

Safeguarding Information from Partners

Colchester City Council

As of June 2023, CCC now has a dedicated Safeguarding Officer.

- **Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO's)** - safeguarding 'champions' within each service area have an enhanced level of training to provide expertise and assistance to officers and make referrals to ECC. The DSO's attend quarterly workshops led by the Safeguarding Officer.
- **Training** - A new learning platform has been purchased and will be trialled for a period of 12 months, which will give staff easier access to courses. Completion rates of all mandatory safeguarding training are regularly monitored by the Safeguarding Officer, who liaises with management to ensure reminders are sent to relevant teams to encourage completion. Courses available at CCC: Safeguarding Levels 1,2 and 3, Suicide Awareness Levels 1 and 2, PREVENT, Protecting Human Rights in the Supply Chain. Level 1 Safeguarding, PREVENT and Suicide Awareness Level 1 are currently mandatory for all staff. Alternative training sessions were designed specifically to support those members of staff who struggle to complete the training due to having additional learning needs or strict shift patterns/time constraints. By the 30th of August 42 members of staff will have received training in this way.

CCC Referrals October 1st 2022 – June 30th 2023 – Adult: 33 Child 3

Abuse Type	Adult Referral	Child Referral	Total Referral Type*
Self-Neglect	12		12
Physical	1		1
Material/Financial	1		1
Psychological	2		2
Neglect	5	2	7
Domestic Abuse	1		1
Non determined	10	1	9

*NB – referrals can include multiple types of abuse and therefore do not reflect the total individual referral numbers. 92% of CCC referrals were relating to adults. Of these 17 (52) were female and 16 (48%) were male. CCC moved to a new Referral App in 2022 which has streamlined the reporting process to Essex County Council.

- **Modern Slavery Transparency Statement** - To meet its legal duties under Section 43 of the [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) the Council published on its website its sixth Modern Slavery Transparency Statement (and action plan) in September 2022.
- **Domestic Homicide Reviews** - CCC Community Safety and Safeguarding Team, on behalf of the Safer Colchester Partnership, lead on the scoping requests for Domestic Homicide Reviews – both within Colchester and out of area. During the period Apr 22 – Mar 23, scoping was coordinated for 3 Colchester DHR requests and 4 out of area DHR requests.

Partnership Working:

- Colchester Against Modern Slavery (CAMS) - partnership working together to develop an action plan towards a slavery-free community.
- Safeguarding Boards – Adults and Children
- Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP)
- Stay Safe Group - this group helps to put into practice effective partnership working to keep children safe from harm including abuse.
- MACE (Missing and Child Exploitation) Panels
- Multi Agency Disruption Panel

- Child Exploitation Community Panel - in November 2022, Colchester was selected (by ESCB) to pilot the new Child Exploitation Community Panel. This forum meet to share relevant information about vulnerable locations/hotspots of exploitation and their links to individuals.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Case Reviews (formally Community Triggers)
- CCC Community Safety Team take the lead for the ASB Case Review Process since May 2022 (previously joint lead with CBH); This process is designed to review a incidents where residents' feel they have received 'unsatisfactory' results. Since May 2022, CCC have led 3 case reviews.
- Suicide Prevention - A new operational group has formed for multi-agency work to address the high rate of death by suicide in Colchester.

Looking Forward (23-24)

- Domestic Abuse Policy - The CCC Community Safety team, working alongside the new Domestic Abuse Project Worker will develop a specific Domestic Abuse Policy for both CCC and CBH staff.
- SET (Southend, Essex & Thurrock) Safeguarding Childrens Boards Safeguarding Survey - There will be a Section 11, SET Safeguarding Childrens Boards Safeguarding audit in Summer 2023.

Colchester Borough Homes

As of June 2023, CBH works with a dedicated Safeguarding Officer from CCC.

- **Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSO's)** - safeguarding 'champions' within each service area have an enhanced level of training to provide expertise and assistance to officers and make referrals to ECC. The DSO's attend quarterly workshops led by the Safeguarding Officer at CCC.
- **Training** - All new staff and Board members receive safeguarding training as part of their induction. CBH maintains its commitment to external provision of Level 3 training for Board members, Designated Safeguarding Officers, CMT and leads and refresher training every 3 years (27 participated in a Level 3 course held in October 2022). Level 1 training will continue to be delivered via an e-learning course and staff now have access to Suicide Prevention, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and PREVENT e-learning modules. A further module on Hoarding has been introduced in the last 12 months and a Cause for Concern more recently. Completion rates currently stand at:
Prevent - 87%
Hoarding - 72%
Modern Slavery & HT - 87%
Cause for concern – 75%
Suicide - 3% (note this is not a mandatory module)

CBH Referrals October 1st 2022 – June 30th 2023 – Adult: 35 Child: 5

Abuse Type	Adult Referral	Child Referral	Total Referral Type*
Self-Neglect	19		19
Physical	16	4	20
Material/Financial	8		8
Psychological	4	1	5
Neglect	3	1	4
Domestic Abuse	3		3
Sexual	2		2
Modern Slavery	1		1

Non determined	2		
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*NB – referrals can include multiple types of abuse and therefore do not reflect the total individual referral numbers.

Looking Forward (23-24)

- Progress activity to achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation.
- Launch a new Domestic Abuse policy and procedures for staff and residents.
- Further develop safeguarding e-learning including new modules for Level 1 and 2 training. Along with a new mandatory domestic abuse e-learning module. Face-to-face domestic abuse training will also be delivered to staff.
- We will move to an online App for all adult safeguarding referrals to Essex County Council.

CARA

Safeguarding referrals - Over the period, the CARA team raised safeguarding concerns with our Designated Safeguarding Leads about 59 Colchester residents. The majority (64%) of these concerns related to suicidal thoughts or intent or serious self-harm. Other concerns related to risk from others or risk to children. Actions taken have included close monitoring of the concern, referral to the Mental Health Crisis teams, referral to ESCB or ESAB and calling emergency services to request an ambulance and or police attend the client’s home or other location. More than half (52%) of all safeguarding concerns related to young people aged 13-24.

Safeguarding training - All CARA workers receive mandatory safeguarding training on an annual basis. This is delivered in-house by our Safeguarding Lead. Attendance at additional safeguarding training courses, delivered by ESAB, ESCB or other agencies is actively encouraged across the team and mandatory for staff in specific roles.

Partnership working around safeguarding:

We regularly work with other agencies around safeguarding, including:

- Mental Health Crisis Teams (adult’s and children’s)
- Essex Safeguarding Children’s Board (ESCB)
- Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB)
- Essex Police

Essex Ambulance Service

Essex MARAC

Probation Service

It is an expectation that all probation staff complete mandatory child safeguarding, adult safeguarding, domestic abuse, and prevent e-learning at least once every three years as a minimum. Moreover, relevant probation practitioners have access to adequate child safeguarding classroom training, the content of which is more advanced than the eLearning.

Percentage of staff who have completed e-learning

PS - Child Protection and Safeguarding	90.3
PS Adult Safeguarding eLearning*	88.6
PS Domestic Abuse Awareness eLearning	87.5
PS Prevent e-Learning	85.8

Regarding face-to-face safeguarding events, which had (until July) been available only to new probation service officers and trainee probation officers, all relevant staff who have not completed/ refreshed this training must complete them by the end of March 24.

Next Chapter

Safeguarding our clients is the foundation of all the services and support that we provide. We have a range of processes to ensure that our staff individually and collectively as an organisation are doing everything that is needed to safeguard our clients.

From a staff perspective we provide mandatory safeguarding training to all our staff, volunteers and Trustees which we require to be repeated on an annual basis. We have specialist Designated Safeguarding Leads who undertake the highest level of safeguarding training so that they are able to support our staff with any safeguarding issues or queries.

We operate a safeguarding forum where the designated leads will bring any safeguarding issues for discussion and look for any trends that may need a strategic response or indicate a need to either provide further training, work with partner organisations in relation to any other support our clients may need, or change our safeguarding responses/policies.

Aligned with the specific safeguarding training is our organisational learning and development programme where we ensure that our practitioners are all qualified to the highest level necessary for them to be effective in the role that they hold.