

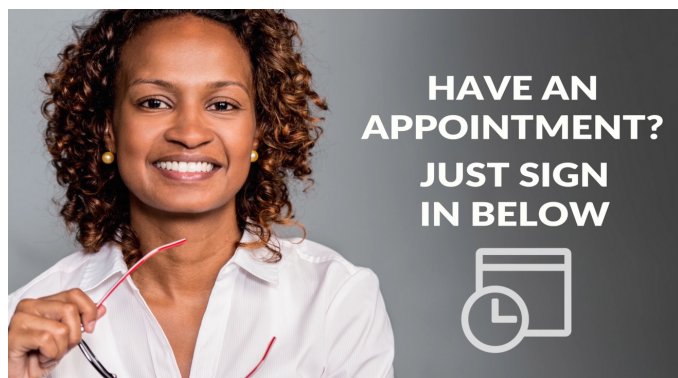
VGREET & ESSEX POLICE

Essex Police has used Vpod to spearhead a new initiative for the public to report crime and lost property via local libraries. The content-driven Vgreet digital visitor management system units have been housed in Harwich and Brentford libraries. They can be used to report any criminal matter, plus register lost or found property, access relevant amenities and direct users to associated agencies that could also help with the user's issue. The Essex Police Vgreetes will work in tandem with existing channels.

Further units have been installed at stations in Grays and Rayleigh, where the ability to use them to report non-emergency crimes and visitor management for self-check-in appointments has freed up valuable police time and resources. Tendring District Commander Chief Inspector Russ Cole says, "Essex Police has a programme of work to improve and modernise how the public can contact us. The way residents contact police must reflect the way we live our lives and that means with more effective and efficient technology.

"We want people who don't need us in an emergency to think carefully about how they contact us and whether the information they're looking for can be found online via our website or new contact points because that gives officers more time to fight crime."

Roger Hirst, Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, says, "The Harwich library location is at the heart of the community, and I hope people find it provides a valuable and convenient additional means of contacting Essex Police. We will explore expanding the programme more widely across Essex."



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– Russ Cole, Tendring District Commander Chief Inspector