This is shared with partners and the Council's Community Safety team then disseminate to other departments within the Council to make sure staff are aware and can factor this information into their regular patrols, visits and work schedule etc.

Operation Insight also includes 'Cocooning' which involves crime prevention work carried out by the community policing team specifically targeting premises in the immediate vicinity of a burglary. Residents are visited and given crime prevention advice to ensure security measures are in place to reduce the risk of them becoming victims.

Local police officers are supported by County resources and have performed intelligence-led police work and high-volume deployments which have resulted in some key arrests, crime prevention and intelligence gathering. This activity maintains pressure on known offenders and aims to reduce crime.

As the report shows 2019/20 has been a very busy year for the partnership with many initiatives and projects being commissioned and delivered in order to deliver against our priorities and joint objectives.

Relationships have been developed and strengthened and the partnership is striving to deliver our partnership promise.

### ***The Partnership Promise***

***We are committed to delivering local solutions to local problems that have been identified by local people.***

In addition, the Partnership's work will provide the opportunity to work together with our partners such as Essex Police, Essex Fire & Rescue Service, Neighbourhood Watch and many others to achieve our corporate objectives.