



Crime and Disorder Committee		Item 7
18 March 2024		
Report of	Head of Public Protection	Author Samantha Goodman
Title	Safer Colchester Partnership	
Wards affected	All	

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At the last Crime and Disorder Committee meeting on 18th September 2023, the resolved actions were:
- To hold an additional Crime and Disorder Committee meeting within six months to scrutinise the Strategic Assessment document of the Safer Colchester Partnership for the coming year (2024/25)
 - To receive benchmarking data against a wider selection of different geographic areas, and
 - To receive an explanation of the divergence of domestic abuse statistics compiled by different partner organisations.
- 1.2 The recommended actions related to enforcement of the City Centre and vehicular Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs), and consideration to a place within the priorities for addressing fraud, knife crime, shoplifting and other crimes against businesses. The draft key priorities and their reasons for inclusion for 2024-25 are outlined in the Strategic Assessment of Crime report.
- 1.3 This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to review the “Strategic Assessment of Crime” report for 2023-24 (Appendix A), the Risk Matrix (Appendix B) and the draft wording for the Key Priorities for the Safer Colchester Partnership for 2024-25. This report will also address the request for benchmarking data and an explanation regarding domestic abuse statistics.
- 1.4 The past and ongoing work of the Partnership is not the focus of this Crime and Disorder Committee meeting, but the Annual Partnership Plan for 2023-24 is attached for information (Appendix C). Along with the Crime and Disorder Committee report prepared for the September 2023 meeting (Appendix D). At the meeting, key stakeholders from statutory and non-statutory partner agencies will be in attendance to provide further details to Committee members and to answer any questions that they may have.

2. Decision Required

- 2.1 For the Crime and Disorder Committee to review and feedback on the data contained within the Strategic Assessment of Crime report for 2023-24 and the proposed 4 Key Priorities for 2024-25.

3. Reason for the Decision

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 requests that the Committee meet at least once a year to review the work and progress of the “Safer Colchester” Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their statutory crime and disorder reduction functions.
- 3.2 At the September Committee, whilst the working of the Partnership was deemed to be strong; it was felt that Members would like to understand the data that informs priorities in more detail. This report, and the discussion during the meeting, allows the Committee to understand why the chosen priorities have been chosen, and that there is a firm statistical evidence base for those priorities. This is not to say that other types of crime and disorder are not important but gives some areas of specific focus for proactive and preventative work by partner organisations during 2024/25.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not to review the data or provide any feedback; the Committee would still have met its statutory obligations this year as it met in September, however members would miss an opportunity to discuss next year’s priorities from 1 April 2024.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out statutory requirements for local agencies to work together to tackle crime in their local area. Partners involved in this work are known as ‘Responsible Authorities’ and form the “Community Safety Partnership” or CSP. In Colchester, the CSP is called “The Safer Colchester Partnership” (SCP) and this was set up to deliver this statutory duty between relevant statutory and non-statutory partners.
- 5.2 The SCP forms part of One Colchester Strategic Board, which consists of Chief Officers representing local statutory partners and non-statutory partners and organisations. It aims to achieve sustainable solutions following the identification of local needs and priorities. It does this by delivering initiatives and engaging with local communities through two Operational groups; these being the Community Safety Delivery Board (CSDB) and the One Colchester Delivery Board. 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.

Strategic Assessment of Crime Report

- 5.3 The SCP has a statutory duty to carry out an annual ‘Strategic Assessment of Crime’. This involves analysing data on the frequency, location, and types of crime (over the period 1st October – 30th September) to identify patterns and trends. This Assessment is used to develop the SCP Annual Partnership Plan (for the period 1 April - 31 March) which prioritises the key local issues and

outlines actions to address them. The SCP then monitors this Annual Plan throughout the financial year, reviewing and refocusing activity as necessary to effectively tackle the ongoing or emerging issues.

- 5.4 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.

Risk Matrix Completion:

5.5 To assist in the identification of the community safety priorities for 2024-25, a risk matrix of crime types was completed. The matrix “scores” crime types based on frequency or probability, and by the severity and impact that type of crime has on individuals and the wider social network/community. 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 (See Appendix B). Once the matrix was prepared there was a multi-agency forum that was held on 20th November 2023 comprising of partners from CARA, Colchester City Council, Essex Police, Next Chapter and Essex County Council Adult Social Care.

5.6 The following areas scored the highest for Colchester:

- 1. Domestic Abuse**
- 2. Violence with Injury**
- 3. Rape**
- 4. Hate Crime**
- 5. Sexual Offences**

In comparison, the results from the previous year were ranked as follows:

1. Domestic Abuse
2. Hate Crime
3. Sexual Offences / Stalking and Harassment
4. Rape / Trafficking Drugs
5. Violence with Injury / Possession of Weapons

So, whilst there are some changes in the ranking Domestic Abuse remains the highest priority. This reflects the risk of harm to people, psychological and physical, and local and community priorities. Hate crime, Rape and Sexual Offences, Violence with Injury remain in the top rankings.

- 5.7 Partners analysed and discussed the findings; and the proposed focus of the CSP priorities for the coming year. It was concluded that in the past our Key Priorities have been very 'crime based' with the emphasis on the Police to deliver activity to address them. However, the purpose of the Partnership was to engage and educate potential perpetrators and victims earlier and in a preventative method, which gives non-police organisation's a greater role to play.
- 5.8 Partners reflected on the last year and how we had expanded the number of priorities to encourage all partners to see how their projects could contribute to achieving the key priorities. The current (23/24) key priorities are:
1. Safeguard adults and children at risk of violence and exploitation.
 2. Tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.
 3. Support victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences and reduce violence against women and girls.
 4. Develop early intervention and prevention to tackle the drivers of crime and reduce reoffending.
 5. Work with communities to build resilience and promote safety.

This year (24/25) it is proposed that the CSP takes 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.

- 5.9 The proposed CSP priorities for the coming year were shared with CSP partners at the Community Safety Delivery Board meeting on 17th January 2024. This Crime and Disorder Committee can also offer feedback on the focus and wording of these priorities before they are formalised and agreed. The draft CSP Priorities for Colchester in 2024-25 are:
- 1. Support Victims and Survivors of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences.**
 - 2. Enable the community to reduce VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls) 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.**
- 5.10 The Panel's recommendation to include fraud, knife crime, shoplifting and other crimes against businesses within the key priorities was acknowledged. However, the key priorities have been based on the results from the risk matrix scoring session. The Community Safety Partnership are aware that a partnership approach is still required to tackle some of the lower scoring crimes including anti-social behaviour, shoplifting and fraud. The Panel should also consider the following when reviewing the CSP priorities:
- Perception of crime in the community does not always match with crime statistics.
 - Some crimes are wrongly 'categorised' by the public - an example being shoplifting which has been perceived as 'anti-social behaviour' in some cases but is a criminal offence.

- Some types of crime or anti-social behaviour receive disproportionate levels of coverage compared to others, which can become a distraction.
- Crimes that are not specifically referenced in the key priorities will still be tackled, working in a collaborative partnership manner; but not everything can be a key priority for the CSP.

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.

Benchmarking Data

5.11 We have explored the potential to benchmark against a wider selection of geographic areas. Essex Police do not have access to “out of force” data and do not benchmark against non-Essex districts. We can therefore only carry out Essex district comparisons from the crime data the Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit (PAU) send out. The Colchester District Commander has advised that Colchester generally compare their results to Basildon, Chelmsford, Thurrock & Southend due to their populations and demographic. The population of these areas are as follows:

Colchester	192.7k
Basildon	187.5k
Chelmsford	181.5k
Southend	180.6k
Thurrock	175.9k

5.12 The highlighted data from the Strategic Assessment of Crime report compares against these districts in Figure 1 overleaf. Further comparison of this data can be found in Appendix E (Essex Police Crime Comparisons Table). This will detail how each district is ranked across Essex in terms of total number of offences in each crime type and on offences per 1,000 population. It is these second rankings that are most relevant when comparing to other districts because they neutralise differences in population. However, some thought also has to be given the demographics and urban/rural nature of places, as well as other factors that will have an impact on crime.

Figure 1: Essex Police Crime Data - October 2022 – September 2023

Crime Type	Colchester	Basildon	Chelmsford	Southend	Thurrock
Homicide	3	0	5	2	1
Violence With Injury	1,984	1,793	1,424	1,819	1,316
Death Or Serious Injury Caused by Unlawful Driving	5	1	4	2	1
Violence Without Injury	3,409	3,420	2,826	3,806	2,597
Stalking & Harassment	2,302	2,540	1,840	2,424	1,841
Rape	336	225	247	309	205
Other Sexual Offences	427	420	300	434	317

Robbery - Business	18	20	8	21	13
Robbery - Personal	170	161	129	296	151
Burglary - Residential	444	580	638	565	467
Burglary - Business & Community	225	141	191	219	203
Theft From a Motor Vehicle	485	812	629	569	1,171
Theft Of a Motor Vehicle	378	700	500	444	976
Vehicle Interference	189	200	225	159	264
Theft From the Person	116	108	140	166	137
Bicycle Theft	332	123	324	203	105
Shoplifting	1,157	1,695	1,419	1,231	1,383
Other Theft	1,379	1,419	1,272	1,441	1,395
Criminal Damage	1,508	1,617	1,171	1,516	1,374
Arson	96	155	53	82	137
Domestic Abuse	2,761	3,286	2,132	3,095	2,478
Trafficking Of Drugs	148	222	177	208	153
Possession Of Drugs	426	487	362	534	366
Possession Of Weapons Offences	169	205	152	258	135
Public Order Offences	1,584	1,663	1,485	1,776	1,236
Hate Crime	468	481	361	461	468
ASB	1,710	2,004	1,350	1,955	1,712

5.13 Business Crime Data

For more of a national picture of business crime, refer to Appendix F - National Business Crime Solutions (NBCS) December report. Colchester's Business Improvement District are members of NBCS. This report is useful to view national trends, and where 'South East' sits within this national picture. The data is based on incidents in the categories of Burglary, Robberies and Violence.

5.14 Essex Police continues to focus on high harm offences, those that have significant impact on victims, families, and communities such as Domestic Abuse, Violence with injury, Robbery, Residential Burglary, and Sexual Offences.

On a rolling 12-month basis to the end of January 2024 overall crime has reduced by 8.7% (**1620 fewer offences**) compared to the previous 12 months.

- Violence with injury reduced by 2.3% (Total 1971 offences) (Force reduction 8.7%)
- Violence without injury reduced by 4.0% (Total 3399 offences) (Force reduction 3.7%)
- Sexual offences reduced by 17.3% (Total 710 offences) (Force reduction 10.6%)
- Robbery increased by 10.6% (Total 178 offences) (Force increase 8.8%)
- Residential Burglary Dwelling reduced by 7.3% (Total 305 offences) (Force increase 18.8%)
- Business and Community Burglary reduced by 9.7% (Total 224 offences) (Force increase 4.6%)
- Domestic Abuse reduced by 15.7% (Total 2633 offences) (Force reduction 14.3%)
- Shoplifting increased by 5.0% (Total 1160 offences) (Force increase 22.0%)
- Anti-Social Behaviour reduced by 37.6% (Total 1647 offences) (Force reduction 38.5%)

6 Year Crime Comparison:

Crime/Incident Type	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
ALL CRIME	17334	18961	16814	18303	18641	17032
Violence with Injury	1814	1862	1654	1870	2018	1971
Violence without Injury	2651	3237	3179	3406	3541	3399
Stalking and Harassment**	2242	2590	2794	3114	2667	2155
Sexual Offences	595	665	539	829	859	710
Robbery	195	160	119	110	161	178
Burglary Residential	818	774	499	410	455	427
Burglary Business and Community	378	330	174	183	248	224
Burglary Residential - Dwelling	574	534	364	320	329	305
Burglary Residential - Non Dwelling	622	570	309	273	126	122
Theft from a Vehicle	502	488	290	359	559	361
Theft of a Vehicle	231	263	216	159	334	407
Theft from the Person	157	176	91	127	92	123
Theft of Pedal Cycles	455	376	262	206	288	389
Shoplifting	1395	1428	832	1008	1105	1160
Other Theft	1427	1377	1002	1262	1417	1330
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	1805	1916	1635	1691	1815	1466
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	5088	4627	6069	4034	2641	1647

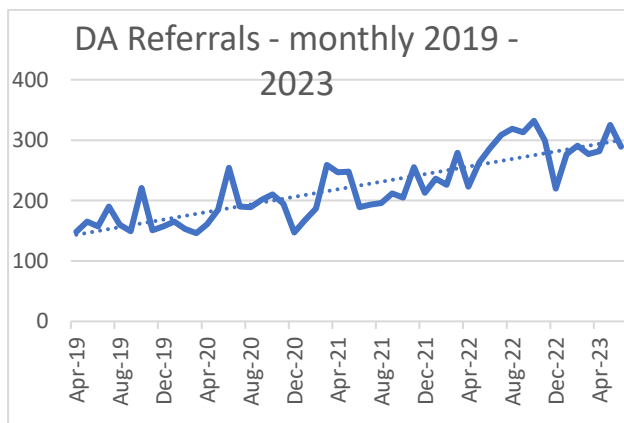
Anti-Social Behaviour 5 Year Trend:



Domestic Abuse Statistics

In September this panel requested an explanation of the divergence of domestic abuse statistics compiled by different partner organisations. Police crime statistics show a fall in the number of domestic abuse cases being reported to them however, the support organisations (such as Next Chapter) report that there have been increases in the number of people presenting to them and asking for assistance because of domestic abuse offences.

There is nothing of significant concern in the mismatch that Police, Next Chapter, and other support services are reporting. Next Chapter began monitoring the increase in monthly figures at the beginning of the lockdown. They have since added the historical data for the pre-pandemic year of 2019/20 for comparison purposes. Whilst the monthly profile is relatively spiky, particularly during the height of the pandemic, there is a clear upward trend in relation to referral numbers across the Colchester geographic area. The average monthly referrals into the organisation have risen from 164 per month in 2019/20 to 299 per month in the first quarter of 2023 equating to an 82% rise in referrals compared to pre-covid levels.



This trend is also reflected in the number of referrals from victims originating in Colchester. Colchester remains the highest referral area, with Chelmsford and then Tendring following closely behind.

Why the continued upward trend? Next Chapter expected to see demand levelling off as the impact of Covid receded, but they continue to see an upward trend in referral rates, with a 27% rise in referrals compared to the same period last year. Conversely the decline in referrals has continued in South Essex.

Next Chapter believe that the raised awareness in relation to domestic abuse during the pandemic and particularly the focussed work they continue to undertake to

ensure that individuals experiencing domestic abuse know where to seek help and support and strong partnership working, has contributed to success in ensuring that victims of domestic abuse continue to reach out.

There have been national conversations about domestic abuse which seek to minimise the shame, stigma and hidden nature of the issue.

The increase in awareness and the continued focus on domestic abuse and violence against women and children means that it is likely that their baseline level of referrals may have irreversibly risen until they can secure enough early intervention and prevention to start impacting numbers of people affected by domestic abuse.

Risk profile trends: In the past year Next Chapter practitioners feedback that there is a maintained increase in the complexity and risk profile of the cases that being referred. The risk profile of cases is broadly consistent across all geographic areas.

This rise in referrals to support services contrasts with the reported number of calls/incidents received by Essex Police, which appear to be reducing. Partners believe that there are a range of influencing factors:

- The rise in awareness, accessibility and capacity on support services means that those people *already* affected by domestic abuse now feel able to seek support and secure safety for them and their children.
- The significant amount of awareness raising, and educational work undertaken by Next Chapter increases the knowledge around where people can go to seek independent advice and support.
- It is acknowledged that Essex Police can only respond to 'reported crime'.
- A large proportion of victims/survivors do not come forward to Police for reasons including fear of being disbelieved, the stigma associated with being a victim, lack of confidence that they will be taken seriously, fear of retribution from the perpetrator, a fear that their decision-making and control of their own safety will be taken away from them by Police-led decisions.
- Essex Police have changed the way they report domestic abuse crimes by removing the category of stalking and harassment from the previously broader definition crimes that constitute domestic abuse. It is generally accepted that the majority of stalking behaviours are linked to domestic abuse crimes. Additionally, stalking is recognised as one of the key steps in the 8-stage timeline to homicide which clearly links incidences of stalking to domestic abuse prevalence.

It is worth highlighting the work undertaken by partners with regards to domestic abuse. The current Key Priorities include “**Support victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences and reduce violence against women and girls.**” The following information is taken from the Crime and Disorder Committee report prepared in September 2023.

Essex Police

Whilst there appears to be a reduction in domestic abuse crime reports, it is acknowledged that Essex Police prioritise domestic abuse and are working to tackle this through the Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Team (DAPST) and Domestic

Abuse Investigating Team (DAIT) continue to support victims of domestic abuse and manage the highest harm perpetrators (Op Puffin Nominals). There is also ongoing training for the Local Policing Team officers (LPT), developing their knowledge of Next Chapter and the services they can provide to service users even where the threshold of a criminal matter is not met, but there is a sense that there is something untoward.

Local Police Operations include:

- Op Sled - a dedicated NTE operation focusing on the City Centre over the Christmas period. The aim was to enforce, engage & educate. There was a 32% reduction in offences in the targeted area for the duration of the operation and saw an extra 132hours of HVP during the key times of 2200 – 0400hrs.
- Op Sandy – Summer 2023. Additional officers comprising of the Community Policing Team and specialist officers from the Crime and Public Protection team deployed into the City Centre. Focusing on education and prevention of sexual offences in the NTE, working closely with licensees, businesses and the wider public.
- Op Jaguar- Freshers Week October 2023. A timetable of activity, plain and high visibility patrols, joint patrols with security staff, enforcement, engagement & education.

CARA

Between 1st September 2022 and 31st July 2023, CARA supported victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse from Colchester, as follows:

Age	Existing clients, receiving ongoing support			New referrals			Total clients
	Female	Male	Other	Female	Male	Other	
Under 12	11	0	0	14	5	0	30
13-17	49	8	1	65	6	3	132
18+	425	33	10	391	40	6	905
Total	485	41	11	470	51	9	1067

Support included:

- ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Adviser) support through the criminal justice process.
- Specialist sexual violence counselling for adult and young people.
- Play therapy for children under 12.
- Group work, including an online women’s social group/drop-in group.

Integrated Support service: Delivering a range of additional support services aimed at victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse who have a high level of immediate need or have complex needs, including because of mental ill-health.

Understanding Young People’s Experiences of Sexual Harm: Supporting Students: Launched a series of animated videos to support professionals working with children and young people to understand the impacts of sexual violence.

Next Chapter

The commissioned provider for domestic abuse services in Mid & North Essex covering the local authority districts of Colchester, Tendring, Maldon, Chelmsford, Braintree & Uttlesford. They provide the full range of domestic abuse services with 2 Refuges offering specialist crisis accommodation, one family refuge with 12 spaces and a Recovery Refuge with 9 spaces for women fleeing DA who have the multiple disadvantages of a substance addiction or dependency. Community-based services offer safety planning & advice, advocacy, support & access to recovery group-work, counselling services and signposting to other services as required. Our Community DAP (Domestic Abuse Practitioner) Team supports individuals who have standard or medium risk and our IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) Team support individuals who are high risk of harm. Children & Young People's Team offer specialist DA crisis and recovery support to children and young people. This is the only specialist DA community-based support for children and young people in Mid & North Essex.

DART Project (Volunteer Mentor Scheme): We are working with 15 volunteer mentors who are supporting a range of clients in the community. We continue to recruit and train volunteer mentors so that we can expand the number of clients we are able to support.

RISE (Resilience, Independence, Strength, and Empowerment): Clients are provided with a bespoke personal journal designed to link with the programme sessions to capture their journey of recovery over the 6-week programme and to provide them with a resource for the future.

Hand in Hand: For parents to understand how domestic abuse affects them as a parent and how it affects their children. Groups are available in Tendring, Colchester, Braintree, and Chelmsford.

Tribe: Provides children with the opportunity to move beyond what has happened (or happening) in their family in a safe and therapeutic way. Groups are available in Tendring, Colchester, Braintree, and Chelmsford

CAPVA: Explores feelings of parents/carers who have been abused by children and young people. The programme challenges self-blame and suggests a solution-focused approach. The Young Person & Child Programme works alongside the parent/carers.

Recovery Refuge: The Recovery Refuge is only the second refuge nationally to offer specialist crisis accommodation to women fleeing domestic abuse with the added complexity of a substance addiction or dependency. We know from the referrals we received both before and after starting our project, that whilst there is a national network of specialist women's refuges offering crisis accommodation for those fleeing domestic abuse this network is closed to women who have any form of active substance addiction or dependency.

Children and Young Persons Service (CYP): CYP service has been running for over 2 years and has established some incredible bespoke programmes which support both parents, children, and young people and with a whole family approach to enable the family to recover and move forward from the abuse they have experienced. With additional funding until March 2025 we have added 3 Young People Violence Advisors who work with young people aged between 14-19 who are experiencing serious harm from intimate relationships or domestic abuse in their family setting.

Early intervention: Early intervention work in schools, colleges and youth centres has continued. We are running healthy relationship workshops targeting Year 6/7/9/10 and young people aged up to 19.

Housing Domestic Abuse Project: HDAPS meet monthly with the DA Project Workers across all the districts.

Male Practitioner Project: Funded by Colchester City Council - provide a bespoke and tailored response to male victims of domestic abuse. Total of 154 males referred to us during this time, compared to 74 during the same period the previous year. A “Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse” conference was held on 6/10/23.

Number 7 – Safe Accommodation – Dispersed Housing: Number 7 is our dispersed accommodation of four single rooms in a self-contained bungalow with shared bathrooms and a communal kitchen, living area and an enclosed garden. This property is used for high-risk domestic abuse clients who have lower-level support needs and do not require the constant staff of the refuge.

Statistics relating to referral numbers, source of referrals, gender and type of abuse can be found in the Strategic Assessment of Crime Report.

Colchester City Council

Together we Can – Working with Next Chapter and Open Road to support Domestic Abuse victims through the Recovery Refuge, Community based support and Resettlement programme, specialist support for CYP affected by domestic abuse, and the Domestic Abuse Housing Practitioners.

Home Office Safer Streets funded projects to address VAWG including:

- Ask for Angela: Over 300 training booklets for venues/staff distributed across the ENTE venues.
- Stronger Together: Project to explore the effects of misogyny and gender-based myths, to empower girls and enable boys to be allies. Interactive production and ambassador programme delivered to 6 secondary schools between May – July 2023. Along with delivery to an adult audience via an Action and Awareness Day, Conference of Voices, Adult Productions, and a comedy Quiz Night. A gala event showcased the project outcomes. Funded The Change Project to deliver a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (DAPP) to support both perpetrators and victims in Colchester.

Colchester Borough Homes

CBH work with key partners to support victims of Domestic Abuse, not just Colchester Borough Homes tenants, but private tenants also.

DA cases supported (CBH tenants): 20.

DA cases supported (non CBH tenants): 14.

Essex Children and Families Services (ECFS)

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Essex has highlighted that the North Quadrant had the highest number of Domestic Abuse Offences. Other factors which are correlated to domestic abuse such as mental health referrals, violent and sexual offending, is higher proportionately in the North.

MARAC multi-agency meetings continue weekly and from April 22-23, in the North there were 411 cases heard (representing 686 children), and this is 100 less cases than last year, which is positive.

A countywide role of Domestic and Cultural Abuse Lead commenced in November 2022 which provides support for frontline Children and Families practitioners in ECC to help them effectively identify, assess, and support families who experience domestic abuse.

Probation Service

As of 2 August 2023, the Probation Service has approximately 151 Victim Contact Scheme members with a Colchester address. This equates to approximately 0.04% of the East of England cases. The Victim Contact Scheme (VCS) provides information to victims of offenders who have committed a specified serious violent or sexual offence, for which the offender has been sentenced to 12 months or more in custody or detained under the Mental Health Act 1983, with or without restrictions. It is our role to ensure we provide baseline information (should they wish to receive this) so they are empowered to make decisions with this knowledge and, should they wish, have their voice heard.

6. PSPO Enforcement Update

There are three Public Space Protection Orders operational across Colchester. They are:

- Vehicular Nuisance
- City Centre
- Dog Fouling

Since September 2023 enforcement of PSPO's as below:

Tasks raised and actioned:

A Frame	4
Begging	15
Tent removal	3
Illegal Trading	1
Drinking	4
Riding on footpath	3
General	1
<u>FPNs</u>	
Litter	7
Begging	2
Fly Tipping	7
Drinking	2

There was a significant issue with regards to Vehicle ASB over the summer period of 2023. There was particular concern and increased reporting by residents regarding St Mary's Car Park and Colchester Leisure World car park. To address these concerns the following solutions were implemented:

Op Dial is an ASB Hot Spot pilot funded by the Home Office where 16 areas across England and Wales are funded to tackle ASB. This involves high visibility patrols, enforcement, and engagement. Colchester was allocated two areas within the pilot initially based on data and local knowledge. These were part of the Greenstead estate and the area around Colchester Leisure World on Cowdray Avenue. Using

Council staff 22 hours per week of patrol time have been funded since July 2023, and will continue until the end of March 2024.

With the increased concerns relating to St Mary's Car Park, the Community Safety Team proposed to extend their hotspots to include St Mary's as a third patrol area. This was agreed with PFCC, and additional funding awarded.

Essex Police also support **Op Dial** with dedicated patrols, 4 days a week at key days & times identified using data obtained over a 5-year period.

St Mary's Car Park – funding from PFCC for CCTV and barriers

To tackle the vehicle nuisance in St Mary's car park, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings, additional funding was secured to purchase and install automated barriers and CCTV cameras. These will ensure we can enforce where there are incidents of vehicle nuisance, and secure the premises from entry after 10pm overnight on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The above have had a positive impact on ASB reports relating to vehicle nuisance, with no new reports requiring enforcement received to the ASB Inbox since September 2023.

Four members of Council staff including Community Safety Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens have completed Essex Police CSAS training – November 2023.

The Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS) is a national scheme which was introduced under the Police Reform Act 2002, schedule 5 and has been active in Essex since 2005. CSAS allows organisations and their employees, who are involved in community safety and/or traffic management, the opportunity to become accredited with limited powers by the Chief Constable to further assist them within their current role. There is a commitment between both the police and organisations accredited under CSAS to work together to tackle low level crime and disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour and to make safer communities for individuals to live, work and visit.

7. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

A key aim of the CSP is to protect vulnerable people. Many of the workstreams include supporting people with protected characteristics and dealing with the impacts of inequalities.

8. Strategic Plan References

This work 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'.

9. Consultation

- The Strategic Assessment of Crime 2023-24 was completed in January 2024 and has been used to propose the Key Priorities for the SCP for 2024-25.
- A Community Safety Survey was launched in July 2023 – August 2023. The 13 Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Essex, working under the umbrella group Safer Essex, developed the survey to help identify the impacts of crime and anti-social behaviour in the county. This is the first time a single online survey has been available for Essex and allowed residents to not only respond about where they live, but also where they work or study in Essex, helping to create a complete countywide overview.
- As part of the Hot Spot review a problem profile was conducted of every Hot Spot location. This identified that in Colchester had the highest amount of reported Spiking offences in all areas of Essex.
- Colchester Community Impact Survey – 3/11/2023 -10/12/2023. The purpose of the survey was to understand the views and perceived issues of the local community in Colchester. Report available.

10. Publicity Considerations

All publicity aims to achieve a positive reflection of the work of the SCP. There is a dedicated website, providing information and advice for residents and members of the public – www.safercolchester.co.uk

11. Financial implications

It is expected that funding for the partnership's work will continue to be reduced. Therefore, the partnership will consider the financial sustainability of any project work it undertakes.

12. Community Safety Implications

The Community Safety implications are the subject of this report.

13. Health and Safety Implications

There are no specific Health and Safety Implications.

14. Risk Management Implications

There are no specific risk implications.

ACRONYMS:

Abbreviation	Description
APP	Annual Partnership Plan
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CARA	Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CBH	Colchester Borough Homes
CBO	Criminal Behaviour Order
CPN	Community Protection Notice
CPW	Community Protection Warning

CS	Community Safety
CSDB	Community Safety Delivery Board
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
CYP	Children and Young People
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
ECC	Essex County Council
ECFRS	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service
FPN	Fixed Penalty Notice
HVP	High Visibility Patrols
ICB	Integrated Care Board
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
NTE	Night-Time Economy
PFCC	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
SCP	Safer Colchester Partnership
SNEE	Suffolk and North East Essex
TPS	The Probation Service

Appendices:

- Appendix A Strategic Assessment of Crime report 2023
- Appendix B Risk Matrix
- Appendix C SCP Annual Partnership Plan 2023-2024
- Appendix D Crime and Disorder Committee report September 2023
- Appendix E Essex Police Crime Comparison Table
- Appendix F National Business Crime Solutions (NBCS) Dec 2023 Report

Please note that Appendix F is not for publication, by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (financial/business affairs of a particular person, including the authority holding the information).