

COLCHESTER
STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT
2023/24

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# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# 1.1. Aim & Purpose

Every Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 (Statutory Instrument 1830) to prepare an annual Strategic Assessment, in order to assist the group in revising its partnership plan.

The strategic assessment should include:

- Analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area.
- Analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns since the previous Strategic Assessment.
- Analysis of why those changes have occurred.
- The matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.
- The matters which the persons living and working in the area consider the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.
- An assessment of the extent to which the Partnership Plan for the previous year has been implemented.
- Details of those matters that the strategy group considers should be brought to the attention
  of the county strategy group to assist it in exercising its functions under these Regulations.

In order to inform the Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Partnership Plan, the Strategy Group is expected to obtain the views of those who live or work in the area about:

- The levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area
- the matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.

As part of this process, the Strategy Group should hold one or more public meeting during the year, to be attended by those in a senior position within each of the responsible authority.

## 1.2. Data Parameters

Unless otherwise stated all data will be from 01 October 2022 to 30 September 2023.

Data sources are referenced at the start of each section.

# 1.3. Key Findings

From analysis of the partnership data contained within this assessment, the following should also be considered when reviewing the CSP priorities for Colchester:

- 1. We acknowledge that perception of crime in the community does not always match with crime statistics. Additionally, some crimes are wrongly 'categorised' by the public an example being shoplifting which has been perceived as 'anti-social behaviour' in some cases.
- 2. The importance and impact of corporate communications is key to addressing the above perception issues, as is the ongoing encouragement relating to reporting of crime through the correct channels.

- Domestic abuse police statistics show a reduction in reported calls/incidents. This is in contrast to the upward trend in referrals to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence support services ie. Next Chapter and CARA.
- 4. We have based our key priorities on the results from the risk matrix scoring session. We are however aware that a partnership approach is still required to tackle some of the lower scoring crimes including anti-social behaviour, shoplifting and fraud.

# 1.4. Strategic Priorities

To assist in the identification of the community safety priorities for 2024-25, a risk matrix of crime types was completed. A risk matrix is a visual risk assessment tool that allows the user to define the level of risk associated to multiple factors (e.g., types of crime), against a range of criteria. This was conducted by partners including Local Authority, Essex Police, Essex County Council Adult Social Care, CARA, and Next Chapter.

The following areas scored the highest for Colchester (See Section 10):

- 1. Domestic Abuse
- 2. Hate Crime
- Rape and Sexual Offences

Compared to 2023/24, the results were very similar with Domestic Abuse scoring the highest. Hate crime has moved into third place this year, where it was previously 2<sup>nd</sup> highest. Rape and Sexual Offences has remained in the top three, although last year was third highest.

The CSP priorities for the coming year will be shared with CSP partners at the Community Safety Delivery Board meeting in January 2024, and the Crime and Disorder Committee in March 2024. Following feedback from these forums, the priorities will be formalised and agreed.

The draft CSP Priorities for Colchester are:

- 1. Support Victims and Survivors of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences.
- 2. Empower the community to reduce VAWG and promote safe and healthy relationships.
- 3. Protect the vulnerable and those at risk of serious violence or exploitation.
- 4. Empower people to build safe, inclusive, and resilient communities.

## 1.5. Matters for the Attention of Safer Essex

Through the analysis contained within this assessment the Colchester partnership would like to draw the attention of Safer Essex to the following:

- Work with other Local Authorities to understand how best to fully engage with all CSP partners, to ensure capture of all activity and project work that contributes to the achievement of the Key Priorities.
- 2. In the past our Key Priorities have been very 'crime based' with the emphasis on Police to deliver activity to address them. Last year we expanded the number of priorities to encourage all partners to see how their projects could contribute to achieving the key priorities. This year we have taken this a step further, with a change in the wording to enable individuals/communities to recognise and take responsibility for some of the wider societal issues that need addressing.

# 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

# 2.1. The Partnership

In addition to the statutory partners of Colchester City Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, the National Probation Service and SNEE Integrated Care Board, the Partnership has maintained the list of previously engaged additional Partners, and this year welcomed:

- Active Essex Foundation
- New department within Essex Police Organised Crime
- New department within ECC Risk in the Community

## **Current Partnership Structure**

The Community Safety Partnership's statutory responsibility sits with the One Colchester Strategic Board. The statutory partners are represented on this Board. It is the One Colchester Strategic Board who ensures the priorities identified from the Strategic Assessment are outlined within an action plan and delivered.

The Strategic Board leads the operational board, now named the Community Safety Delivery Board (CSDB). The CSDB is set up as a forum for the Safer Colchester partners to work together to reduce crime and disorder in Colchester and deliver the key priorities through an action plan.

#### 2.2. Horizon Scan

The partnership should be aware of the following policy activity at a national or local level:

- Review of Community Safety Partnerships: Consultation on Phase 1 of the review (those areas requiring legislative changes) was carried out in May 2023, focusing on aligning the work of CSPs and PCCs more closely. Further details from this have yet to be announced. The timescales for announcements on Phase 2, which will look more at guidance for how CSPs are run, are not yet known but a working group has been set up Government. This will be a key area of focus for Safer Essex when announced.
- Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: The revised guidance was released in September 2023, with
  an implementation date of 31 December 2023. The guidance reflects the changes in risks
  outlined in the revised CONTEST Strategy 2023. The guidance strengthens the expectation on
  authorities around leadership, partnership working, understanding and managing risk (with a
  focus on training) and reducing permissive environments. The Prevent Delivery Group will
  lead on this work and will report regularly to Safer Essex.
- **Devolution:** Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council (known collectively as Greater Essex) have been discussing devolution with the government. The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) have been involved in these discussions. The councils have confirmed Greater Essex will work towards a Level 2 devolution deal. A Level 2 devolution deal would create a new single body, the Greater Essex Combined Authority. The three councils and the PFCC would take collective decisions on the devolved powers and budgets. A Combined Authority would not be a merger between Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council and Thurrock Council. Each authority would remain independent. The deal would also see Essex city, district and borough councils have prominent roles within the Combined council.

- Serious Violence Duty: The Duty requires local authorities, the police, fire and rescue authorities, specified criminal justice agencies and health authorities to work together to formulate an evidence-based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in a local area, and then produce and implement a strategy detailing how they will respond to those issues. The Strategy for Essex is being developed by the Violence & Vulnerability Unit in line with the requirements of the duty. Regular updates are provided to Safer Essex. We are able to include the analytical insights provided by the VVU into this document. This has allowed us to identify areas, risks and opportunities for our work that will continue to drive the ability to reduce violence. This data will be continually updated throughout the year and is shared with all partners to build the collaborative approach and a strong move towards a public health reduction in violence.
- Victims & Prisoners Bill: The Bill includes enshrining the Victims Code in law, improving performance and accountability of criminal justice agencies, and placing ISVAs and IDVAs on a statutory footing. It also places a duty on relevant local bodies to collaborate when commissioning support services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and serious violence, as well as to prepare, publish and implement a joint local strategy to set out the aims and approach for commissioning relevant services from each agency and an explanation of how the duty requirements have been met. Safer Essex will act as a supporting for the Criminal Justice Board in implementing any subsequent legislation locally.
- Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews: Pilots of these reviews have been established under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, ending in September 2024. Essex will look to build on the learnings from the pilot site in its preparations for expected implementation in 2025 and governance arrangements will be established prior to this.

## 2.3. Police Fire & Crime Commissioner

The priorities set out in the Police & Crime Plan 2021-2024 are as follows:

- Further investment in crime prevention
- Reducing drug driven violence
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reducing violence against women and girls
- Improving support for victims of crime
- Protecting rural and isolated areas
- Preventing dog theft
- Preventing business crime, fraud, and cyber crime
- Improving safety on our roads
- Encouraging volunteers and community support
- Supporting our officers and staff
- Increasing collaboration

## 2.4. Essex Police

The Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025 has five strategic aims (or "assets"):

- i. We will promote safer communities.
- ii. We will cut crime and criminality.
- iii. We will evolve our workforce, culture, and infrastructure.
- iv. We will support Safer Essex to realise partnership capabilities and capacity.

v. We will support ECVS to unlock community potential, develop and deliver community led solutions.

Across the five strategic aims, the Crime Prevention Strategy covers 14 priority areas organised into four categories:

- Serious Violence
  - o Knife crime
  - o Rape
  - Night-time economy
- Organised Crime
  - County lines / exploitation
  - Serious organised crime
  - Cybercrime and fraud
- Complex Needs
  - Child abuse / child sexual exploitation
  - o Domestic abuse
  - Drugs and alcohol
  - o Mental health
- Vulnerabilities
  - Places
  - Dwelling burglary and street robbery
  - o Prevent
  - Hate crime.

# 2.5. Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

The Essex County Fire & Rescue Plan 2019-2024 sets out the following priorities:

- Protection and response
- Improve safety on our roads
- Help the vulnerable to stay safe
- Promote positive culture in the workplace
- Develop and broaden the roles and ranges of activities undertaken by the service
- Be transparent, open, and accessible
- Collaborate with our partners
- Make the best of our resources

#### 2.6. Safer Essex

Safer Essex has the strategic lead for co-ordinating the partnership response to community safety issues and initiatives across Essex, Southend, and Thurrock. Safer Essex acts as the county-wide Strategy Group for community safety.

Safer Essex brings together key partner organisations / stakeholders to work jointly and effectively to facilitate a collaborative approach between agencies and partnerships in delivering the following community safety outcomes:

- i. Prevent crime and anti-social behaviour.
- ii. Prevent fires from happening.
- iii. Understand and tackle hate crime.

- iv. Understand and tackle violence, including violence against women and girls.
- v. Improve community confidence in the multi-agency response to community safety issues.

Continue to deliver effective Community Safety Hubs across Greater Essex.

# 2.7. Colchester City Council - Strategic Plan

The work of the Safer Colchester Partnership contributes to Colchester City Council Strategic Plan 2023-2026. Under Improve health, well-being, and happiness to 'Tackle the causes of inequality and support the most vulnerable people in Colchester' and 'Work with residents and partners to address quality of life and issues of happiness'.

# 3. POPULATION

## 3.1. District Profile

Data Source: Colchester City Council

Colchester has a rich and vast heritage - as Camulodonum, it was the first capital of England, and it is also Britain's oldest recorded town. Colchester was granted City status this year as part of the Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations.

The City of Colchester is situated in the northeast of Essex, is approximately 60 miles from London and covers an area of approximately 125 square miles. Colchester has many surrounding small towns and villages of which the largest are Stanway, Tiptree, West Mersea and Wivenhoe. The countryside areas are mainly used for agriculture.

There are currently 17 wards in Colchester within a mixture of urban and rural areas. Colchester has the largest population in Essex and accounts for approximately 13% of the County's population. The city houses a large university of approximately 15,000 students from more than 130 countries and is also home to a garrison with capacity for approximately 4,000 military personnel.



# 3.2. Population Profile

Data Source: Essex County Council / Office for National Statistics

## **Demography**

Colchester is one of the most populous districts in the county with 192,700 recorded in the 2021 census data. This is an increase of 11.3% from 173,100 in 2011.

Over the last 10 years, the population of Essex has grown an average of 0.76%, faster than England (0.64% growth per year). Colchester's annual population growth is 1.08%.

The overall population density in Essex is 435 people per square kilometre. This is similar to the overall England population density of 434. Colchester with 587 is the 19th most densely populated of the East of England's 45 local authority areas.

There has been an increase of 25.6% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 7.0% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 15.3% in children aged under 15 years. The largest age group in the East of England was those aged 50 to 54 years.

# Households

The number of households in Essex has increased by 7.7% over the last 10 years, from 582,000 to 627,000. The estimated number of households across the city was 79,700, an increase of 11.3%, with an average of 2.4 people per household.

Colchester has one of the highest number of households with dependent children - 23,505 (29.5%).

Colchester has the highest number of residents living in communal establishments, 5,098 (2.6% of Colchester residents). It is the only district within greater Essex with a higher than England proportion of residents in communal establishments.

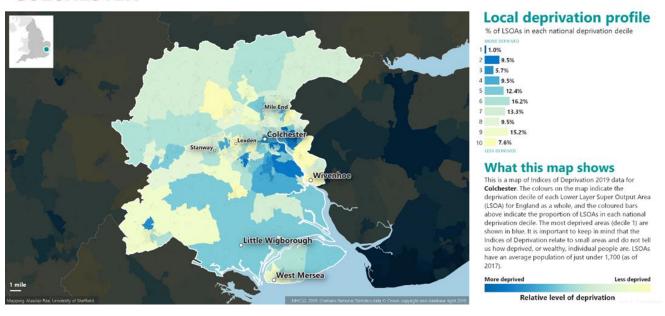
# Migration

Migration information is based on differences between a person's address at the time of the census compared to their address 1 year earlier ie. movements between 2020 – 2021 and will be impacted by covid. Colchester has the highest increase in new residents, with 21,010 (14%) of all Colchester residents moving into the area in the past year. This could include people moving in from inside and outside Essex.

# **English Indices of Deprivation 2019**



# **COLCHESTER**



## 3.3. Health Profile

Data Source: Essex County Council

https://data.essex.gov.uk/dataset/exwyd/essex-jsna-and-district-profile-reports-2019

The population across England has continued to age with 18.4% aged 65 years and over on Census Day 2021. This is an increase of 20.1% on 2011 data. For Colchester, there has been an increase from 2011 to 2021 of 25.6% in people aged 65 years and over. This demonstrates a potential vulnerable population requiring support and advice. Although the rate for children in relative low-income families (under 16 years) at 12.7% is below the rates for England and East (18.5% and 13.8% respectively) and on par with Essex (12.8%).

Colchester had the third highest number of Households owed a duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act in 2020-2021 in Essex, at 9.0. This is still below the rate of 11.3 for England and 10.3 for the East.

Colchester had a rate of 21.4 people per 100,000 hospital admissions for violence including sexual violence. This was significantly below the England and Essex levels which were 41.9 and 30.3 respectively.

Colchester had a suicide rate of 15.0 per 100,000 population in 2019-2021. This is higher than the rate in England and the East (10.4 and 9.8 respectively), and joint highest with Brentwood across Essex.

Colchester had the second highest rate at 337 (Harlow top with 338) for new STI diagnoses for those under the age of 25 per 100,000 of the population in 2021. This rate is below the rate for England at 394, however significantly higher than the average for East (262) and Essex (218).

# 4. ASSESSMENT OF PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023/24

# 4.1. 2023/24 Community Safety Plan Priorities

Safer Colchester Partnership set the following priorities for 2023/24 and within the Annual Partnership Plan:

Priority One: Safeguard adults and children at risk of violence and exploitation

Priority Two: Tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour

**Priority Three:** Support victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences and reduce violence against

women and girls.

**Priority Four:** Develop early intervention and prevention to tackle the drivers of crime and reduce

reoffending.

**Priority Five:** Work with communities to build resilience and promote safety.

## 4.2. Implementation of 2023/24 Annual Partnership Plan

Safer Colchester Partnership has assessed the extent to which the 2023/24 Annual Partnership Plan has been implemented and found that:

- By making the key priorities broader, it has enabled more partners to see how their projects/work contributes to the Safer Colchester Partnership.
- Evidence of excellent partnership work has created new opportunities and projects to be implemented.
- Existing projects continue to evidence positive outcomes.
- There are improvements that can be made in engaging all partners to feed into the Annual Partnership Plan, and actions to achieve this have commenced.

Key projects over the last 12 months include:

Launch of the Colchester Against Modern Slavery (CAMS) Partnership. Following a Modern Slavery Conference held in April 2023, that was well attended by over 45 delegates from a wide range of organisations, the CAMS Partnership was formed. CAMS Partnership has co-developed strategic priorities to collaborate towards a slavery-free community. These priorities are being delivered through Task and Finish groups, which partners are invited to participate within. These include: 1) Steering Group; 2) Awareness Raising; 3) Training; 4) Survivor Care, Safeguarding and Referral Pathways; 5) Intelligence, and 6) Disruption. Short and mid-term goals developed and starting to be actioned.

<u>Support for Awareness Campaigns</u> including Antislavery Day, 18<sup>th</sup> October. CAMS hosted an awareness stall, supported by 9 partners from 6 organisations, resulting in 109 engagements. 18 businesses and shops were engaged. Artwork and awareness posters were displayed in two shop unit windows at Lion's Walk Shopping Centre. A three-hour Modern Slavery and Homelessness Conference was co-organised by CAMS with the Antislavery Partnerships in Chelmsford and Southend. It engaged 67 participants from local authorities and charities.

<u>Diversionary work for young people</u> included Project Morpheus led by Colchester Borough Homes, Girls with Goals, delivered by Active Essex Foundation, and the Boxsmart Programme. All of which encourage young people to engage and participate in activities to prevent them going down the route of crime and ASB.

<u>Sports Youth Crime Conference</u> held on 28<sup>th</sup> September by Active Essex Foundation. This saw a series of speakers and workshops highlighting the power of sport in tackling youth crime.

<u>Safer Streets round 4 funded projects within the City Centre</u>: Included Vulnerability Training to businesses supporting the NTE, launch of a new Partnership Portal, NTE Audits with resulting environmental changes, launch of Best Bar None accreditation scheme and Purple Flag assessment. Ask for Angela Initiative to improve women's safety in NTE, delivered by Business Improvement District and supported by Essex Police and partners. New SOS Bus has been commissioned with a launch date in January 2024.

<u>Domestic Abuse related activity:</u> Next Chapter continues to work in partnership with Open Road on the Together we Can project to support Domestic Abuse victims through the Recovery Refuge, which offers specialist crisis accommodation and recovery support for the most vulnerable women in society who are fleeing high risk domestic abuse whilst also experiencing the additional impact of substance addiction or misuse. The Together We Can partnership project, funded by Essex County Council, through Colchester City Council enables Next Chapter to offer specialist Housing Domestic Abuse Practitioners working in the community and funded the development of specialist support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse. To further meet the requirements of the new Domestic Abuse Act the Council have sourced funding to enable the recruitment of a Male IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) and CYP Officer by Next Chapter.

Next Chapter have secured additional funding to continue delivering their volunteer mentor scheme which enables them to continue to support survivors who have completed their domestic abuse support journey but are seeking continuing emotional and practical support to secure their recovery.

Next Chapter has also developed a range of services working with schools, including their DA Informed Schools programme and their Educational Mentoring Service for which they have achieved CSAS (Community Safety Accreditation Scheme) accreditation.

Expansion of VAWG support: CARA has managed to secure additional premises in Colchester to respond to increased demand for face-to-face counselling for victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse. CARA now offers services from three different premises in Colchester. In September 2023, thanks to funding from Essex County Council, CARA launched a new pilot project, providing specialist sexual violence counselling to victims of sexual violence as part of domestic abuse. CARA and Next Chapter are working together to ensure there are clear referral pathways between the two services.

<u>Stronger Together</u> is a project to change attitudes to tackle VAWG. A series of focus groups and productions to young people in secondary schools were held, along with various activities to capture an adult audience.

<u>Firebreak Course:</u> A new ECFRS Firebreak course was introduced in 2022-23 with a focus on the Violence Against Women and Girl's Agenda. The course was developed in collaboration with ECC and the University of Essex. This Firebreak focuses on behavioural and healthy relationships awareness that explores the consequences of low-level behaviours which may lead to violence, misogyny and harm towards women and girls and included material from 'In her Shoes' initiative.

# 5. PUBLIC PERCEPTION

# 5.1. Safer Essex Community Safety Survey 2023

Data Source: Essex County Council. Data for 2023 survey.

Across Essex 1304 responses were received. 139 (10.7%) were for Colchester (3<sup>rd</sup> highest response area).

Across Essex, the crime type that most respondents were concerned about was Burglary (82.9%), followed by Theft of/from a car/motorbike (80.6%) and Fraud/Scams (77.4%). In Colchester, the crime type that most respondents were concerned about was Fraud/Scams (75.6%), followed by Burglary (71.3%) and Theft of/from car/motorbike (69.9%).

Across Essex, the crime type that most respondents said they had been a victim of was Fraud/Scams (10.1%), followed by Criminal Damage (8.9%) and Theft of/from a car/motorbike (6.0%). In Colchester, the crime type that most respondents said they had been a victim of was Physical Assault or Robbery (5.0%), which ranked top across all districts.

Across Essex, the ASB type that most respondents said they had seen in their area was Fly Tipping (58.3%), followed by Groups hanging around (56.0%) and People using drugs / evidence of drug taking (55.8%). In Colchester, the responses were as follow:

	% of Total Respondents for Essex	Rank
Aggressive Begging	28.8%	3
Criminal Damage in public spaces	44.6%	4
Drunken behaviour	53.2%	5
Fly tipping	56.1%	9
Graffiti	45.3%	3

Across Essex, when asked to prioritise certain crime and ASB types for action by CSPs, People Using or Dealing Drugs was ranked highest (71.6%), followed by Knife Crime (63.5%), Gangs/County Lines (63.3%) and Burglary (62.8%). In Colchester, Gangs/County Lines was ranked highest (66.2%), followed by Knife Crime (64%), People Using/Dealing Drugs (63.2%) (Note that respondents were asked to pick 5, though they were able to pick more than 5.)

Priority		Essex		Colchester			
	#	%	Rank	#	%	Rank	
Aggressive Begging	331	25.7%	22	41	30.1%	19	
Burglary	808	62.8%	4	73	53.7%	5	
Criminal Damage	647	50.3%	8	65	47.8%	10	
Domestic Abuse	499	38.8%	13	68	50.0%	8	
Drunken Behaviour	471	36.6%	14	59	43.4%	12	
Fly Tipping	673	52.3%	6	70	51.5%	6	
Fraud and/or Scams	528	41.1%	11	65	47.8%	10	
Gangs/County Lines	814	63.3%	3	90	66.2%	1	
Graffiti	242	18.8%	23	38	27.9%	21	
Groups Hanging Around	596	46.3%	9	61	44.9%	11	
Hate Crime	456	35.5%	15	52	38.2%	15	
Knife Crime	817	63.5%	2	87	64.0%	2	

Modern Slavery	390	30.3%	20	48	35.3%	17
Nuisance Neighbours	340	26.4%	21	32	23.5%	22
People Using or Dealing Drugs	921	71.6%	1	86	63.2%	3
Physical Assault or Robbery	670	52.1%	7	73	53.7%	5
Preventing Terrorism	433	33.7%	16	48	35.3%	17
Sexual Harassment or Assault	562	43.7%	10	68	50.0%	8
Theft of Bicycles or Scooters	429	33.4%	17	45	33.1%	18
Theft Of or From Cars/Motorbikes	673	52.3%	6	55	40.4%	13
Theft of personal belongings (pick pocketing)	414	32.2%	18	40	29.4%	20
Vehicle Nuisance: Off Road Motorbike Nuisance	395	30.7%	19	30	22.1%	23
Vehicle Nuisance: Street Racing / Car Cruising	519	40.4%	12	52	38.2%	15
Other	67	5.2%	24	4	2.9%	24

# 5.2. Essex County Council Resident's Survey

Data Source: Essex County Council. 2023 Resident's Survey.

In the 2023 survey, 87% of all Essex residents responded that they felt very or fairly safe in their local area during the day, compared to 88% of residents in Colchester.

In the 2023 survey, 51% of all Essex residents responded that they felt very or fairly safe in their local area after dark, compared to 53% of residents in Colchester. For Colchester there indicates an increase in feelings of safety after dark compared to last year.

Felt very or fairly safe in	Ess	sex	Colchester		
their local area	2022	2023	2022	2023	
During the day	91%	87%	90%	88%	
After dark	55%	51%	49%	53%	

# 5.3. Essex Police Public Perception Survey

Data Source: Essex Police. Quarter 1 2023/24 Survey. / SMSR Data (Colchester)

In the 12 months ending June 2023, 72% of respondents thought that Essex Police were doing a good/excellent job compared to 78% in the previous 12 months.

66% of respondents believe they would be treated fairly if they made a complaint about an officer or staff member. This is a 5% pt. decrease from 71% in the previous 12 months.

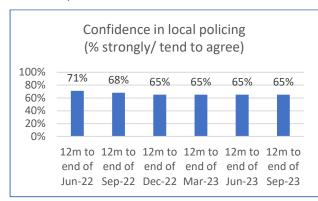
Confidence that the Police use their stop and search powers respectfully saw an annual decrease, dropping by 8% pts. to 59% this year (compared to 67% last year).

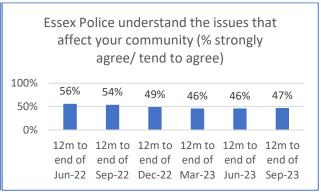
Perception that EP (Essex Police) understand the issues in the community saw an annual decrease of 3% pts., from 55% last year to 52% this year.

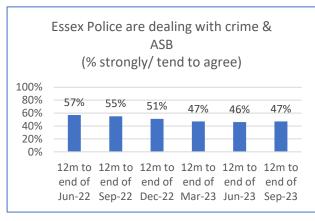
91% of the public continue to believe a uniformed presence is important, this figure has been stable for the past five years and at its highest level for three years.

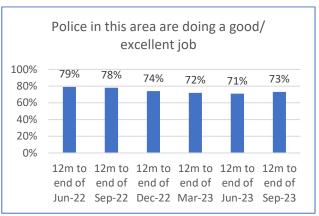
63% agree they have confidence in the police in this area, a significant decrease of 8% pts. compared to last year (71%).

Results specific to Colchester can be found below.









# 5.4. Other Local Consultation & Engagement

## Data Source:

City Centre Public Space Protection Order Consultation - live between 28<sup>th</sup> August and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

# 6. CRIME & ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DATA

# 6.1. Factors Impacting on Crime & ASB Data

The following changes to recording/counting should be taken into consideration when reviewing the Police data on Crime & ASB:

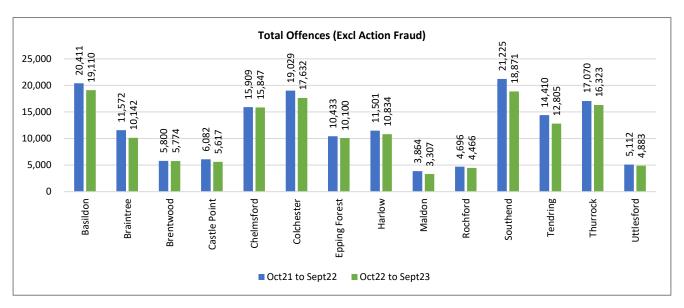
- Stalking & Harassment: There was a change in recording processes in July 2022 which will account for some of the reduction in offences during this period.
- Trafficking of Drugs: The increase in offences will be largely because of proactive activity to identify and target county/drugs lines.

## 6.2. Crime Data

Data Source: Essex Police. NB Essex totals exclude Stanstead. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023.

In Essex, a total of 155,711 offences (excl. Stansted) were recorded by Essex Police, of which 17,632 (11.3%) were recorded in Colchester (the 3rd highest of 14 areas). This equates to 88.7 offences per 1,000 population across Essex, 91.5 per 1,000 population in Colchester (the 5<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

Across Essex, there was a decrease in offences of -11,403 (-6.8%), compared to Colchester where there was a decrease in offences of -1,379(-7.3%).



	Dif	ference 21	L/22 to 22/	/23	Differento 22	•	Offend 1,000 Po Oct22 to	pulation
Offence	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff.	% diff.	#	Rank
Homicide	3	3	2	17.6%	0	0.0%	0.02	3
Violence With Injury	2,031	1,984	1	13.4%	-47	-2.3%	10.30	1

	Dif	ference 21	L/22 to 22,	/23		ce 21/22 2/23	1,000 Po	Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct22 to Sept23	
Offence	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff.	% diff.	#	Rank	
Death Or Serious Injury Caused by Unlawful Driving	1	5	3	13.9%	4	400.0%	0.03	4	
Violence Without Injury	3,592	3,409	3	12.3%	-183	-5.1%	17.69	4	
Stalking & Harassment	2,905	2,302	3	11.5%	-603	-20.8%	11.95	5	
Rape	405	336	1	14.8%	-69	-17.0%	1.74	1	
Other Sexual Offences	499	427	2	13.0%	-72	-14.4%	2.22	4	
Robbery - Business	8	18	3	13.6%	10	125.0%	0.09	4	
Robbery - Personal	129	170	2	12.2%	41	31.8%	0.88	3	
Burglary - Residential	477	444	5	8.6%	-33	-6.9%	2.30	10	
Burglary - Business & Community	276	225	1	12.3%	-51	-18.5%	1.17	3	
Theft From a Motor Vehicle	427	485	8	7.4%	58	13.6%	2.52	9	
Theft Of a Motor Vehicle	280	378	8	6.6%	98	35.0%	1.96	10	
Vehicle Interference	120	189	4	10.0%	69	57.5%	0.98	7	
Theft From the Person	2,926	2,984	5	11.3%	58	2.0%	15.49	6	
Bicycle Theft	271	332	1	21.9%	61	22.5%	1.72	2	
Shoplifting	1,121	1,157	5	10.6%	36	3.2%	6.00	7	
Other Theft	1,417	1,379	4	10.7%	-38	-2.7%	7.16	7	
Criminal Damage	1,711	1,508	3	11.7%	-203	-11.9%	7.83	5	
Arson	144	96	4	10.2%	-48	-33.3%	0.50	6	
Domestic Abuse	3,258	2,761	3	10.9%	-497	-15.3%	14.33	5	
Trafficking Of Drugs	132	148	6	9.0%	16	12.1%	0.77	9	
Possession Of Drugs	472	426	3	11.0%	-46	-9.7%	2.21	4	
Possession Of Weapons Offences	149	169	3	9.9%	20	13.4%	0.88	5	
Public Order Offences	1,978	1,584	3	11.4%	-394	-19.9%	8.22	4	
Hate Crime	574	468	3	12.2%	-106	-18.5%	2.43	5	
<b>Total Offences</b>	19,029	17,632	3	11.3%	-1,397	-7.3%	91.50	5	

# 6.3. Rural Crime

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for July 2022 to June 2023.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) definition is used in this data. An area is determined as being urban or rural based on whether it is a 'Built-Up Area' (BUA), based on the geography and resident population of that area. Rural areas are those not defined as BUA. It should be noted that BUAs may not include industrial areas as the definition is dependent on the resident population. All data is for the 12 months to June 2023.

In the 12 months to June 2023, rural crime in Essex decreased by 4.1% compared to the previous 12 months. This is a greater reduction than All Crime (3.7%). Rural crime accounted for 14.6% of All Crime in Essex during this period.

When looking at certain crime types within this period there was:

- A 19.8% decrease in Public Order offences (-465)
- A 16.2% decrease in Criminal Damage (-328)
- A 12.8% decrease in Violence Without Injury (-948)
- A 1.2% increase in Vehicle offences (+22)
- A 1.4% increase in Violence with Injury (+29)
- A 3.5% increase in Other Theft offences (+66)

19.6% of Rural Crime was Acquisitive Crime, with levels having remained lower than rates prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

20.3% of Rural Crime was flagged as Domestic Abuse related, with levels remaining fairly stable.

There were 146 Hare Coursing Incidents recorded in the 12 months to June 2023, with lower volumes of incidents during the 2022/23 season when compared to previous seasons.

There were 270 Agricultural & Construction Equipment Theft offences recorded in the 12 months to June 2023, 68.2% of which were vehicle offences.

58 Unauthorised Encampments were recorded in the 12 months to June 2023, 30 fewer encampments then the previous 12 months.

# 6.4. Fraud & Cyber Offences

Data Source: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. Data is for April 2022 to March 2023.

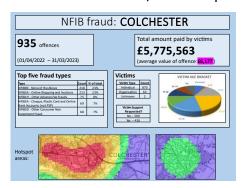
In 2022/23 in Essex there were 8,446 fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud with a total payment amount of £64,362853. This was a decrease of 16% on the 10,105 recorded in 2021/22 (with a payment amount of £140,118,284).

In 2022/23 there were 935 offences recorded in Colchester with a total payment amount of £5,775,563. This is a decrease of 16% on the 1,111 recorded in 2021/22. The payment amount however has increased from £2,749,369. In 2022/23 AREA showed the  $2^{nd}$  highest level of offences of all 14 areas.

Augo		2021-22			2022-23		Year	r-on Ye	ar Change
Area	Offences	Payment	Rank	Offences	Payment	Rank	#	%	£
Basildon	1,028	£3,896,716	3	819	£3,502,787	4	-209	-20%	-£393,929
Braintree	778	£2,973,460	6	618	£3,364,624	7	-160	-21%	£391,164
Brentwood	453	£40,033,285	11	377	£6,022,002	11	-76	-17%	-£34,011,283
<b>Castle Point</b>	471	£1,180,305	10	318	£758,278	13	-153	-32%	-£422,027
Chelmsford	1,018	£5,729,496	5	805	£6,079,141	5	-213	-21%	£349,645
Colchester	1,111	£2,749,369	1	935	£5,775,563	2	-176	-16%	£3,026,194
Epping	700	£6,119,848	8	672	£3,029,125	6	-28	-4%	-£3,090,723
Harlow	517	£15,870,495	9	489	£6,799,709	9	-28	-5%	-£9,070,786
Maldon	339	£1,731,432	14	278	£5,045,318	14	-61	-18%	£3,313,886
Rochford	401	£2,656,379	13	340	£2,565,072	12	-61	-15%	-£91,307
Southend	1,101	£38,326,340	2	953	£11,318,456	1	-148	-13%	-£27,007,884
Tendring	764	£2,831,468	7	581	£1,892,707	8	-183	-24%	-£938,761

<b>Essex Total</b>	10,105	£140,118,284		8,446	£64,362,853		-1659	-16%	-£75,755,431
Uttlesford	402	£7,264,280	12	390	£1,637,147	10	-12	-3%	-£5,627,133
Thurrock	1,022	£8,755,411	4	871	£6,572,924	3	-151	-15%	-£2,182,487

In Colchester in 2022/23 the Top 5 fraud types are detailed below:



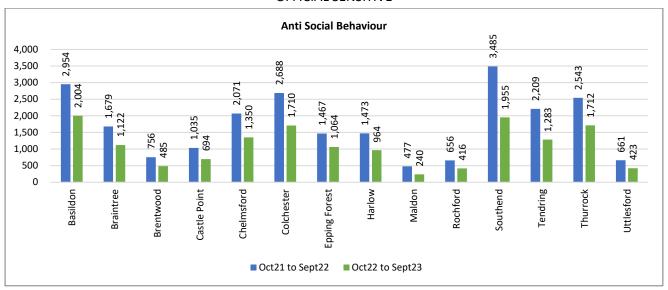
# 6.5. Anti-Social Behaviour Data - Essex Police

Data Source: Essex Police. NB Essex totals exclude Stanstead. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023.

In Essex, a total of 15,422 ASB incidents were recorded by Essex Police, of which 1,710 (11.1%) were recorded in Colchester. Colchester is now ranked 4<sup>th</sup> highest – an improvement on last year being ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> highest. This equates to 8.29 incidents per 1,000 population across Essex, 8.87 per 1,000 population in Colchester (the 5<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

Across Essex, there was a decrease in incidents of -8,732 (-58.0%), compared to Colchester where there was a decrease in incidents of -978 (-57.2%).

	Anti-Social Behaviour								
		Total In	cidents		Difference 22,	e 21/22 to /23	Popu	Per 1,000 lation Sept23	
ASB Type	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff. % diff.		#	Rank	
Environment	100	93	1	13.3%	-7	-7.0%	0.48	2	
Nuisance	Nuisance 877 944 4 11.1%		67	7.6%	4.90	5			
Personal	ersonal 1,711 673 3 10.8%				-1,038	-60.7%	3.49	5	
Total ASB	2,688	1,710	4	11.1%	-978	-36.4%	8.87	5	



# 6.6. ASB Data - Colchester City Council

Data Source: Colchester City Council / Colchester Borough Homes / Crime and Disorder Committee Report

# **Colchester City Council:**

The number of reports of ASB in most categories has increased over the last 12 months.

Anti-Social Behaviour – category	No of incidents
Environmental Protection – Nuisance Neighbour Complaints	319
Environmental Protection - Excessive Noise	868
Fly Tipping	2110
ASB Incidents	33
Abandoned Vehicles	687
Graffiti (all categories)	1901
Vehicle ASB	107
Verbal/Abusive Behaviour	13
Drug Activity (where there is other ASB associated)	11
ASB Case Review Requests (5 did not meet threshold – 5 reviews conducted	10
and closed with recommendations)	

# **Colchester Borough Homes**

ASB Cases Investigated	355
CPW (Community Protection Warnings) / CPN's Served	107
Closure Orders Applied	5 (full and
	partial)
Evictions due to ASB	2
Notices Seeking Possession served	28
Tenancies Sustained (through Tenancy Sustainment Team)	150
Domestic Abuse cases supported (CBH tenants)	20
Domestic Abuse cases supported (non CBH tenants)	14
Safeguarding Referrals submitted	43
Days spent volunteering in the community	15

# 7. ESSEX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE DATA

## 7.1. Incidents Attended

Data Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue. Data is for April 2022 to March 2023.

Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 17,505 incidents in 2022/23, 1,631 (9.3%) were in Colchester. (Of these 97 incidents were outside of Essex or had a location not stated.)

Incident Type	Number of A	Attendances
Incident Type	Essex	Colchester
False Alarms	7,029	599
Fires	5,177	529
Road Traffic Collisions	1,196	92
Special Service	4,006	411
Total	17,408	1,631

NB this data (and in subsequent sections) includes only those attended within Essex. There were 97 incidents attended outside of Essex or where no location is stated.

## **7.2.** Fires

Data Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue. Data is for April 2022 to March 2023.

Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 5,177 fire incidents in 2022/23 in Essex, 529 (10.2%) were in Colchester (the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest of all 14 areas.). This is an increase of 1,481 (40%) on the previous year, compared to an increase of 55.1% in Colchester. This equates to 2.78 incidents per 1,000 population across Essex, 2.75 per 1,000 population in Colchester (the 6<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

There was a total of 783 were Accidental Dwelling Fires in Essex in 2022/23, 76 in Colchester. This is an increase of 66 (9%) on the previous year, compared to a decrease of 17 (-18.3%) in Colchester. This equates to 2.78 incidents per 1,000 population across Essex, 0.39 per 1,000 population in Colchester (the 8<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

In 2022/23 there were a total of 3 fatalities in Essex from Accidental Dwelling Fires (none of these were in Colchester), a decrease from 6 the previous year. There were 27 injuries (none of these were in Colchester), a decrease from 38 the previous year.

When looking at all Accidental Dwelling Fires attended by ECFRS, 56% of all started in the kitchen and 22% caused by cooking related incidents. 54% were in single occupancy houses.

There was a total of 1,365 were Deliberate Fires in Essex in 2022/23, 119 in Colchester. This is an increase of 255 (23%) on the previous year, compared to an increase of 30 (33.7%) in Colchester. This equates to 0.73 incidents per 1,000 population across Essex, 0.62 per 1,000 population in Colchester (the 9<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

When looking at all deliberate fires attended by ECFRS, the most common property types were loose refuse (15%) and grasslands, pastures, and grazing grounds (11%).

# 7.3. False Alarms, Special Service Incidents and Road Traffic Collisions

Data Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue. Data is for April 2022 to March 2023.

Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 7,029 false alarms in 2022/23 in Essex, 599 (8.5%) were in Colchester (the 5<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas.). This is an increase of 603 (9%) on the previous year, compared to an increase of 6.4% in Colchester. This equates to 3.78 incidents per 1,000 population across Essex, 3.11 per 1,000 population in Colchester (the 12<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 4,006 Special Service incidents in 2022/23 in Essex, 411 (10.3%) were in Colchester (the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest of all 14 areas.). This is a decrease of 82 (-2%) on the previous year, compared to an increase of 18.4% in Colchester. This equates to 2.15 incidents per 1,000 population across Essex, 2.13 per 1,000 population in Colchester (the 7<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 1,196 Road Traffic Collisions in 2022/23 in Essex, 92 (7.7%) were in Colchester (the 8<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas.). This is an increase of 86 (8%) on the previous year, compared to a decrease of 11.5% in Colchester. This equates to 0.64 incidents per 1,000 population across Essex, 0.48 per 1,000 population in Colchester (the 11<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

# 7.4. Prevention Activity

Data Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue. Data is for April 2022 to March 2023.

Essex County Fire & Rescue carried out a total of 8,516 Home Safety Visits in 2022/23, 865 (10.2%) were in Colchester (the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

In 2022/23, 6,491 visits were made to those over 65 (compared to 4,989 the previous year) and 2,984 to people with a disability (compared to 2,480 the previous year).

Activity	2021/22	2022/23	Change	% Change
Home Safety Visits	6,645	8,516	1,871	28.2%
Safe & Well Visits	5,031	5,182	151	3.0%
Standard Smoke Alarms	7,540	10,329		37.0%
fitted			2,789	
Sensory Smoke Alarms	1,125	1,020		-9.3%
Fitted			-105	

In education, ECFRS conducted 1,998 school visits and delivered 2,613 education sessions, focusing on programs like Cyber Safety, Firework/Halloween Campaign, and Gang awareness. This includes **132 sessions** in Colchester schools.

Water safety became a pillar in ECFRS's prevention strategy, supporting the UK Drowning Prevention Strategy. Water incidents attended by ECFRS have **gone down in Colchester** and Southend-on-Sea in 2022/23 compared with 2021/22.

# 8. HIDDEN HARMS

## 8.1. Domestic Abuse

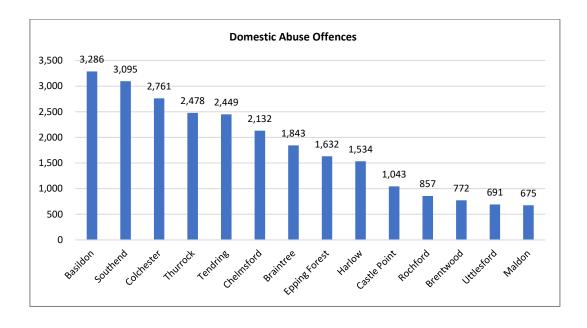
Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023.

In Essex, a total of 25,248 Domestic Abuse Offences were recorded by Essex Police during the 12 months to September 2023, of which 2,761 (10.9%) were recorded in Colchester (the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest of all 14 areas). This equates to 13.58 offences per 1,000 population across Essex, 14.33 per 1,000 population in Colchester (the 5<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

Across Essex, there was a decrease in incidents of -5422 (-17.7%), compared to Colchester where there was a decrease in incidents of -497 (-15.3%).

Across Essex, there was a solved rate of 11.4%, an increase from the rate of 11.1% in the previous 12 months. In Colchester, the solved rate was 12.5% an increase from the rate of 7.9% in the previous twelve months.

	Domestic Abuse - Colchester									
Domestic		Total In	cidents	Difference 22,	e 21/22 to /23	Incidents Per 1,000 Population Oct22 to Sept23				
Abuse Risk Level	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff. % diff.		#	Rank		
High Risk	311	296	3	10.7%	-15	-4.8%	1.54	6		
Medium Risk	460	461	1	13.8%	1	0.2%	2.39	1		
Standard Risk	2,380	1,828	3	10.4%	0.4% -552 -23.2%			7		
Total	3,258	2,761	3	10.9%	-497	-15.3%	14.33	5		



# **Next Chapter**

The data shows that there is a clear upward trend in relation to referral numbers which does not appear to be levelling, with a 19% rise from the previous year. This rise in referrals is often in contrast to the reported number of calls/incidents received by Essex Police, which appear to be reducing. This is due to a range of influencing factors, not least the significant amount of awareness raising, and educational work undertaken by Next Chapter which increases the knowledge around where people can go to seek independent advice and support. This is supported by the figures below which indicate that self-referrals make up the largest sole source of referrals for the year.

## Next Chapter offers:

- Specialist family refuge accommodation
- Support to families to remain safely in their own home through Domestic Abuse Housing Practitioners and the specialist Community Domestic Abuse Practitioners and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)
- DA Recovery Programmes
- Resettlement support
- Specialist drug and alcohol support in the Recovery Refuge
- Specialist support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse through Children's Support Workers, Young People Violence Advisors and bespoke programmes
- Early intervention work workshops in local schools/professionals training
- Specialist role supporting men/young men experiencing domestic abuse

For more information and for referral pathways, please see our newly refreshed website <a href="https://www.thenextchapter.org.uk">www.thenextchapter.org.uk</a>

## Report – Total Referrals

	2022 –	2021 –	2020 –	2019 –
	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total number of individuals referred	Value	Value	Value	Value
Total number of individuals referred	759	640	489	60

# Report - Referral Source

	202	2-2023	2021 -	- 2022	2020 -	- 2021	2019 -	- 2020
Referral Source	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Adult Social Care	6	0.79	9	1.25	8	1.45	0	0.00
Anti Loo Roll Brigade			1	0.14	0	0.00	0	0.00
Any other service	89	11.73	108	14.98	55	10.00	1	1.67
CAB	1	0.13						
CARA	8	1.05	1	0.14	5	0.91	0	0.00
Children's Services			2	0.28	0	0.00	0	0.00
Children's Social Care	28	3.69	24	3.33	33	6.00	4	6.67
Colchester Borough	3	0.40	4	0.55	7	1.27	1	1.67
Council								
Community Outreach			2	0.28	6	1.09	0	0.00
CYP referral	6	0.79	3	0.42	0	0.00	0	0.00
CYP Service (0-13)			8	1.11	10	1.82	0	0.00
REFERRAL								
DART Project			1	0.14	0	0.00	0	0.00

	1	1		1		1		ı
Duty			1	0.14	3	0.55	1	1.67
Education	16	2.11	2	0.28	0	0.00	0	0.00
Family Solutions	14	1.84	17	2.36	18	3.27	5	8.33
Freedom Online FINISH			0	0.00	1	0.18	0	0.00
GP (General	2	0.26						
Practitioner)								
Health in Mind	1	0.13	1	0.14	8	1.45	2	3.33
Health Visitor	3	0.40	5	0.69	6	1.09	0	0.00
Hospital Adults	4	0.53	1	0.14	0	0.00	0	0.00
Hospital Children	1	0.13						
Hospital Practitioners	1	0.13						
IDVA	11	1.45	7	0.97	3	0.55	1	1.67
Legal Services			1	0.14	0	0.00	0	0.00
MARAC	13	1.71	15	2.08	12	2.18	2	3.33
MARAT	24	3.16	28	3.88	23	4.18	0	0.00
Mental Health	20	2.64	16	2.22	3	0.55	1	1.67
Midwifery	3	0.40	0	0.00	2	0.36	0	0.00
Open Road	3	0.40	1	0.14	1	0.18	0	0.00
Other out of area Local	2	0.26	1	0.14	0	0.00	0	0.00
Authorities								
Peabody	3	0.40	2	0.28	0	0.00	0	0.00
Phoenix Futures	6	0.79	3	0.42	5	0.91	0	0.00
Police	170	22.40	131	18.17	90	16.36	8	13.33
Probation	1	0.13						
Recovery Refuge			0	0.00	1	0.18	0	0.00
Refuge	12	1.58	2	0.28	4	0.73	0	0.00
RAMA	1	0.13						
Resettlement Worker	1	0.13						
Safer Places	2	0.26						
Self	293	38.6	318	44.11	241	43.82	31	51.67
Sexual abuse			1	0.14	0	0.00	0	0.00
Victim Support	7	0.92	5	0.69	4	0.73	3	5.00
Youth Enquiry Services	2	0.26						
YPVA Service (14-19)			0	0.00	1	0.18	0	0.00
REFERRAL								
·						-		

# Report – Gender

	2022	2 – 2023	2021 -	- 2022	2020 -	- 2021	2019 -	- 2020
Gender	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Female	698	91.96	602	94.06	464	94.89	47	90.38
Male	46	6.06	37	5.78	25	5.11	5	9.62
Non-Binary	2	0.26	1	0.16	0	0	0	0
Not Stated	13	1.71						

# Report – Type of Abuse

	2022	<b>– 2023</b>	2021 -	- 2022	2020 –	2021	2019 –	2020
Type of Abuse	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Coercive Control	540	71.15	252	14.98	185	13.46	11	9.48

Emotional	684	90.12	554	32.94	454	33.04	40	34.48
Financial	293	38.6	132	7.85	101	7.35	9	7.76
Physical	444	58.5	370	22.00	309	22.49	27	23.28
Sexual	152	20.03	142	8.44	108	7.86	4	3.45
Stalking	245	32.28						

# 8.2. Violence Against Women & Girls

Data Source: CARA

# **CARA (Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse)**

Colchester victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse:

CARA received a total of **595** new referrals from victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse from the Colchester area. Please see breakdown below:

	Female	Male	Non-binary
Adults (18+)	442	47	6
13-18	67	8	1
12 and under	21	3	0
Total	530	58	7

The services that CARA provides for victims and survivors:

- Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) service: providing support to victims through the criminal justice process, from report to court. ISVAs also provide informed choice meetings for victims considering reporting.
- Specialist sexual violence counselling for adults.
- Specialist therapeutic support for young people (12-19).
- Play therapy for children aged under 12.
- Our Integrated Support service, providing additional support for victims and survivors with a high level of immediate need.
- A specialist advocacy service.
- Support groups.

For more information and for referral pathways, please see our website www.caraessex.org.uk

#### 8.3. Hate Crime

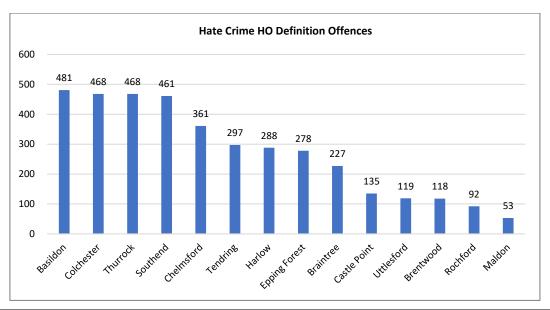
Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023.

In Essex a total of 3,865 Hate Crime Offences were recorded by Essex Police during the 12 months to September 2023. Across Essex, there was a decrease in incidents of -652 (-14.4%). Across Essex, there was a solved rate of 15.8%, an increase from the rate of 10.5% in the previous 12 months.

- In Colchester there were **581 Hate Crime investigations** in the year ending September 2023 compared to 690 in the previous 12 months. This was a **decrease of 15.8%**.
- Racial was the highest Hate Crime type with 399 investigations.
- Crime type classification highest figures Violence against the Person (239) followed by Public Order Offences (189)
- Wards with the highest reported investigations continue to be consistent compared to previous years Castle (147) Mile End (77) New Town and St Andrews (59 & 58 respectively).

• Victims Self Defined Ethnicity – highest figures – White (213), Age category 31-40 years (146) and Male (52.25%).

In Colchester, the solved rate was 16.2% an increase from the rate of 12.4% in the previous twelve months.



# 8.4. Missing Persons

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023. Missing Children Dashboard

In Essex during the year there were 6,801 Missing Person Reports involving 4,479 people (a person may be reported missing more than once), of which 825 reports involving 528 people were from Colchester.

	Missing Person Reports								
Area	Adult 18+	Child Under 18	Total						
Basildon	107	583	690						
Braintree	158	221	379						
Brentwood	55	78	133						
Castle Point	53	122	175						
Chelmsford	175	368	543						
Colchester	178	647	825						
Epping Forest	104	165	269						
Harlow	120	504	624						
Maldon	52	53	105						
Rochford	32	91	123						
Southend	176	548	724						
Tendring	204	377	581						
Thurrock	139	364	503						
Uttlesford	64	99	163						
Unknown/Stanstead	306	658	964						
Total	1,923	4,878	6,801						

Missing Children Data breakdown: Based on North Local Policing Area (LPA) comprises of Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester, Maldon, Tendring and Uttlesford.

		6 - 10	11 - 14	15 - 18	Total	Repeat
District	0 - 5 years	years	years	years	Reports	Children
Colchester	5	13	346	458	822	99
North LPA Total	35	87	1965	3355	5442	658

For HIGH RISK Missing Children:

	0 - 5		11 - 14	15 - 18		Repeat
District	years	6 - 10 years	years	years	Total	Children
Colchester	1	7	15	39	62	21
North LPA Total	22	49	127	181	379	125

# 8.5. Child Exploitation

Data Source: Essex Children's Safeguarding Board

Data has not been provided.

## 8.6. Prevent (Counter Terrorism)

Data Source: Counter Terrorism Local Profile. October 2022 to March 2023.

Across Essex, there were 91 Prevent referrals made to CT Police, of which x were in Area. Most referrals were made by Education (46) followed by Policing (23).

The Counter Terrorism Local Profile currently assesses the threat priorities in the Eastern Region as:

- Extreme Right-Wing Terrorism
- Self-Initiated Terrorism
- Terrorism in Prison
- Online (as an enabler)

The current priorities for the Essex Prevent Delivery Group are:

- Strengthening the Prevent Delivery Group and wider network.
- Improving our understanding
- Communicating and engaging with local communities
- Reviewing venue hire and IT policies and guidance.

## 8.7. Drugs & Alcohol

Data Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Data is for financial years (April to March) as stated.

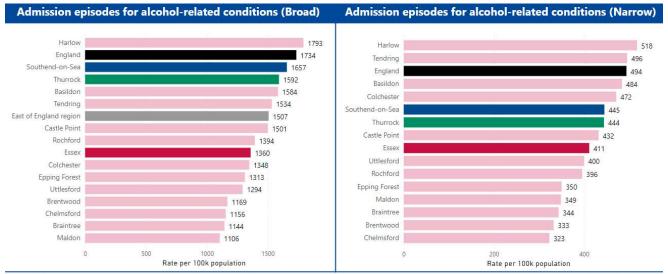
NHS hospital admission episodes where there was a primary diagnosis of drug related mental and behavioural disorders (2019/20): Southend saw a rate of 78 per 100,000 population and Essex a rate of 45, both above the regional average of 39 and England average of 39. Thurrock had a rate that was the same as average at 39. Southend was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the region (of 11, where 1 is the highest rate), Essex 5<sup>th</sup> and Thurrock 6<sup>th</sup>.

NHS hospital admission episodes with a primary diagnosis of poisoning by drug misuse (2019/20): Southend had a rate of 93 per 100,000 population, the same as the England average and above the regional average of 72. Essex had a rate that was the same as the regional average at 72, and Thurrock was below this at 66. Southend was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the region (of 11, where 1 is the highest rate), Essex 8<sup>th</sup> and Thurrock 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Deaths related to drug misuse (2019/20):** Southend had a rate of 5.3 per 100, population, above the England average of 5.1 and regional average of 3.3. Essex had a rate below these at 2.9 and Thurrock's rate was not calculated due to low numbers. Southend was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the region (of 10, where 1 is the highest rate), Essex 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Hospital admissions attributable to alcohol, broad (2021/22):** Southend had a rate of 1,657 per 100,000 population and Thurrock had a rate of 1592, both below the England average of 1,734 but above the regional average of 1,507. Essex had a rate below this of 1,360. Within Essex, there were 3 Districts with rates above the regional average: Harlow (1,793), Basildon (1,584) and Tendring (1,534). Colchester had a rate of 1348, and ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in Essex (of 12, where 1 is the highest rate).

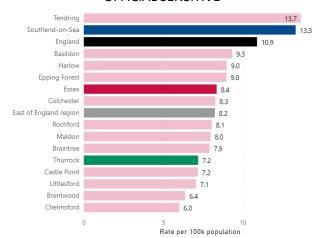
Hospital admissions attributable to alcohol, narrow (2021/22): Southend had a rate of 445 per 100,000 population, Thurrock had a rate of 444 and Essex a rate of 411, all below the England average of 494. Within Essex, there were 2 Districts with rates above the England average: Harlow (518) and Tendring (496). Colchester had a rate of 472, and ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Essex (of 12, where 1 is the highest rate).



**Broad definition**: A measure of hospital admissions where either the primary diagnosis (main reason for admission) or one of the secondary (contributory) diagnoses is an alcohol-related condition. This represents a Broad measure of alcohol-related admissions but is sensitive to changes in coding practice over time.

Narrow definition: A measure of hospital admissions where the primary diagnosis (main reason for admission) is an alcohol-related condition. This represents a Narrower measure. Since every hospital admission must have a primary diagnosis it is less sensitive to coding practices but may also understate the part alcohol plays in the admission.

Alcohol-Specific Mortality (2017/19): Southend had a rate of 13.7, above the England average of 13.3 and regional average of 8.2. Essex had a rate of 8.4 (below the England average and above the regional average) and Thurrock a rate of 7.2 (below both the England and regional average). Within Essex, there were 5 Districts with rates above the regional average: Tendring (13.7), Basildon (9.3), Harlow (9.0), Epping Forest (9.0) and Colchester (8.3).



Hospital Admissions for Substance Misuse (2018/21): Southend saw a rate of 105.5 per 100,000 population, above the England average of 81.2 and regional average of 71.3. Thurrock saw a rate of 80.9 (below the England average but above the regional average. Essex saw a rate of 70.2 (below both the England and regional averages). Southend was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the region (of 11, where 1 is the highest rate), Thurrock 5<sup>th</sup> and Essex 7<sup>th</sup>.

# NOTE DATA IN SECTIONS BELOW MUST NOT BE INCLUDED IN ANY PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE VERSION OF THIS DOCUMENT

**Number of Adults in Treatment:** In Essex, in the 12 months to Q4 2022, a total of 1,695 were in treatment for Opiate (compared to 1,806 the previous year), 1,081 for alcohol only (compared to 1,165 the previous year), 590 for alcohol and non-opiate (compared to 493 the previous year) and 540 for non-opiate only.

**Prison to Community Treatment:** In Essex, in Q3 of 2022, 46.1% of prison leavers with a continued treatment need were picked up in the community within three weeks. This is an increase from the same time the previous year (44.2%) and greater than the national average (41.1%).

**Treatment Progress:** This is a new measure that looks at the proportion of those in treatment who completed successfully (excluding those who have acute housing problems), are drug-free in treatment, or have sustained reduction in drug use. In Essex, in the 12 months to Q4 2022/23:

- 47.3% of those receiving treatment for alcohol only were considered to have completed treatment successfully. This is a decrease from the same time the previous year (57.7%) and below the national average (51.3%).
- 50.2% of those receiving treatment for opiate only were considered to have completed treatment successfully. This is an increase from the same time the previous year (49.6%) and above the national average (46.2%).
- 57.2% of those receiving treatment for non-opiate only and non-opiate and alcohol were considered to have completed treatment successfully. This is a decrease from the same time the previous year (64.3%) and above the national average (44.5%).

# 9. SERIOUS & ORGANISED CRIME

# 9.1. Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023.

There was a total of 431 Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Offences in Essex in the year, 29 (6.7%) of which were in Colchester.

			Exploitat	tion Type			A 400
Area	Criminal	Immigration / Trafficking	Labour	Multiple	Sexual	Other / Unknown	Area Total
Basildon	27	9	12	1	4	5	58
Braintree	23	4	9	4	2	1	43
Brentwood	5	1	2	0	2	0	10
Castle Point	4	2	1	1	0	0	8
Chelmsford	16	1	12	0	2	2	33
Colchester	10	0	8	0	8	3	29
Epping							
Forest	8	7	5	1	4	1	26
Harlow	15	5	11	1	4	1	37
Maldon	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Rochford	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Southend	37	14	14	2	5	4	76
Tendring	15	1	2	1	5	0	24
Thurrock	24	5	12	2	3	4	50
Uttlesford	2	11	5	3	10	1	32
Essex Total	190	60	93	16	50	22	431

Note: The 11 Immigration/Trafficking and 10 Sexual Exploitation offences recorded against Uttlesford all occurred at Stanstead Airport.

# 9.2. Organised Crime

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is a snapshot taken September 2023. The district assigned is where the OCG, TV or PI is (at the time of the snapshot) believed to be most impacting, although there may be multiple districts implicated and the geographic impact evolve and change.

Organised Crime is recorded in three categories: Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), Priority Individuals (PIs) and Tactical Vulnerabilities (TVs). PIs is where an individual is working in support of/providing a service to one or more OCG. TVs are where a location/business/organisation is at risk of organised crime but isn't a group.

In September 2023 there were a total of 26 Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) operating in Essex, none of which were recorded in Colchester. Most OCGs (23) had Drugs as their primary threat, with the remainder being Organised Acquisitive Crime (2) and Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (1).

In September 2023 there were 19 Tactical Vulnerabilities across Essex, 2 of which were in Colchester. The largest number had Organised Immigration Crime as their primary threat (7), followed by Drugs (5), Organised Acquisitive Crime (5), Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (3), Firearms (2), Fraud

(2) and Organised Immigration Crime (2). (Where the TV is 'drugs' this differs from Drugs/County Lines in that TBs have other threats identified as well, with drugs as the primary one.)

In September 2023 there were 3 Priority Individuals across Essex, none of which were in Colchester. 2 of these had Money Laundering as their primary threat and the other Child Sexual Abuse.

Area	Organised Crime Groups	Tactical Vulnerabilities	Priority Individuals
Basildon	2	1	0
Braintree	2	2	1
Brentwood	0	1	0
Castle Point	5	0	0
Chelmsford	3	3	0
Colchester	0	2	0
Epping Forest	1	1	0
Harlow	2	3	0
Maldon	3	0	0
Rochford	2	0	0
Southend	0	0	1
Tendring	3	0	0
Thurrock	3	5	1
Uttlesford	0	1	0
Total	26	19	3

# 9.3. Drugs & County Lines

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is a snapshot taken September 2023.

The table below shows the number of County Lines and Drugs Lines operating in each area of Essex. Note that a County/Drugs line is counted in all areas in which it is operating.

Area	County Line	Drugs Line	Nomination Pending
Basildon	8	4	0
Braintree	4	3	0
Brentwood	1	0	1
Castle Point	1	0	0
Chelmsford	8	4	0
Colchester	1	2	0
Epping Forest	0	0	0
Harlow	2	7	0
Maldon	0	0	0
Rochford	0	1	0
Southend	10	4	1
Tendring	3	4	0
Thurrock	0	3	0
Uttlesford	0	0	0

# 9.4. Serious Violence (Violence & Vulnerability Unit)

Data Source: Violence & Vulnerability Unit. Data for October 2022 to September 2023.

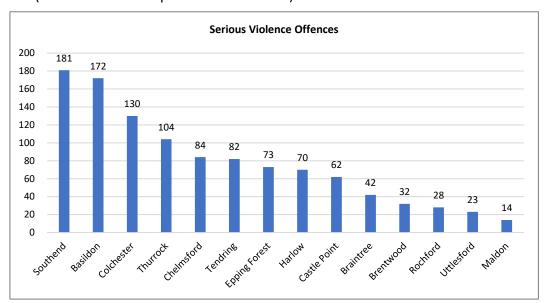
In Essex there were a total of 1,227 Serious Violence Offences recorded in the year to September 2023, 130 (11.9%) of which were in Colchester. This equates to 0.59 incidents per 1,000 population across Essex, 0.67 per 1,000 population in Colchester (the 5<sup>th</sup> highest of all 14 areas).

Across Essex, there was a decrease of 130 offences (-10.6%) on the previous 12 months, in Colchester there was an increase of 13 (11.1%).

The wards recording the highest number of incidents are:

Castle: 44 (although still a decrease on previous year where 51 cases recorded)

New Town: 18 (increase from 10 in previous 12 months) Greenstead: 17 (increase from 13 in previous 12 months) Mile End: 12 (increase from 3 in previous 12 months)



## 9.5. Trading Standards

Data Source: Essex County Council. Data for October 2022 to March 2023.

In Essex there were a total of 5 seizure visits carried out: 4 in Chelmsford and 1 in Colchester. The visits in Chelmsford resulting in seizures of 41,920 cigarettes and the visit in Colchester resulted in the seizure of 1,240 cigarettes.

In Essex, there were a total of 196 intelligence reports for Underage Sales, of which 55 (28.0%) were in Colchester. As a result, a total of 121 test purchases were made, of which 35 (28.9%) were in Colchester. From these there were only 6 sales, all of which were in Colchester.

# <u>Intelligence</u>

	Alcohol	Alcohol (on- licensed)	Cigarettes	Knives	Tobacco	Vapes	Total
Colchester	10	4	0	1	3	37	55
Essex Total	36	11	1	2	11	135	196

## Test Purchases Undertaken

	Alcohol	Alcohol (on- licensed)	Cigarettes	Knives	Tobacco	Vapes	Total
Colchester	5	0	0	1	1	28	35
Essex Total	23	2	0	1	7	88	121

Note date is for last two quarters of 2022/23 as there were no operations in the first half of the year. Sales made.

	Alcohol	Alcohol (on- licensed)	Cigarettes	Knives	Tobacco	Vapes	Total
Colchester	0	4	0	0	1	1	6
Essex Total	0	4	0	0	1	1	6

## 10. OFFENDER MANAGEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

# 10.1. Integrated Offender Management

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is a snapshot taken September 2023. The

The table below shows the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) grouped by age and Local Policing Area.

Area	18 & under	19-29 Years	30-39 Years	40-49 Years	50+ Years
North LPA	3	25	30	15	2
South LPA	2	27	30	15	3
West LPA	1	22	21	9	6
Total	6	74	81	39	11

# 10.2. Youth Offending Service

Data Source: Essex Youth Offending Service. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023.

Between 1st October 2022 and 30th September 2023, 685 young people were active on Youth Offending Team (YOT) programmes in Essex (including POWER prevention programmes and Turnaround early intervention referrals - regardless of take-up). This number includes Looked After Children from Essex who may have been placed out of county during all or part of their programme(s). The total excludes any cases that were from other Local Authorities. Of these, 102 (14.9%) were from Colchester.

Across Essex, 83% were male and 17% were female, compared to 85% male and 15% female in Colchester.

Across Essex, 15% were from a black and minority ethnic background, compared to 12% in Colchester.

Based on the young person's age at the commencement of their programme, across Essex most young people were aged 16 (21%) This compares to area, where most young people were aged 13.

Of 844 programmes, there were 1,187 offences, and the top three offence types across Essex were violence against the person 414 (35%), sexual offences 153 (13%) and drug offences 109 (9%). This compares to Colchester where the top three offence types were violence against the person 72 (43%), criminal damage 18 (11%) and theft and handling 10 (6%).

There were 844 YOT programmes running in Essex (136 in Colchester):

Programme Type	Essex	Colchester
Community	314 (37%)	49 (36%)
Prevention	137 (16%)	28 (21%)
Pre-court disposal	137 (16%)	25 (18%)
Early intervention	118 (14%)	13 (10%)
Bail programme	46 (5%)	5 (4%)
Voluntary support (following statutory order):	36 (4%)	8 (6%)
Remand	27 (3%)	2 (1%)
Custodial order:	17 (2%)	4 (3%)
Licence:	12 (1%)	2 (1%)

## 10.3. Probation

Data Source: National Probation Service. Data is snapshot of caseloads taken October 2023.

There was a total of 6,419 people on Probation in Essex, of which 581 were in Colchester.

People or	Probation	
Area	People	% of County
Basildon	770	12.00%
Braintree	360	5.61%
Brentwood	187	2.91%
Castle Point	241	3.75%
Chelmsford	426	6.64%
Colchester	581	9.05%
Epping Forest	350	5.45%
Harlow	482	7.51%
Maldon	134	2.09%
Rochford	178	2.77%
Southend	774	12.06%
Tendring	529	8.24%
Thurrock	653	10.17%
Uttlesford	132	2.06%
Homeless at Sentencing	535	8.33%
Unpaid Work Only	87	1.36%
Total	6,419	

When looking at risk of reoffending of those on the caseload:

• Across Essex, 9.7% of people were assessed as being of Very High risk of reoffending, this compares to 10.5% in Colchester.

- Across Essex, 21.5% of people were assessed as being of High risk of reoffending, this compares to 21.0% in Colchester.
- Across Essex, 24.9% of people were assessed as being of medium risk of reoffending, this compares to 26.0% in Colchester.
- Across Essex, 44.0% of people were assessed as being of Low risk of reoffending, this compares to 42.5% in Colchester.

		Assessed I	Risk Levels	of Reoffe	nding			
Avec	Very High		High		Medium		Low	
Area	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Basildon	73	9.5%	170	22.1%	196	25.5%	331	43.0%
Braintree	27	7.5%	80	22.2%	104	28.9%	149	41.4%
Brentwood	13	7.0%	35	18.7%	51	27.3%	88	47.1%
Castle Point	12	5.0%	44	18.3%	64	26.6%	121	50.2%
Chelmsford	40	9.4%	85	20.0%	93	21.8%	208	48.8%
Colchester	61	10.5%	122	21.0%	151	26.0%	247	42.5%
Epping Forest	16	4.6%	70	20.0%	90	25.7%	174	49.7%
Harlow	52	10.8%	92	19.1%	133	27.6%	205	42.5%
Maldon	4	3.0%	28	20.9%	30	22.4%	72	53.7%
Rochford	14	7.9%	34	19.1%	48	27.0%	82	46.1%
Southend	73	9.4%	169	21.8%	201	26.0%	331	42.8%
Tendring	40	7.6%	121	22.9%	134	25.3%	234	44.2%
Thurrock	60	9.2%	156	23.9%	155	23.7%	282	43.2%
Uttlesford	8	6.1%	24	18.2%	24	18.2%	76	57.6%
Homeless at	127	23.7%	137	25.6%	104	19.4%	167	31.2%
Sentencing								
Unpaid Work Only	0	0.0%	11	12.6%	18	20.7%	58	66.7%
Total	620	9.7%	1,378	21.5%	1,596	24.9%	2,825	44.0%

When looking at risk of serious harm of those on the caseload (excluding those not yet assessed):

- Across Essex, 0.8% of people were assessed as being of Very High risk of serious harm, this
  compares to 0.9% in Colchester.
- Across Essex, 24.9% of people were assessed as being of High risk of serious harm, this compares to 25.0% in Colchester.
- Across Essex, 59.9% of people were assessed as being of medium risk of serious harm, this compares to 61.6% in Colchester.
- Across Essex, 14.4% of people were assessed as being of Low risk of serious harm, this compares to 12.5% in Colchester.

Assessed Risk of Serious Harm								
Area	Very High		High		Medium		Low	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Basildon	10	1.3%	192	25.2%	456	59.8%	105	13.8%
Braintree	0	0.0%	81	23.3%	222	63.8%	45	12.9%
Brentwood	1	0.5%	27	14.6%	110	59.5%	47	25.4%
Castle Point	1	0.4%	46	19.1%	170	70.5%	24	10.0%
Chelmsford	0	0.0%	96	22.9%	260	62.1%	63	15.0%
Colchester	5	0.9%	144	25.0%	354	61.6%	72	12.5%
Epping Forest	0	0.0%	54	15.8%	213	62.5%	74	21.7%

Harlow	2	0.4%	104	22.0%	287	60.7%	80	16.9%
Maldon	1	0.8%	26	19.5%	80	60.2%	26	19.5%
Rochford	1	0.6%	39	22.0%	115	65.0%	22	12.4%
Southend	11	1.4%	229	29.7%	457	59.3%	74	9.6%
Tendring	1	0.2%	120	23.1%	321	61.7%	78	15.0%
Thurrock	2	0.3%	163	25.1%	405	62.3%	80	12.3%
Uttlesford	0	0.0%	24	18.3%	80	61.1%	27	20.6%
Homeless at	16	3.1%	236	45.2%	223	42.7%	47	9.0%
Sentencing	10	3.1%		45.270		42.7/0		9.070
Unpaid Work Only	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	45	54.9%	37	45.1%
Total	51	0.8%	1,581	24.9%	3,798	59.9%	910	14.4%

# 11. RISK MATRIX

To ensure partnership data is managed in a consistent way, and that the right priorities are identified, a risk matrix was completed. This process assists the CSP with justification as to why an issue is or is not included as a strategic priority.

The completion of a risk matrix is a method used as part of a risk assessment process to be able to define the level of risk associated to multiple factors, against a range of criteria. It is however recognised that this matrix has limitations in being able to assess all community safety issues and is used only as part of the overall assessment.

The risk matrix for Colchester is shown on the next page.

Factors	Oct 22 to Sept 23	Rank
Violence against the person	7703	
Homicide	3	31
Violence with injury	1984	3
Death or Serious Injury caused by unlawful driving	5	23
Violence without injury (new definition)	3409	16
Stalking and Harassment	2302	10
Sexual Offences	763	
Rape	336	4
Other Sexual Offences	427	7
Robbery	188	
Robbery - Business	18	21
Robbery - Personal	170	8
Burglary	669	
Burglary - Residential	225	21
Burglary - Business and Community	444	16
Vehicle offences	1052	
Theft From a Motor Vehicle	485	28
Theft Of a Motor Vehicle	378	28

Vehicle Interference	189	25
Theft	2984	
Theft from the person	116	25
Bicycle theft	332	16
Shoplifting	1157	28
Other theft	1379	28
Arson and criminal damage	1604	
Criminal Damage	1508	23
Arson	96	16
Domestic Abuse	2761	
High Risk Domestic Abuse	296	2
Medium Risk Domestic Abuse	461	1
Standard Risk Domestic Abuse	1828	6
Drug offences	574	
Trafficking of drugs	148	16
Possession of drugs	426	11
Possession of weapons offences	169	16
Public Order Offences	1584	30
Hate Crime HO Definition	468	6
ASB (Police)	1720	
ASB Environment	93	10
Nuisance	944	16
Personal	673	16
All Crime (excl. Action (NFIB) Fraud)	156389	