1.0 Summary of Changes

1.1 This policy was reviewed on 11 December 2017; the only change made was within Section 4.3 to update the 9 protected EIA characteristics.

2.0 What this Policy is About

2.1 This policy is about the correct action to be taken when attending a crime scene. 

*Compliance with this policy and any linked procedures is mandatory.*

3.0 Statement of Policy

3.1 The effective management of crime scenes is vital to the integrity, quality and quantity of the forensic material gathered during any investigation and is the responsibility of all attending officers.

3.2 The actions taken by these officers may be crucial to any subsequent forensic examination and will increase the potential to recover worthwhile forensic evidence.

3.3 This evidence must be in exactly the same condition as it was at the time of the offence so that it may be reliably used in court to prove or disprove a suspect’s involvement in a case and to determine precisely what has taken place within the scene.

3.4 As a result sound and robust crime scene management principles are essential and are the responsibility of all staff whether police, forensic staff, pathologists or other experts invited in to examine scenes.

3.5 Quality crime scene investigations are based upon the principle of sound management from the earliest stages of the investigation.

3.6 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act (CTSA) 2015 places a duty on various specified authorities to have ‘due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism’. This is referred to as a ‘Prevent Duty’ and involves:

- Responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism;
- Preventing people from being drawn into terrorism;
- Working with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation.
3.6.1 The CTSA 2015 also places a duty upon specified authorities in relation to
supporting people vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism through the Channel
programme. Channel is a multi-agency safeguarding programme, which provides
support to those individuals who may be vulnerable to being drawn into any form of
extremism that could lead to terrorist related activity.

3.6.2 This policy has been reviewed and assessed that the CTSA duties could be
relevant and as such your attention is drawn to your responsibilities under the Act.
Further details about the Prevent Duty and the Channel Duty can be found below:

- Learn more about the Prevent Duty.
- Learn more about the Channel Duty.

4.0 Implications of the Policy

4.1 Finance / Staffing / Training / Other

4.1.1 No new financial or staffing implications have been identified.

4.2 Risk Assessment(s)

4.2.1 This policy has been assessed as high risk.

4.2.2 Dynamic risk assessments are required as, by their nature, Crime Scenes are all
different and can include any number of hazardous situations and circumstances

4.3 Equality Impact Assessment

4.3.1 An equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and the proposals in this
policy will have no impact on the grounds of age, sex, disability, race, religion or belief,
marrriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and
pregnancy and maternity.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 The following have been included in the consultation for this document:

- Essex - Federation
- Joint – Essex Police and Kent Police Principal CSI’s Crime Scene Investigation
  Training Manager / Equality & Diversity / Health & Safety
- Kent - Estates / Finance / HR / Freedom of Info / Legal / IT Security
6.0 Monitoring and Review

6.1 This policy will be reviewed by the policy author every year. The author receives all updates and guidance on matters relating to Crime Scene Investigation and the policy will be updated as applicable.

7.0 Related force policies or related procedures (Essex) / linked standard operating procedures (Kent)

Joint Policies

- S 2402 Procedure/SOP – Crime Scene Management

Essex Police

- B 0600 Policy – Investigation of Crime

Kent Police

- L79 Health and Safety
- N03 Firearms
- N39 Suspicious deaths
- N39a Work related deaths

8.0 Other source documents, e.g. Legislation, APP, partnership agreements (if applicable)

- http://extranet.ecis.police.uk/support-services/depts/hr/training/csi-training.html
- Crime scene management - forensic guidance (PDF, 3299 KB)
- Initial crime scene management for responders (PDF, 68 KB)
- CSM identification of potential sources of evidence (PDF, 201 KB)