

****Released under embargo until 00:001 Monday 22 June****

Localised release – Harwich

Harwich will welcome two new officers to police the town centre from today, Monday, 22 July.

The officers will be known as the Town Centre Team and will work alongside our existing Community Policing Team to engage with the local communities in Harwich and Dovercourt.

Intelligence gathered by our local officers, feedback from members of the public and from local businesses have shaped the priorities for the Town Centre Team, which will include reducing the operations of county lines within the towns, protecting the vulnerable, tackling anti-social behaviour, focusing on the prevention of street robberies and ensuring that the bars and pubs in Harwich and Dovercourt town centres operate according to their licences.

The three officers will be led by Sergeant Aaron Heard, who will take the team on in addition to his role as Harwich Community Policing Team sergeant. They will join the Community Policing Team in supporting the Tendring Community Safety Partnership and joining in with local Street Action days and other community-focused events.

Acting Chief Inspector Darren Deex said: "I'm really excited to be helping Aaron lead this new team into the summer of 2019.

"With Harwich and Dovercourt being port and coastal towns, I'm sure that this increased police presence in our town centre will make a real difference for both locals and holidaymakers.

"They'll be focusing on the issues that we know are prominent in Harwich and Dovercourt, like the antisocial behaviour in both town centres, as well as the ongoing threat of drug dealing near Dovercourt Station and in the town centre and how these actions target the most vulnerable members of our society.

"With the support of the entire Community Policing Team and other policing teams within the district, and ongoing partnership working with the Community Safety Partnership, residents associations and the outstanding local support systems and charities in our area, I know the Town Centre Team will make a real impact.

"I am confident that this team will not only provide a visible presence in the town centre and local communities but will also support businesses and the local authority in creating a safer town centre and prevent crime and disorder on your doorstep."

Mayor of Harwich, Councillor Alan Todd said: "It is very good news to hear that we are to have additional police officers based locally. It is important that people feel safe in our town centre and I am sure that everyone will welcome this targeted approach to town centre policing."

Essex Police's investment in more policing in town centres will place officers in 23 locations across the county to deal with the issues on your doorstep.

As part of the force's dedication to visible, frontline officers, the 58 constables will tackle the most prominent issues in local communities, making for a safer county and stronger relationships with the public.

The Town Centre Team constables will be assigned to Braintree, Chelmsford, Clacton, Colchester, Harwich, Maldon, Saffron Walden, South Woodham Ferrers and Witham in the north of Essex.

In the south of the county, officers will be servicing Basildon, Billericay, Canvey, Rayleigh, Rochford, Southend and Wickford.

Finally, the teams in the west will be based in: Brentwood, Grays, Harlow, Loughton, South Ockendon, Stanford-le-Hope and Waltham Abbey.