



Crime and Disorder Committee		Item 7
19 September 2023		
Report of	Head of Public Protection	Author Samantha Goodman
Title	Safer Colchester Partnership	
Wards affected	All	

1. Executive Summary

This report provides the Crime and Disorder Committee with the opportunity to review the work of the Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP) during the period September 2022 – September 2023. Included within the report is background information and an explanation of the role of the SCP, work undertaken by the Partnership during the last 12 months and plans for 2023/24. There are 5 priority areas:

- 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.

Data shows that many of the priority areas are seeing reduced numbers of reported crimes. Benchmarking across Essex also shows that Colchester is a comparatively safe city with lower crime rates than other parts of Essex. However, there are some increasing trends, as well as some mismatches in the perception of crime compared to evidenced rates of crime for some areas of work. The Annual Partnership Plan is attached as an Appendix detailing all activity linked to the SCP and key priorities to show the ongoing work in the priority areas.

At the meeting, key stakeholders, including the Colchester City Council Portfolio Holder, Colchester District Commander (North Local Policing Area) Essex Police and Senior representatives from other 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. Action Required

To invite the Crime and Disorder Committee to scrutinise the work of the SCP.

3. Reason for Scrutiny

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 SCP in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their statutory crime and disorder reduction functions.

4. Background Information

- 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'. The Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP) was set up to deliver this statutory duty and includes the following partners: (statutory) Colchester City Council (CCC), Essex Police, NHS SNEE (Suffolk and North East Essex) Integrated Care Board (ICB), The Probation Service (TPS), Essex County Council (ECC), Essex Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) and non-statutory partners include Colchester Borough Homes (CBH), University of Essex, Community 360 (C360), and Colchester Garrison.
- 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.
- There are many areas where the work of agencies overlaps, and it is more effective to work in partnership to address issues in a coordinated and collaborative manner. Also, more effective data sharing between agencies enables partners to target resources to where they are needed most. The benefits of this established partnership working have been evidenced through multi-agency support to produce successful funding bids, partnership promotion and participation in community safety activity and joint communication initiatives.
- 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. Overall Police Summary

Focus continues to be on high harm, those offences that have significant impact on victims such as Domestic Abuse, Violence with injury, Robbery, Residential Burglary, and Sexual Offences.

On a rolling 12-month basis to the end of July 2023 overall crime has reduced by 5.3% (994 fewer offences) compared to the previous 12 months.

- Violence with injury reduced by 4.7% (Total 1962 offences) (Force reduction 7.6%)
- Violence without injury reduced by 5.1% (Total 3377 offences) (Force reduction 4.7%)
- Sexual offences reduced by 15.5% (Total 776 offences) (Force reduction 8.8%)
- Robbery increased by 36.8% (Total 182 offences) (Force increase 4.8%)
- Residential Burglary Dwelling reduced by 7.4% (Total 314 offences) (Force increase 4.7%)
- Business and Community Burglary reduced by 11.1% (Total 224 offences) (Force increase 2.2%)
- Domestic Abuse reduced by 11.6% (Total 2875 offences) (Force reduction 15.2%)
- Anti-Social Behaviour reduced by 34.0% (Total 1818 offences) (Force reduction 31.5%)

Colchester has a 92.8 crimes per 1000 people. By comparison; Harlow 125.4 / Southend 108 / Basildon 105 / Thurrock 96.9. Colchester is therefore a comparatively safe City.

The Quarter 4 Public Perception Survey Result for Colchester show the following:

- Confidence in local Policing 65%
- Essex Police understand the issues that affect your community 46%
- Essex Police are dealing with Crime and ASB (Antisocial Behaviour) 47%
- Confidence in receiving a good / excellent service from Essex Police 66%
- Police in this area are doing a good/excellent job 72%
- Feel Crime and ASB have become more of a problem in the last 12 months 16%

6. The Partnership Priorities

The partnership priorities are focussed on findings from the Strategic Assessment of Crime, they provide the focus for partners throughout the year, unless unforeseen circumstances require a shift in that focus. There are 5 priority areas:

Priority Areas:

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

The current priorities are detailed further below and will be the focus of the presentation from partners.

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

7.1 Introduction

The PFCC and Chief Constable have made it clear that violence in any form is unacceptable. Drug trafficking is perpetrated by organised criminals who bring harm to others, they do this through the use of violence to enforce their territory, or through the exploitation of vulnerable people, either those who use drugs, or those influenced to work for them. County Lines is a term used to describe movement of drugs. Police operations including Op Grip and the Op Raptor team have led to arrests, seized cash, phones and drugs and ultimately closure of lines.

Across the year activities and results similar to this are delivered on a regular basis through the growth of a Police serious violence unit encompassing the multi-agency violence and vulnerability unit, this is a two-pronged approach tackling the perpetrators who exploit vulnerable individuals and providing support through diversion such as sport England.

As a diverse growing community, we know that hate crime impacts, and affects the confidence of more than the victim. As a priority it is the right thing to do. We work together to ensure, as Colchester grows, we are diverse, inclusive and strive for equality.

The Safer Colchester Partnership will:

- Increase knowledge and awareness among CYP of issues affecting their safety
- Progress initiatives to combat Violent Crime, County Lines and Knife Crime
- Raise awareness of Modern Slavery and the support available
- Raise awareness of PREVENT and how partners can support those at risk
- Develop interventions to tackle and reduce Hate Crime

7.2 Overall SAC evidence base - Violence against the person crimes were scored as high-risk areas to people and both local and community issues and Violence with injury saw a 22% increase in reports on last year with 2031 reports. The data showed that Colchester was 5th highest (across 14 areas) for Modern Slavery/Human Trafficking cases considered by Essex Police (49 out of 476 cases), with drug dealing showing the highest type. Hate Crime saw a 14% increase in reports on the previous year (688 compared to 602 investigations). It also scored highly in terms of a Community Safety Partnership [CSP] approach being of benefit.

7.3 Priority One - What have we achieved so far

7.4 Essex Police:

- The Essex Police Prepare Prevent & Protect team (PPP) review all incidents and identify those that may need help and support this includes those involved in gangs / county lines / drug related violence/ at risk from criminal (drug driven) exploitation.
- The PPP team approach victims offering support, working closely alongside other agencies to ensure all support that can be is in place. The PPP team also offer and fund intervention work for these individuals assisting them in choosing a different path. Longer term support is provided to those that have been cuckooed.
- The EP prevent and protect officer has recently designed and produced literature around child exploitation which has been provided to Child & Young Person Officers (CYPs) locally for further dissemination to Parents & Schools
- An Example of work for Colchester: 34-year-old individual who was homeless in the Colchester area, they were a drug user and got into a debt with his dealer. This debt led to them being stabbed and severely injured. CID conducted the investigation, the PPP team provided long-term safeguarding and support, because of this the individual has been housed out of area and is recovering from his injuries. They have been clean for the last 2 months and no longer associates with any of their old associates. They are visited every two weeks; we have provided him with a Wi-Fi booster enabling them to access online NA meetings which are attended daily. Food bank vouchers & emergency supplies have been provided. Once he has recovered from his injuries the PPP team will look at training courses suitable to assist in finding employment.
- Op Spade was a multiagency operation which saw the deployment of a drugs dog within the city centre to provide enforcement opportunities around persons who may be carrying drugs, often this can also be linked to the carrying of knives. It is also a preventative measure and provides us with good engagement opportunities as well. These Operations will be continued throughout the Summer.
- Colchester Community Policing Team carried out several test-purchasing operations. During Op Sceptre week (Knife crime awareness & enforcement) officers focused on the purchasing of knives, 2 premises failed, and appropriate action has been taken with these.
- Op Kirn / Makesafe focused on test purchasing hotels across the district, raising awareness of Child exploitation both sexual and criminal exploitation, working closely with licensing departments and the local authority Safeguarding officer. Colchester has been leading this initiative across the force.
- Test purchasing also completed on local businesses for the sale of alcohol and vapes, 23 premises tested with 3 failures.
- Operation Kilo focused on licensed premises and safeguarding within the city centre, plain clothes officers were deployed following concerns regarding venues, information obtained from these deployments was shared with licensing departments and engagement with various premises has taken place.
- Operation Henderson is a national operation working with partner agencies and neighbouring forces highlighting child exploitation and its

link to the rail network. Officers deployed with Colchester City Council, Essex Youth Service, Essex Safeguarding Children's Board and Essex County Council to speak to staff and persons using the rail network about how to recognise and report the signs of child exploitation and vulnerability.

- OP Jupiter runs in conjunction with the Colchester Institute, intention of the operation was to: Improve data sharing to safeguard young people
- and detection of crime / Protect vulnerable people / Positively impact on knife crime / Reduce the use of controlled substances within the use of educational premises
- Op Grip focusing on violent crime hotspots across the county. Hot spot policing is a strategy that involves the targeting of resources and activities to those places where crime is most concentrated. Crime data over the last 3 years has identified 2 zones with Colchester where the most serious violence occurs. Patrols completed daily (Home Office requirement), Foot Patrols minimum of 15 minutes in duration, Officers patrolling to prevent crime, conduct enforcement & engage with the public.

7.5 Colchester City Council:

- Crucial Crew provides an early intervention through education and awareness raising to year 6 pupils. In 2023, we incorporated discussions around carrying knives, to keep the performance relevant and meet with the requirements of four of the Partnership's five key priorities, namely: Safeguard adults and children at risk of violence and exploitation, tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour, develop early intervention and prevention to tackle the drivers of crime and reduce reoffending and work with communities to build resilience and promote safety. The live play that dramatically unravels the story of young boy groomed, criminally exploited by a gang to traffic drugs. The interactive workshop aims to empower pupils to explore issues and discuss how they could change the outcome of the boy's story. 1629 pupils from 40 primary schools participated in the event. This is an increase of 50% compared to 2022, with a further 11 schools taking part.
- #SeeYouSafer campaign continued to promote key messages for people to keep safe in the night-time economy via social media and engagement events at the University. Freshers Fayre October 2022 highlighted planning ahead, knowing your limits and the risks of mixing prescription drugs and alcohol. Ask for Angela initiative was highlighted, and the event supported by professional services including paramedics and Police. Late Night events attended in December 2022 and March 2023 that targeted 1000-1200 students per event. Students were receptive to the conversations, that saw signposting to the seeyousafer website and handing out of merchandise such as drinks covers and spikes.
- A Modern Slavery Conference was held in April 2023 attended by over 45 delegates from a wide range of organisations, to raise awareness of the subject and to launch the Colchester Against Modern Slavery (CAMS) partnership. The first CAMS partnership meeting was held in June 2023 and outlined an action plan to tackle 6 priorities.

- 135 people have attended Vulnerability Training with over 50 attending a Child Sexual Exploitation/criminal exploitation focus to accommodation providers.
- Prevent Strategy and Action Plan is reviewed regularly via the Community Safety Delivery Board.
- The Licencing Team conduct enhanced DBS for taxi drivers, basic DBs for call handlers, the use of the national register of refusal, revocations and suspensions (NR3S), the fit and proper test for drivers and operators, mandatory safeguarding training for all drivers. They investigate complaints and issue warnings, penalty and/or conviction points and take action to revoke where necessary. As evidenced in recent cases where 2 drivers have had licences revoked for inappropriate behaviour and on safety grounds, and 2 operator licences. Four routine stop and check operations have been conducted with the in this reporting period, to ensure compliance with the legislation and the Council's Policy.

7.6 Colchester Borough Homes

- Colchester Borough Homes designed and introduced a system that helps to safeguard vulnerable people at risk of being cuckooed. This year, the initiative has been introduced countywide by Essex Police and has plans to be introduced across the country under the name Operation Trespass. It educates neighbours around what the signs are, explains how to report, and indicates to potential perpetrators that premises are patrolled by 'officers' at unpredictable times.

7.7 Probation Service

- The probation service works with individuals who have been sentenced for offences of violence and exploitation. This work will often begin at the pre-sentence report writing stage where probation staff must undertake safeguarding checks in consultation with our children/adult social care, and police partners. Practitioners will also undertake checks during the currency of an offender's order/licence to identify interventions that will reduce their risk of re-offending and risk of serious harm.
- The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in Essex continues to work with offenders convicted of violent or sexual offences. Lead responsibility to co-ordinate this work is held by the probation service, the police, together with the Prison Service as the Responsible Authority. Other agencies, including children social care, housing providers, health, to name but a few, are subject to a statutory duty to co-operate.

7.8 Essex Children and Families Service (ECFS)

The Multi Agency meeting for young people at risk of Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE 1) is arranged to support young people who are experiencing high levels of Child Exploitation and could be supported through a multi-agency plan which can deliver bespoke interventions across the wider partnership.

The North MACE 1 data for the period between 01/08/22 and 31/07/23 is:

New Initial Cases	Closed Cases	Total Cases Heard	Cases opened as re-referrals	Cases known for CSE	Cases known for CCE	Cases known for both CSE/CCE	Cases known for Missing
9	4	15	0	10	7	2	12

The bi-monthly MACE 2 meetings provide multi-agency strategic oversight, focusing on developing local knowledge and interventions in the local area, and enable multi-agency training and development to support the wider community. In the North MACE 2 meeting there are 2 key priorities – sexual vulnerability of girls and reducing permanent exclusions from education. There are task and finish groups ongoing to explore current issues so that there is a timely response to concerns or issues which need a partnership approach.

In the past year, the Risk in the Community team has been created by the Children and Families Service, ECC, following a partnership response to tackling exploitation and supporting workers who are in contact with young people who are at risk of exploitation and are vulnerable. A 'Risk in the Community' pathway was launched in November 2022 which provides a consistent application of risk level, assessment of risks, vulnerabilities, strengths, and planning. The team have been fostering links with the police, youth offending services and those who are supported by social worker teams.

The focus for the coming year is to develop further resources for partners and the public, improve links with key partners to identify those who are at Risk in the Community, and continue to provide information to improve the strategic oversight to this issue. The Risk in the Community team have already seen examples of how the new RIC Approach can impact on reducing risk for young people:

- A co-ordinated MACE plan helped key partners to support one person to understand their neurodiversity and access treatment and reflect on their relationships. They entered positive new friendships, and their risk level reduced.
- A MACE plan allowed partners to co-ordinate support in reducing missing episodes, increasing school attendance, engaging in exploitation-specific services, and improving relationships at home for two siblings who were high-risk.
- The Social Worker for one young person was able to build a relationship with them, and the Community Safety Partnership disrupted exploiters attending the family home. Referrals were made to Adult Social Care for the young person's mother, who was also a victim of exploitation. This young person now lives independently and has settled well into positive peer and family relationships.
- MACE partners worked to implement a safety plan for one young person and their family after their involvement in a gang dispute led to violence and threats being made. This involved moving the family to a place of safety, bringing in a mentoring service, and an alternative Education

provision. The young person no longer goes missing, and has developed positive new friendships, as well as now feeling more optimistic about their future thanks to developed employment skills.

The Children at Risk of Exploitation (C.A.R.E) team from the Childrens Society is part funded by Essex County Council. In the past year they have reported that 92% of young people they engaged with last year showed an improved outcome, and that 76% improved in the area of safety which is one of our primary aims.

7.9 SNEE Integrated Care Board (ICB)

North quadrant Missing and Children Exploited Meetings (MACE).

Violence and Vulnerability Unit's Round Table and Operational Groups.

North Stay Safe Group – which covers a broad range of safeguarding issues/topics.

Essex Channel Panel where we are made aware of and work with relevant partners to ensure information sharing to and from health colleagues/partners for those who are at risk of radicalisation.

Due to commence involvement in a piece of work led by the Essex Safeguarding Children Board Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews Subcommittee looking at young people who have been convicted of murder/manslaughter.

8. Priority Two - Tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour

8.1 Introduction

We know from community feedback that anti-social behaviour has an impact on our communities. In some cases, the disruption to life is huge and people become fearful to step outside their own front door. Whilst crime data shows a reduction in ASB, perception remains high.

The Safer Colchester Partnership will:

- Develop initiatives for vulnerable and young people to reduce ASB.
- Support activity to ensure the safety of those participating in the Night-time economy.
- Participate in partner activity, Essex Police Operations and local communities to tackle ASB.

8.2 Overall SAC evidence base – Essex Police saw a decrease in ASB reports on the previous year, backed up by Council ASB data showing a reduction of 5,000 reports. However, ASB scored highly in terms of risk to both people and property, and we know that ASB remains a community priority.

8.3 Priority Two - What have we achieved so far:

8.4 Essex Police

- The Priority Offender Team manage the Electronic Monitoring Acquisitive Crime project. There are currently two neighbourhood crime offenders in Colchester who are GPS monitored on release from prison. The whereabouts of these offenders are mapped to acquisitive crimes in Essex.
- Op Community is a monthly Force wide operation focusing on local community issues. This is a multi-department & partnership initiative.
- April focused on vehicle nuisance, officers deployed around the district to tackle speeding, nuisance and associated issues. This involved working with wider partners and specialist departments.
- May - focused on water safety, especially important in the lead up to the summer months – working in partnership with EFRS to increase awareness of water safety around Wivenhoe, Mersea, Dedham and surrounding areas.
June focused on mopeds initially targeting the Salary Brook area of Colchester - stop searches of persons and disruption caused.
- July focused on increased ASB reporting in the City Centre, linked to the increased footfall of the summer months and school holidays, officers also conducted test purchasing operations and the Essex Police Business Crime Team liaised with business around reporting methods and crime prevention.
- Youth Football Tournament took place during Op Sceptre week. Working in partnership with Colchester United and Premier League Kicks. Several young people joined us for the afternoon/evening and received a free meal. The event was held to break down barriers with local policing and enrich the session with talks about vulnerability and knife crime.
- Op Dial is a force wide operation targeting ASB hotspots, data obtained over the last five years has been used to identify hotspot areas in each district. Colchester has two identified areas; Cowdray Avenue and Greenstead. High visibility patrols will be completed in these zones during peak times enforcing, engaging and preventing.

8.5 Colchester City Council:

- Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs), introduced in 2014, sit amongst a broad range of powers and tools to help tackle anti-social behaviour locally and are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides a broad legal framework within which PSPOs can be implemented. Currently there are three orders within the district:
- Town Centre – Managed by the Community Safety Team
- Vehicular ASB – District Wide - Managed by the Community Safety Team
- Dog Fouling – District Wide – Managed by Neighbourhood Services
The Town Centre PSPO was implemented in October 2017 (for a period of 3 years) following an increase in complaints to both the Council and the Police of specified activities causing nuisance, annoyance, and distress to other members of the public wishing to use these public

spaces. The PSPO was renewed in October 2020 with the same prohibitions, but with an extended area. The Town Centre order is due to expire in October 2023, providing an opportunity to apply variations and/or extend the restricted area if there is evidence that the issues remain or are likely to remain in the event the PSPO did not exist. In the last 12 months, 1,069 verbal warnings have been issued for breach of the Town Centre PSPO. There have been 17 Community Protection Warnings, 7 Community Protection Notices and 45 Fixed Penalty Notices. Additionally, there have been 128 arrests. Based on this evidence, the revised PSPO has been drafted and a notice of intention detailing the variations being displayed next to the existing signage and on the Colchester City website. This will act as the formal consultation. This will ensure there is no 'gap' between the current PSPO expiring and the amended one being implemented on 23 October 2023.

Since the introduction of the Vehicular Nuisance PSPO in September 2022, 55 warnings have been issued in addition to 11 fixed penalty notices. The number of complaints received by the Council have reduced considerably over the last year.

The CCAP (City Centre Action Panel) is supported by a fortnightly partner meeting and overarching action plan, at which Police, Colchester City Council, Colchester Borough Homes, BID, Phoenix Futures, Open Road, Beacon House, and National Probation Service meet to confidentially discuss those individuals who are vulnerable, or those who are causing harm, distress, or harassment to the public, and actions agreed. These meetings are proving to be invaluable in terms of partnership working and having a full picture of activity in the City Centre. The plan and good practice are something we have shared with colleagues in Chelmsford, Watford and London as a project they looking to adapt within their own area.

Neighbourhood Teams work within the City Centre to eradicate homeless and begging concerns, linking in with partners including the CBH Outreach Team so the people that are genuinely homeless receive the help and support they need. Action taken in response to begging, that can lead to enforcement action in the form of a Fixed Penalty Notice if verbal warnings, CPW and CPN are breached.

In March 2023 Rishi Sunak launched the ASB Action Plan, he stated that 16 areas across England and Wales will be funded to support a Hotspot to tackle ASB. It was indicated that ten areas would be selected for the Hotspot Pilots, one being Essex. Hotspots have been calculated from 5-year dataset (01/04/2018-31/03/2023) and are based on 250m x 250m grid squares. The Community Safety team have secured funding, and in partnership with Police and PFCC (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners) have developed our plans, bespoke to the hotspots and will be using employed staff within the Local Authority to patrol. It is our intention to start this pilot July 2023, the patrolling activity will be split into three patrols in each hotspot area, every week. Each patrol will last three

hours and be made up of two people. These patrols will look to target the Hotspot when the ASB is most prevalent. Colchester Leisure World will be a focus as an Op Dial hotspot.

Op Grip is Essex Police's strategy to reduce community violence. 67 Harm spots have been identified in seven major towns across all parts of Essex. This has been achieved with academic research highlighting the areas where most street violence occurs. The purpose is to regularly enter these harm spots with activities such as business checks, routine and directed patrol, stop searches, quality of life improvements.

Colchester has 2 Op Grip areas, both located within the Castle Ward. Op Luscombe is a partnership approach that aims to tackle begging by almost enforcing the requirement on individuals to get support from partners to negate the need to beg. Working in collaboration with partners Op Luscombe provides a "one stop shop" to support vulnerable people, that beg alongside appropriate enforcement.

The Community safety team were successful in securing £258,000 from the Home Office Safer Streets fund. In Colchester Town Centre, £283,555 of Safer Streets funding plus £273,645 match funding from Our Colchester BID, SOS Bus and CCC is used to address anti-social behaviour and sexual offences. This resulted in new initiatives in the City Centre and Greenstead to address ASB including:

Best Bar None accredited premises

NTE audits resulting in new lighting and CCTV

Mobile CCTV deployment

Days and Nights of Action

Sports based project for young people

Each month Essex Police are running Op Community the aim of this is to work with partners and deal with issues that matter to those in our community. The City Centre will be the focus for July's community operation. Our Community Safety & Neighbourhood teams will work alongside Essex Police to deliver this proactive day of action.

The Licencing Team, work with applicants and partner agencies to put conditions in place to ensure meet the objectives relating to the prevention of crime and disorder, the protection of children from harm, public safety and the prevention of public nuisance are upheld. The team participate in engagement activity in the nighttime economy and forums such as Pubwatch, to offer relevant advice and support.

8.6 Probation Service

The probation service has continued to work with partners to tackle neighbourhood crime and antisocial behaviour through sharing information and, where necessary, taking enforcement action – which can include a formal written warning or return to custody – where an offender breaches one of their licence conditions; namely, "to be of good behaviour, and not behave in a way which undermines the purposes of the release on licence, which are to protect the public, prevent re-offending and promote successful re-integration into the community".

The probation service prepares pre-sentence reports and will assess the individual's suitability to undertake a range of disposal aimed at reducing offending and protecting the public. These disposals include, but are not limited to, unpaid work, and alcohol abstinence monitoring requirement (AAMR), the latter of which we can ask the court to impose on people whose offending/anti-social behaviour may be linked to alcohol misuse. The AAMR involves fitting a tag to the offender's ankle and checking their alcohol consumption for up to 120 days.

8.7 Colchester Borough Homes

The Omnis Centre and Project Morpheus projects were introduced last year and continue to be successful.

- Morpheus provides a platform for those that are engaged or likely to be engaged in antisocial behaviour to divert some of the challenging behaviours into a structured and discipline task. The sessions include a day with the army learning basic skills, map reading, teamwork and survival skills. Not only is this working with the Army, it also works with Essex County Fire and Rescue Services by enrolling then entrants on Fire Break courses. This project also incorporates the Box Smart initiative.
- The Omnis Centre is a response to those who have mental health issues and learning difficulties who may suffer social exclusion. Through multiagency collaboration under one roof the centre is by far the most ambitious investment of combined resources in the provision of multi-agency and holistic services. While at the Centre the staff have been able to help individuals maintain their wellbeing by making referrals to our partner agencies and they have also referred into the hub to limit social exclusion. Through these combined services, vulnerable people can access a wide range of professional support, this includes mental health; specialist learning disability and Autism support; housing, welfare, and social care provision. The Centre relies on face to-face relationships between professionals and service users, but they are also assisted to utilise digital services. The services of the Centre are free of charge for the people who use them. Each session supports between 15 and 20 people. This is all in addition to the Tenancy Sustainment Officers that support our tenants with many aspects of their tenancies. This can include support and signposting to specialist services, clearances of significant and high risk hoarded properties, mental health and social care support and supporting our victims of high risk ASB cases.

Both of these initiatives were shortlisted at the ASB Resolve awards, which is a national awards ceremony! (They came a very close second!).

- Tenancies Sustained (through our Tenancy Sustainment Team): 150
- ASB Cases Investigated: 355
- CPW/CPN's served: 107
- NSP's Served: 28
- Closure Orders (Partial and Full): 5
- Evictions due to ASB: 2

8.8 SNEE Integrated Care Board (ICB)

- Form a key partner within the Community Safety Board and supporting the delivery of the key workstreams of the group, contributing the health perspective and linking up wider partners to deliver priorities.
- Provided funding to both Community Safety Boards in Tendring and Colchester to support community bids against priority areas. This included supporting new CCTV systems in Tendring, and in Colchester multiple bids from various organisations delivering crime reduction programmes.

8.9 Essex Children and Families Service (ECFS)

- The Local Community Safety Partnerships Board provide the opportunity to look at the community needs from a system wide approach. This Board allows for all key partners to share concerns and good practice.
- In the North MACE 2 meeting any gaps/issues in the community and in neighbourhoods are discussed to agree what collaborative, preventative work can be undertaken to counteract anti-social behaviour by delivering more positive activities for children and young people. The ECC Youth Service play a key role in delivering these activities as part of their core service.
- A new prevention service, funded by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), known as the Turnaround Programme is run by the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and seeks to engage young people identified as being on the cusp of entering the formal criminal justice system, in individualised packages of whole family support and seeking to link them into community resources for sustained change post completion of the programme. The Youth Offending Service employs a specialist youth worker, a sports and life skills worker through Active Essex, and a Team Around the Family Support Officer (TAFSO) and aim to ensure that young people supported via Turnaround are meaningfully engaged in education, training or employment, community resources such as youth centres, or sport clubs/facilities upon conclusion of their Turnaround intervention. The programme is operating and taking referrals now, initially from the Police for young people aged 13 – 17 years, at risk of offending. The criterion for this service mostly includes young people who have become known to the Police for minor offences and anti-social behaviour but who have no formal court outcome and are not allocated to Children's Social Care. This is complemented by POWER which is an NHS England Service mainly working in Primary Schools with children aged 8 – 13 years and who are known to the Police, including violence in the home.

8.10 Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

The Education Team work with child and young people on ASB prevention. They deliver awareness sessions on knife crime, hate crime, gangs, ASB and healthy relationships.

Firestoppers campaign encourages the reporting of deliberate fires, through an anonymous reporting system online or by telephone.

Joint patrols with Colchester City Council and Essex Police to engage with the community to tackle local ASB, environmental ASB, fire and water safety advice and parking/traffic offences.

9. Priority Three - Support victims of domestic abuse and sexual offences and reduce violence against women and girls

9.1 Introduction

Violence against women and girls is a national issue and across Colchester, historically, we have seen the impact of sexual offences and Domestic Abuse. Partnership working is key to ensure that victims have the confidence to come forward and report, and that we invest in prevention to ensure Colchester is a safe place for all.

The Safer Colchester Partnership will:

- Raise awareness of Domestic Abuse services and the support available
- Support victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Address perpetrator behaviour

9.2 Overall SAC evidence base - Domestic Abuse crimes scored highest of all crime types. This reflects the risk of harm to people, psychological and physical, and local and community priorities. There was a significant increase of 48% in the High-Risk Domestic Abuse category. Additionally, all Sexual Offence crimes that includes Rape saw an increase in reports, over 29% on the previous year. Along with reducing Violence against Women and Girls being one of the priorities in the Police and Crime Plan 2021-24.

9.3 Priority Three - What have we achieved so far:

9.4 Essex Police:

Op Sled was a dedicated NTE operation focusing on the City Centre over the Christmas period. This involved officers from the Community Policing Team, special Constabulary and Crime & Public Protection. 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 has commenced during the Summer and will run through to September. Additional officers comprising of the Community Policing Team and specialist officers from the Crime and Public Protection team are 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.

- To prevent sexual offences and alcohol safety awareness
- To identify persons who are vulnerable through being under the influence of intoxicants providing deterrence and intervention by predatory actors.
- To reduce sexual offending both within the Town Centre and elsewhere across the wider Colchester District.
- To promote anti-spiking safety tools available in the venues
- To advise public on the reporting methods available
- To provide advice and information on support services that are available
- To provide clear guidance on consent issues
- To raise awareness of the ASK ANGELA safety protocol.

- To provide C&PP Specialist resources to immediately respond to any sexual offences reported occurring within or following attendance at licenced premises.

Planning underway for Op Jaguar- Freshers Week, which saw a significant reduction in reported offences. 66% reduction in Rape, Sexual Assault and Administer Poison. This will following a similar timetable of activity, plain and high visibility patrols, joint patrols with security staff, enforcement, engagement & education.

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. High Harm perpetrators are targeted through Op Nightshade

June saw a rise in robbery offences committed by youngsters. Once the series was identified, those involved were quickly arrested leading to several individuals on bail and others being charged, investigation owned by detectives from CID, supported by the Community Policing Team and safeguarding completed with victims.

9.5 Colchester City Council

- The Council continues to work with organisations including Next Chapter and Open Road on the Together we Can project 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.
- To further meet the requirements of the new Domestic Abuse Act the Council have sourced funding to enable the continued recruitment of a Male IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser) and CYP Officer by Next Chapter and a Domestic Abuse Project Officer by Colchester Borough Homes.
- Successful application to the Home Office Safer Streets fund resulting in new initiatives in the City Centre and Greenstead to address VAWG including:
 - Ask for Angela: Over 300 training booklets for venues/staff distributed across the ENTE venues, ensuring staff are fully equipped to deal with an Ask for Angela request.
 - Stronger Together: Theatre Inspiring Change are delivering this Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) project to explore the effects of misogyny and gender-based myths, to empower girls and enable boys to be allies by equipping them with the tools to not only understand what toxic behaviour is, but also to challenge and/or call it out. An interactive production and ambassador programme has been 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.
- Successful funding bid to fund The Change Project to deliver a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme (DAPP) to support both perpetrators and victims in Colchester.

- Council staff along with partners including Essex Police and Colchester Borough Homes supported the White Ribbon event November 2022 by highlighting domestic abuse messaging and support services via a market staff in the City Centre.

9.6 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 provided 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.
- Specialist advocacy.
- Integrated Support – flexible emotional support for victims and survivors with complex needs or who are in crisis.
- Group work, including an online women’s social group and a Colchester drop-in group.

CARA’s new Integrated Support service: Introduced in April 2022 to address an identified gap in CARA’s provision, developing and delivering a range of additional support services particularly 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. The service offers:

- A responsive emotional support service, tailored to the individual client’s needs. Provision has included providing regular check-in calls; offering grounding or psychoeducation activities and providing a point of contact for clients who may be struggling to cope with day-to-day life.
- Support for clients in accessing the other services they need, including mental health, social care and voluntary sector services, working closely with other agencies to provide joined-up care and help create a stronger network of support for the client.
- A programme of regular groups, including a women’s support group and a drop-in group for adults of all genders.

Understanding Young People’s Experiences of Sexual

Harm: Supporting Students: In the autumn of 2022, in collaboration with young survivors in Essex, we launched a series of animated videos to support professionals working with children and young people to understand the impacts of sexual violence. The full series of animations and supporting resources has been shared with all Essex schools through

partnership working with the Safeguarding and Education Department at Essex County Council.

9.7 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

9.8 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.

Cultural Abuse – current information shows that Colchester is the highest district for referrals in which children have been identified as at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The role of Domestic and Cultural Abuse Lead commenced in November 2022 and is a countywide role which provides support for frontline Children and Families practitioners in ECC to help them effectively identify, assess, and support families who experience domestic abuse. A range of training and workshops have been delivered to ECC staff but also presentations to the Essex Police College and co-ordinated with services such as the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit and the Army Welfare services. A weekly newsletter sharing current information relating to Domestic Abuse is shared with key partners.

The Southend Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) have commissioned services resulting in 2,553 women victims, 155 male victims and 4,765 child victims being supported. SETDAB have commissioned a Healthy Relationship Co-ordinator in all quadrants in Essex and these roles commenced in February 2023. There is a plan to train professionals who work with families with parental conflict and Adolescent Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA) which will commence in November 2023 focusing on how to effectively respond too and support these issues.

9.9 SNEE Integrated Care Board

Progressing work with ESNEFT on Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit to look at how we can work with Colchester Hospital to assist with the production of the Information Sharing to Tackle Violence data (ISTV) to support improved triangulation of data with police and EEAST to look at priority areas within NEE and across the whole of Essex.

9.10 Next Chapter

Next Chapter is 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. We work in partnership with Open Road to deliver our Recovery Refuge.

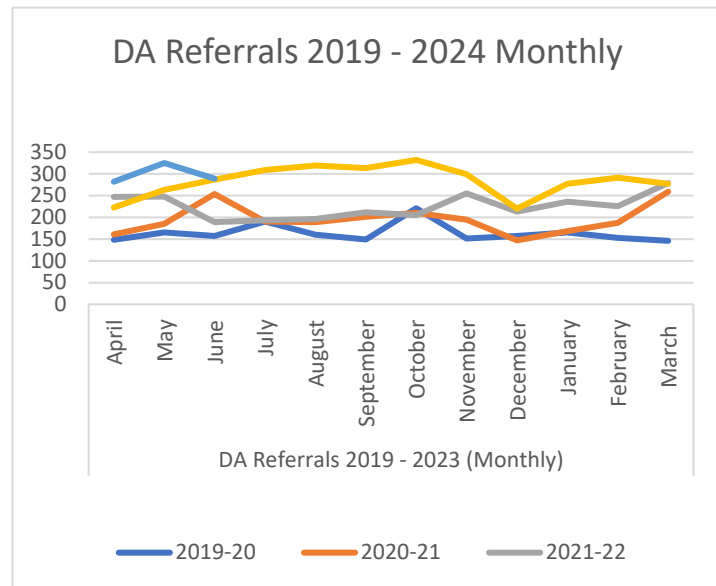
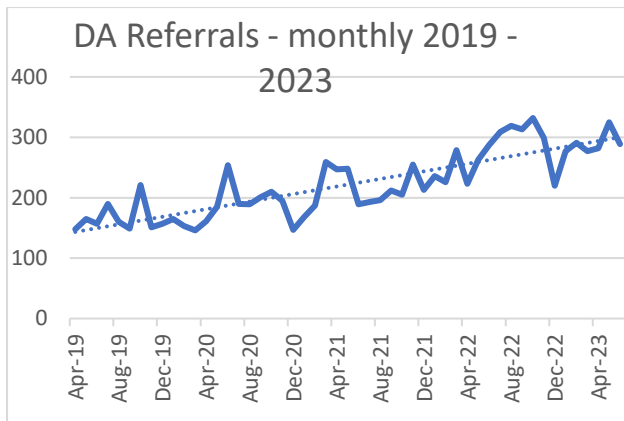
Community-based services offer safety planning & advice, advocacy, support & access to recovery group-work, counselling services and signposting to other services as required. Our Community DAP (Domestic Abuse Practitioner) Team supports individuals who are assessed as having a standard or medium risk and our IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) Team support individuals who are assessed as having a high risk of harm.

Children & Young People's Team offer specialist DA crisis and recovery support to children and young people (age from pre-school through to 19 and sometimes up to 23 depending on circumstances). This is the only specialist DA community-based support for children and young people in Mid & North Essex.

Colchester referrals

Period	No of referrals 21-22	No of referrals 22-23	Average monthly 21-22	Average monthly 22-23
Q2 (starts July)	155	216	52	72
Q3	181	212	60	71
Q4	189	215	63	72
Q1 (ends June)	173	259	58	86
Total	698	902 (29% incr)	58	75

Trends: We began monitoring our increase in our monthly figures at the beginning of the lockdown so that we could have an accurate picture of how the pandemic and other associated factors have affected the referrals for support. We have recently 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 our referral numbers across the geographic area we cover. The average monthly referrals into the organisation has risen from 164 per month in 2019/20 to 299 per month in the first quarter of this year equating to a 82% rise in referrals compared to pre-covid levels.



This trend is also reflected in the number of referrals from victims originating in the Colchester borough as can be seen in the table above. Colchester remains our highest referral area, with Chelmsford and then Tendring following closely behind.

Why the continued upward trend? We had expected to see demand levelling off as the impact of Covid receded, but we are continuing 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.

We continue to believe that the raised awareness in relation to domestic abuse during the pandemic and particularly the focussed work we continue to undertake to ensure that individuals experiencing domestic abuse know where to seek help and support and our strong partnership working in our communities, has contributed to our success in ensuring that victims of domestic abuse continue to reach out to us.

Alongside the raised awareness of domestic abuse and the increased knowledge of where to go to seek help has been the 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 the issue of violence against women and children means that it is likely that our baseline level of referrals may have irreversibly risen until we are able to secure enough early intervention and prevention to start impacting numbers of people affected by domestic abuse.

Risk profile trends: In a recurrent theme across the past year our practitioners are continuing to 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.

Service Outcomes: The rise in referrals must be seen in a positive light – we do not believe that there are simply more and more individuals affected by domestic abuse, but that the rise in awareness, accessibility and capacity on our 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 picture for the individual clients we support is positive, with some incredible outcomes and lives saved as a result of the work of our practitioners.

DAPST project update: Essex Police DAPST (Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Team) was set up to target the perpetrators that represent the highest risk in our community. The new approach to utilising intelligence to map the perpetrators exhibiting the highest risk behaviour moved away from the national approach based on frequency, recency and gravity – thereby targeting perpetrators based on recent demand rather than on the level of risk or harm they pose. Next Chapter will work alongside the DAPST team to support all the victims associated with these highest risk perpetrators enabling the DAPST team to focus their skill and expertise towards managing and tackling the dangerous criminal behaviour.

Our teams have continued to work closely together, with each organisation being able to focus their skill sets in a targeted way. In the relatively short time that the project has been up and running we are aware that at least 15 of the very highest risk and prolific offenders have been removed from our communities as a direct result of Police action. We know that each of these offenders will have had at least 3 associated victims, who are all now safe as a result of the partnership working and able to fully embrace their future free from domestic abuse.

DART Project (Volunteer Mentor Scheme) update: This project is now fully operational and we are working with nearly 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.

As an extension to the project we have now set-up drop-in coffee mornings in our new community space, located in our newly opened premises. Feedback from our clients has been very positive and they very much value the support provided to them by our brilliant mentors. In return, our mentors have shared that they find the work they are doing with us to be very positive and rewarding, and they are proud to be part of the service.

“At the minute I've been suffering with a lot of things but my mentor has been a great help knowing she is only a txt away and phones me whenever I need her has been a god send”

“I don't know where I would be without the continued support from Next Chapter, from the refuge to resettlement and now being provided with a wonderful DART mentor is helping me restore my faith in people.”

Recovery Programmes

RISE (Resilience, Independence, Strength and Empowerment)

The Rise Programme is run over a six-week cycle and with the 3 rounds of programmes due to commence in early September. As previously, we will be running 4 groups per week, with an additional online programme run in the evening and one group in our Refuge setting. 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. The feedback from the programme is hugely positive.

“It is all down to Angie. She does such incredible work on Rise- it absolutely transforms the lives of the clients she works with and you can see them grow week by week”

“RISE course is very good, I came home and was shivering and shaking as it brings old memories again. I am ok now. It was so good to see n meet other women with similar and more difficult circumstances. the group is very nice and I look forward to next week. thank you for your help support and guidance



Hand in Hand: A 10-week programme for parents to help parents understand how domestic abuse affects them as a parent and how it affects their children. Groups are available in Tendring, Colchester, Braintree, and Chelmsford. The feedback from this group is always extremely positive.

“I’ve loved every minute of this course. I understand a lot more what my daughter is going through. and learnt a lot about myself too. I have said seven years that I wasn’t abused by my ex-partner; I now know I was. I’m really going to miss this on a Tuesday evening I’m not going to lie x”

“It’s been a massive eye opener and I just wanna say thanks to u ladies for running this session because it’s something I didn’t think I needed but 100% did x”

Tribe: TRIBE is an 8-week programme to provide 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. We offer groups for two age groups: 8-10 years old and 11-13 years old. The programme includes 10 one-hour sessions weekly (excluding half terms etc.).

CAPVA: This is a brand new 10/12 week programme which deeply 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 which works alongside the parent/careres programme supports the journey to self-reflection and self-awareness for children and young people displaying unwanted behaviours. The children and young people are offered a variety of topics and activities to increase their empathy and to develop effective communication skills.

“Together We Can” Funded Projects

Recovery Refuge: Initially funded by the MHCLG “Together We Can” funding 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. Our Recovery Refuge project was started over 4 years ago with the previous MHCLG funding achieved by CBC in partnership with other neighbouring local authorities to try and address the rising need we were seeing and experiencing, for crisis accommodation supporting women who were suffering domestic abuse alongside drug and alcohol addiction or dependency. We take women who are at risk of serious harm and need to flee the domestic abuse they are experiencing and provide them with the safety of crisis accommodation. Here they can then access recovery services for both domestic abuse and their substance misuse.

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, leaving them (in the vast majority of cases) with the stark choice of remaining in their abusive and dangerous relationship or becoming street homeless. This should not be the case and we believe that they have the right to safety & support and the opportunity to rediscover and reclaim their future. This project operates in a complicated landscape of health providers and commissioned services who often misunderstand and misjudge women who find themselves victims of both domestic abuse and substance misuse. Our aim, alongside the delivery of specialist recovery services, is to engage and influence the health system that should support our clients, to change and inform attitudes, provide models of delivery that are client-led and offer success in their widest sense and to influence the commissioning of these vital services.

- We continue to have two counsellors from The Forward Trust (previously known as Action on Addiction) with our residents receiving weekly counselling sessions, with them offering Person-centred and CBT counselling. The service users have offered feedback to say how much they enjoy, appreciate and benefit from these sessions.
- Clients with problematic alcohol use will be referred to Phoenix Futures and will be given an opportunity to engage with the SHARPS programme. Sharps is a 6 -week community rehabilitation course. Once a placement has been offered our service user commits to attend 6 days per week for the duration of the programme. The programme consists of motivational recovery speakers, counselling, yoga, groups and explores the life journey of addiction through to recovery. On the last SHARPS intake our client graduated and has now moved out of refuge into her own accommodation and continues to live a life free from domestic abuse and addiction.
- Residents are supported in 1-2-1 weekly sessions by an Open Road keyworker to support them in their substance recovery & separate 1-2-1 weekly sessions with their Next Chapter keyworker to support them in their recovery from domestic abuse.

- Some of the residents follow the 12 steps program and attend mutual aid meetings (NA, CA, AA) online, as well as a group session with Open Road women's complex needs manager.
- We continue to work with Broomfield Hospital to enable referrals to their four detox beds in the Topaz Unit should we get referrals from dependent drinks for the recovery refuge that would require a detox prior to admission. We are also working with Phoenix Futures who have confirmed their support and Essex STaRs in relation to being able to provide community detox in our Refuge setting.
- Abberton Rural Training continues to come in each week and provides gardening and horticultural learning. We are pleased to report that due to extended funding these sessions will continue until at least September 2023.
- We continue to promote adult learning and volunteering opportunities and currently:
 - 3 service users volunteer with Wellies on Therapeutic farm
 - 1 service user volunteers weekly at Colchester Foodbank

Recovery Refuge	Q2 (22-23)	Q3 (22-23)	Q4 (22-23)	Q1 (23-24)	Total
Referrals	49	48	38	34	169
Able to accommodate	12	9	9	10	40

Whilst not funded by the Together We Can project – the data below relates to our family refuge where we provide specialist accommodation for women and their children who are fleeing domestic abuse.

Family Refuge	Q2 (22-23)	Q3 (22-23)	Q4 (22-23)	Q1 (23-24)	Total
Referrals	64	47	50	70	231
Able to accommodate	12	8	12	12	44

Client Feedback

Feedback – Recovery Refuge

“I was in addiction for many years as well as in an abusive relationship. When I came into refuge I needed my liquid handcuffs daily (Methadone). I am no longer needing to have Methadone and I am free.”

“I would be living on the streets and using (drugs) as a coping mechanism. I can’t say thank you enough for the help and the continued support from resettlement.”

Feedback – Family Refuge:

“I cannot thank you Mandy enough for all of your help and support, especially in the early days of coming into refuge, that made the journey so much better knowing I was not judged, and staff respected that I needed to be on my own at times”.

“Just wanted to drop you all a line or two. It’s a year today that we left, and we are doing well. We love our new home, it’s our safe space, and we both couldn’t be happier. I’m still under CARA and am thankful for that. I’ve learnt and grown a lot in myself. We have only stayed in touch with x, and she’s doing well too. X has a cat, he’s a Maine Coon, his name is Uther, and he has his own Instagram account? This is just a big Thankyou to all of you, without our time at refuge I don’t know where we would be now. You made us feel safe, understood and cared for. I hope you are all doing well. Much love to you and the team xx”

Children and Young Persons Service (CYP)

Thanks to the support of Colchester Borough Council, through the “Together We Can” project our CYP service has now 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. (detailed above under Recovery programmes). The parenting support aims to provide the non-abusing parent with an understanding of how the domestic abuse has impact their children and tools for them to support their children in their recovery.

As a result of the investment to create our community based CYP service, we have been able to secure additional funding through Children In Need and the National IDVA fund to add 3 Young People Violence Advisors to the team.

Our YPVA’s work with young people aged between 14-19 who are experiencing serious harm from intimate relationships or domestic abuse in their family setting.

This funding has been secured until end of March 2025 which gives them a real opportunity to establish the service, create the necessary community partnerships and to be able to evidence the impact and outcomes of the service.

Referrals into CYP Service for Colchester & Maldon

Colchester & Maldon	Q2 (22-23)	Q3 (22-23)	Q4 (22-23)	Q1 (23-24)	Total
Early Intervention - parents benefitting	35	30	27	30	122
Early Intervention - children benefitting	100	*400	*120	100	720
One-to-one work - parents benefitting	30	25	28	40	123
One-to-one work - children benefitting	115	125	100	96	436
Recovery Groups - parents benefitting	31	20	20	40	111
Recovery Groups - children benefitting	38	20	15	30	103

Client Feedback

“Your work with my children has been invaluable and I cannot thank you enough! You are gentle, kind and considerate, yet very professional with your approach to the girl’s needs. You completely gained my trust with the children and also gained trust from them. Under the circumstances trusting people can be quite difficult for me, as I am understandably apprehensive when it comes down to the safety and well-being of my little girls. You have also been very informative, when necessary, which has helped me to gain a greater understanding of where my children are at mentally and emotionally from experiencing trauma. This is priceless because your information and advice has given me more insight and confidence on how to help them and made me feel like I am doing my absolute best for them. I just wanted to say thank you so so much for all of your help with everything and allowing me to repeat the same questions 100s of times over the phone. It’s helped me so so much and I have healed greatly because of you! So I just wanted to say a huge thank you genuinely for everything!”

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. This work enhances the Relationships, Sex and Health Education Curriculum that is now compulsory in all schools. We seek feedback at the end of each workshop session so that we can amend content or approaches as required to ensure continue to reflect the needs and opinions of the young people engaging in the sessions.

We have attended 'Police Safety' days at Colchester Institute and Essex University where CYP practitioners were on site for young people to discuss any concerns and a Domestic Abuse awareness workshop was run for school staff. We arranged monthly ‘drop in’s’ - held in Colchester Institute & Colchester 6th Form. CYP practitioners are available on site for the young people/staff to discuss any concerns etc.

We continue to deliver workshops to staff in schools to allow an understanding of the domestic abuse, healthy relationships, and the impact of domestic abuse on the whole family. Schools have welcomed these workshops and bookings have been taken for this academic year. We still have an established partnership with the Healthy Schools Initiative who continue to raise awareness of our service via this platform.

Housing Domestic Abuse Project: Partnership work continues, and links are still in progress with the DA Project Worker based in Colchester Borough Homes. We have recently established a monthly meeting for all the DA Project Workers across all the districts and the HDAPS and this is something that Colchester will benefit from considerably as the role for this worker is not operational but more strategic.

We continue to meet monthly with the frontline Team Leader, and this is working well in terms of ensuring that the needs of our clients are recognised. We have begun to host a Monday morning coffee morning at Chapter House for all residents of the district who have been impacted by domestic abuse. These are being well promoted on our social media and through our partnership links.

Male Practitioner Project: Funded by Colchester City Council, we are delighted that we have been able to continue our male practitioner project – enabling us to provide a bespoke and tailored response to male victims of domestic abuse. Part of the project also involves research and engagement to further understand the barriers to access and the types of support that male victims need. We have had a total of 154 males referred to us during this time, compared to 74 during the same period the previous year. Jake has been working with various organisations to raise awareness of our service and seek to understand the demand for support and the barriers that prevent clients coming forward. A full report is being drafted and is due to be shared imminently. We are also excited that we are in the process of organising a “Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse” conference which will bring together some key external speakers and also share the outcomes of the project. The conference will be held in Colchester Community Stadium on 6th October.

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. A domestic abuse practitioner is assigned as a keyworker for these residents and visits the property about three times a week to provide support sessions and carry out any practical tasks depending on need. The license agreement and house rules very mirror our family refuge and all clients are advised of these before accepting the space.

The spaces are advertised on routes to support and during this quarter two residents have been accommodated. We have received many more referrals but for various reasons the clients were not suitable due to their support needs being too high, their risk area being too close or the clients themselves not wishing to share facilities.

Chapter House Grand Opening – 18 May 2023: We were delighted to host our grand opening of Chapter House on 18 May 2023. It was wonderful to see so many team members, trustees, colleagues and partners attending to

visit Chapter House for the first time. Guests were able to see our client space and the offices upstairs, and representatives from all the teams were available to update them on all their work.

9.11 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. Victims in such cases are entitled to contact from a Victim Liaison Officer (VLO).

The VCS can supply information to victims of crime and to the parents, guardians, or carers of child victims. Where the offence has resulted in the death of the victim, information is provided to their next of kin.

The victim/Next of Kin is given a Victim Liaison Officer who will act as the victim's single point of contact about the offender and their sentence.

VLOs are responsible for (this list is not exhaustive):

- Ascertaining whether the victim wishes to be informed about key stages of the offender's sentence
- If they do wish to be kept informed, to keep in touch with the victim throughout the offender's sentence, including providing an annual update if desired
- Ascertaining the victim's views about the offence, and the impact upon them
- Providing relevant information about the criminal justice system
- If the offender's case is being considered by the Parole Board, providing information on, and ascertaining whether the victim would like to make a Victim Personal Statement (VPS), and supporting them to make one.
- Explaining a victim can request non-contact conditions and exclusion zones and assisting with these requests.
- Working collaboratively with other functions in the Probation Service/Criminal Justice System to provide appropriate input to assist in the risk management of an offender.

At the point the victim is referred to the Victim Contact Scheme, they have had numerous experiences of various agencies within the Criminal Justice System. At times, these experiences have been extremely traumatic, and their confidence has been knocked. 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. It is our experience that victims are extremely grateful for our service, especially as we endeavour to deliver this voluntary contact in a manner which meets their needs. Historically at the point of completion of any initial contact the VCS members fed back a high level of satisfaction.

10. Priority Four: Develop early intervention and prevention to tackle the drivers of crime and reduce reoffending

10.1 Introduction

Increased partner collaboration and data sharing can be effective in the planning and disruption of crime. It is well established that some aspects of a young person's life can significantly increase the risks of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour and they are at greatest risk of becoming persistent offenders. Early intervention measures aim to encourage better behaviour and help them develop the skills to reach their potential.

The Safer Colchester Partnership will:

- Identify perpetrators and victims of crime
- Share intelligence/data to generate a consistent picture of criminal activity
- Influence change in behaviour to reduce those becoming victims of crime

10.2 Overall SAC evidence base

Through partner discussion, it was felt a focus on prevention was key and that forums and early intervention projects for young people could have an important impact.

10.3 Priority Four - What have we achieved so far:

10.4 Essex Police

The Priority Offender Team manage a cohort of offenders under the banner of IOM. There are currently 22 Colchester offenders being managed on IOM. IOM is an integrated partnership approach to tackling the causes of offending aimed at reducing the offending caused by those causing the most harm. The cohort is made up of offenders involved in acquisitive crime (burglary, robbery, vehicle crime) and a small number of offenders involved in gangs, OCG's and knife crime. 8 of the 22 offenders are involved in gang, OCG or knife crime.

Balling with a Bobby running throughout the summer holidays, working in partnership with the Colchester Rebel, engaging with youngsters through sport. With inputs around crime preventions, exploitation & county lines.

Ongoing promotion of NHW membership as a community tool to keep themselves update to date, providing crime prevention messages and property safe.

Continued work with Premier League Kicks and Colchester United, engaging with youngster through sport, building trust and confidence and a conduit to provide educational messaging.

Regular Bike Marking Events and crime prevention being run across the Colchester district to prevent theft of pedal cycles.

Worked with Design it Out crime Team around issues - recent example they conducted an architectural survey for Cross Cut Court.

Regular youth engagement both in and out of schools, making use of providers to divert young people away crime and ASB when appropriate. This included recent activity with Active Essex during Easter holiday provision.

10.5 Colchester City Council

- Work with Essex Police to administer the Multi-Agency Coordination Panel
- Colchester Against Modern Slavery partnership's task and finish group focusing on 'Data & intelligence gathering and sharing with partners' have met and produced an action plan that is underway
- The Council are working with several organisations after successfully securing funding to deliver early intervention projects. This includes Girls with Goals, an intensive course designed to work with young people with complex needs/issues and challenging behaviours some of which is resulting in ASB and youth crime. Three programmes have been delivered to 32 young people. Not only have the young people received accreditations in subjects such as first aid and self-defence, but the referring schools have reported increases in attendance and improved attitude and behaviour.

10.6 Colchester Borough Homes

Colchester Borough Homes attend bi-weekly Police Tasking meetings. This provides an overview of current crimes, trends and nominals that need a joint approach. CBH contribute to these meetings and nominate individuals whom they believe present a risk to communities. They attend Multi Agency Disruption Panel meetings, again to nominate and highlight individuals of concern. The same applies to the ASB forum which was started by CBH and now chaired by Essex police. This allows all housing providers to come together and share problems, highlight areas of ASB and holistically review them.

CBH use all available legislation including powers delegated to under The Antisocial Behaviour and Crime and Policing Act (Community Protection Warnings, Notices and Premises Closure powers). They use interventions and tools under the housing act. This can be Notices Seeking Possession, Management Moves, Tenancy Warnings and Possession proceedings leading to eviction. These tools, combined with information sharing from partners, are key in reducing reoffending and managing behaviours in our communities.

10.7 Probation Service

When an individual is made subject to a community order or licence, the probation service completes an assessment which aims to identify factors that are linked to their re-offending and risk of serious harm. This normally takes place at the presentence report stage but is also reviewed during the currency of their order/licence if there is a significant change in their circumstances. All probation staff are expected to have contact with offenders per the relevant guidance and respond to any issues that could increase the risk they pose to

the public and risk of re-offending. This action can include, but is not limited to, recall, breach action, referral to alcohol or drug agency, make safeguarding referral, request domestic abuse call out information, request more licence conditions to manage issue(s) of concern, place them in an approved premises for a specified period, for example.

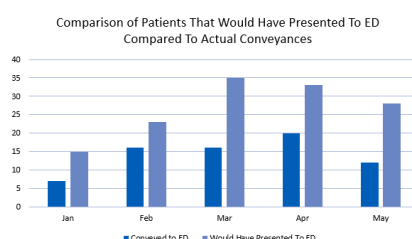
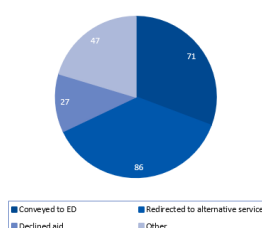
10.8 SNEE Integrated Care Board

Commission the Shelter and Health Enlisting Local Support SOS Bus to provide support to some of the most vulnerable in our community. All people presenting are at risk of homelessness or are already homeless and have multiple other issues which need addressing, often resulting in criminal activity. The bus provides a multi-disciplinary approach to each case and supports the individual with ongoing help, referrals and immediate responses. Following successful outcomes data, additional funding was secured, resulting in further outreach work across Tendring and Colchester in areas more remote from the main city or town.

A mental health joint response vehicle has been locally piloted. This is a response vehicle supported by ambulance, mental health and police as active partners to support people in a mental health crisis, working to resolve any wider issues and prevent any unnecessary admissions to the Emergency Department. Findings below. Activity will be progressed following a lessons learnt exercise.

Data Summary - Number of calls attended so far

2023	Total Calls	Conveyed to ED	Redirected to alternative service	Declined aid	Other	Would Have Presented To ED	Admissions Avoided %	Conveyance Rate %
Jan	33	7	14	3	9	15	53.33%	21.21%
Feb	42	16	15	5	6	23	30.43%	38.10%
Mar	59	16	29	5	9	35	54.29%	27.12%
Apr	54	20	20	5	9	33	39.39%	37.04%
May	48	12	8	9	14	28	57.14%	25.00%
Total	236	71	86	27	47	134	47.01%	30.08%



The ICB provide a grant to Beacon House for a nurse led drop-in service which supports the homeless community to access health care, working in partnership with multi-agencies to deliver housing support, drug and alcohol addiction

services, tenancy support and ongoing care.

Commission SUMMIT to provide advocacy services to the homeless community to access health and appropriate assessments for ongoing care in the community, also offering support for people to manage their tenancies and learn life skills to keep them safe and away from harm.

10.9 Essex Children and Families Services

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) continues to work closely with the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to support a range of funding

options for prevention work with young people at risk of offending and this is targeted at the non-statutory sector. The YOS caseloads continue to rise in all areas of Essex except the West, the main concerns across the county continue to be around vulnerability and safety of young people, use of substances and significant relationship issues.

The new prevention service, known as the Turnaround Programme and referenced above, is also part of our response to develop early intervention and prevention to tackle the drivers of crime and reduce reoffending.

The YOS priorities identified in the services 2023/24 plan are;

- Enabling effective and proportionate prevention support to families and their children.
- Working with others to tackle systemic causes which affect good outcomes for children and young people.
- Making the most of our skilled staff to support families to provide safety and protection for their children and young people.
- Doing whatever we can to tackle the root cause and outcome of inequality for young people of colour, girls, and young women and those with learning needs.
- Operating within its budget maximising scarce public resources at all levels of service delivery
- Increasing confidence in the criminal justice system for all stakeholders most importantly for victims of crime.

Family Solutions continue to work with families who are in need of support, in line with the priorities for the Supporting Families Framework and working with a strength based approach with families. Family Solutions teams, work with families where there are issues linked to domestic violence, drug and alcohol misuse, mental health issues, family members involved in criminal activity, issues with housing and non-attendance of children in school. There is clear evidence of the positive impact Family Solutions is having with 80% of families being closed following successful interventions.

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

11.1 Introduction

High levels of wellbeing and resilience in a community don't just lead to fewer mental health problems but also reduction in risk-taking behaviours and increased community involvement.

The Safer Colchester Partnership will:

- Suicide Awareness and Prevention
- Public Safety and Perception of Crime

11.2 Overall SAC evidence base

This year a wider group of partners participated in the matrix scoring process. It was felt that the key priorities should be broad enough for all partners to engage and contribute to achieving the priorities.

11.3 Priority Five - What have we achieved so far:

11.4 Essex Police

Stroll with a Patrol is weekly engagement opportunity for residents to go on patrols with their local officers. 42 events have been scheduled throughout the spring & summer months. These events provide an opportunity for residents to hear about the work being conducted in their local areas and an opportunity to feedback any concerns or local issues.

Friends & Neighbours Network (FANS) is being utilised to engage with our older residents, providing engagement and crime prevention opportunities. This has been developed through the Essex Police Community Safety Engagement Officers.

Police Station Open Day- Nearly 3000 people came into the Police Station back at the start Of June. Unique opportunity to welcome people and explain to people what we do and promote safety. The event was also an opportunity for wider 'One Colchester' partners to exhibit their work across the district Current NHW project around better use of crime data to lead to targeted crime prevention. Colchester is being used as a pilot, this is being driven by Graeme Stehle (Colchester Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator) – This is focused on changing behaviours that will frustrate and deter those who commit opportunity crime.

11.5 Colchester City Council

- Co-ordinated the launch of the Suicide Prevention Operational Group in July 2023.
- Supported the Light Up Green suicide awareness campaign – Town Hall and Castle lit up between 4-10 September.
- Provided input into the Essex-wide Community Safety Survey design and supported its cascade to Colchester residents/community. Will review results to inform on any future community safety activity.

11.6 Colchester Borough Homes

Staff work within our communities by arranging Make a Difference Days (MADD), staff volunteering days and supporting other projects and initiatives run by our partners (such as delivering Christmas gifts, staffing 'swap stalls' etc).

CBH have purchased a misting machine to help in the reduction of Fires within its housing stock (for severely hoarded properties) and attend regular Hoarding MDT's to represent housing.

11.7 SNEE Integrated Care Board

- We have invested in a grants programme led by our community and voluntary sector partners to focus on supporting early prevention in order to support improved health and wellbeing. Through our community and voluntary sector partners we have been able to strengthen our approach to valued community assets, enabling local communities to access a wide

range of support, preventing social isolation where needed close to their homes.

- Our Public Health lead (Head of Wellbeing and Public Health: Safer Essex, Health and Justice, Risk Behaviours, Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities) is now formally aligned to the Alliance 1 day per week, to ensure we are continually challenged on our approach to safer communities. This role also includes being the lead for alcohol and drug services as well as re-offending programme.
- Essex Police have recently joined as formal partners to the North East Essex Alliance Committee, supporting our approach to tackling the wider determinants of health including safety and crime reduction.
- Essex police are also regular attendees of local jobs and careers roadshow, to showcase their roles and employment opportunities as well as an opportunity to engage with local communities on issues relating to crime and their safety.

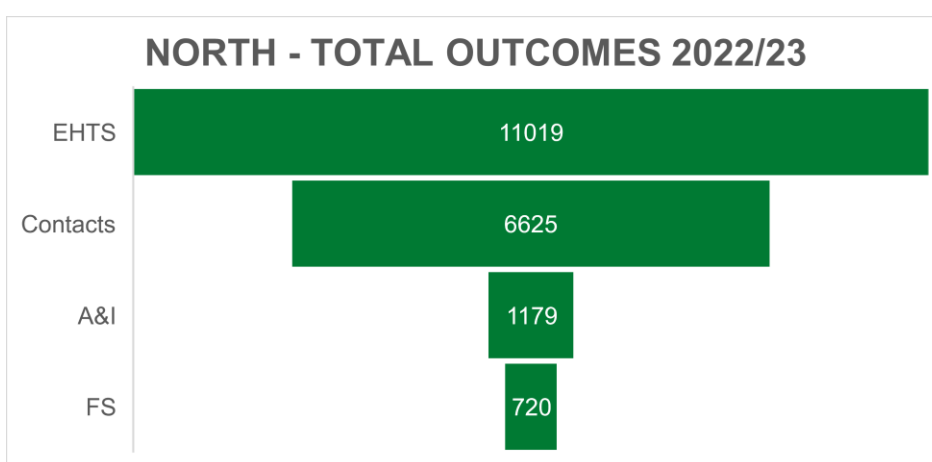
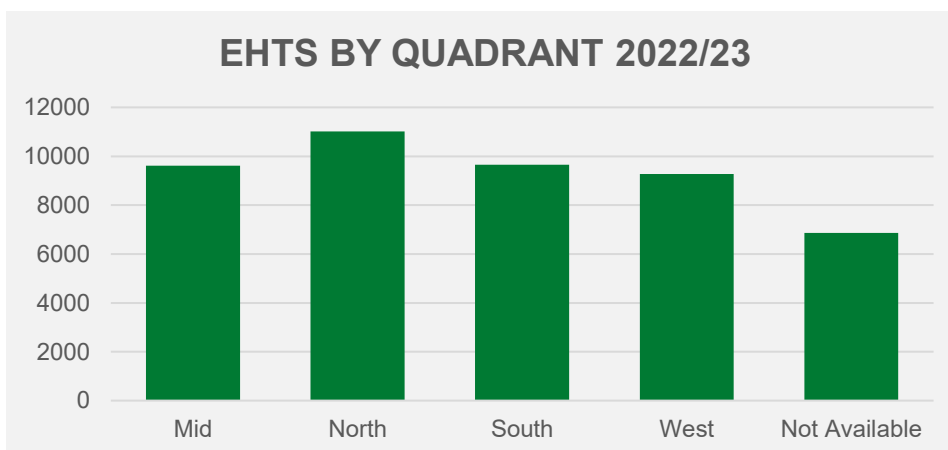
11.8 ECC Children and Families Service

Continue to lead on quadrant Stay Safe meetings which discusses how practice relating to safeguarding can improve with the latest evidence and learning from Serious Case Reviews. There are also regular forums with Education, Police and Health with ECC Children's Social Care to enable good practice and effective partnership working.

The North Childrens Partnership meeting explores how key partners in the Suffolk and North Essex Integrated Care Partnership can work together to build resilience for children and families and the community. This year £700,000 has been given to 17 providers across the NEE area to support with early invention for Children and Young People with issues relating to their social, emotional and mental health needs.

The Violence and Vulnerability Unit has provided funding for an additional Team around the Family Support Officers (TAFSO) who work in ECC Children and Families Service with thematic leads for Children and Young People at risk of entering the Youth Justice system and also for vulnerable young people who are at risk in the community.

The ECC Children and Families Hub continue to see an increasing rise in numbers requesting support or reporting safeguarding referrals. In 2022/23, 46,432 Requests for Support (RFS) were processed in the Children and Families Hub. With the Early Help Triage Steps (EHTS), there was an increase of 45.6% compared to 2018/19 equating to an additional 14,551 children over the four year period.



During the past year the Children and Families Hub reviewed 38,745 RFS where the referring agency could have provided support and signposting without the need to contact Children’s Services.

In 2022/23, 81.0% of all RFS received by Police, Health and Education did not meet the criteria for Level 4 (Social Work intervention by the Assessment and Intervention Team) or Level 3 (Family Solutions). We are working with partners to support them to be able to signpost themselves rather than have dependency on the Children and Families Hub to do this.

ECC have introduced an Anti-Racist Practice Strategy which is focusing on improving working with Children and Families from diverse backgrounds while acknowledging the disproportionate number of children and young people who are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic background and open to Children and Families Service. Our strategy also has a clear focus on supporting our staff from Black, Asian, and ethnically diverse backgrounds and being able to recruit more staff from these ethnically diverse groups, as they are underrepresented in Essex.

11.9 Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

- Safety advice messaging including water safety.
- Home safety visits – to discuss home safety concerns.

Safe, well and secure events/visits - to deliver safety messages/advice to residents in target areas, and to vulnerable people within the community.

12. Probation Service (Additional Data)

A summary of active cases managed as of 02/05/2023 by Colchester Sentence Management Team in the East of England Region can be found in Appendix C. There are 606 cases identified as a resident in Colchester area or are No Fixed Abode and sentenced in Colchester.

13. For further detail on the above achievements and outcomes please refer to Appendix A (Annual Partnership Plan).

14. Future Plans for the Partnership's work (September 2023- March 2024):

- The Key Priorities for the period including September 2023 – March 2024 are as detailed in 5.1.
- The Annual Partnership Plan for 2023-24 will continue to be reviewed and updated until the end of March 2024.
- The process to identify the Key Priorities for 2024-25 will involve consultation with wider SCP partners for their input into setting the key priorities.

14.1 Essex County Council:

Through Town Deal funding of £1.3m, and driven by engagement with young people, improvements are being made to three youth centres led by ECC Youth Services and supported by CCC: Townhouse (East Stockwell Street), Stanway and Highwoods. The majority of this investment (£1m) is focused on transforming city centre facilities at the Townhouse, which includes the gym, teaching kitchen, IT infrastructure, music production/performance and safer, greener outside spaces. This will help ensure these youth centres are more attractive to young people, supporting social connections, learning and access to future opportunities.

14.2 Colchester City Council:

Engagement events to promote safety messaging including:

- University Freshers Fayre in October 2023 to promote #Seeyousafer

New Projects as a result of external funding:

- 'Safe Space VAWG Reporting Centre' in Mile End
- Knife Angel will be hosted in Colchester for the month of October, along with delivery of activity to tackle violence crime – including workshops for schools.
- Outcome of Purple Flag assessment.
- Personal Safety Workshops for young people in Greenstead

Progress of Colchester Against Modern Slavery Partnership Action Plan, including:

- Identifying high risk businesses / locations and developing multi-agency disruption responses
- Increase in victim identification.

- Delivery of awareness training
- Homelessness and Modern Slavery Conference will be held on 10th October 2023.

Community Consultation / Engagement:

- Consultation relating to the Town Centre PSPO that is due to expire in October 2023 will provide an opportunity to apply variations and / or extend the restricted area.
- Activity resulting from the Essex-wide Community Safety Survey, and the release of next year's survey to build on this data.
- Review of the Licensing Policy to consider safeguarding and safety in the nighttime economy.
- Review of the Hackney carriage/private hire licensing policy.

Projects in conjunction/match funded with Violence and Vulnerability Unit:

- 'It's about your son': Match funded with the VVU. The VVU have been working with Little Two Theatre Productions to create 'Choices' - a multi-disciplinary arts project for the city of Colchester to educate on the impact of knife crime within the community. One part of this project is a touring production which will be visiting senior schools in Colchester during the month of October. To coincide with the arrival of the knife angel in Colchester, we have arranged, in partnership with Colchester City Council, for a new production "It's About Your Son" to be premiered at the Stanway School on 27th September. This engaging and impactful piece of contemporary theatre, written by EastEnders screenwriter Deborah Cook, tackles the issues surrounding knife harm.
- United Against Knife Crime: Colchester United FC play Notts County FC (newly promoted from the National League). Utilising this game to dedicate to the "United Against Knife Crime" messaging. The activity will include a competition to design an anti-knife crime design and stalls at the fixture on 30th September to promote knife harm awareness messages, this will include Essex Police and The Red Cross.
- Knife harm campaign: Following the successful first run of the Knife Harm campaign by VVU earlier this year across Southend, Essex and Thurrock – there are plans to re-run during October. We will explore with VVU appropriate amplification for Colchester and that this campaign complements the activity linked to the Knife Angel. This campaign is informed by young people in Essex and has been filmed with Essex young people. The aim of the campaign is to equip parents and carers with the knowledge about knife harm, and then encourage them to talk to their children about the dangers of carrying a knife. There is a webpage of resources, including downloadable leaflets about knife harm. The campaign page is at [Knife Harm Resources - Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit \(essexvvu.co.uk\)](https://www.essexvvu.co.uk).

14.3 Colchester Borough Homes

CBH will continue with projects and initiatives that help prevent and deter ASB and low-level crime.

CBH will progress their application towards DAHA accreditation (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance) which will help to improve processes and

commitment in identifying, supporting, and signposting victims of Domestic Abuse.

14.4 CARA

CARA plan to increase team capacity and decrease waiting times, in particular for counselling for young people. To support this, they have developed a new partnership with the Colchester Anti Loo Roll Brigade, a Colchester-based Community Interest Company. The partnership will provide CARA with a new room to provide counselling and other services, free of charge. Through the partnership they have secured funding from Colchester Catalyst to support the appointment of an additional Young Person's Practitioner. Recruitment is underway and should be in post by October 2023. This Practitioner will work primarily in Colchester.

14.5 Next Chapter

In a continuing theme, we struggle to secure funding for practitioners in health locations which feels like our last gap in coverage across our geographic area. The research continues to demonstrate the positive impact and outcomes of co-locating DA practitioners in health settings, particularly as health practitioners are shown to be the most trusted professionals in relation to victim disclosures, but to date we have been unable to secure support for health funded placements.

14.6 SNEE Integrated Care Board

The NEE Alliance will continue to strengthen our partnership approach and focus on the wider determinants of health. To achieve our goals, we recognise we need to be open to working differently with our communities. This includes, recognising and working with existing local assets and strengths. We have started to put meaningful changes into practice and will go further as our partnership continues to mature. We will place a much greater focus on prevention, increasing healthy life expectancy and reducing inequalities with our communities, including a focus on crime prevention and support to those most vulnerable.

Integrated Place Based Plans will be developed across Colchester, Clacton and Harwich localities with delivery supported through integrated place based networks, which will adapt and flex resources to meet the differing needs of these communities. This means we will continue to move away from universal approaches but ensure our plans can be flexible to recognise the areas of success but also the differing needs of our communities to best effect change.

15. Funding from Partners

The NHS SNEE Integrated Care Board (ICB):

Funding to support projects which deliver their partnership goals. They allocated £43k to be used by end March 2025. The remaining funding is being used to fund the Anti-Slavery Partnership co-ordinator role until July 2024, and to match fund the VVU on 'It's not your son' project.

Essex County Council:

Together we Can – 2021-22 - £376,000 / 2022-23 - £494,000 / 2023-24 £494,000

New Duties Funding 2021-22/ 22-23 £32,610 + £8,160 Domestic Abuse Project Officer in post until March 2024

Home Office:

Safer Streets Round 4 - £264,000 Greenstead / £283,000 Town Centre

PFCC:

Op Dial funding for targeted ASB patrols

VVU Community Grants:

Programme open until 29th September 2023. [Violence & Vulnerability Community Grants 2024-2025 \(google.com\)](#) The Safer Colchester

Partnership have endorsed an application to this fund by CARA. We await the outcome.

16. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)

- A crime and disorder reduction grant of £22,511 was awarded by the PFCC to support the CSP in 2023/24
- PFCC for Essex's Community Development Fund enables voluntary and community safety groups from across Essex to apply for funding. This is to help prevent and tackle crime and ASB in Essex and support vulnerable people. The partnership has supported the promotion of this fund through their networks and endorsed partner applications to the fund.
- PFCC Safer Streets Fund – The Safer Colchester Partnership have submitted an application to this fund – we await the outcome.

17. The Violence and Vulnerability Unit

The focus of the Essex V&V Partnership is to address issues which will lead to a reduction in serious violence, with reductions in:

- Hospital admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25.
- Knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25.
- Non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.

A key element of this is working closely with the Community Safety Partnerships across Essex. This includes reporting to Safer Essex and the Essex Community Safety Network.

The V&V Partnership consists of a strategic group (V&V Roundtable) chaired by Roger Hirst (PFCC). An operational board which ensures delivery of the work programme, chaired by Andy Prophet (DCC – Essex Police), reports to the strategic group on progress; issues for escalation; and shares good practice. The Violence & Vulnerability Unit (VVU) which supports the work of the V&V Partnership consists of a small multi-agency team to drive activity forward.

Examples of V&V work:

Violence & Vulnerability Grants/Funds - Colchester

- In 2021/22; 2022/23; and 2023/24 awarded funds for detached youth work in Greenstead. Working in partnership with various organisations based in the local area over the last three years - Colchester YMCA, Colchester Homestart and Essex Boys and Girls Clubs. This work aims to place a trusted adult in young people's lives in areas the young people choose to hang out. Youth workers engage on a needs met basis providing support, advice, outreach activities and sign posting to safer spaces across the area. Working with young people 'where young people are already at' so that workers can offer support and advice through conversation on a needs-led basis and from a non-judgemental point of view to encourage vulnerable young people at risk of being exposed to issues such as gangs, drugs, sexual activity, youth crime and violence to make healthy choices. In Greenstead the work being delivered in 2022/23 covered 234 hours of face to face time.
- In 2022/23 £40,000 funds awarded to Sports and Life Skills project in Greenstead. Working with Active Essex Foundation and young people known to Essex Youth Offending, with a focus on Colchester and Tendring. The young people have participated in a range of sports and activities during the Sports and Life Skills projects, these include football, boxing, tennis, basketball, rock climbing, fishing, dance and mindfulness. During 2022/23 289 young people engaged through this programme.
- In 2022/23 The Outhouse received £12,615 and £13,200 in 2023/24 to provide a counselling service for young people who identify as LGBTQ+. The Outhouse is committed to the improvement of the health, safety, and well-being of LGBTQ+ communities within Colchester and more widely across Essex.
- In 2022/23 African Families in The UK (AFiUK) was awarded £19,500 for a variety of youth work predominantly with black, Asian and ethnic minority young people aged 11-18, providing diversionary activities, including centre-based youth club activities, one to one support, outreach and workshops, including developing work in the wider communities of Colchester, and north Essex.
- In 2023/24 £5,280 awarded to Refugee Action Colchester to fund a case worker, one day a week, supporting young adults aged 16 to 25, working with a range of agencies, including social care (leaving and after care team) offering ongoing support, including to provide a safe place to meet and socialise, and seek guidance and support, and to connect the young adults to other provision within Refugee Action.
- In 2023/24 funds to Lads Need Dads - Reading Mentor Programme in schools in Colchester, this work is due to start in November 2023

Serious Violence Duty (SVD)

As noted in the Serious Violence Duty Statutory Guidance, collaboration is central to the implementation of the SVD, in order to effect change through a whole-system multi-agency approach to addressing serious violence through early intervention and prevention.

The Serious Violence Duty puts into legislation for all areas of England and Wales many of the requirements which Violence Reduction Unit / VRU areas, including Essex, have been working to since 2019.

There has been an external validation process for the Essex V&V Partnership. This has work been commissioned by the Home Office, across the 43 'police' areas, to understand the readiness across England and Wales. This assessment has found that the Essex V&V Partnership is meeting all of the requirements. There are no outstanding requirements at this time against the SVD for the V&V Partnership for Essex.

Development of Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment

Part of the work of the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Partnership is to support the implementation of the Serious Violence Duty (SVD). This includes leading on the serious violence strategic needs assessment for Essex. This includes co-ordinating a core set of data which can be used at borough / city / district / unitary level, along with analysis of these datasets. For this to inform the Essex 'response' strategy to serious violence and to be used by areas to also inform their local work as appropriate.

18. 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.

19. 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'.

20. Consultation

- The Strategic Assessment of Crime 2022-23 was completed in January 2023 and has been used to identify the Key Priorities for the SCP for 2023-24.
- 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.

21. 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

22. 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.

23. Community Safety Implications

The Community Safety implications are the subject of this report.

24. Health and Safety Implications

There are no specific Health and Safety Implications.

25. 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
ICB	Integrated Care Board
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
NTE	Night-Time Economy
PFCC	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
RTC	Road Traffic Collision
SCP	Safer Colchester Partnership
SNEE	Suffolk and North East Essex
TPS	The Probation Service

Appendices:

- Appendix A SCP Annual Partnership Plan 2023-2024
- Appendix B Partner's Safeguarding Updates
- Appendix C Probation Service data