

Essex Business Crime Strategic Board

MINUTES

**Thursday 16th February 2023, 10.00am – 12.00pm
Teams Meeting**

Attendees

Denise Rossiter – CEO Essex Chambers of Commerce
Christian Denning - Crime Prevention and Partnership Acting Inspector
Andy Mariner – Assistant Chief Constable, Essex Police
Terry Balding – Ch/Insp Essex Police
Lee Hammond - Head of Security, East of England Co-op
Ian Coleman - standing in for Minerva security
Paula Fisher - Director, Practical HR
Sonia Pierson - Estates Manager, DP World London Gateway
Stephen Cook - Head of Human Resources, Wilkin & Sons
Ian Palmer - Head of Revenue Protection & Security, Trenitalia c2c
Samantha Jeffcott - Head of Security Compliance, London Stansted Airport
Shan Kane - Superintendent, Essex Police
Jane Gardner- Dep. Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies

Andy Prophet – Deputy Chief Constable, Essex Police
Roger Hirst – Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex
John Moran - Minerva Fire & Security
Darren Horsman - Strategic Head of Policy and Public Engagement, Essex PFCC
BJ Harrington - Chief Constable, Essex Police
Robin Punt - Head of Communications, Essex Police
Christian Kemp - Lecturer in Cybercrime, Criminology and Policing, Anglia Ruskin University

2. Minutes of Last Meeting:

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated in advance, reviewed and approved. These will also be available to view on the Essex Chambers' website.

Matters arising – none

3. Business Crime Team Update – Ch/Insp Terry Balding

- Presentation from TB on Business Crime Key Findings over the last 12 months including data on daily offending and business crime.

- In the last 12 months, there has been an increase in business crime by 19.8%. The majority of this is shoplifting and violence without injury crimes. This is still below the pre-covid levels, but there has been a natural increase.
- New process of categorisation/allocation of crime ultimately enhances the Business Crime Team victim support.
- Colchester has seen the largest increase in business crime.
- AM noted that All Crime for Essex is down and is not increasing generally. There have been reductions in Domestic Abuse, which is a testament to the incredible work led by the officers, the PFCC and across partnerships.
- JG asked if we understand why Colchester has seen the largest increase compared to other areas.
 - TB explained that Colchester has a higher rate of confidence in reporting these crimes which is a big contributing factor and allows policing teams to understand hotspot areas.
- JG asked what is the link between Business Crime Teams and Town Centre Teams?
 - CD explained that the Business Crime Team work closely with the Town Centre Teams. This work is especially important in new retail zones. Work between the teams is progressing in regards to the radio scheme.
- DR asked for the definition of violence without injury?
 - CD - all incidents of assault without injury where the victim was punched, kicked, pushed or jostled but resulted in no injury.
- DR asked if there were any domestic violence figures?
 - CD to go back to analyst for figures.

4. Strategic Coordination Group

- SK explained that the SCG is about bringing together Local Policing Support Unit, partnerships, police constables and volunteers to tackle business crime and plan responses. Strength is in collaboration and delivering engagement with businesses is very important as it provides confidence and removes barriers.
- It has been running over a year now.
- TB is the chair of the SCG.
- TB ran the group through an explanation of the Local Policing Support Unit, structure of the team, priorities, strategy, attendance and partners, street weeks and engagements so far.
- DR highlighted that this was a great initiative and that she has access to over 8,000 people and 678 members to share this information with to help get the message out there.
- DR asked if anyone has linked in with the British Transport Police.
- TB gave credit to SK as this was his initiative which has grown from strength to strength. TB thanked DR as BTS is a good idea for the SCG.
- IP highlighted that C2C have been purchasing knife arches in joint operations with BTP. He is happy to link in with BTP to get them onboard the SCG.
- DR raised a question about an update in regard to shoplifting in businesses and if this was still relevant work for the police?
 - TB explained about the work they are doing in implementing Community Behaviour Orders for prolific offenders and the success they have been having with this.
- SK explained more about the SCG and the work which will focus on coordination and more effective deployment of resources. SK highlighted the success Street Weeks have had in Essex with over 6,000 getting involved in the initiative in 2022.
- DR praised the team for this great initiative and asked for this information to be shared with businesses which DR is happy to do.

5. Strategic Board Update

- SK started the presentation on the Strategic Board Update by giving an overview of the objectives and updates to the team. SK highlighted that for the size of the team they achieve great success through partnership work and delivering a combined approach.
- CD ran through some personal stories from the work being carried out by the Business Crime Team in Essex.
- CD outlined the work being undertaken for each objective and showed the group a video on the success of the radio scheme with retailers. In December, 46,000 conversations took part across the radio scheme.
 - IP asked for the details of the scheme to be shared as it can be useful in giving an early heads up to those getting off trains and coming towards the town
- CD mentioned the use Criminal Behaviour Orders to tackle prolific offenders. There have been 15 successful applications since October 2022. With 7 new applications currently in court. There are various prohibitions for CBO's, however if they are breached this can result in a custodial sentence.
- CB explained the ongoing campaign around Cyber Crime and Vulnerability called 'Sort Your Settings'.
 - LH asked if this can be shared with his colleagues.

- DR thanked CD and the team for their work and stressed the importance of sharing the information as this can be sent out to business networks.
- LH asked CD if the team will be sharing the school engagement work they undertook in Greenstead. LH said that it was one of the best pieces of engagement work he has seen.
- CD thanked LH for his comments and reflected on how much work the team have done. However, there's not enough time to talk about everything.
- IP asked for resources around the schools engagement work as they have been struggling for the last 6-9 months with behavioural issues from young people.
 - CD - happy to share resources.

6. Domestic Abuse Pilot Results and Update on Stage 2

- DR shared how proud she is of the pilot and excited about the work, as it will help police in their work towards reducing domestic abuse.
- PF presented the work and outcomes from the Domestic Abuse Awareness in the Workplace (DAAWN) Charter. Which is about raising awareness, prevention and engaging with the business community about domestic abuse.
- Outcomes: 26+2 companies/businesses participating and signed up to the DAAWN Charter. The awareness information videos has been made available to 2254 employees.
- Feedback from individuals so far has been that they have taken the information in the videos and passed it on externally to other people. 6-7 have personally said they will be contacting support agencies.
- The main message is - business leaders want to help and support this.
- JG expressed that she is keen to move onto phase 2 and 3 and is currently working on budget for this.
- AM stated that he was impressed with the work so far. He reflected on Essex Police as an employer and highlighted the value of embedding these videos in the police systems for staff to access.
- AM raised a question around capacity for this work. In particular around people signing up for help and the relationships coaching sessions.
- PF said that the capacity is there as they are partnering up with a specialist agency just need to see the uptake. PF stated that the biggest challenge is distributing this to businesses.
- AM offered to share any resources with the Essex Police communications team
- JG thanked everyone for their work on this. JG said she would welcome a meeting between AM and DR to discuss this further.

7. Precept, Force Growth and Development

- JG explained the further precept increase which has now been approved by the Police and Crime Panel. A Band D Council Taxpayer will pay an extra £14.94 per year for policing and an extra £4.95 a year for fire and rescue services – a combined increase of £1.67 per month.
- Roger will now be able to:
 - Complete the expansion of Essex Police to 3,755 officers
 - Get more officers trained and visible in our communities
 - Deliver services that are better value for money
 - Continue investment in fire and rescue services funding a pay settlement for firefighters and staff-
 - It will also allow Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to continue its investment in preventing harm, protecting people and training firefighters. The increase will also fund a pay increase for firefighters and professional support staff equivalent to five per cent this year and four per cent in the year ahead.

8. AOB

- DR asked for the group to support her in putting together some funding for the Business Crime Team to further enhance their communication and work with communities. DR is happy to talk to anyone who might have small resource left over in their budget and support the BCT in their work.

9. Next Meeting

- 11th May in person meeting
- AM happy to host at EP HQ