

**Thurrock Community Safety Partnership**  
Thurrock Community Safety Partnership Board meeting minutes  
28 September 2023  
10:30am to 12:24pm  
**Chair: Jenny Barnett (Acting Chair)**

**Objectives and decisions:**

- to be updated on incidents of note and crime performance
- to receive update on priority 4: counter terrorism and extremism
- to receive update on priority 5: hate crime
- progress report on Op Minerva and Op Dial funding

**1. Attendees and apologies**

**Statutory**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Jenny Barnett Acting Chair	Chief Superintendent, Essex Police	Apologies
Michael Dineen Acting Vice Chair	Acting Director, Counter Fraud, Community Safety and Resilience, Thurrock Council	Attended
Martin Lucas	The Probation Service	Attended
Cllr G Collins	Councillor representative, Police Crime Panel	Attended
Anthony Atkin (TA)	District Commander, Essex Police	Attended
Mark Eaglestone	Group Commander, Essex Fire	Attended
Emily Lawrence	Integrated Care Board (ICB) – Transformation and engagement manager for the Thurrock Alliance	Attended
Cheryl Wells	Strategic Lead – Community Safety, Emergency Planning and Resilience, Thurrock Council	Apologies
Romi Bose	Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB)	Apologies
Margaret Allen	Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB)	Apologies
Cllr Coxshall	Portfolio Holder, Thurrock Council	Apologies
Russ Freeman	Essex County Fire and Rescue Service	Apologies

**Non-statutory**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Howard Oldstein	Savills	Attended
Ewelina Sorbjan	Assistant Director – Housing Management, Thurrock Council	Attended
Clare Moore	Strategic Lead – Childrens Services, Thurrock Council	Attended
Philip Gregory	Senior Public Health Programme Manager, Thurrock Council	Attended
Mark Tebbs	Thurrock CVS	Apologies
Shelia Coates	SERICC	Apologies

Tricia Okwuasaba	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)	Apologies
Jane Namulindwa	Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)	Attended
Malcom Taylor	Children's Services, Thurrock Council	Apologies
Helen Forster	Strategic Lead – Public Health, Thurrock Council	Apologies
Simon Bell	Chair of Thurrock Association of Secondary Schools (TASS), education lead	Apologies
Greg Myddelton	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)	Apologies
Jo Broadbent	Director of Public Health, Thurrock Council	Apologies

### Ex-officio

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Michelle Cunningham	Community Safety Partnership Manager, Thurrock Council	Attended
Ceyenne Rosemund	Technical Support Officer, Thurrock Council (minutes)	Attended
Paige Simmonds	Community Safety Partnership, Thurrock Council	Apologies

#### **1.1 Confidentiality and disclosure – introductions**

Philip Gregory asked that his part be moved forward in the agenda as he will be leaving at 12:30pm. This was approved.

#### **1.2 Items for urgent AOB**

None raised.

#### **2. Minutes**

2.1 Minutes from 27 June 2023 were approved.

2.2 Outstanding Actions – see action log.

2.3 Matters Arising – none noted.

#### **3. Performance and incidents of note**

##### **3.1 Police Update – Presentation shared Tony Atkin.**

TA – [Begins presentation]. This pack was put together for our independent advisory group; we want to prepare these before all meetings.

[Reads slide 2] - The overall picture is positive.

[Reads slide 3] - Nationally, there has been an increase of robberies by 18%-25%. Thurrock has seen a reduction of 11%.

MD – What has led to the increase in solved thefts?

TA – An increase in numbers especially around Lakeside; high visibility patrols under Operation Alien; identified hot spots outside Lakeside. The way we treat theft from motor vehicles and look at other forensic opportunities helps also.

JB – Also a side operation, led by the DCI in the West, contributes.

Cllr Collins – What have we been doing differently to see the reduction in ASB?

TA – From September last year we set up Operation Caesar, a quadbike unit for offroad ASB, and have seen a 55% decrease over last 12 months in offroad vehicle reports.

Also, being data led; identifying hotspots; high visibility patrols; community engagement; and working with enforcement has contributed.

MC – Serious violence duty and community-based violence; is there a way we can track that monthly? The violence figures include domestic abuse. Can we have a separate breakdown as per the key indicators on our health and wellbeing strategy?

TA - We can speak to an analyst but it may not be added to the monthly crime tree data.

JB – TA will see what can be put in place around community-based violence.

#### Incidents of note.

1. 1.Assault in Hardie Park. This had a big impact on the Corringham/Stanford area. It was reported to the police and then allocated to our young person's officers and our partnership Sergeant. The family and victim have agreed that it is about diversion rather than just punishment. I will feedback at the next panel once we have confirmation of disposal and the outcome.  
Cllr Collins – Was this attack part of a TikTok trend  
TA – I am not aware of a trend and have no other reported incidents of this nature.
2. Off Road Motorbike: a 10-year-old was struck by an off-road motorcycle in the field behind Camden Close. The mother said that offroad bikes have been an issue for some time here; we had only had 1 reported incident within the 6 months prior. Since then, we have had 3 reports. We are monitoring this with the Community Safety Partnership team. We need these instances to be reported. Councillors have been asked to speak to their constituents regarding reporting.  
MD – This issue was raised in full council yesterday. Andrew Simpson (AS) has already done an assessment and will provide a formal response once he has spoken to local officers. My thanks go to AS.  
TA – AS is in our crime prevention team.
3. White Hart investigation follows an allegation in February. The Crown Prosecution said the threshold to charge was not met. This was appealed but upheld. However, the landlord was found to be in arrears for licencing fees and rent. His licence was revoked and he was evicted from the pub.
4. Robbery in Grays – a meeting was arranged via snapchat to sell designer clothing. This is an isolated incident. We are highlighting the dangers of social media clothing sales and how to safely meet in public places. 2 suspects charged with robbery and possession of a knife.

## 5. Stabbing Grays Station – BTP leading investigation

### Positive results:

- Op Community: Branksome Avenue and Brentwood Road had Speed-watch.
- Aggravated Burglary: CCTV suggests that the five arrested people were not breaking in. They may have been protecting the address. This is being investigated.
- Gang injunctions- The injunctions predominantly prevent gang members from associating or being in Grays High Street. GTM have been dismantled. Well done to our community policing team. We have also worked with schools to prevent gang recruitment opportunities.

### Community concerns:

- Op Axe –Tackling nuisance concerns in Corringham through the use of targeted and high visibility patrols, engaging with residents to identify key problems within the community.
- Op Zap –On going operation as a response to concerns around increasing hate crime tensions and anti-social behaviour on the Seabrooke Rise estate. The operation has been on going throughout the summer period and has seen a number of high visibility and joint patrols between council, ASB, housing and police. There has been some positive disruption amongst ASB offenders and work continues to reassure residents  
ES – More police is good but we need to deal appropriately with the identified offenders.  
MC – Yesterday's meeting, identified families of concern and children at risk of exploitation/causing some of the issues. Childrens Social Care are arranging meetings relating to section 47. The initial information sharing, around crime prevention and enforcement, moved to child protection. Each family will be dealt with separately. The collective Joint Action Group will be ongoing.
- Op Bike –An Operation has begun to target nuisance and off road motorcycles that are causing issues for residents and members of the public in Tilbury. This will run alongside Operation Caesar, focusing on Tilbury town centre.

### ASB suppression:

- Car cruising around Lakeside heavily contributes to recorded ASB.
- The pilot relating to the quad bikes put in place in September has now ended. We are requesting for this to be a permanent fixture. I will update the board on the progress of this paper.
- Operation Dial has officers doing patrols to deter, detect and pursue those committing ASB.
- Operation Brave – hotspots will have high visibility patrols. We will look at reinigorating the Safer Streets app.
- Operation Pumpkin – looks at previous Halloween data to target

resources for this year.

- Operation Community – Thurrock will have a day every 4 months. Purpose is to identify specific issues that are causing the community the most concerns through 'Let's Talk' events, engagement opportunities, and Councillors. Branksome Avenue and Brentwood Road were identified previously so we put in Speed Watch. The data collected was shared with the communities. Concerns that Branksome Avenue is a racetrack is not founded; the average speed was 32 miles an hour. No traffic calming measures are needed.
- We will put operations in place to target concerns brought up on our Operation Community days going forward.  
Cllr Collins – social media pre-empted the speed traps which may have reduced the speeding. Some social media groups make that area seem worse than it is so it is nice to have data to the contrary.
- Chafford Hundred station had many concerns raised in summer. In January we had 11 reported robberies, July had none; the average is 1-4 each month. Social media does create fear of crime; a local resident's page said there was a stabbing at Chafford Hundred station but there were no reports to the police. We need to put out accurate data. Branksome Avenue is a good example of the fear of crime being greater than crime itself.
- National Hate Crime Awareness Week 14th-21st October – The data shows we have a reduction in hate crime, this should give the community confidence. We will encourage people to report things too.
- Operation Bat/Stronghold – Target ASB and robberies in Grays High Street, Lakeside, Corringham, and Tilbury.
- OP Calibre 20 Nov – Focus on robbery hotspots, known offenders, and progressing investigations that are currently ongoing.

#### Stop and Search.

Data from Aug 22 – Aug 23 presented:

- 1420 stops in the last 12 months. 31.62% positive outcome compared to the force result of 27%
- 13 of those were strip searches. 0 were on anyone under 18 years old.
- Largest age range remains 18-24 with 472 searches in this category. 415 of those male.
- 0 searches in the last year on anyone identifying as transgender
- Thurrock disproportionality is 1.4 for black and 0.8 for Asian
- Force disproportionality is 2.25 for black compared to white
- Positive outcomes could be arrests, community resolution, diversion. I want to see a reduction of 'not stated' ethnicities. Officers are not asking self-defined ethnicity. This has been raised at the force board.

#### 3.2 ECFRS Performance Report Mark Eaglestone.

ME – I will forward a performance report to the board once I have it.

We have been increasing home fire safety checks; our operational crews conduct them after incidents. They used to visit 5-10 houses but now they

visit the whole street. Buildings with rack/ aerated concrete, often premises built around 1950s/90s, have become a priority. Operations crews update site-specific risk plans to record each property with this concrete. I can put this information on a report. We should have this data within weeks.

JB – Please send the performance report through once you have it.

ES – Have private properties or developers contacted you with their data or do we need to encourage them to do so?

ME – No. We have all the details for Essex.

## **8. Greater Essex Drug and Alcohol Partnership**

### **8.1 Standing agenda item Phil Gregory**

- Terms of reference for the Southend, Essex, Thurrock Drug and Alcohol Partnership (SETDAP) have been approved – to be reviewed annually.
- Outcomes framework baselines and ambitions reviewed at most recent SETDAP. Partnership members to undertake their own deep dives. Jo is going to submit information for criminal justice. Will review in October.
- Local operational group to be established in Thurrock for providers to feed in to SETDAP formally. Adult, children, and young people providers are feeding into the combat and drugs partnership.
- Recruitment remains a big challenge in fulfilling both core and grant-funded services for SETDAP members. This issue is shared by Southend. Our local provider has funded spaces but no one has filled them.
- Drug tests on arrests are progressing well.
- Thurrock continuing with Tender for new All-Age Service. Bids close October 20th. Existing providers expire at the end of March. Evaluation panel includes Essex Recovery Foundation, Thurrock Council reps and senior substance misuse professionals from Norfolk County Council. Will review after October.

JB – The recent news about centres in Scotland where individuals can take illegal drugs. I hear it has been in place around Europe for some time.

PG – Yes, 'safe consumption rooms'. I am interested but it polarises opinions.

JB – We will wait to see how it progresses. Of course, there is the cost aspect too.

## **4. Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner update**

### **4.1 PFCC Panel update Cllr Collins.**

Cllr Collins – The commissioner agreed to consider the following:

- Clarity to be provided in speed-watch 20mph zones and the training around that.
- A review of the PFCC constitution only found a typo. This has now been signed off.
- Opportunity for panel members to see the Fire and Rescue control room.
- Providing the panel with more information on ASB hotspot pilot areas and the ability to visit them. That will be actioned in the future.
- Bringing attention to the Safer Essex Road Partnership.

The above points were discussed on 20th July.

JB – Visiting ASB hotspots is great. Some groups of young people do not know how they are perceived by others; education in that area could be needed.

## **5. Delivering safer communities**

### **5.1 New risks for noting Michelle Cunningham – Seabrook Rise.**

MC – TA and ES have covered this section. It is being monitored by the executive and there is a joint action group, chaired by Insp Fisher.

### **5.2 Funding summary Michelle Cunningham – verbal**

- Funding for Operation Dial is provided by Home Office for Essex Police and the Council. Council has funds still available to end of year. We have a small team that are in the area twice a week. Cllr Collins would be welcome to join them. They are supporting Irish Lions as well as being around Chafford Hundred station.
  - We also have funding for civil enforcement officers who have more operations planned to spend the funding.
  - Licensing has not started their checks; they will concentrate on this in December.
  - This will cover the retail park, Lakeside itself and its night-time economy.
  - Operation Minerva is receiving £8,800 in relation to violence against women and girls in Corringham. We may not be able to use all of it as enforcement officers are being abstracted to Op Dial.
- Additional CCTV in Corringham is planned. Funding must be spent by the end of March. Some deployment locations were identified around the town centre. There is work at Morrisons and Impulse Leisure regarding the Bystander project. We have self-defence classes including focus on SEN.
- Corringham has number of primary schools and a secondary school so we are looking to engage there.

## **6. Priority 4: Counter extremism and terrorism**

### **6.1 Preventing Violent Extremism locally Michelle Cunningham – report shared.**

MC – [Summarised report]

#### **Monitoring against Delivery Plan:**

The mental health webinar on 20 November will include suicide risks.

#### **Local Government Association Self-Assessment Toolkit:**

Channel Assurance Process has three actions. There are two closed as of yesterday, with the information sharing agreement signed. The only one to monitor is the regular attendance from our health partners at the panel.

Cllr Collins – Is the risk assessment coming from the Home Office?

MC – That is within the Counter Terrorism Local Profile for the Eastern Region. That review is a quarterly meeting; and our prevent board attend or received summary briefing afterwards.

Cllr Collins – Why is there no mention of Just Stop Oil in left-wing radicalisation when it was there last year?

TA – Just Stop Oil are not using the same tactics used last year as they have now been outlawed. They now focus on high publicity but avoid activities that trigger mass arrests.

Break – 11:52–12:01pm

**7. Priority 5: Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from hate crime**  
Including Sex/Gender based hate crime Tony Atkin – report shared.

TA – [Summarises Report]

Other actions implemented to note:

We seek to prioritise Operation Zap in Seabrook Rise.

There is a false average around race hate. It was about 60% of all reported hate crime within Essex County, whereas I said earlier in Thurrock it is at 76%.

MC – Concerns are being raised about the high number of hate crime referrals compared to low referrals to prevent; this must be a focus to ensure we raise awareness. The council are to adopt hate crime in its violence against staff policy. TA wants to use restorative justice to address this.

TA – The community police team training day had restorative justice on the agenda. It is not just a substitute for convictions but an addition to mend relationships. Hate is still an underreported area; we need to build trust in the community. Our hate crime figures can go up but we need problems to be reported to us.

JB – Thurrock is the most diverse district in Essex. I would like to work with schools to inform people on how refugees and asylum seekers arrive. We need to educate people on places other than Ukraine. We, as a country, always welcome those in distress. We may need to involve officers too.

MC – That links to an event we are planning in Seabrook Rise: 'Hate Crime; Love Food.' It will raise awareness around asylum seekers in Grays.

JB – Inform me about the details. It would be nice to do some soundbites for policing.

**9. Agency updates**

**9.1 Items by Exception**

**Police:**

JB – Can we promote good news stories on social media MC, including fire service and other partners, and op Dial?

TA – Can we advertise positive outcomes on hate crime? This may increase confidence on reporting and engagement.

**Fire:**

ME – There was a fire at Orsett fire station in July, business continuity has led us to use Grays to cover Orsett. We can still provide our response times



by using other areas as roaming pumps. Orsett will be closed until March.

JB – Have there been any issues resulting from this?

ME – Only 1 public enquiry.

A serious accident investigation is being carried out.

**Public Protection:**

MD – Regarding vapes; we are doing well; following schools being spoken to and intel we have closed a problematic vape shop.

For media, we have a Twitter/X account for the Thurrock community safety partnership. We can use that to promote good news stories.

JB – Essex police could link up.

No-one has a TikTok account. TikTok is most used by young people. Do you know of anyone that we could link to?

[Unanimous: No]

**10. Future Agenda Items – see below.**

MC – [Reads points 6 and 8 of the Forward Plan below].

The strategic assessment may not be ready but the risk matrix should be for Dec meeting. We may want to talk about our 9 priorities. Do we need to streamline them?

JB – We need to sign it off in March. Prepare an outline of the priorities and any progress made, then we can decide which to keep.

**11. Any other business**

MD – Julie Rogers is no longer a member of Thurrock Council and therefore will no longer be the chairperson. JB and I will talk about this.

She has left by mutual consent.

JB – We are doing fantastic work. We are frequently recognised as one of the best partnerships. Our next meeting is in December.

MD – 7 December 2023.

Meeting end – 12:24pm

**Forward plan**

<b>Meeting Dates 2pm to 4:30pm</b>	<b>Priorities for Discussion</b>
7 December 2023	P6: ASB and update on Cruisers P8: Safer Streets and community engagement Review of Priorities for 2024/5
21 March 2024	
20 June 2024	
19 September 2024	
12 December 2024	

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Lead</b>
1. Tackling disproportionality in relation to Violence Against Women and Girls	May 23	Ewelina, Jo, Sheila, Michelle
2. Breaking the cycle of Domestic Abuse:	May 23	Ewelina, Jo, Sheila Michelle
3. Violence and Vulnerability: Serious Violence Duty	July 23	Jo and Clare, Mike (SVD) EVVU to be invited to present data
4. Counter Extremism and Terrorism:	Sept 23	Cheryl
5. Reduce harm to and safeguard victims from Hate Crime	Sept 23	Terry
6. Tackling Community based Anti-social Behaviour and Safeguarding victims -	Dec 23	Terry, Ewelina, Michelle
7. Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime	May 23	Bosa
8. Safer streets through increased visibility and community engagement	Dec 23	Terry and Michelle
9. Tackling Offending	July 23	Martin & Clare (YOS)
<b>In addition:</b>		
Information sharing Annual Review	June 24	Michelle
Review of Terms of Reference	July 23	Michelle
Priorities draft agreement	Dec 23	Michelle
Strategic assessment – sign off	March 24	Michelle
Delivery plan – sign off	May 23	Michelle
ICB Presentation	May 23	Yvonne Anarfi
Serious Violence Needs Assessment	July 23	James Pearson
<b>Community Drug Partnerships (CDP):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft delivery plan</li> <li>• Report to Board</li> </ul>	TBC Greater Essex CDP	Jo Broadbent