**Briefing Note for the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Version:1.10.0.3

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**District Profile**

Chelmsford is part of the North Local Policing Area (LPA), which is sub-divided into four District Policing Areas (DPAs). Chelmsford and Maldon jointly form a single DPA under the command of a District Commander.

The City of Chelmsford is situated in the heart of Essex and covers 133 square miles. Chelmsford has a population of 168,310 (based on the 2011 Census), which amounts to just under 12% of the total population of Essex. Anglia Ruskin University has over 6,000 students, which increases the population of the city significantly during term-time. Chelmsford is only 35 minutes away from London by train and is within easy access to Stansted and Southend Airports.

Chelmsford was awarded city status in 2012. Whilst the city is a focal point, the area also includes the town of South Woodham Ferrers, plus several villages and open countryside - of which over a third is designated as ‘Green Belt’.

Chelmsford is an affluent area with excellent visitor attractions. The city hosts a variety of events and festivals including the ‘Rize’ Festival (formerly V) at Hylands Park. There is a thriving night-time economy, with a licensing capacity of over 15,000 which is often reached on Friday and Saturday nights.

**Policing Structure and Resources**

Local Policing Team (LPT) – Established September 2015

The LPT consists of six teams, which are based at Chelmsford Police Station and work shifts to cover the district 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Each team is supervised by an Inspector and deals with a range of policing duties, including incident demand, appointments and missing persons. The number of officers on each team varies due to vacancies, but the model provides for one Inspector, two sergeants and 15 constables on each team at Chelmsford, with a further two sergeants and four constables at Maldon.

The Chelmsford teams are sometimes required to provide additional support to Maldon, which also forms part of the DPA.

The LPT is supported by 38 special constables.

Community Policing Team (CPT) – Established May 2016

The CPT comprises the following uniformed resources: two sergeants, 11 constables (including a Child and Young Person Officer) and ten Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The team is managed by an inspector, who is responsible for community policing, engagement and problem solving. In addition, the team is supported by a Licensing Officer, a Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor, an Essex Watch Coordinator, an Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator and a Missing Person Liaison Officer.

The uniformed resources are currently split into two teams operating from Chelmsford Police Station. Plans are in the advanced stages, with funding agreed, to create a Community Safety Partnership Hub in the Chelmsford City Council offices. This will come to fruition by March 2019 and see the entire team co-located and working shoulder to shoulder with local authority and other partners.

In May 2018 the city centre also received four dedicated officers and staff who focus on addressing community safety partnership issues within the city centre. These posts are jointly funded by Essex Police and the local Council.

Chelmsford CPT will be moving to a joint local hub by March 2019 and this will see the relocation of all key stakeholders within one centralised office.  Currently operating in a virtual sense, the co-location will bring efficiencies and is anticipated to result in an increased tempo of operations and a greater focus on the agreed CSP priorities for our two local authority areas.   This move will build on our crime reduction efforts by fully involving statutory bodies, other agencies and the voluntary sector. This also offers new opportunities where public engagement, community consultations, community partnerships, problem solving, and crime prevention are concerned, through improved lines of communication between partner agencies – in terms of reach and timeliness.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Juno Team

Based at Chelmsford, CID has three teams of detectives, led by a detective inspector. CID investigate the more serious crimes such as robbery, grievous bodily harm and dwelling burglary.

All high-risk domestic abuse allegations are investigated by the Juno team, which is also based at Chelmsford and is line managed by a separate detective inspector.

**Community Concerns and Media**

Gang Related Crime (Including Knife Crime)

The movement of county lines from London into the area has continued and is actively targeted by Operation RAPTOR, Hidden Harms Team and the CPT. Significant disruption has continued across the city and work continues with the undertaking of activity including execution of warrants and other enforcement in the local area.

Night-Time Economy

Chelmsford has a vibrant night-time economy (NTE) which can result in up to 15,000 people visiting the city centre on any one night. In 2014, the council consulted on a proposal to introduce a night-time levy on certain licensed premises. Revenue raised from the levy is being used for local initiatives relating to the city centre and the NTE. Renewed focus on what the levy is spent on is being brought about by the newly formed One Chelmsford Business Improvement District (BID) group.

The DPA has a strong link with the special constabulary who regularly provide uniformed support to and take a lead in regular night time economy patrols and licensed premises checks, adopting the use of drug detection equipment, drugs dogs, social media messaging and liaison with the Community SOS partnership bus. Moving forward the DPA is committed to building on the Special Constabulary’s capability and empowering the teams to take ownership of other policing operations focused on key priorities such a violence crime reduction, safeguarding, gang criminality and ASB.

The local Community Safety Partnership has coordinated the successful reaccreditation of the City of Chelmsford under the ‘Purple Flag’ scheme for several years, which included the adoption of the University of East Anglia estate within the scheme. This reflects its on-going support to schemes through initiatives such as Street Pastors, Taxi Marshals, Nights of Action and the operation of the SOS Bus facility, which provides a city centre safe haven for people enjoying the NTE, if required. This is further supported by the Best Bar None (BBN) initiative, which 15 of the city’s licensed premises are taking part in. One of the South Woodham Ferrers premises won a BBN award at the first annual awards night.

Best Bar None is an accreditation scheme for licensed premises. Points are awarded against three standards: ‘Essential’, ‘Desired’ and ‘Bonus’. The applicant must score 100% of the ‘essential’ criteria in order to be eligible for an award (accredited) by Best Bar None. Based on the 2016 scoring booklet used by assessors, there are 32 ‘essential’ points that all premises must satisfy before they can be accredited.

The second criteria, ‘Desired’, sets out a higher standard of operation, one that sets out the level that a good licensee should be striving to achieve if they are to be truly socially responsible.

The third criteria, ‘Bonus’ covers any policy implemented by the applicant which is particularly outstanding and could include any of the points listed under each of the headings. Assessors are encouraged to award extra bonus points in relation to **any** of the questions in **any** of the categories if they feel that they are merited. Bonus criteria are designed to allow venues that go the extra mile to keep their customers safe, the opportunity to demonstrate that fact.

Rural Policing and Other Areas

Rural crime and supporting rural communities remains an issue. Resources attend incidents based on levels of threat, harm and risk, which can result in rural communities feeling vulnerable and overlooked. These concerns are also expressed in towns and villages such as South Woodham Ferrers and the outlying areas of Chelmsford. The formation of the Gypsy Traveller Rural Engagement Team (GTRET), aims to start addressing these concerns by:

1) Managing and carrying out Enforcement action against Unauthorised Encampments in Essex.

2) Providing Fire safety advice on Gypsy and Travellers sites.

3) Managing local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites.

4) Improving Educational outcomes for children on sites.

5) Improving the health and wellbeing of occupants of Travellers sites.

Media

The DPA has good links with the local media. There are no specific issues to highlight.

**Problem Solving Initiatives**

In August 2017 Chelmsford City Council launched a ‘Spare Change or ‘Real change’ campaign in partnership with CHESS Homeless. The campaign asked passers-by to volunteer or donate to homelessness charity rather than giving the rough sleepers money.

80% of rough sleepers have an alcohol or drug addiction. Research suggested the money that members of the public were giving to the rough sleepers was going on drugs/alcohol. The amounts derived from begging were such that there was little incentive for rough sleepers to engage in support and get help with housing as their addiction was fully funded whilst being on the streets. Scoping activity was conducted to establish the details of those on the city centre streets at the time, with a view to identifying their needs and support offered or received at that time. This enabled a considered view of the problem and a balanced response, where support and opportunity could be complemented by challenge and enforcement where necessary.

To disrupt the cycle of rough sleepers asking for money, after the initial phase of the campaign, the CPT supported the City Council with the issuing of Community Protection Warnings to anyone seen begging in the City Centre. These warn of potential prosecution if anti-social behaviour continues. The CPT then embarked on a series of follow up deployments, either pre-planned or as business as usual – evidencing any breaches of the warnings, in order that Community Protection Notices could be served. These are the pre-cursor to Criminal Behaviour Orders being applied for in court. In the case of Op STATUE, service of a notice would trigger a referral to Open Road to access drug and alcohol services plus other support. The individuals have seven days to engage with Open Road and if they don’t engage then they are placed in breach of the notice and summonsed to court and it is the decision of the magistrate as to what penalty will apply.

Enforcement commenced in September 2017, resulting to date in:

* Community Protection Warnings: 26
* Community Protection Notices: 10
* Prosecution for breach of CPN (application for CBO): 2 (3 due in court at the end of July)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Sep 2017 | Oct 2017 | Nov 2017 | Dec 2017 | Jan 2018 | Feb 2018 | Mar 2018 | Apr 2018 | May 2018 |
| CPW | 10 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 |
| CPN | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 4 |
| Prosecution |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |

This shows a 70% compliance after serving a CPW and 66% compliance after serving a CPN.

Criminal Behaviour Orders obtained: 2 (1 for breach of CPN and 1 for breach of PSPO for aggressive begging)

Additional rough sleepers have been coming to the City Centre each month since enforcement commenced. Follow up patrols have established their details and reasons for coming. Any that are begging have been served Community Protection Warnings seeking to halt their activity and reduce anti-social behaviour.

Prison releases, dispersal from other areas or accessing publicised charitable service provision in Chelmsford has contributed to additional numbers.

Liaison with our partners at Open Road resulted in an outreach worker being identified and commissioned by the City Council to work two days a week in the high street and surrounding areas with the rough sleepers.

During the periods January 2017- September 2017 94 complaints were received from members of the public all relating to anti-social behaviour, begging and the number of rough sleepers in Chelmsford.  Since enforcement commenced, September 2017- May 2018 has seen 34 complaints from members of the public relating to the behaviour of the rough sleepers, unattended bedding and buildings used to sleep in without authorisation have been received.

Springfield – ASB derived from drug related activity

The CPT are leading a partnership approach to address anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the Springfield area. A review of information and intelligence was conducted, key nominals were identified and relevant partners engaged with. As a statement of intent, a separate review of existing investigations was conducted, resulting in two suspects for criminal damage being interviewed and charged or reported for the offences.

Details were fed back to the community through a variety of means, including social media and attendance at a local NHW meeting. The rise in public confidence was capitalised upon; through the deployment of the Mobile Police Station to a location that had been a hotspot. Patrolling was then conducted from hot spots and public engagement was also achieved as part of this initiative.

**Chelmsford Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Performance Data**

Version:1.10.0.3

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The table below sets out the crime figures for Chelmsford, comparing reports for 1st June 2017 to 31st May 2018 with 1st June 2016 to 31st May 2017 for the Chelmsford district and the force.

**Areas of note for Chelmsford district:**

* All Crime has increased by 11.8% (1359 more offences)
* Violence without Injury has increased by 22.6% (293 more offences)
* Stalking and Harassment has increased by 51.0% (388 more offences)
* Sexual Offences has increased by 52.2% (155 more offences)
* Shoplifting has decreased by 5.1% (52 fewer offences)
* Other theft has decreased by 2.1% (27 fewer offences)
* ASB Incidents have increased by 1.2% (48 more incidents)



\*Residential and Dwelling Burglary per 1000 Households

**Other districts – All Crime offences and per 1000 population:**



Chelmsford district appears eighth in the reporting tables for all crime per 1000 population. During the above reporting period, Chelmsford shows the most significant rises in sexual offences and stalking / harassment categories. This follows a national trend as the result of changes in recording rules and improved victim confidence to report crime to police.

With a large NTE there is always the potential for violent offences to occur. Licensed premises which have been linked to disorder are targeted to ensure compliance with licensing regulations. The CPT has responsibility for policing the NTE and appropriate training has being given to support officers in performing this role. The special constabulary also support this by deploying as part of a dedicated NTE operation within the City during peak times.

All crime

All Crime has increased by 11.8% (1359 more offences) broadly in line with all crime force data (0.2 % district v force percentage difference).

National trends largely reflect those in Chelmsford.

Violence with injury / without injury

Violence with injury increased by 10.3 % (125 more offences) and 3.8% above the force position. The increase in violence is reflective of an increasing national trend within this crime category.

Violence without injury increased by 22.6% (293 more offences) but remains only 1.4% above the force position. Increases may be attributed to changes in the national crime recording standards.

In response additional focus has been placed on gang disruption under Operation Aegis and firmer use of civil remedies such as BOBB (Behave or be banned) and Pub watch schemes. Since May there has been wider application of community protection notices and greater use of proactive policing powers such as stop and search.

Sexual Offences

Sexual Offences has increased by 52.2% (155 more offences) which is 28% higher than the force (district v force percentage difference).

There continues to be a steady reporting of historic offences, which suggests members of the public remain confident in reporting issues such as this to the police.

Stalking and harassment

During the reporting period, Chelmsford district increased by 51% but remains approximately 8% below the overall force increase. The change is attributed to new crime recording standards that now require the force to record offences differently.

Domestic abuse reporting has improved and increases suggest members of the public are more confident in reporting issues such as this to the police.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

ASB Incidents have increased by 1.2% (48 more incidents) when compared to the same period the previous year.

Incidents of ASB that involve the greatest harm form part of the force tasking process and are investigated by the Community Policing team in partnership with the Community Safety Hub.

Shoplifting

A decrease in Chelmsford stores have occurred as a result of a change in retailer approach, in some cases removing plain clothes staff (who failed to deter but were good at detecting).  This has assisted in dealing with offenders via banning orders, civil recovery etc.   The Town Link Forum, administrated by the local authority and including key/major retailers, has helped refocus the retailer in solving the problem rather than relying on a police response.