

# Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2022



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# Epping Forest District Community Safety Partnership Foreword

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This is my third year of chairing the Community Safety Partnership and this year has seen some excellent partnership work around the district.

Last year we changed one of the strategic priorities to: “To continue effective partnership working in order to meet emerging local threats and issues”. During the year there has been some great work that has been instrumental in working towards this priority.

We were fortunate to be awarded Home Office funding under Safer Streets round 4, securing £330,000 for a project in Ninefields, Waltham Abbey. This was match-funded with £169,000 from Epping Forest District Council. Different projects and initiatives will be implemented over the 2-year project, with an increase in CCTV, a new play area, youth centres and proactive work to tackle fly tipping in the area.

In August Essex County Fire and Rescue Service led on a successful Safe Well and Secure Event, that was pivotal in bringing partners together to provide advice and guidance to members of the public within the Paternoster Ward in Waltham Abbey.

Crimestoppers zones were launched at Limes, Chigwell and Ninefields, Waltham Abbey. We were the first in Essex to launch the zones.

Going forward into 2022-23 our priorities will change in line with the emerging community safety trends and will be:

- 1) Working to reduce ASB in public places
- 2) Tackling violence in all its forms and reducing reoffending with an emphasis on:
  - Gangs, drugs and county lines
  - Knife crime
  - High harm
- 3) Supporting vulnerable people
- 4) Continuing effective partnership working, in order to meet emerging local threats and issues.

The strategic priorities will enable us to continue to protect our most vulnerable residents, detect and deter crime and work effectively with our partners, continuing to share vital information.



**Cllr. Holly Whitbread**

Community and Partnership Services  
Portfolio Holder

# Community Safety Partnership

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The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced Community Safety Partnerships to provide a multi-agency response to crime and the fear of crime within communities. They support the work of the police and other statutory agencies and are widely considered as the most effective approach to finding joint solutions to local community safety issues.

In Epping Forest District, the responsible authority group is made up of:

Essex Police

Epping Forest District Council

Essex County Council

Essex Fire and Rescue Service

The National Probation Service

The Community Safety Partnership has a statutory responsibility to:

- reduce crime and disorder
- protect the community
- reduce reoffending
- combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
- help people feel safe

However, the delivery of the community safety agenda is not restricted to the agencies identified as responsible authorities. The partnership includes and works with other agencies and voluntary sector groups including Neighbourhood Watch, Crimestoppers and Voluntary Action Epping Forest (VAEF).

The work of the CSP does not replace the work of the police or the day-to-day business of the organisations involved, instead it is a channel for agencies to work together, delivering against agreed priorities, co-ordinating resources, achieving efficiencies and value for money.

The Strategic Board of the partnership meets on a quarterly basis and much of the work emanating from the CSP is undertaken and led by the various departments in the Council including the Community Resilience Team and the Community and Wellbeing Team.

## Strategic Assessment

Each year the CSP is required to produce a Strategic Assessment (SA) about crime and disorder levels in its area. This will be attached to the CSP annual report.

## CSP Budget 2021-22

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Organisation	Funding received
<b>Police Fire Crime Commissioner (PFCC) - core funding</b>	<b>£19268</b>
<b>Epping Forest District Council Community Safety Budget</b>	<b>£4500</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>£23768</b>

# Local Profile

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Epping Forest district is a mixture of rural and urban areas and stretches northward from its boundary with Greater London right into the heart of rural Essex.

Covering an area of 131 square miles, the key population centres are the commuter towns of Loughton, Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill, as well as the market towns of Epping, Waltham Abbey and Ongar. Some areas of the district have relatively good transport links with both the M11 and M25 motorways running through the area. Mainline railway networks run south to London and the Central Line tube has five stops in the district from Buckhurst Hill to Epping. However, in rural areas there are accessibility issues for some without private transport, especially in outlying villages.

# Policing Structure

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Epping Forest District forms part of the Essex Police West Local Policing Area (LPA). The West is also made up of Harlow, Brentwood, and Thurrock. The current structure is:

Local Policing Team	Community Policing Team	Criminal Investigation Department
5 Inspectors	1 Inspector	1 Detective Inspector
5 Sergeants	2 Sergeants	3 Detective Sergeants
57 Constables	12 Constables	20 Detective Constables
	4 Town Team Constables	
	2 Children & Young Persons Officers (CYP)	
	1 Community Safety Engagement Officer (CSEO)	
	7 Police Community Support Officers	
	Community Safety Team (EFDC-funded)	
	1 Sergeant	
	3 Constables	

*Correct as of 22/11/2022*

# Performance Summary Highlights

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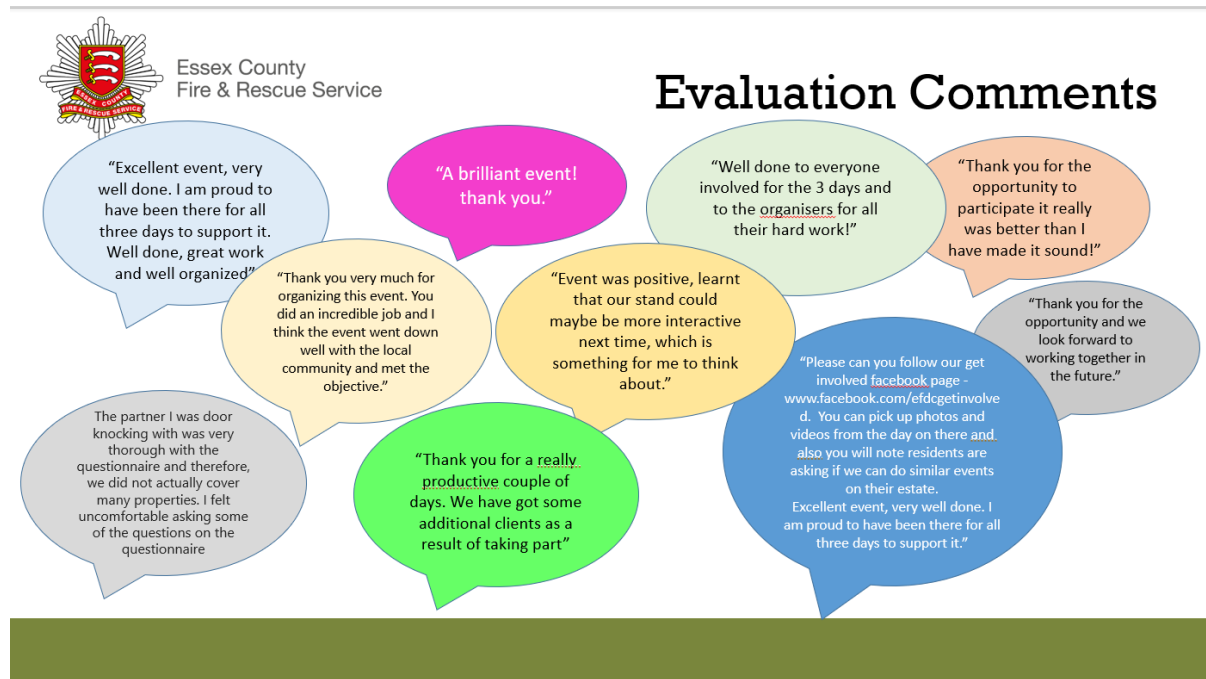
## Engagement

### Safe Well and Secure Event

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Essex County Fire and Rescue Service led on the event in Ninefields, Waltham Abbey in the Summer. Over the three days a total of 88 partners across 13 organisations were involved and 1333 doors were knocked in the area. Questions were asked about the safety of the property (i.e. if the appropriate smoke detectors were fitted etc) and questions about wellbeing and support and how to contact services should occupants need them. As well as the door knocking there were partner stalls giving out advice and materials to keep the community safe.

Some of the feedback:



**Essex County Fire & Rescue Service**

### Evaluation Comments

"Excellent event, very well done. I am proud to have been there for all three days to support it. Well done, great work and well organized"

"A brilliant event! thank you."

"Well done to everyone involved for the 3 days and to the organisers for all their hard work!"

"Thank you for the opportunity to participate it really was better than I have made it sound!"

"Thank you very much for organizing this event. You did an incredible job and I think the event went down well with the local community and met the objective."

"Event was positive, learnt that our stand could maybe be more interactive next time, which is something for me to think about."

"Please can you follow our get involved facebook page - [www.facebook.com/efdcgetinvolved](https://www.facebook.com/efdcgetinvolved). You can pick up photos and videos from the day on there and also you will note residents are asking if we can do similar events on their estate. Excellent event, very well done. I am proud to have been there for all three days to support it."

"Thank you for the opportunity and we look forward to working together in the future."

The partner I was door knocking with was very thorough with the questionnaire and therefore, we did not actually cover many properties. I felt uncomfortable asking some of the questions on the questionnaire

"Thank you for a really productive couple of days. We have got some additional clients as a result of taking part"

## Anti-social Behaviour Awareness Week

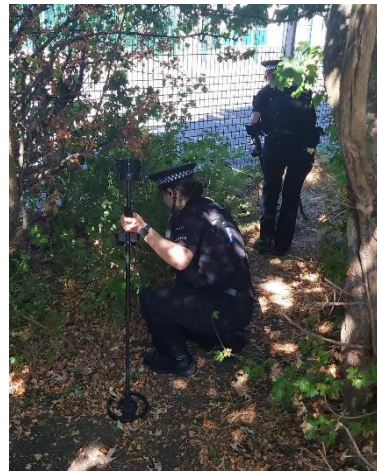
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ASB awareness week - 8-22 July 2022 - is a national initiative which aims to encourage communities to take a stand against ASB and highlights actions that can be taken by those experiencing it.

Crime and ASB statistics from the Police and Council systems were analysed and hotspots were identified as:



- Shelley, Ongar
- Ninefields, Waltham Abbey
- Limes, Chigwell



Epping Forest District Council, Essex Police and the residents' associations teamed up to have a presence in the area, conduct knife sweeps, give crime prevention advice, hand out materials and conduct proactive patrols and visits in the areas.

Some of the outcomes were:

- Weapon sweep conducted on the estate
- Joint patrols with residents' association
- Over 20 bikes marked under the bike marking scheme
- 10 intelligence reports submitted to Essex Police
- Air rifle handed into Police and seized
- Community engagement with a range of residents
- Proactive patrols for existing ASB cases
- 4 safeguarding reports as a result of visits



# Crucial Crew

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Crucial Crew is a national scheme that aims to promote life skills to year six children. It's an event that allows young people to engage and discuss safety issues in a safe open environment.

Epping Forest Crucial Crew took part on 5 – 8 October 2022. In its eighteenth year, and second year delivering in a virtual format. 68% of the district's state primary schools booked onto the Crucial Crew event week this year; 21 schools out of 31 state primary schools who were contacted. This resulted in over 900 Year 6 pupils engaged from the district.

Epping Forest District Council continued in coalition with the other Councils across Essex investing in Tic Box productions to deliver the 'Lines' production and workshops.

## Theatrical production

'Lines' is an immersive theatre production created by Tic Box productions. The powerful theatrical performance dramatically unravels the story of PJ, a Year 7 boy groomed and criminally exploited by a gang.

## Live Interactive Workshop

The film was followed by a live interactive workshop. The objective of the one-hour live workshop was to educate young people on the warning signs of an exploitative relationship and how to seek help and support. Guided by a facilitator, the interactive Zoom session featured a Q&A with GiGi, played by the actor who remained in character. This provided the young people with the opportunity to explore how Gigi was groomed and how different life choices could influence the outcome of her story and that of PJ's. The workshops were kept interactive by the facilitator asking questions and each pupil responding with their thoughts, holding up coloured paper to show their feelings and ask/answer questions relating to the film.

The participants were asked to describe the experience in 3 words:



# Prevention

## Domestic Abuse

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In December 2021 Epping Forest District Council introduced a new role of Domestic Abuse Support Specialist. The role sits within the Homelessness Team and offers specialist advice and support to victims of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse cases can be complex and can be daunting for victims. The specialist officer supports the victims and enables them to remain safe within the community. Case studies of work that has been undertaken by the specialist are as follows:

### Case study A

Survivor is currently open to Epping Forest District Council and currently living in a 2-bed Council property. Survivor approached EFDC in 2020 after a domestic abuse incident occurred. All appropriate referrals were made to Safeguarding/MARAC/Changing Pathways and the police. The survivor did not wish to go to a refuge so was placed in temporary accommodation. In 2021 the survivor was moved to their current 2-bed property. Perpetrator was not previously aware of this address until survivor had informed him due to perpetrator seeing his son. The abuse escalated in December 2021, it was referred to the specialist, the specialist provided the below support:

- Listening support to survivor for them to talk about what had been happening which had resulted in perpetrator arrested for Breach of SPO and Malicious Communications.
- After listening and meaningful interaction discussed with survivor, she was offered Flex fix term 10 year tenancy agreed by temporary accommodation team.
- Survivor was not sure if they wanted to stay in this property due to concerns property was not safe.  
Due to the support network they had in the local area family and friends, survivor's part time work and son happy and settled in his home and school. Survivor decided she would like to stay but would feel safe with better security.
- Discussed Sanctuary Scheme, survivor happy for this to be looked at to make her feel safe.
- Sanctuary Scheme not required, instead general maintenance through Qualis. Broken front door lock. Communal entry system at entrance is not closing properly which is how perpetrator managed to gain access at last incident.
- With this fixed survivor felt she would feel safe. All other safety features were in place, door chain, UPVC windows and door, no previous arson attacks letter box remained open. Contact made with Qualis expressing importance – works carried out
- Support offered for Changing Pathways referral – NTU
- Safety plan discussed
- DASH completed Medium risk. Perpetrator in custody until court hearing at Crown Court. Regular telephone support for the survivor.
- Agreed to monitor court hearing and release date to reassess risk and to look at Safety plan again.
- Constant liaising with the Police

## Sanctuary Scheme

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The Sanctuary scheme is a victim-centred service installing security measures in and around properties to enable households at risk of domestic abuse to live safely in the property of their choice. Many victims of domestic abuse are reluctant to move home, away from their support networks. To move often means their children have to change schools and leave their friends. Sanctuary schemes aim to make it possible for victims to remain in their own home and feel safe.

The Sanctuary scheme in Epping Forest District supports all residents regardless of their housing tenure.

Safe Partnership are commissioned by Epping Forest District Council to deliver the Sanctuary scheme for the district.

Safe Partnership was founded in 1987 by John McCarthy and has been working hard to help victims of domestic and sexual abuse in England and Wales

On behalf of Epping Forest CSP they secure the homes of victims of domestic abuse and vulnerable victims of crime.

Referrals to date:

Year	Referrals
2020/2021	7
2021/2022	19

## Phoenix Futures

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The Horizon project delivered by Phoenix Futures supports clients identified as suffering from significant multiple disadvantage, substance issue, offending behaviour and homelessness.

The cohort is limited to a maximum of 10 clients at any one time, enabling practitioners to spend as much time with the client as they need. They bring experts from a range of services to the table with the aim of providing a wraparound support service to each client. Agencies meet on a regular basis (every 6-8 weeks) to discuss the cohort and make plans to move each individual forward with their needs.

### **Case Study 'G'**

G is a 29 year old female with a history of childhood trauma and current Class A substance and alcohol misuse. At the time of referral she was sofa-surfing with her mother but this was not a long term solution due to a fragile relationship possibly linked to the trauma. G was initially referred to our OCAN service in September 2021 following an assault on her mother and an overdose. Support requested around client's anxiety and depression, and binge drinking.

Shortly after the referral G informed us that her mother had evicted her from the family home and with the support of EFDC, she was placed into temporary accommodation. Over the following 4 or 5 months, G was in and out of temporary accommodation, sofa surfing and sleeping rough. Each time she was referred back to EFDC for support.

In January 2022 G was admitted into a Mental Health unit in Basildon Hospital and received Detox. Upon discharge, support was provided into temporary accommodation in Loughton, for a period of 1 month. G was stepped up to the Epping Horizon Project in February 2022. In April 2022 G reported using alcohol and crack cocaine in exchange for sexual favours, which she had reported to the police.

In May 2022, client was supported into supported accommodation at Norway House. Due to the nature of the accommodation, client reported feeling as though she was in a container, and this led to a further increase in drinking and anti-social behaviour at the accommodation. Followed by a further overdose in June 2022. Client was given a Section 202 Notice from the Council, which set her back further. Norway House was unable to continue support due to behaviour through alcohol use.

In July 2022 client was supported into temporary accommodation in Waltham Cross and she was referred to Essex ARC for alcohol support. At the same time the client was supported to re-engage with Rectory Lane CMHT in Loughton.

Client was supported to complete the housing register form to start bidding and was offered permanent accommodation that she accepted, in October 2022.

Supported with Universal Credit tasks to change all passwords not linked to her perpetrator, supported with PIP Application, supported with starter pack and food parcel for new home. Since July 2022 G has maintained more regular contact and will often make contact herself.

## Safer Streets

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Epping Forest District Council was successful in a bid to the Home Office for £330,000 Safer Streets round 4 which was match funded by Epping Forest District Council with £169,000.

The project focuses on the environment, increased CCTV, diversionary activities, healthy relationships, community safety and bin store improvements.

Updates about the project can be found here: [Safer Streets funding for Ninefields estate - Epping Forest District Council \(eppingforestdc.gov.uk\)](#)

# Enforcement

## Operation Spitfire

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From 12- 16 January 2022 the Community Policing Team launched “Op-Spitfire” focused around cross-border activity and proactive use of ANPR. Due to the district being on the Metropolitan Police borders there is always cross border activity that needs to be targeted. The operation was very effective and a number of results were achieved throughout the week:

- 8 arrests ranging from drugs offences, robbery, driving offences and theft.
- 4 out of court disposals for drug offences.
- 13 stop searches
- Multiple stolen cars recovered
- Intelligence gathered

# Epping Forest Community Safety Team Policing Hub Activity

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The funded police team continues with the following primary functions:

- 1. Support to Epping Forest District Council services/teams**
- 2. Added value to the district in supporting the Community Policing function**
- 3. Targeted action against criminality in the district**

The police team accepted 36 tasks during 2022. The tasking log is included in the Appendix but some highlights are:

- Providing support to Neighbourhoods in preventing a breach of the peace as a fence was repaired. The tenant presented high risk to council officers and repairs team. Without police presence there was the potential of threat, harm and risk.
- Reports were received from Epping Town Council in April 2022 that pickpockets had been active on market days (Mondays). There were no corroborating crime reports however in order to increase engagement, reporting and public satisfaction, high visibility patrols have been conducted by the team each Monday. This was only going to be short term but such is the positive response from the town council, public, stallholders and shop staff that the patrols have continued since then. The team uses high visibility patrols as well as a more covert approach. There have been 3 reports of 'theft from person' in that time, which is actually a positive result as under-reporting was an issue. In July the team arrested and convicted a woman who had just pickpocketed in the High Street. These patrols will continue for the foreseeable future.
- The funded team Sergeant took on the position of 'Community Bronze' for Ride London 2022. Working with various police and council teams in the planning and preparation stages as well as throughout the event. The funded team lead the local response on both days of the event in Epping Forest. The event passed with no police incidents reported in this district.
- Service of 18 County Court Injunctions at service stations across the district in relation to 'Just Stop Oil' protests.
- For ASB Awareness Week in July, the team worked in partnership with a number of council teams in three separate community engagement events in Waltham Abbey, Ongar and Limes Farm. These were 'days of action' where officers from both organisations met with the public, gave out crime prevention advice and materials and conducted joint patrols in the local area to highlight and address any concerns raised by residents.



- Supported the council in evicting a 'high risk' tenant who had recently been arrested for public nuisance offences after making threats and setting up 'boobytraps' in his home. Police officers supported the court appointed bailiffs. The tenant was not present and no incidents were reported.
- The team provided additional resilience for Halloween this year working alongside EFDC CCTV officers. Any patches of disorder were quelled quickly with the use of dispersal powers and there were far fewer incidents than in previous years.
- The team provided policing oversight of the district elections in May. The team Sergeant was involved in the planning stages with the team providing cover at the polling stations and subsequent count.
- Assist Neighbourhoods with 'prevent breach of peace' at a property in Waltham Abbey. The address and tenants presented risk to staff. EFDC was executing a gas warrant. This was two-fold in that officers were present to reduce risk but also to gather vital police intelligence about the occupiers and the layout of the premises.
- Targeted patrols at a number of separate locations across the year – Ongar, Waltham Abbey, Debden, Loughton, Buckhurst Hill and more – in relation to specific reports around anti-social behaviour and crime. These have generally consisted of additional high visibility patrols and using police powers and tactics to disrupt activity.

The priority remains to focus upon the first two primary functions however there have been a number of quality 'self-generated' activities this year. These are two examples:

- The team, responding to a TRACKER activation, located a 'chop shop' near Ongar. Two offenders were arrested in the process of stripping a stolen car. This was a significant site where 54 stolen vehicles were located (27 were intact, the rest in parts) with a value of approximately £500k, many of them from within the Epping Forest district.
- Working alongside Metropolitan Police and Roads Policing Unit, the team located another 'chop shop' in the Nazeing area. An offender was arrested in the process of dismantling a recently stolen car.
- The daily crime enquiry highlighted two exposure investigations with a vehicle index linked to a high risk registered sex offender from another part of the county. The offender had exposed himself to two children at a school fence. The funded team Sergeant took the lead on the initial investigation, deploying officers to gather evidence whilst the council-funded team deployed as an arrest team as ANPR data showed the offender was currently mobile in the London area. Plans were put in place at key points on the Essex/London border however the offender was able to slip through. The offender was arrested a short time later at home. The case was handed to specialist

investigating officers and the offender was arrested, charged and remanded for this offence plus one other from Southend. He was later convicted of all these matters. The fast actions of the team prevented re-offending in the district, protecting further victims.

