

Essex Business Crime Strategic Board

MINUTES Friday 9th July 2021, 10.00am – 11.30pm Teams Meeting

Attendees:

B-J Harrington – Chief Constable, Essex Police
Jane Gardner – Dep. Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex
CI Terry Balding – Essex Police
Darren Horsman – Strategic Head of Policy and Public Engagement, Essex PFCC
Denise Rossiter – CEO, Essex Chambers of Commerce
Sonia Peirson – Estates Manager, DP World London Gateway
Perry Woolner – I&C Team Manager, Wave
Simona Daniel – Development Manager, FSB
Lee Hammond – Head of Security, East of England Co-op
John Moran – Minerva Fire & Security
Iain Palmer – Head of Revenue Protection & Security, Trenitalia c2c
Samantha Johnson – Head of Security Compliance, London Stansted Airport
Paul Saward – Group Crime Response Manager, Sainsburys
Dr. Raymond Davies – Director, Dr Jean Raymond Ltd

In attendance:

Lucy Childs – Events Coordinator, Essex Chambers of Commerce
Terry Jacobs – Business Crime Sergeant, Essex Police
Gina Marden – Deputy Head of Department, Essex Police
Emma Curtis – Executive Support Officer to Chief Constable BJ Harrington

1. Welcome & Apologies

Dean Border – Chair, Essex Chambers of Commerce
Emma Thomas - Comms & Engagement Manager, PFCC
David Burch – Director of Policy, Essex Chambers of Commerce
Roger Hirst - Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex
Darren Hyde, Managing Director, VIP Security
Stephen Cook – Head of Human Resources, Wilkin & Sons
Derrick Hidden – CEO, The Green Block
Robin Punt – Head of Communications, Essex Police

2. Minutes of Last Meeting: Minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2021 were circulated in advance, reviewed and approved. These will also be available to view on the Essex Chambers' website.

Matters arising – none

3. Update from CI Terry Balding on Business Crime Team –

- TB informed the Board that Terry Jacobs has passed his Inspectors Training. TB and the Board congratulated TJ.
- 16,301 offences were recorded in the 12 months up to April 2021. 27.9% reduction year-on-year.
- The BCT launched the 'Open for Business. Closed for Crime' campaign in April 2021. The team have visited and worked with many districts, organisations and businesses across the county to work out how best the team can support local businesses and encouraging them to report crimes and offences.

- The team have been raising public awareness of unacceptable abuse and violence within the workplace. They've created, produced and distributed a Business Security Guide.
- The BCT use Criminal Behaviour Orders to prohibit the 10% of offenders who commit 90% of offences. Including banning them from entering establishments and engage the offender in rehabilitation activities designed to stop them reoffending. There is a significant reduction in offending as a result of CBOs issued.
- The BCT have also been running the Fuel Action campaign. High visibility signs placed in key locations to deter fuel theft.
- The BCT are focussed on disrupting organised crime within businesses. For example, working with neighbouring forces to identify gangs targeting supermarkets and stealing hundreds of pounds worth of alcohol. Also using technology to prevent thefts from charity clothes bins.
- The BCT have been working with the Essex Police Modern Slavery Officer to share best practice with the business community and raise awareness of the issue within their own supply chains. Distributed a newsletter highlighting signs for businesses to look out for.
- TJ announced the launch of the BCT webpage and talked through the features and information on the site, including a direct contact form.
- IP agreed that crime offences have been lower as a result of Covid-19 but not lower in relation to footfall on the rail network. TB agreed that it is hard to depict exactly what the effect Covid has had on the reduction in crime.
- IP suggested to include restricting travel via trains as part of a CBO. TB & TJ agreed and will discuss further with IP and British Transport Police to implement.
- BH invited the Board to work together with the police to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse through their networks. JG will present to the Board at the next meeting on this and DR has ideas on how to communicate messages to the business community. SD welcomed this and is happy for FSB to share messaging.
- SD voiced concerns from FSB members regarding the lifting of social distancing measures now that the Government have implemented a personal choice approach. With no legislation to back businesses where do they stand? LH echoed these concerns. TB outlined once businesses have made their decision on how they wish to operate the police will be on hand and will not tolerate any abuse towards staff. BH encouraged the reporting of crimes against employees and will work with other law enforcements heads to create a clear message of support for businesses to be communicated.
- TB announced to the Board that the BCT are also recruiting for a new PC to join the team.

4. Retail Crime – Violence against staff -

- DR introduced Paul Seward, Group Crime Response Manager for Sainsburys, as a new Board Member. PS is also a Special Officer for Essex Police force.
- PS introduced himself to the Board. Through his work at Sainsburys he has a background in fraud and generalised crime and is joining the the detective pathway in Braintree.
- PS outlined the landscape of retail crime in Sainsburys. Identified conflict areas around mask wearing and public following guidelines and the verbal and physical abuse towards staff as a result.
- PS has noticed that physical harm is decreasing but threats to harm is increasing.
- Body worn cameras have been rolled out across Sainsburys stores nationally to assist with evidence capture. 40% reduction in offences as a result of use.
- PS has been emphasising a mind set shift in store employees to report crimes to the police not for the police to respond immediately but to build evidence against repeat offenders.
- LH also gave the Board an overview of retail crime for the East of England Co-operative Society and stressed the importance of evidence capturing.
- In 2019 in the 123 CO-OP food stores across the Eastern Region 6,252 weeks imprisonment including suspended sentences. This was achieved through evidence capturing, identifying individuals and working with the police.
- LH discussed the attitude of business crime being victimless in the prosecution service but that there are victims in the individual employee who experienced the offence.

- LH also discussed the importance of working with the BCU to implement CBO's, particularly effective stopping individuals entering multiple stores across a region.
- LH explained that offenders do not commit crimes at random there is an underlying issue behind it. The CO-OP work to identify the root cause of the offences for example what items are prolific shop lifters stealing? Sign post the offenders to foodbanks. Social care/drug issues can also be identifiable and rehabilitation services provided.

5. Police Crime Plan (DH)

- JG introduced the Police Crime Plan. The PFCC highlighted business crime as a key area in the manifesto when RH was re-elected.
- DH shared a presentation with RH's 11 priorities including tackling business crime, fraud and cybercrime. The PFCC will lobby for tighter legislation around online platforms and invest in technology to track and eradicate online and cyber-crime, including ethical use of AI and biometrics. DH invited the Board for their comments on the plan.
- SP was pleased to see safety on the roads has been included in the plan. As a logistics company DP World are becoming concerned with the increase of traffic offences, i.e. speeding/dangerous driving and the risk to employees.
- PS requested for a better procedure/system to be implemented to link up industries and forces to deal with offenders more effectively, charging them for a series of crimes rather than one off incidences.
- RD suggested to implement a system for the police to feedback to businesses so there is a better understanding of what is happening with their case.
- DR asked if there is the opportunity to promote programmes and organisations that help to reform offenders and assist them to stop reoffending. JG spoke of the wider partnership activity outside of policing to understand why people offend in order to put measures in place to stop reoffending. PS is working with a PC in the West Midlands Police who is running an offender to rehab scheme. The scheme is funded by the force as well as businesses who wish to contribute potential to introduce in Essex. JG & DR agreed to discuss at a future Board meeting.
- DR has requested for Board members to support the police service and actively engage in promoting via their networks and websites. DR also discussed the possibility of sub-groups forming to deal with specific issues and the possibility of creating a campaign using positive case studies to promote the Board and Essex Police in the county.

6. AOB

- DR mentioned the success of the Cyber Security Virtual Conference and the positive feedback it received.

7. Date and location of next meeting: Friday 24th September 2021, Teams, 10.00am – 12.00pm.

Signed



Date ...24.09.2021...