

# Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2016

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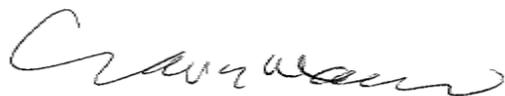
# CSP - Chair introduction

Comments from CSP Chairman - Gary Waller

It has been another challenging but also highly rewarding year for everyone working with the Epping Forest District Community Safety Partnership.

Just as the priorities of Essex Police have changed, with more emphasis now devoted to 'hidden harms' including domestic abuse and exploitation of children, so the kind of work undertaken by the Council's community safety team has altered too. Council officers are working more closely than ever with the police to combat crime and disorder, and cooperating with other partners such as Essex Trading Standards to help local residents be on their guard against proliferating online and telephone scams. While the threats do not diminish, there have been notable successes in combatting them and providing reassurance, for instance with the help of our extensive CCTV coverage which is much appreciated by local people.

I very much welcome the increased participation by partners in the work of the CSP and believe we now have in place a strong foundation on which to build an even more effective level of cooperation in furthering our efforts to support residents and those who rely on us.



## How we work

Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) were first introduced nationally in 1998, to offer a multi-agency solution in response to crime and the fear of crime within communities. They do not replace the work of the Police or the day-to-day business of the other participating agencies, but are widely considered as the most effective approach to finding joint solutions to local issues.

Epping Forest CSP consists of the following statutory bodies; Essex Police, Epping Forest District Council, Essex Fire and Rescue, Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) the National Probation Trust, Trading Standards and West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and the voluntary sector, through Voluntary Action Epping Forest.

The Strategic Board of the Partnership meets quarterly and works directly with the Council's Community Safety Manager and Team to address priorities identified within the District Strategic Intelligence Assessment. Representatives from the Community Safety Team attend Essex Police district tasking meetings on a fortnightly basis to respond to any emerging issues within the district and further the selected priorities adopted within the annual strategic assessment.

## CSP funding

Organisation	£
<b>Police Crime Commissioner - core funding</b>	<b>21,896</b>
<b>Epping Forest District Council</b>	<b>33,850</b> (breakdown below)
Limes Farm	11,750
Partnership co-ordinator (Year 2 – 16/17)	5,000
Older peoples safety event	1,000
Home Safety Scheme	5,500
Volunteer Police Cadets	1,000
Hidden Harm CSE Conference	1,400
Crucial Crew	8,200
<b>Hidden Harms (PCC Funding)</b>	<b>1,450</b>
<b>Chigwell Parish Council – Limes Farm</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>London and Quadrant – Limes Farm</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Fire and Rescue – CSP Admin Support</b>	<b>3,000</b>
<b>Schools funding (Crucial Crew)</b>	<b>11,678</b> (breakdown below)
Epping Forest Schools	6,714
Brentwood Schools	4,964
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>78,874</b>

# Performance summary highlights 2015-16

## 1. Diverting young people away from crime and anti-social behaviour

### **Volunteer Police Cadets**

The Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) are a uniformed voluntary youth organisation, supported by the police, open to young people 13 to 18 years of age. VPCs are welcomed from all of the UK's diverse communities, irrespective of their background or financial circumstances, and including those vulnerable to crime or social exclusion.

The VPC Mission:

To reduce youth vulnerability to crime in Essex and provide the opportunity for young people to participate positively in their communities;

- Prevent and reduce youth offending in Essex,
- Promote a practical understanding of policing amongst young people,
- Support local policing priorities through volunteering, and
- Improve public confidence in policing.

Epping Forest was chosen to host one of the first Volunteer Police Cadet Units which was launched in 2015, the others being at Chelmsford and Southend. All of the units are staffed by volunteers.

The Cadets are based at Limes Farm Community Hall and have been supported by Epping Forest CSP and Epping Forest District Council (EFDC).

## 2. Reduce re-offending

### **Integrated Offender Management (IOM)**

Epping Forest CSP Works in partnership with Offender Management, drug and alcohol services and health partners, to manage repeat offenders through a coherent structure, in order to reduce crime and re-offending, and improve public confidence in the criminal justice system. Officers from both the Community Safety and Housing Teams attend regular Integrated Offender Meetings (IOM) hosted by the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC).

This approach recognises that repeat offenders have multiple problems which contribute to their offending that cannot be addressed by a single agency.

### 3. Provide vulnerable victim care and reduce repeat victimisation

#### **VAEF Home Safety / Handyman Scheme**

Between April 2015 and March 2016, 734 properties of elderly people were visited for 'Falls Prevention' work and additional security checks, were carried out for 304 of these. 158 pieces of security equipment were fitted following these visits and this included items such as door chains, key safes, door jammers, window locks, lighting and new bolts to help residents feel safer in their homes.

In addition to this, 45 visits were made to Epping Forest residents via referrals from EFDC's Community Safety Team.

Quotes from clients:

"I feel so much safer after your visit - your advice has been invaluable and I am so grateful for your help"



"The lighting you fitted has made such a difference. I now have more confidence when I arrive home during the evenings"

## CSP Casework - examples of vulnerable residents

Over the last year, the Community Safety Team has worked in partnership with the Police and health colleagues, on a range of complex cases involving vulnerable residents of the district. The following information provides examples of such work.

### Case one

What appeared to be an ongoing neighbour dispute, resulted in Police, EFDC Community Safety, Housing and Neighbourhoods Teams working together, to protect an elderly and vulnerable resident from the behaviour of her neighbour.

Following a noise nuisance complaint from what turned out to be the perpetrator in this case, the Council installed noise monitoring equipment to assess levels of noise emanating from the elderly residents home.

However, it was very soon identified by staff and police colleagues, that in fact, the complainant had mental health problems and was making threats to his neighbour. This resulted in a range of home security improvements and cameras being installed for the elderly resident and regular visits being undertaken to her home, with police exercising enforcement powers where possible. The situation escalated to the point where EFDC (supported by Essex Police) called a multi-agency review meeting as there were clear concerns about the perpetrators mental state of health and yet, these were not being acknowledged by the mental Health Team. Representatives from the Community Mental Health Team attended this and after pressure from EFDC and police, they carried out a mental health assessment. The outcome of the assessment was that the perpetrator was sectioned and is now receiving treatment for his condition.

### Case two

After numerous complaints from a range of residents in Debden, the Community Safety and Community Policing Teams worked together, to identify youths persistently climbing and accessing balconies of flats over shops on The Broadway. Police were able to identify persistent offenders and EFDC wrote to parents advising of their behaviour and the distress being caused to other residents. It was identified that the youths were accessing the balconies using one particular area, so the Community Safety Team match funded the Council's Housing Team and erected a short section of anti-climb railings in this area. Since the erection of this barrier all complaints have stopped.

### Case three

A recent case was investigated which involved an allegation of cuckooing (the coercive home takeovers of vulnerable tenants by drug dealers and gang members) of a male in an EFDC flat in the Loughton area. As a result of the investigation by the Police Community Policing Team (CPT) and the Community Safety Team, it was identified that the perceived victim was in fact a key perpetrator and was allowing his property to be used as a 'crack house'. This meant that neighbouring residents were suffering from high levels of crime and disorder in the vicinity of the property. A sexual exploitation risk was also identified involving a female that the male had formed a relationship with.

Working in conjunction with the police, a multi-agency risk management meeting was held and the perpetrator's Social Worker attended and was able to provide professional judgement on his capacity. As a result, the CPT and EFDC worked together to obtain the district's first 'Closure Order' At the same time, notice was served on the perpetrator and possession of the property obtained.

To prevent the perpetrator moving in with the female that he had forged a relationship with (who lived nearby), the council obtained an injunction with power of arrest and policed it via an overt re-deployable CCTV camera. All complaints have now stopped and the premises have been re-possessed. The female is also safe, as the perpetrator has had to move away, making himself intentionally homeless.

### Victim Care

The Community Safety Partnership places victims at the heart of its crime reduction activity. Crime can have a profound effect on people's lives and create fear, which negatively impacts on their overall quality of life. Therefore, victims in the district are able to receive a range of support through visits from Police, Council and voluntary sector agencies, designed to provide a risk management service.

The management of high risk victims of domestic abuse, hate crime and people deemed vulnerable through age or physical or mental infirmity, is carried out by providing joint security visits by police and the Council's Community Safety Team. Practical advice is offered and physical security products are supplied that are tailored to the individual's needs. Should further work be needed, the CSP works with the voluntary sector to provide a free handyman service, to fit security improvements that may be required. In addition to physical security products, victims are given life-styling advice to help them identify times when they may be at greater risk and a plan of how to deal with it. Visits have a positive impact and local research indicates that victims are 30% less likely to suffer physical assault up to six months after a visit.

The CSP also works with housing providers and domestic abuse outreach teams, to assist in protecting medium risk victims of domestic abuse. It is acknowledged, that cases of medium risk victims can quite often escalate rapidly to high risk, and early identification and management of these cases can help reduce the likelihood of serious victimisation. The Community Safety Team enlists the assistance of the public sector through the 'active citizen' scheme and has secured the voluntary services of a recently retired Police Crime Prevention Officer, who can provide help and advice to victims.

All those visited are surveyed about the service they receive and below are some of the responses:



#### 4. Town centre and neighbourhood safety

##### **Reducing Urban Street Gang Activity**

The national trend in the growth of urban street gangs affects every district in the country and in cities like London, there is significant gang related activity recorded. Due to its location bordering London, some of this overflows into the Epping Forest District and there have been local incidents which have involved serious crime in these areas. However, the district does not currently appear to have the serious gang problems of some of its neighbouring areas, but, the problem of gangs cannot be ignored.

Events in the Grange Hill area, led to the development of a Partnership Plan to tackle the 'gang' problem through engagement, reassurance and enforcement. It is common for gang activity to infiltrate the weaker members of a community and particularly those who live alone with drug, alcohol or mental health problems. Exploitation of the vulnerable, by gang members, is ruthless and is known as 'cuckooing'. Early identification of potential victims is therefore essential and housing providers, community engagement organisations and public service contractors are thoroughly briefed, to help them recognise and alert professionals when cuckooing is suspected. In addition, targeted re-deployable public space CCTV is available for installation in areas of concern.

Funding was made available via the CSP, EFDC, Chigwell Parish Council and London and Quadrant Housing for a, 'Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) security company', to be deployed alongside police resources, to provide high visibility public reassurance and intelligence gathering. Regular intelligence briefings were held with Essex, Metropolitan and British Transport Police, which were led and managed by the council's Community Safety Team.

Priority graffiti cleaning was carried out, particularly when the graffiti related to gang activity, or had a territorial theme such as post codes. There was also a heavy investment in community engagement activity to provide a 'business as usual' atmosphere.

Through tasking and daily briefings, Police and Council services worked closely with each other, in particular, Community Safety, Community Policing, and Integrated Offender Management (IOM), with each team bringing their own areas of expertise in a co-ordinated way to ensure the safety of the public.

## West Local Policing Analyst

Over the last two years, the Council's Community Safety Team has hosted and managed the West Local Policing Analyst, on behalf of Essex Police and Brentwood, Thurrock and Harlow Community Safety Partnerships. This post has now transferred to Police Headquarters, but continues to fulfil the role of providing analytical support for the activities of the respective Community Safety Partnerships. It is hoped that the analyst will continue to play a lead role in the development and production of the annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment for each Partnership. This document is produced annually by the Community Safety Team and identifies priority issues that need to be addressed through co-ordinated partnership action.

## 5. Identify and reduce the damage caused by all forms of Hidden Harm

### CSE Conference

A conference focussing on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) was provided by the CSP, on 26 November 2015 to local partners from West Essex for the purpose of raising awareness of CSE. The conference provided an opportunity to raise the profile of CSE and update a range of multi-disciplinary professionals on local developments and services. It was attended by approximately 100 delegates from a range of agencies, which included schools, early learning, midwifery, victim support, police, family operations, army, district councils, youth services and youth council, housing and Fire Service.

Delivered by a range of professionals, the conference was very well received by all attendees. Findings from the event were used in considering the local picture and developments across the County, in a report produced by Clare Livens Essex Safeguarding Children's Board, CSE Project Manager.



## Modern Slavery Conference

The Community Safety Partnership also organised a Modern Day Slavery Conference in March 2016, which was open to all relevant staff in the Council and a range of partners. It highlighted the ways in modern slavery crimes begin, the signs to look out for and the reporting procedures in place. Speakers at the conference included representatives from the Salvation Army, who gave an overview of modern slavery and sexual exploitation; Barnardos who spoke about child slavery and the Gangmasters Licensing Authority, who talked about forced labour. During a break in the conference, a Police Officer attending the event was called to deal with a mother and her two small children, who presented themselves to Epping Police Station and were identified as potential victims of a criminal trafficking gang.



**Modern Slavery**  
Victims of Modern Slavery could be men or women of any age, any race, any background and of any social class. They could have been brought to the UK or they could be British.

**How to Spot the Signs of Modern Slavery:**

- Victims are forced to work through mental or physical threat.
- They are owned or controlled by an "employer" usually through mental or physical abuse or threat of abuse to them or a member of their family.
- They show a lack of self-esteem, are anxious or withdrawn.
- They seem to be physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom of movement.
- They have few personal possessions and often wear the same clothes.
- They appear to have a fear of authority and a reluctance to talk.

**IF YOU SPOT ANY SIGNS CALL:**

Human Emergency 999  
Local Police 101  
Crisis Response 0800 555 111  
Salvation Army 0300 3038151  
Safeguarding Team at EPPC 01992 568608  
Child Trafficking Advice Centre 0800 800 5000

Unchosen: A Film Against Slavery  
London Business Centre  
100, Broad Street, Bristol, BS1 2JQ  
Tel: 0117 325 1500  
Email: info@unchosen.org.uk

Unchosen  
A Film Against Slavery

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## MACE

Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) Groups were set up in Essex during 2015 and are multi-agency forums, to enable partners to develop a common understanding of issues affecting vulnerable children in each Quadrant of the County. The West area quadrant includes Epping Forest, Harlow, Uttlesford and Brentwood area.

The MACE focusses on those children who are vulnerable because they run away and/or may become involved in child sexual exploitation (CSE) and/or offending behaviour. Some of these children also tend to be absent from school and/or have mental health issues and it aims to identify and support any children and young people at risk.

All of the Quadrant MACE Groups report to the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) CSE Strategic Group, which in turn reports to the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

## Young Persons ISVA

Following the identification of young victims of potential CSE in Epping Forest and Braintree districts, the two Councils applied to the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Fund, for funding towards a young persons' Independent Sexual Violence Advisor. The proposal was successful and included the support of Victim Support as the lead agency in providing ISVA care. .

The advisor took up post in 2015 and worked within a multi-agency setting, to provide a proactive service to 13 - 18 year old victims of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, within and outside the criminal justice system. The main aims of the work were to;

- Risk assess and help young people keep safe,
- Help young people access their rights,
- Help young people access health and other services they need,
- Monitor and keep young people informed of case progress, and
- Provide support through the criminal justice system.

The service was very successful, and in April 2016 was transferred to a new county wide service provider, SERRIC (South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre).

## Older Peoples Safety

A Senior Safety Awareness event was provided in Waltham Abbey in March 2016. The event, which was funded by the PCC, was organised and developed by the Community Safety and Community Health and Wellbeing teams at the Council, as part of other 'Senior' initiatives taking place across Essex.

The event was aimed at older residents of the district and provided residents with the tools and knowledge they need to keep safe in and around the home. They were encouraged to share what they had learnt with their families, friends and neighbours.

A mix of public and voluntary organisations supported the events, including Essex Police who gave talks on crime prevention, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service gave a talk on smoke alarms and making your home safe, Trading Standards spoke about scams and bogus callers and Crime Stoppers talked about their service and how to report crime anonymously.

Following the informative talks, the attendees were treated to a musical that captured all the issues that had been raised from the earlier talks. The musical entitled 'Scram busters,' was written and performed by Solomon Theatre and was a great hit with the audience. Everyone attending also received a goody bag with information that supported the event which included services and activities taking place across the district.

The event had really great reviews with many of those attending learning something new, one resident said "it was a wake-up call making people aware of scams", another said that she was "overwhelmed by the speakers and the performance", and another resident commented that they "thoroughly enjoyed the event".



The J9 Domestic Abuse Awareness Programme, which has been running in West Essex for over four years, has been continually developed by the Community Safety Manager and is soon to be rolled across a number of other local authorities in Essex.

Named in memory of Janine Mundy, who was killed by her estranged husband while he was on police bail, the J9 initiative was originally set up by Janine's family and the local police in Cambourne, Cornwall, where she lived. It aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse and assist victims to seek the help they so desperately need, by promoting its pink heart (J9) branding, to show people where they can access support.

Initially the project was delivered in just Epping Forest, but the programme has gradually expanded to cover West Essex and the training programme is now provided by Epping Forest, Uttlesford and Safer Harlow CSPs throughout the year. It aims to raise awareness and increase knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse for key staff in public and voluntary sector organisations who have direct contact with families. In the course of their work, these staff may come into contact with someone they suspect is a victim of domestic abuse or a client may reveal that they are suffering abuse. The training is delivered by Safer Places, who provide a safe haven for people and it aims to ensure that staff are equipped to respond appropriately and effectively to any concerns.

The project now has a mailing list of over 400 professionals and service providers across Essex who have attended the domestic abuse awareness training and who promote the initiative within their organisation. All resources from the training are available on a dedicated area of the EFDC website and where possible, Epping Forest CSP provides regular updates and twice yearly newsletter to all attendees. The website, J9 resources and the mailing list is currently maintained by the Epping Forest Community Safety Manager.

# Appendix one

Essex Police performance summary - March 2015 to April 2016

## Epping

### Rolling 12 Months to April

Top Level	Offences			
Crime Type	2015	2016	# diff.	% diff.
Anti-Social Behaviour (incidents)	3814	3554	-260	-6.8
All Crime (excl. Action (NFIB) Fraud)	6722	7519	797	11.9
- State Based Crime	582	753	171	29.4
- Victim Based Crime	6140	6766	626	10.2
Victim Based Crime	Offences			
Crime Type	2015	2016	# diff.	% diff.
Violence Against the Person	1376	1818	442	32.1
- Homicide	0	2	2	-
- Violence with Injury	591	692	101	17.1
- Violence without Injury	785	1124	339	43.2
Sexual Offences	136	123	-13	-9.6
- Rape	53	37	-16	-30.2
- Rape - Under 16 yrs	16	11	-5	-31.3
- Rape - Over 16 yrs	37	26	-11	-29.7
- Other Sexual Offences	83	86	3	3.6
Robbery	87	84	-3	-3.4
- Robbery of business property	3	6	3	100.0
- Robbery of Personal Property	84	78	-6	-7.1
Theft Offences	3670	3858	188	5.1
- Burglary	1118	1058	-60	-5.4
- Dwelling Burglary	740	670	-70	-9.5
- Other Burglary	378	388	10	2.6
- Vehicle Offences (incl. Interference)	1078	1246	168	15.6
- Theft from Vehicle	622	708	86	13.8
- Theft of Motor Vehicle	358	412	54	15.1
- Vehicle Interference	98	126	28	28.6
- Theft	1474	1554	80	5.4
- Theft from the Person	73	83	10	13.7
- Theft of Pedal Cycle	51	71	20	39.2
- Shoplifting	464	444	-20	-4.3
- Other Theft	886	956	70	7.9
Criminal Damage inc. Arson	871	883	12	1.4
- Criminal Damage	841	861	20	2.4
- Arson	30	22	-8	-26.7
Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences	70	70	0	0.0
State Based Crime	Offences			
Crime Type	2015	2016	# diff.	% diff.
Drug Offences	154	191	37	24.0
- Trafficking of Drugs	23	46	23	100.0
- Possession of Drugs	131	145	14	10.7
Possession of Weapons	32	44	12	37.5
Public Order	301	416	115	38.2
Miscellaneous Crimes against Society	95	102	7	7.4



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October 2016