

Panel members

PFCC Roger Hirst

DPFCC Jane Gardner

Cllr Godfrey Isaacs

Chief Inspector Dave Miles

Chief Superintendent Ewen Wilson

Justin Benson-Ryal

DPFCC Jane Gardener introduces the virtual public meeting. The panel members give a brief introduction of their roles. PFCC Roger Hirst started by explaining the disruptive impact COVID-19 has had and highlights the importance of participating in the vaccination programme. Roger explained the positive effects of lockdown which has been a reduction of criminals on the street. However, new crimes such as internet fraud and drug crimes are increasing due to the internet. He highlighted the continued need to invest in road crime. Roger thanked the Fire and Rescue services for all their hard work. He explained that he expects there to be a 2% increase in the precept for the Fire and Rescue service. For policing he is looking for an increase of nearly 5%.

<p>Q- What are the police and council doing about anti-social behaviour from young people in Canvey Island. The young people are throwing stones at cars and buses.</p>	<p>David Miles- policing team are liaising with bus company. 'Operation Marshall'- conducting high visibility patrols and covert patrols using plain clothed officers in the areas that have been highlighted. Community safety and engagement officers map the hotspot areas. ASB is taken very seriously. 'Crucial crew' are a multi-agency safeguarding team which work with schools, alongside CYPs (children and young person's officers) that deliver presentations to schools about crime prevention. Cllr Godfrey Isaacs- encouraging and engaging with the young people is the way forward in dealing with this problem. The Yellow Door project, youth services and youth clubs work with people involved in anti-social behaviour. Police are doing as much as they can by going into the schools.</p>
<p>Q- Are police having to attend more incidents with people with mental health illnesses or in mental health crisis. How are these being dealt with?</p>	<p>Ewen Wilson- Blue light services have seen an extraordinary demand on emergency services. There has been a significant jump. There is immense pressure on emergency services. When using 999 it should be for a genuine reason. NHS have done a marvellous job in the pandemic. I wouldn't say proportionally that we have seen more people with mental health issues. We have seen more agencies/services reaching out to the police to get involved with these people. We are the police, if someone</p>

	<p>has a mental health illness sometimes the police are not the most appropriate agency to deal with someone in a mental health crisis. Whilst we do support our agencies, we wouldn't lead on an incident dealing with that. We have a mental health triage team that go out in the car with cops and deal with these incidents. This gets the right level of service to the people that need it.</p>
<p>Q- Question to Roger Hirst about delay in getting through to 101 and getting a service?</p>	<p>Roger Hirst- There is a live chat, or you can report things on the Essex Police website, for people that like to use a more modern system. This is the more user-friendly interface and people find it very handy for getting things across. This removes the burden on 101 services. We have improved the technology and put more people in, we are on track to deliver a pretty good service.</p> <p>Ewen Wilson- There has been a lot of effort in to making the service more accessible. You can report things of any matter to us with the click of a button. When you contact someone on the website, it will be the exact same person as an operative on the phone. So, you will get a good professional service.</p>
<p>Q- Question to Roger Hirst. Is there a way to freeze the precept increase whilst continuing to invest by looking at things like the administration functions? Is there an alternative to having the public pay more?</p>	<p>Roger explained that his background is in finance. There is a need of having a constant improvement in those functions. To complete the investment programme, we need to get crime down. Targeting hotspots, targeting known and potential offenders, targeting people who we know are vulnerable to exploitation and preventing crime. We know the best techniques that work overtime, especially with domestic abuse and drug driven violence. This is on an individual case basis and we need to help them. We know from Glasgow and Cardiff where this stuff has been done very successfully over the last 10 years. I want to complete the investment programme now and roll it out. We are about halfway through so let's keep going.</p>
<p>Q- Question for Justin Benson-Ryal. Oil refineries – there are a couple of roads leading off the island. If there was a major incident, do the emergency services do combined training and training for attending serious road collisions?</p>	<p>Both sites have a legal duty to exercise against a credible scenario every 3 years. The exercises are brought together to test our on-site and off-site plan. So how would that incident effect the Canvey community. The larger scale exercise (major incident) would bring together all the partnering agencies who would be involved in this incident of this type for example police, ambulance, local authority for</p>

	<p>recovery, environmental agencies etc. These happen every 3 years. For road traffic collisions, flooding, fire and terrorism, all agencies over the last few years train towards the Joint Emergency services inter- op programme. This is a requirement for us to come together as blue light services and other agencies to work better together. All blue light services hold a multi-agency de-brief of major incidents to learn from those scenarios and work better together.</p>
<p>Q- As more and more houses a being built in the area and services are already stretched. What are the plans in place to cope with an increase in demand? Do the Fire and Rescue service and Police service have a say in where houses are built?</p>	<p>The good news is that new builds pay council tax and contribute to the council tax base. We do get the resources to provide the ongoing resources. At the moment we do not receive capital contribution. However, I am leading a national campaign with a couple of others to try and make sure that the changes to the national planning policy which are currently in discussion will enable the emergency services to have a share in the infrastructure levy on the developer. I would like to see more of a requirement on planning authorities to consult with the emergency services on the shape of development on bigger developments. The shape of the development can make a big impact on the crime profile.</p> <p>Cllr Godfrey Isaacs – In the current situation I would like to see master planning for the current sites. This means we can then get the emergency services involved to comment on the designs to ensure services can be accessible for the public. Local constabularies should know what is going on and deal with these.</p>
<p>Q- Online reporting- I have reported ASB countless times but I have never received a response with the information I have submitted.</p>	<p>Ewen Wilson- From the force control room perspective you have two avenues. One is to phone from the telephone, and you will be met by one of the call handlers. If it's around anti-social behaviour there will be a record made of the conversation and we will triage it to assess if there is threat, harm, vulnerability, and impact on the community. We then think do we need to dispatch police to the incident. All incidents of anti-social behaviour will be intelligence. The people who will own that locally will be the community policing teams.</p> <p>David Miles- Our service is victim focused. Our officers will give them an update and reassure them that we have been there. I can reassure</p>

	<p>you that everything is being done and the intelligence allows us to understand what is going on and gives us information on the trends. The information has been useful in neutralising some anti-social behaviour in the community and its critical that the public gives us that information.</p> <p>Ewen Wilson- Please use the online services to report anti-social behaviour which goes straight through to the control room staff. Its very accessible.</p>
<p>Q- Have the Fire and Rescue service been trained around car electric lithium batteries?</p>	<p>Justin Benson Ryal- Yes, our ops policies that have come through are currently working with battery powered and alternative fuel cars. This is something that is a concern for us because to extinguish a car with lithium batteries is a longer process. An additional risk to that is that there are large sites now that store these batteries. The greater risk for us is if unfortunately for one of these sites around Essex was to catch fire, which would be a major incident.</p>
<p>Q- Question for Roger- Have the force thought about the refurbishment of Raileigh custody suite to help with capacity?</p>	<p>Roger Hirst- At the moment we have good capacity, and it is working well. Its more of a question about where new developments are happening. We have refurbished custody suites in Southend and Chelmsford.</p>
<p>Q- Question for David- Have the police got an update for tool thefts and can you advise what trades people can do to keep tools safe?</p>	<p>A piece of good news is that tool thefts from motor vehicles are down this year by 18%. We have had our Community Safety Engagement officers working on this, identifying the key locations and looking at priority offenders. Advice to keep tools safe- we have been speaking to local hardware stores about being offered tools at cheap prices and to let police know if they do. Mark tools independently. Don't leave tools in the van overnight or buy a safe with a decent lock. Try park van in a decent area where it is difficult to access or there is CCTV and good lighting.</p>
<p>Q- What help is there for the young people dealing drugs?</p>	<p>The age of people involved in this crime has gone down. We have the violence and vulnerability unit which is collaboration between police, fire and rescue, education, health, social services, and other agencies. We fund a variety of activities from detached youth work. Through to police and fire cadets. The fire break scheme which shows young people how to be fire fighters. Mentoring services which picks up on individuals who have taken a</p>

	<p>wrong turn in life. We have done a lot of work training youth workers, teachers and parents on how to recognise the signs.</p> <p>Cllr Godfrey Isaacs- We run Crucial Crew, yellow door have a specific drug worker.</p>
<p>Q- Untaxed vehicles. Is it the police responsibility or the DVLA?</p>	<p>If the police stopped someone with an untaxed car, they would deal with it. Usually if the vehicles is untaxed it usually doesn't have insurance or MOT.</p>
<p>Q- Have you looked at working closer with NHS, Fire and Policing in terms of chiring buildings, call centres, officers' stations. What are you doing about collaboration?</p>	<p>In some places we have already brought fire and rescue together. We have police drops in in the many rural fire and rescue stations. We have done a lot in schools in terms of combined schools education team. Joint home safety visits with ambulance and health service. Fire and rescue service work with ambulance on trapped behind closed doors. I chair Essex emergency services collaboration board in which ambulance, police, fire and rescue all come to.</p>

DFCC Jane Gardner closes the virtual meeting by thanking public for their question and the panel members for their answers. She reminds public to complete precept survey.