



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Foreword - Chief Constable

**Few would argue with the sentiment and approach of 'prevention is better than cure'. I see on a daily basis the impact that crime has on victims, their friends and families and the wider communities, the resources we plough into catching criminals and ensuring we do the best job possible to deliver the right outcome.**

Policing has seen significant changes over the last decade; the landscape of crime has shifted and our response has evolved to address this. Over the last year, significant global events have required us to change how and where we work, flex, learn and improve. Society has changed, we face a tough recovery from Covid but in every recovery there is opportunity to do things differently and this is what this new Crime Prevention Strategy presents: a new whole system approach to preventing and reducing the harm caused by crime.

This last year we have strengthened partnerships during crisis, seen the exceptional capabilities across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to respond to the biggest crisis of the modern day and respond together, as one team.

So what's different? The new strategy builds on the success of its predecessor and uses intelligence and evidence to predict our future challenges forecast over the next five years, and prepares us for the anticipated increase in volume and complexity of crime within a significant political, economic and community recovery period post-Covid.

As a force we continually strive for a safer Essex in which people feel safe and communities and businesses thrive. We know preventing crime is not a single agency endeavour. Everyone has a role to play in preventing crime and making Essex a safe place. That is why we have adopted a whole system approach to crime prevention - building on problem solving capabilities, developing proactive preventative activity, working with partners to co-produce sustainable solutions, identifying the most vulnerable and at risk, working towards cohesive communities and ones with reduced crime.

We recognise that the causes of crime are complex. This Crime Prevention Strategy forms part of a partnership approach to provide a whole system response to issues which present the most harm to our communities.

Whilst this list is not exhaustive, Essex Police have identified 14 thematic strands which not only pose the greatest potential threat, harm and risk to our people and communities, but also present the greatest opportunity for prevention. These are:

Knife Crime	Rape	Night-Time Economy
Child Abuse / Child Sexual Exploitation	Domestic Abuse	Drugs & Alcohol
Mental Health	County Lines / Exploitation	Serious Organised Crime
Cybercrime & Fraud	Places	Burglary / Robbery
Prevent	Hate Crime	

**Essex Police is committed to doing everything it can to tackle the challenges we face. Helping people, keeping people safe and catching criminals through working in partnership to reduce and prevent crime is at the heart of what we do.**



**Ben-Julian Harrington,  
Chief Constable**



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Foreword - Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

**My vision for Essex is that safe and secure communities are the bedrock on which we build success and wellbeing for all.**

There is no better way to make our county safer than having a strategic commitment from all of our community safety partners to prevent crime from happening in the first place and we can do that using a model of targeted prevention and early intervention.

We need to help and protect those who are vulnerable and at risk, deliver effective interventions based on evidence, and work in partnership with our communities to identify where people are most exposed and keep them safe.

More investment is being made to prevent crime through neighbourhood policing. Building on the success of our Community Safety Partnerships, where local councils and voluntary groups work in partnership with police, we are targeting hotspots and known offenders to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour and new Disruptor Teams for our district policing areas are working in local communities, using intelligence to deal with and prevent crime.

The recently established Essex Police Town Centre Teams are successfully reducing crime, using a highly visible and proactive approach. It is great to see the positive impact of their presence.

These officers are supported by Essex Police's Business Crime Team and Rural Engagement Team who are proactively working across Essex to beat both business crime and rural crime – a key element in both teams being crime prevention.

This Crime Prevention Strategy is an excellent document which sets out quite clearly our challenges in Essex and what we can all do together to prevent crimes from happening in the first place. A lot has been achieved but there is still more to be done and only by working together can we keep our communities and residents safe.

Roger Hirst

**PFCC**  
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Foreword - Chair of Safer Essex

### **We all have a part to play in making our communities safe.**

Through Safer Essex, our voluntary and public authority partners work together across Greater Essex to make our county a safer place for everyone. Its membership includes representatives from Community Safety Partnerships, Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, health colleagues, criminal justice partners, probation, education and of course the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

This wide membership gives us a unique ability to pull together to effect change across our county. We have worked together to help create this updated strategy and are committed to delivering against its objectives, ensuring we can succeed.

Committing to this strategy together is a significant step for us as a partnership and shows the commitment and dedication our members have to preventing crime, keeping our communities safe and delivering the change we all want to see.

The strategy aligns how we will all work in partnership to respond collectively to the issues which present the most harm in Essex, as identified in the 14 thematic strands which have been outlined in this strategy.

It will be our job to monitor progress and support each other so we can create safer and stronger communities in which our residents and visitors feel safe and our communities and businesses thrive.

Essex does have challenges, but we have many more positives to build upon and we have shown repeatedly that we are stronger and more effective when we work together. As Safer Essex we will realise our partnership capabilities and capacity to support and deliver on what's needed. There's lots to be done but will do it together and make Essex an even safer place for all.

**Pippa Brent-Isherwood**  
Chair of Safer Essex



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Essex Police Force Plan 2020/2021

The Essex Police Force Plan summarises the priority areas of work and how Essex Police will deliver them. It should help to remind officers and staff why they are all part of Essex Police: to help people, keep people safe and catch criminals, and that everybody contributes to achieving those aims.

The plan was developed with input from staff and officers on what matters to them, and the force priorities align with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) Police and Crime plan.

The main effort helps focus energy on **our priorities** and think about helping victims, identifying vulnerability, preventing violence, and being visible in everything Essex Police does, whatever the role.

All of the work and the strategies across the force link to the Force Plan and this is the internal point of reference for **our priorities, main effort** and **how we work**.

### THIS STRATEGY RELATES TO THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF THE FORCE PLAN:

#### Our priorities:

- ▶ Prevent
- ▶ Violence in all its forms
- ▶ Online crime
- ▶ Anti-social behaviour
- ▶ Gangs
- ▶ Domestic abuse
- ▶ Burglary
- ▶ Visibility in communities



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

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# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## We are Essex



ONS population projections 2016 predict that by 2034 the total population will increase by another **195,160** people to a total of **1,650,500**



The proportion of the population classified as "Working Age" is **2%** lower than the national average whilst the population aged 65+ is **2%** higher



At the time of the 2011 census the BAME population of Essex was **9.2%** of the total population. More recent statistics are not available



Essex, Southend & Thurrock Councils cover approximately **3,670** square miles

In 2018 across Essex there were:

- **2,376** Looked After Children
- **28,225** adults receiving long term support



Average weekly earnings FTE higher than the national average at **£618.6/week** (higher than national average)



**72.1%** of children achieved a good level of development at the early years foundation stage in 2018, similar to the average for England



In 2018 there were **67** rough sleepers (equivalent to 1.08 rough sleepers/10,000 households). **1,560** households were classed as "homeless" regardless of statutory duty to be housed

Pan-Essex JSNA 2019

# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## We are Essex

**21.11%** of children in reception year were classified as overweight (including obese) **8.59%** were classed as Obese (including severely obese). By year 6 est. **32%** of children are overweight or obese with **17.9%** classed as Obese or severely obese



**63.6%** of adults were classed as overweight or obese (higher than the England)



Males from birth had a healthy life expectancy of **64.53 years** whilst females were slightly lower at **64.18 years**

The rate of GP registered children who have received both of MMR vaccination injections by age five is **89.4%**. This is higher than the England average (87.2%) but is well below the **95%** needed to eliminate measles within the population

Public Health England estimates that there was a three-year average of **475.2** Accident and Emergency attendances by children under the age of 5 across Essex as a whole compared to an England rate of **551.6**



ONS 2017 Crude Birth Rate was **11.3** (similar to England)



Essex Residents Survey 2018 showed **25.5%** of residents (aged 16 to 65+) reported feeling isolated from others



**12.5%** reported depression and anxiety



Rate of emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm among persons of all ages across Essex was **156.98**

Pan-Essex JSNA 2019



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025
















## 2020/21 challenges



**SOURCE - 1\*** EP data Nov 19 to Oct 20. Number of the KSI collisions where people were killed or seriously injured **2\*** SMSR Q2 2020/21 (Oct 19 to Sept 20) **3\*** EP data Nov 19 to Oct 20 **4\*** Public Health England: NDTMS - National Drug treatment Monitoring System **5\*** From page 5 of the strategy report **6\*** www.gov.uk Statutory homelessness live tables **7\*** ONS Drug-related deaths by local authority, England and Wales 2019. Drugs misuse. Essex also includes Southend and Thurrock unitary authorities. Death classified as drug misuse must be a drug poisoning and meet either one (or both) of the following conditions; the underlying cause is drug abuse or drug dependence, or any of the substances controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 are involved. Deaths classified as a drug poisoning must have an applicable International Classification of Diseases (ICD) code assigned as the underlying cause of death; this is determined by international coding rules from the condition or conditions reported by the certifier, as recorded on the certificate. Essex had 114 in 2019 versus 50 for Cornwall - Cornwall references drug misuse figures **8\*** ONS: 2011 Rural-Urban Classification of Local Authorities and other geographies **9\*** English indices of deprivation 2019 (www.gov.co.uk) **10\*** Public Health England: NDTMS - National Drug treatment Monitoring System **11\*** EP data Nov 19 to Oct 20 **12\*** EP data Nov 19 to Oct 20 **13\*** EP data Nov 19 to Oct 20













# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## FMS demand profiling

	CURRENT STATUS		FORECAST	
	TREND	CONTEXT	TREND	CONTEXT
 Knife Crime	INCREASING 	Improvements in data quality resulting in increases, previous status not known as a result.	STABLE 	Data quality improvements likely to even out any increases as data is reviewed and corrected.
 Rape	INCREASING 	Long term increases although smaller this year due to Covid-19 restrictions.	INCREASE 	Increases in reporting expected to continue. Spike in recent reporting expected in short term. Non recent domestic rape also expected to increase.
 Night-time Economy (NTE)	INCREASING 	Large decreases this year (Covid 19) but longer term increases. Strong correlation to violent crime.	STABLE 	Slow longer term stable increases expected. Sharp post-Covid-19 pandemic spikes expected as NTE opens more fully. Longer term less clear due to changes in behaviour and impact of pandemic on number of licenced premises.
 Cybercrime / Fraud	INCREASING 	Recent increases largely driven by Stalking and Harassment. Growing volume of sexual offences.	INCREASE 	A growth area as technology continues to become more integral to daily life and offending.
 Dwelling Burglary / Street Robbery	DECREASING 	Falls in the past few years further accelerated by Covid-19.	STABLE 	Short term spikes in offences expected post Covid-19 but longer term little change expected.

# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## FMS demand profiling

	CURRENT STATUS		FORECAST	
	TREND	CONTEXT	TREND	CONTEXT
 Hate Crime	INCREASING 	Year on year increases in hate crime recorded.	INCREASE 	Increases expected to continue.
 Child Abuse / CSE	INCREASING 	Child abuse increasing, Child Sexual Abuse (CSE) stable.	INCREASE 	Increases expected to continue longer term with child protection investigations. CSE stable. Reports of abuse / neglect likely to increase post Covid with higher harm due to delayed reporting.
 Domestic Abuse	INCREASING 	Large long term increases although by a smaller volume in the past year.	INCREASE 	Expected to continue to increase although at a slower rate than previously seen. Short term spikes and non recent reporting with higher harm expected post Covid-19.
 Mental Health	STABLE 	Long term increase in the volume of mental health incidents but now stable. Likely under reported.	INCREASE 	Increases expected to continue longer term. Long term impact of restrictions may have precipitated a mental health crisis, particularly among the young which will have longer term impacts on demand.

### FMS summary only

 Drugs and Alcohol	Lack of data quality and analysis for demand forecasting. Crimes with an alcohol marker have increased in recent years.	 County Lines / Exploitation	FMS states urban increases in violence, County Lines, drugs supply and Serious Organised Crime.	 Serious Organised Crime	FMS expects urban increases in violence, county lines, drugs supply and Serious Organised Crime.
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# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Strategic Aims

**We want a safer and stronger Essex in which our people and visitors feel safe and our communities and businesses thrive.**

**We want a whole system response to issues which present the most harm to our communities.**

**We will deliver in partnership a 5-asset approach across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to have the biggest impact and unlock the greatest potential to create a safer & stronger Essex**

**We will promote safer communities**



**We will cut crime and criminality**



**We will evolve our workforce, culture and infrastructure**



**We will support Safer Essex to realise partnership capabilities and capacity**



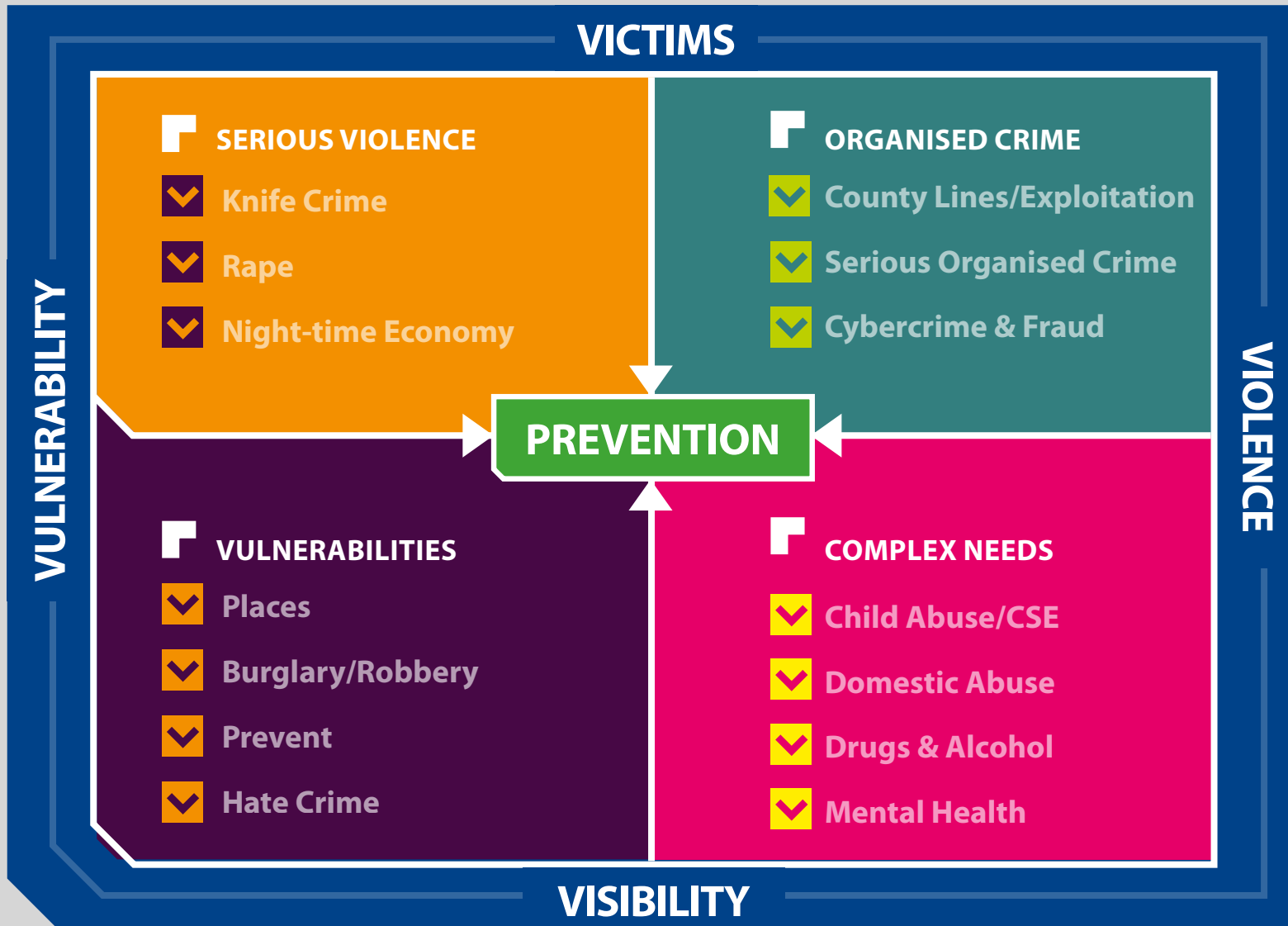
**We will support ECVS to unlock community potential, develop & deliver community led solutions**



# Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

## Threat, Risk and Harm

While these 14 thematic strands present the greatest potential threat, risk and harm to our people and communities, they also present the greatest opportunity for prevention.





**SERIOUS VIOLENCE**

# Knife Crime

To work with our partners and the community to tackle and reduce knife crime



# Serious Violence

## Knife Crime



Develop Integrated Offender Management processes with knife crime offenders to prevent reoffending



Deliver a consistent partnership media campaign looking at prevention



Ensure information sharing with key partners, especially A&E Departments, to understand and develop intelligence relating to knife crime



Work with education to develop a consistent knife crime education programme



Support local and national knife awareness and amnesty campaigns, highlighting the use of amnesty bins and preventing the circulation of knives



Enable prevention work through effective analysis, targeting high harm areas and individuals through Local and Force Tasking and working with Community Safety Partnerships



Ensure relentless enforcement and pursuit against knife crime offenders operating in Essex



**SERIOUS VIOLENCE**

# Rape

To continuously improve our services to victims and our approach to tackling Rape and Serious Sexual Offences



# ┌ Serious Violence

## Rape



Focus on tackling repeat victimisation and offending to prevent rape and serious sexual offences



Work in partnership to support more victims of rape and serious sexual offences, by listening to their needs and experiences, improving victim satisfaction and public confidence



Enhance partnership working, information sharing, resources and expertise, improving the service provided to victims, quality of investigations and bringing more offenders to justice



Work in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), ensuring a cohesive approach in line with their Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) strategy



Make appropriate use of legislation allowing vulnerable victims and witnesses to provide evidence and cross examination via video recording in advance of trial, removing the need to attend court



Continuously improve and develop by learning from past experiences, seeking new ways of utilising evidence-based practice to inform our activity



SERIOUS VIOLENCE

# Night-time Economy

To prevent and reduce harm associated with the night-time economy, with a focus on tackling violence

# ┌ Serious Violence

## Night-time Economy



Identify Crime trends, patterns or hotspots and respond appropriately



Deliver joint tasking and co-ordination to proactively tackle Night-time Economy (NTE) issues



Improve data sharing with partners to inform the allocation and deployment of resources



Work collaboratively with partners to prevent and reduce sexual harm on the NTE



Reduce harmful effects of alcohol and drugs on the NTE



Reduce anti-social behaviour, supporting a healthy, happy and productive NTE

A person wearing a dark hoodie and light-colored pants stands with their back to the camera, looking towards a brick wall. The scene is overlaid with a teal color filter. A yellow rectangular graphic element is positioned in the upper right corner of the page.

**ORGANISED CRIME**

# County Lines/ Exploitation

To work with our partners and the community to dismantle county lines, reducing the harm and exploitation that they cause

# Organised Crime

## County Lines and Exploitation



Ensure up-to-date effective Drug Market Profiling to understand the demographic of drug dependency with a view of reducing and supporting that user base



Working with our partners and the community to better understand and tackle the exploitation and harm caused by gangs and county lines



Ensure the Violence and Vulnerability Unit takes a collaborative public health approach to reducing serious violence through intervention, diversion, prevention and education



Learn from others by being actively engaging to identify and embed best practice from across the country



Ensure relentless enforcement and pursuit against county lines operating in Essex

A person wearing a dark hoodie and light-colored pants stands with their back to the camera, looking towards a brick wall. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background. The image has a teal color overlay. There are two white L-shaped graphic elements: one on the left side of the page and one on the right side, partially overlapping the text area. A yellow rectangular graphic element is positioned behind the main title.

## ORGANISED CRIME

# Serious Organised Crime

To reduce the threat, harm and risk posed to communities within Essex from organised crime by maximising crime disruption opportunities with the support of key stakeholders.

# Organised Crime

## Serious Organised Crime



Work with partner agencies within law enforcement and the financial industry to identify and focus on organised crime enablers



Increase the use of Serious Crime Prevention Orders to ensure continued disruption and targeting of career criminals engaged in organised crime



Support Youth Engagement Officers, schools and universities in educating young people of the dangers and consequences of organised crime



Ensure use of media to effectively update communities regarding the police response to organised crime

**ORGANISED CRIME**

# Cyber Crime and Fraud

To work in partnership to reduce fraud and digital crime by supporting victims, reducing enablers and tackling offenders



# Organised Crime

## Cyber Crime and Fraud



Work in partnership to identify and safeguard those most vulnerable to fraud and repeat victims



Work in partnership to reduce the number of enablers of economic crime



Work with partners and wider law enforcement to identify those targeting the vulnerable through fraud and seek to bring them to justice



Work with local businesses to identify their network vulnerabilities and in turn help strengthen them against cybercrime



Work with partners and wider law enforcement to identify emerging trends and software and those involved in digital crime, and work to disrupt offenders



## VULNERABILITIES

# Places

To work in partnership to develop sustainable solutions that improve community safety and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour by targeting persistent problem places and people within the geographical areas



# Vulnerabilities

## Places



Ensure a co-ordinated partnership approach to community safety issues, encouraging local ownership and leadership of community led solutions that provide public reassurance, reduce harm and protect the vulnerable



Ensure effective use of cross sector data and Residents Survey feedback to create place-based evidence profiles and identify key priorities within geographical areas



Develop and deliver communication plans with the public and stakeholders in line with 'you said, we did' to raise awareness of key issues, promote partnership work and reduce fear of crime and anti-social behaviour



Deliver targeted local interventions to raise awareness and draw vulnerable people away from serious and organised crime and assist their distancing from it.



Unlock community potential to co-produce place based responses to issues that matter to them.



## VULNERABILITIES

# Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery

To work in partnership across the public, private and voluntary sectors to reduce the volume, severity and adverse impact of house burglary and street robbery offending

# Vulnerabilities

## Dwelling Burglary and Street Robbery



Engage, support & safeguard victims and affected communities to prevent repeat and near-repeat victimisation, inspire confidence and reduce fear of crime



Ensure a high-quality response and investigation to bring offenders to justice



Work with our criminal justice and community safety partners to prevent reoffending



Collect, analyse and disseminate intelligence to identify and respond to emerging threats, hotspots, series and trends



Provide our communities with up-to-date crime prevention advice, information and resources so they take action to protect themselves and their property



Take an evidence-based design and problem-solving approach to reducing the factors and vulnerabilities that enable burglary and robbery crimes



## VULNERABILITIES

# Prevent

To work in partnership to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them from becoming involved in, or supporting, terrorism

# Vulnerabilities

## Prevent



Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism



To work in partnership to safeguard and support those vulnerable to radicalisation, to stop them from becoming involved in, or supporting, terrorism



Enable those who are already involved in or supporting terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate



Ensure the statutory Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 'PREVENT' requirements are met by Essex Police



Inform, monitor and respond to recommendations arising from the annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP)



Identify and embed best practise and learning arising from the PREVENT agenda



Identify emerging trends, threats and community tensions and hate crime relevant to the PREVENT agenda and ensure effective partnership response



## VULNERABILITIES

# Hate Crime

To work with partner agencies and communities to reduce hate crime and the harm caused by it, by bringing offenders to justice and educating people around the significant impact hate crime can have



# Vulnerabilities

## Hate Crime



Build the trust and confidence of individuals and groups affected by hate crime



Reduce under-reporting, repeat victimisation and perpetration of hate crime



Provide high levels of victim care, safeguarding and support throughout the criminal justice process



Bring offenders to justice



Promote community cohesion



Promote hate crime awareness through effective partnership wide campaigning



Raise awareness of hate crime and educate people on the impacts hate crime has on victims, their families and their communities



Work in partnership with our communities to better understand violence, intimidation and abuse against women and girls



**COMPLEX NEEDS**

# Child Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation

To continuously improve our services to victims and our approach to tackling Child Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

# Complex Needs

## Child Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation



Maximise opportunities for early interaction, intervention and prevention to reduce exposure to harm, including focus on repeat victimisation and offending to prevent child abuse and CSE



Make appropriate use of legislation allowing vulnerable victims and witnesses to provide evidence and cross examination via video recording in advance of trial, removing the need to attend court



Enhance partnership working, information sharing, resources and expertise, improving the service provided to victims, quality of investigations and bringing more offenders to justice



Work with partners to support more victims of child abuse and CSE, listening to their needs and experiences to shape our services and improve victim satisfaction and public confidence



Continuously improve and develop by learning from past experiences, seeking new ways of utilising evidence-based practice to inform our activity



Work in partnership with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), ensuring a cohesive approach in line with their Rape and Serious Sexual Offences (RASSO) strategy.



**COMPLEX NEEDS**

# Domestic Abuse

To work with partners and the community,  
to prevent domestic abuse by supporting  
victims and tackling offenders

# Complex Needs Domestic Abuse



Ensure effective working with partner agencies to provide quality service to victims through their entire experience from initial call for service through to court hearings and beyond



Ensure effective multi-agency approach to break the cycle of violence and offending against victims



Ensure we continuously improve and develop by learning from successes and failures, identifying and implementing multi-agency best practice



Ensure effective multi-agency approach to break the cycle of violence and offending against victims



Develop and ensure a 'differentiated response' to the types of domestic abuse



**COMPLEX NEEDS**

# Drugs and Alcohol

To work in partnership to reduce crime and harm caused by misuse of alcohol and use of drugs



# Complex Needs

## Drugs and Alcohol



Target enforcement action against individuals and groups willingly concerned in the production and supply of illegal drugs and those in breach of alcohol licensing legislation



Identify and protect vulnerable individuals and communities from the exploitation and harm caused by drug supply and use, and misuse of alcohol



Work in partnership to further develop and better utilise pathways into treatment for alcohol and drug misuse



Inform and influence the education and engagement of young people to divert them away from substance misuse



Develop an improved shared understanding of current local drugs markets and the impact of licenced alcohol sales to inform and direct partnership interventions



**COMPLEX NEEDS**

# Mental Health

To ensure that any of us experiencing mental ill-health receive the best support.



# Complex Needs

## Mental Health



Working in partnership to maximise opportunities for early intervention with those who require support



Identify and share national and international best practice



Ensure that accurate data is collated by Essex Police and partners to inform decisions



Ensure that officers and staff are trained to identify and respond to incidents of mental health crisis



Improve the quality of investigations and outcomes of crimes for victims and witnesses

**If you are part of an organisation that you feel can lead or contribute to the delivery of aspects of our Crime Prevention Strategy please contact us.**

**We will endorse funding applications and work collaboratively to support delivery.**



**Do it online at:**

**[essex.police.uk](https://essex.police.uk)**

