

DATE: October 2020

Hello! And welcome to Issue 6! Updates on Fuel Theft, CBOs and COVID-19 work

POLICE AWARE



**THIS PETROL STATION IS SUBJECT
TO REGULAR PATROLS AND IS
UNDER 24hr SURVEILLANCE**

surveillance
hot spot

surveillance
hot spot

surveillance
hot spot



Business.crime.unit@essex.police.uk

Fuel Action update:

The Fuel Action campaign is going from strength to strength and have a positive impact on the reduction of fuel theft around the county.

Fuel forecourts across Essex find themselves victim to offenders filling their vehicles with fuel and then driving away without making an attempt to pay. A high percentage of these offenders are involved in other offences and it is vital we work with businesses to prevent offences and bring offenders to justice.

Through intelligence analysis and reported offences, we have identified the most vulnerable locations and we are working with the forecourts to try to prevent offences by deploying a number of different tactics ranging from posters, banners and informative pump stickers, to additional patrols and the introduction of reporting and guidance packs.

The guidance packs are designed to inform victims of policing and prosecution procedures so victims have an understanding of how investigations are progressed and what elements are required for a successful prosecution. It will also aid transparency in the service.

The campaign launched on 8th September and I am pleased to announce that since that date, offences have fallen in all the locations we are working with. Some have reported ZERO offences in the past month!

Criminal Behaviour Orders and reducing re-offending:

Research would suggest that most incidents of theft against businesses, especially retail, is committed by repeat prolific offenders. These offenders not only cause financial loss to businesses, but also take up valuable Police and criminal justice time with the repeat arrests, processing, prosecution and court appearances and sentencing.

There needs to be a number of processes put in place to tackle this; rehabilitation, education and training, restrictions on movements. A Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) is applied for by police and considered by a Magistrate. The Order can suggest a number of limitations are placed on a repeat offender, to restrict or stop their offending. These conditions might include not being able to enter any retail premises within a particular area, not to be in any particular chain of shop or not to gather with others identified to be known offenders. CBOs can be placed on a person indefinitely if justified to do so, but they usually last between 3 and 5 years.

We have been working closely with the East of England Co-Op to stop a known offender entering any of their premises. The offender was not only committing theft but had also been threatening towards staff. He appeared at Basildon Magistrates court and received a CBO, which will be in place for 5 years.

We have been working on CBO applications in the Tendring, Colchester and Basildon districts and have asked other districts to identify their local offenders so we can assist with measures to help limit or stop their offending.

COVID-19 Fines issued in Essex

According to intelligence from the public then quantified by officers attending locations of reports, unfortunately, some hospitality businesses have not been adhering to the government COVID guidelines.

A wedding venue in Mid-Essex organised and approved a wedding party of 80 guests, going against government guidance and indeed putting the safety of people attending at unnecessary risk. A £10,000 fine was issued to the organiser.

Responding to reports from the public, officers attended a pub in North East Essex and a fine was issued to the landlord for not adhering to social distancing guidance inside the pub.

Unfortunately these are not the only examples of non-compliance and there are many reports being received by the public regarding the hospitality sector. WE WOULD URGE BUSINESSES TO READ AND THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND THE SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES AND COMPLY.

We understand that these are unprecedented times and we will always adopt the '4Es' approach to all situations of suspected non-compliance;

Engage: Officers speak to people and try to establish their awareness and understanding of the situation. They may ask people about their circumstances if they are out in public. Officers give people the opportunity to express their views. They listen and take people's responses into account.

Explain: We will try to educate people about any personal risks they are taking, they will explain the social distancing regulations and highlight the responsibilities we all share. Officers treat people with dignity and respect. They highlight their trustworthy motives by explaining wider social factors, such as the risks to public health and the NHS by not sticking to social distancing

Encourage: We may need to guide individuals, suggesting they return home. Officers can encourage people to act reasonably, emphasising that staying alert and safe (social distancing) saves lives. They demonstrate consistency in their approach and are willing to explain why they are requesting a certain course of action

Enforce: Officers may remove a person to the place where they live, using reasonable force only if it is a necessary and proportionate means of ensuring compliance. They may also fine individual(s) or businesses for breach of the Regulations



If we can offer any advice or reassurance, please contact us at

business.crime.unit@essex.police.uk



Sgt Terry Jacobs

Terry has had a career on frontline local policing teams and in his most recent role managed service recovery and complaints



PC Alex Plakhtienko

Alex has extensive partnership experience working in Community Policing Teams within South Essex



PC Michael Lee

Michael has worked within partnership policing for several years and leads the force CSAS training accreditation.



PSE Katie Roberts

Katie is an experienced analyst and joins the Business Crime Unit from her previous role in force performance analysis