

# Crime and Disorder Committee Meeting

**Grand Jury Room, Town Hall, High Street,  
Colchester, CO1 1PJ**

**Tuesday, 19 September 2023 at 18:00**

**The Crime and Disorder Committee** reviews and scrutinises decisions made, or other actions taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions, and to make reports and recommendations to the Council or the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of those functions.

## Information for Members of the Public

### Access to information and meetings

You have the right to attend all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet. You also have the right to see the agenda (the list of items to be discussed at a meeting), which is usually published five working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published.

Dates of the meetings are available here:

<https://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/MeetingCalendar.aspx>.

Most meetings take place in public. This only changes when certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual are considered. At this point you will be told whether there are any issues to be discussed in private, if so, you will be asked to leave the meeting.

### Have Your Say!

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## **The role and work of the Crime and Disorder Committee**

### **The role**

The Committee shall meet to review or scrutinise decisions or other actions taken in connection with the functions conferred to the Committee, these being, a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the City and a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs in the area.

### **The Committee has to meet at least once in every twelve month period.**

The Committee may co-opt persons to serve on the Committee who are members of the public, employees, officers or members of responsible authorities, for example, the Council, Essex County Council, Essex Police Authority, Essex Fire and Rescue Authority and the Essex Probation Service.

Executive members of the Council may not be co-opted to the Committee. Co-opted persons shall not be entitled to vote on any matter, unless the Committee so determines.

### **The work**

The review of the Safer Colchester Partnership will be a year on year substantive report to be considered by the Committee.

Any Member of Colchester City Council may give written notice to the Scrutiny Officer that they wish an item to be included on the agenda of the Committee in relation to a local crime and disorder matter. If the matter is considered a local crime and disorder matter, the item will be included on the first available agenda of the Committee.

A crime and disorder matter is a matter involving anti-social behaviour or other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, or the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.

The Committee once it has considered a local crime and disorder matter shall consider whether or not to make a report to the Cabinet or Council, and if it decides not to, shall notify the Councillor concerned of its decision(s) and the reason(s) for it.

If the Committee decides to report to the Cabinet or Council, it will provide a copy of the report to the Councillor concerned and the responsible authorities and co-operating persons or bodies as appropriate.

**COLCHESTER CITY COUNCIL**  
**Crime and Disorder Committee**  
**Tuesday, 19 September 2023 at 18:00**

**Members:**

Councillor Darius Laws [Chairman]  
Councillor Dennis Willetts [Deputy Chairman]  
Councillor Tracy Arnold  
Councillor Sam McCarthy  
Councillor Sam McLean  
Councillor Thomas Rowe  
Councillor Fay Smalls

**Substitutes:**

All members of the Council who are not Cabinet members or members of this Panel.

**AGENDA - Part A**  
(open to the public including the press)

**1 Welcome and Announcements**

The Chairman will welcome members of the public and Councillors and remind everyone to use microphones at all times when they are speaking. The Chairman will also explain action in the event of an emergency, mobile phones switched to silent, livestreaming and recording of the meeting. Councillors who are members of the Committee will introduce themselves.

**2 Substitutions**

Councillors will be asked to say if they are attending on behalf of a Committee member who is absent.

**3 Urgent Items**

The Chairman will announce if there is any item not on the published agenda which will be considered because it is urgent and will explain the reason for the urgency.

**4 Declarations of Interest**

Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the agenda about which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest which would prevent them from participating in any discussion of the item or

participating in any vote upon the item, or any other registerable interest or non-registerable interest.

**5 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Councillors will be invited to confirm that the minutes of the meetings held on 7 November 2022 and 24 May 2023 are a correct record.

**Crime and Disorder Committee Minutes 7 November 2022** 7 - 16

**Crime and Disorder Committee Minutes 24 May 2023** 17 - 18

**6 Have Your Say!**

The Chairman will invite members of the public to indicate if they wish to speak or present a petition on any item included on the agenda or any other matter relating to the terms of reference of the meeting. Please indicate your wish to speak at this point if your name has not been noted by Council staff.

**7 Safer Colchester Partnership Report** 19 - 86

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.

**8 Exclusion of the Public (not Scrutiny or Executive)**

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

**Part B**

(not open to the public including the press)



# CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

## 7 November 2022

*Present:-* Councillor Laws, Councillor Lilley, Councillor Lissimore,  
Councillor Scordis, Councillor Willetts

*Substitutes:-* Councillor Hogg for Councillor Smith

*Also Present:-* Councillor J. Young

### **39. Minutes of previous meetings.**

*RESOLVED* that the minutes of the meetings held on 14 September 2021 and 25 May 2022 be confirmed as correct records.

### **40. Have Your Say**

Ms. Natalie Sommers addressed the Committee pursuant to the provisions of Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1). Ms Sommers stated that she spoke on behalf of residents of Pondfield Road and that, since the removal of the warden, there had been drug dealing, late night parties, aggressive shouting and swearing, trespassing and other types of antisocial behaviour [ASB]. This was apparently exacerbated by a halfway house on Harwich Road. Problems from the past 24 hours included littering and rubbish dumping, discarded ladders and disordered grounds. Ms. Sommers requested that Police patrols be maintained and that the warden service be returned.

The Chairman invited Councillor Julie Young, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, to respond. The Portfolio Holder said that she was not familiar with the situation but would liaise with the local Councillors and would come back with a response.

### **41. Safer Colchester Partnership**

The Chairman introduced the report, which gave an account of work across 2021-22 and an overview of forward plans, and explained the Committee's statutory nature.

Councillor Julie Young, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities, praised the partnership working in Colchester, which had been described as being very well developed by the local Police. Credit was given to Pam Donnelly, as former Chair of the Safer Colchester Partnership. Highlights of the past year included the use of very high quality CCTV, with excellent clarity and coverage of the Town centre. Budget pressures were severe, but neighbourhood teams had been brought to full strength. Formal and informal relationships both strengthened partnership. The Police and Council worked with Community 360 [C360] and its hub as an outreach centre and a base for walkabouts and other activities. The Licensing Team had an important role over licensing premises and taxis, and had experienced and well-qualified officers.

The Portfolio Holder looked forward to working with the new District Commander and hailed scrutiny and oversight work as being important in helping partners to focus on their priorities.

The Portfolio Holder was asked if the increase in CCTV quality had led to an increase in the number of suspects apprehended. The Committee was told that it helped to identify individuals and inform officers. An example was given, where a CCTV operator had used the cameras to guide officers to make an arrest of a violent offender in Castle Park, leading to a ten-year sentence being handed down on the day of this meeting.

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner informed the Committee that Essex Police had increased in size and that the prioritisation of addressing rural crime had made a positive difference. Specialist teams worked to reduce domestic abuse, violence against women and girls, and drug-related crime. Compared to pre-lockdown, crime levels were roughly comparable, however there had been a reduction in burglaries of about 28% and in ASB of about 40%. There had been an increase of around 10% in violent crime, and increases in rape and sexual assaults reported. The Commissioner highlighted that some of the increase in crimes reported was due to the criminalisation of more activities/actions over the past six years.

The Safer Streets fund had issued tow £500k grants, match funded, leading to successes being seen in places like Chelmsford and Grays. CCTV played a role, alongside improving areas and lines of sight. The Police worked with partners, including schools, to make improvements. The Commissioner argued that the Council's priorities largely matched Essex Police's priorities. Few prosecutions now occurred without use of CCTV footage, with better footage leading to more prosecutions and better cost effectiveness.

The Committee discussed the statements made regarding expansion of the number of police officers. A Committee member complained that Colchester had not seen additional officers and that local officers were stretched, stating that the night time economy was not being fully policed. The Commissioner was asked if the statistics on officer numbers included 'Special' officers and Police Community Support Officers [PCSOs]. The Commissioner explained the statistics, as provided to the Home Office. In 2010, there were 3,600 FTE [Full-time equivalent] officers, which had now risen to around 3,800 FTE officers. Investments had been made into new technology, such as hand-held devices for officers to access information remotely and efficiently, allowing them to spend roughly an hour more per shift in interacting with the public. A policy was in place for officers to attend all reported burglaries. A Committee member stated their disagreement with the figures given regarding officer numbers, but accepted what had been said. The Commissioner was asked what duties any additional officers would be deployed to cover. The Commissioner explained that the statistics only covered full, warranted officers, and not special constables or PCSOs. The Police and Crime Plan saw a strategic swing to prevention of crime and ASB, especially in hotspots. Data gathered was used to improve deployment effectiveness for officers, with use of technology to help prevent recidivism and to identify vulnerable individuals at risk. The aim was to reduce crime, rather than to increase the number of convictions.

A Committee member praised the work of special constables and explained that they worked with full police officers, often before becoming salaried full officers



themselves. They carried out many duties and the Committee member recommended that councillors find out more about what they did.

The Commissioner was asked to confirm if the number of unauthorised traveller camps had been reduced by 70% and if there had been any knock-on effects. The Commissioner explained that the 70% statistic involved the number and duration of camps. The reduction had been achieved via partnership working, and the effects of recent legislation to improve enforcement had not yet been seen. The clarifying effect of the legislation had however reduced the severity of associated ASB.

A Committee member raised their concerns that shoplifters were not being prosecuted, that the Crown Prosecution Service were failing to take cases to court, and that 999 response times were long. The Committee member also raised concerns regarding court backlogs, increasing car crime and lack of proactive patrols.

The Commissioner argued that it was not in the remit of the Committee to scrutinise his work. The Chairman reminded the Committee of its terms of reference for strategic scrutiny and overview work, and noted that localised or ward-specific matters would be more appropriately considered by Scrutiny Panel.

The Committee asked what political cover Essex Police had, should they need to intervene with environmental protestors. The Commissioner gave assurance that robust cover was in place.

Mel Rundle, Safety and Protection Manager, read out a statement from Lucie Breadman, Strategic Director, who was not able to attend the meeting. This gave an overview of issues from the Pandemic, staffing problems, the hot summer and cost of living crisis. Partnership work had been vital in addressing these issues, and detail was given of the history and successes of partnership working. Information and support were shared, with an increase in partnership members leading to a wider range of actions being possible with and within One Colchester Partnership and its Delivery Board. This led to an improvement in community safety.

The guests were asked whether there was evidence to support the assertion that an increase in partnership organisations had led to an increase in effectiveness and whether a larger partnership could be unwieldy. Detective Chief Inspector [DCI] Rob Huddleston argued that a broader partnership led to easier data sharing and a wider range of expertise on which to call. This allowed for issues to be tackled more quickly, such as reports of [drink] spiking, and easing the processing of refugees. It was pointed out that partners attended meetings as and when necessary, and not all meetings.

Statistics relating to the Safer Colchester Partnership were given, showing a 0.52% increase in crime on pre-Covid levels, but a 53.7% drop in ASB cases reported. Effective use had been made of individual orders to stop recidivism. There had been 97.1 crimes reported per 1,000 of population in the Colchester area. This was a very low rate compared to other Essex authority areas. A survey of randomly selected residents in Colchester had been conducted, showing 73% had confidence in the local police and 76% having confidence in receiving a good service. The DCI underlined work to support victims and give the best service possible, to prevent crime and victimisation before it occurred. Colchester police were invested in

proactive measures. Asked as to what was said in negative responses to the survey, the DCI gave assurance that work was underway to understand the causes of negative responses. One negative response had been as a result of dissatisfaction with the Independent Office for Police Conduct [IOPC] rather than with Essex Police.

The DCI highlighted new ways in which PCSOs engaged with the public. Colchester was deemed to be a safe place, but fear of crime is a serious matter. There had been two assaults recently, related to the night-time economy, but this was in the context of around eight or nine thousand night-time economy users.

The Committee asked the DCI for information as to plans to identify and remove any unprofessional officers from Essex Police. The DCI explained that Essex Police had a regular review coming up, which included the vetting process. A 100% avoidance of taking on bad recruits could not be guaranteed, but the Police would use the highest ethics to pursue and tackle any bad officers. The Commissioner expressed his shock at recent reports and noted that 16 officers had been removed this year for conduct unbecoming. There was a process to deal with this, and the Chief Constable took a strong line. Tough scrutiny was conducted, and Essex Police worked with the Metropolitan Police to identify ways to improve. Recruitment statistics were given, showing the drive to diversify the Police as a way to change institutional cultures and behaviours.

A Committee member expressed the difficulty they found in accepting the report that ASB levels had significantly dropped. Examples of ASB given included laughing gas use and underage alcohol consumption. The Committee member complained that only a mixed response had been received from the Police, without attendance for each case reported. The DCI highlighted the importance of the Police working with the Council's licensing officers. The Police encouraged residents to report incidents online, so they could be identified and addressed. 'Stroll with patrol' engagements were carried out, and officers worked with schools and the Commissioner's team to deliver lessons on safer relationships, dealing with domestic abuse, drug awareness and gangs.

Mel Rundle, Safety and Protection Manager, explained that schools were represented on the Safer Colchester Partnership, with a representative from the North Essex Association of Secondary School Headteachers.

The Committee discussed the differences between crime and fear of crime, and the DCI was asked how he viewed the role of PCSOs, especially regarding unparished areas. The DCI talked of police visibility and argued that perception was worse than reality, and that there were more effective ways to use officers to reduce crimes than just using them to patrol. PCSOs could provide deterrence through patrols, and were an avenue for resident engagement.

Chief Inspector Colin Cox, District Commander since 31 October 2022, was on duty and could not attend, but was looking at how to improve engagement and provide better data to stakeholders such as councillors.

A Committee member noted the challenges posed by lockdowns, and then by the heatwave, with increased ASB especially in holidays. The guests were asked how this was addressed. The DCI explained that his officers had worked with counterparts in Suffolk and Tendring, cross borders. Essex-wide units also operated

in the Colchester area. An increase in UK tourism had seen some areas see increased ASB, parking issues and littering. Problems had been noted, with tolerance and patience being lost since Covid. The DCI acknowledged that it was a challenge to increase trust in the Police, with better trust expected to increase the level of incident reporting. The 101 line had issues, but there were other reporting avenues, such as online. The DCI stated that system abuse needed to be stopped, to allow officers to focus on real reports, and that people needed to understand criminal investigation, and why officers did not attend if there was no hope of identifying a culprit or resolving a case.

An outline was given of the triage system used to focus work, based on degree of harm, likelihood of success in prosecution and other criteria. A trial was commenced for PCSOs to attend where crimes were reported, in order to give advice and support. Plain clothes officers were sent to any property where burglaries were reported, with a scene of crime officer to examine the property, talk to neighbours and leave notes where no-one responds. It was now easier to obtain footage, such as videos recorded by door cameras.

The DCI described the police focus on drug-related violence and on vulnerable users, victims and at-risk groups. Disrupting gangs stopped the ability to trade drugs. Any SCP partner could flag up individual of concern to discuss. Work was done to stop vulnerable individuals getting involved, which improved community safety. Examples of enforcement and prosecution were given, regarding local dealers and gangs, including 'strike' days to apprehend perpetrators for prosecution.

The Serious Violence Unit was staffed by specialist detectives to focus on the violence caused by the drug trade. Technology helped officers to apprehend whole supply lines, with action taken against 25 organised crime supply lines. After existing lines were broken up, action was now underway to target gangs looking to fill the gaps produced. Intelligence teams sought information to direct enforcement actions. Those who were exploited were identified, with over 80% of those exploited by county lines gangs were British children. Work was done with schools to improve trust in the police and form positive links. The police's partner organisations could use their own powers to help detect issues and provide the information needed for detection, disruption and enforcement.

The DCI outlined the scrutiny and oversight for the police. District commanders were scrutinised centrally in Essex, involving regional bodies.

The Violence and Vulnerability Unit was described, with its funding, resources and remit to help those victimised and endangered by the drug trade and gangs. Multi-agency child exploitation conferences [MACEs] were used to catch concerns at early stages where concerns were identified and fed into the Safer Colchester Partnership [SCP]. Examples were given as to how this prevented child exploitation. Partnerships with schools was vital, collecting information which would not be provided directly to the police. Operation Luscombe had been initiated to help street homeless, get them support and help them escape crime, alongside strict enforcement actions against individuals who refused to engage.

The Detective Chief Inspector was asked if Essex Police had a good enough representation of different ethnicities to tackle criminals effectively. The DCI affirmed that there were sufficient resources to conduct covert operations and, whilst there

was some way to go to achieve full representation in the police of all communities in Essex, this was a priority for the Police. Ethical and lawful use was made of 'stop and search' powers, with data on their use being scrutinised. The mix of officers assigned to organised crime teams was outlined.

A Committee member praised the local success of the Police in tackling drug gangs, with great progress having been made. The DCI was asked if investigations went up county lines to those in charge of the gangs, and whether the pursuit of county lines gangs remained as a high priority. The DCI gave assurance that the three main priorities of the Police, including tackling the drug trade and its effects, were of equal importance. 27 county lines gangs had been entirely wound up in the past 12 months. The Modern Slavery Act could also be used where gangs transported children to exploit in their county lines.

A Committee member requested more information on how drugs were moved, suggesting that 'stop and search' powers could be used to help those exploited by the gangs. The DCI explained the Scrutiny Panel which examined the statistics for 'stop and search' and examining random examples of where the powers had been used. Confiscation of drugs from exploited children could be a double-edged sword, as this often led those children to then be 'in debt' to the gang, causing a worsening of the safeguarding concern. The safety of those children was a key priority. Examples were given as to how prosecution of exploiters was conducted, and of how drugs were transported, concealed and developed.

The Commissioner emphasised the importance of police work using knowledge of housing and tenant data, and information gathered from licensees and from youth work. The DCI described the very close work with Colchester Borough Homes [CBH], to use CBH's powers, including closure orders. This was especially effective where concerns regarding vulnerable individuals were identified at an early stage. Examples were given of joint enforcement actions, and data sharing with the Multi-Agency Co-ordination Panel. Additional work to identify vulnerable individuals was carried out in the night-time economy, with Open Road, street pastors and others to triage help and ease workloads on police officers. Operatives and front-line staff at the Council and CBH were trained to identify risks and warning signs. Thousands of front-line staff at different organisations had been trained to identify signs for concerns and to flag these up for action to be taken.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities commented that good partnerships had been put in place, and that these were kept under assessment to ensure that they worked well and to identify possible improvements. An example was where problems were raised with the Peabody-run Harwood House, which required more investment and resources to resolve. The Committee discussed the work of Housing Officers, their high workloads and the need to support them in work to identify vulnerable residents. Nathan Suley, Community Safety Manager at CBH, agreed that the officers were very overworked. A new three-year tenancy audit programme was starting to see visits to all properties, and this was used to identify and raise concerns for investigation, such as where there are suspicions of 'cuckooing'

A Committee member asked if there was any way to use the assets and cash seized as being related to crime, such as to pay for local services for young people and vulnerable individuals. The DCI explained that such assets and cash were seized

under the Proceeds of Crime legislation, with a percentage going to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to disburse. The Commissioner agreed to check to see what amount had been disbursed and provide the information to the Committee.

The DCI described the investments made in the City and Rural Engagement Teams [RETs], and reductions in motoring offences and antisocial behaviour. Colchester was a large district by area. Investments included in CCTV and increasing the Town Centre Team by four PCs in 2023. The Team worked until 4am, to cover the night-time economy. Efforts to stop recidivism included orders to prevent people for pursuing acts which would otherwise be legal, such as preventing graffiti producers from carrying legal equipment that could be used for creating graffiti. Pubwatch worked with licensees, who were keen to improve safety, to swiftly address any reports. The Town Centre Team also worked with retailers and would be based in Longwyre Street over Christmas, to increase their visibility.

Dedicated PCSOs were assigned to each area, building relationships, contacts and data. The RETs had the expertise to quickly deal with issues, which had led to a decrease in the problem of illegal encampments. The Police engaged with farmers on a range of issues, from prevention of hare coursing, to prevention of ASB that damaged farms and crops. Advice was provided to farmers and business owners to prevent crime and ASB.

Motoring ASB was a mobile issue and the Police worked with ECC and other partners to address it. Public Space Protection Orders [PSPOs] were used to prohibit motoring ASB district wide. This was the first area to have this approach approved by a court. Stringent and strict powers were now available for use, with the PSPO being well-publicised and leading to no complaints about motoring ASB being received since its introduction.

The DCI explained the approach to perpetrator management, with the most harmful offenders each being 'owned' by a team that proactively monitored and checked on them. All issues and information were triaged to specific officers and tasking meetings. The Community Safety Manager at CBH described the ASB Forum for all social housing providers in the area, sharing intelligence, giving training and holding a quarterly board on ASB matters. Field officers were met with, and tasking meetings held. CBH held delegated enforcement powers from the Council. The DCI highlighted work to reduce the fear of crime, with engagement opportunities to build trust with communities. Hate crimes and concerns were tackled with partners, and Hate Crime Ambassadors. Work was conducted with the University of Essex on student safety, especially new students in Freshers Week, and a safety syllabus had been produced.

A Committee member noted the importance of setting up information channels, which the Council/CBH did as a responsible landlord, and asked about its cost and how much of this work was also conducted by other social housing providers. The Community Safety Manager at CBH explained that natural connections were made, at no significant extra cost. Cooperation between experts and partners saved money. CBH had delegated powers from the Council which other housing providers did not have, and the company exercised these for other housing providers and guided them through possible actions. All providers wanted to reduce ASB issues. The Community Safety Manager was asked if he felt the Safer Colchester Partnership should extend its reach and go further on ASB in housing. The Community Safety

Manager gave assurance that sufficient powers were already in place and that the strongest measures had not been needed as yet. The Community Safety Manager explained that action could be taken against any housing provider where its action or lack of action was harming a community. CBH and the Partnership wanted, however, to avoid burning bridges with partners and so pursued an amicable approach whenever possible. A Committee member expressed thanks to CBH and the Police for help given to address a hate crime in their ward, providing victim support and enforcement action against the perpetrator. The Community Safety Manager at CBH underlined the importance of signposting problems for the Hate Crime Ambassadors to tackle.

The DCI outlined the national challenge faced by the Police to tackle domestic abuse [DA] and violence against women and girls. This included the need to ensure strict vetting of people joining the police, to ensure officer integrity. The policies and strategies to address DA, violence against women, and sexual crimes. Work was conducted to increase knowledge of these issues in schools, universities and other educational institutions. Examples were given of how community intelligence had been used to instigate preventative action to avoid crime. Data was used to identify the highest-risk offenders and potential victims. This was split between work to protect victims and reduce the likelihood of offences occurring. Trust building with victims was used to help get them out of danger and to be able to participate in tackling the problem. 26 high-risk offenders were currently being managed, including use of disclosure laws and work in prisons to prevent reoffending.

Beverley Jones, Chief Executive of Next Chapter, gave the context to her organisation's work. There was an upward trend in the number of referrals received, even after lockdown ended. There had been an increase of around 45% in the past two years, with around 12,000 referrals. 30% came from Colchester, where there had been a 35% increase in referrals. The most common type of referral was then communicated to the Police. The reasons for increases in referrals include an increase in awareness of issues and a drop in the toleration of abuse. This had always been a hidden harm issue, hampered by stigma.

Court backlogs meant that some domestic abuse cases were listed with 18 month waiting time. It was difficult to keep cases active, with an issue being that some victims wanted to drop cases and move on with life. Emergency non-molestation orders took around three months to obtain from courts, with delays in action increasing the severity of problems faced by victims. Issues had been found regarding GP record disclosures, with abusers forcing victims to give them access to their records. One potential harm from this is if the records cover discussion of domestic abuse and actions taken. It was seen as a positive that there was increased awareness and willingness to report abuse, with increased knowledge as to how people could report abuse concerns. A new, funded, project had been commenced to change the way high risk offenders were managed and victims safeguarded. Work was conducted with communities to advertise services and ways to get help. The re-referral rate was around 25%, with a relatively high rate being positive as it made it more likely that a resolution would be achieved.

The Committee queried whether Colchester's referral rate was disproportionately high. The Chief Executive agreed that the local rate was marginally higher than the average, which was partly explained by Next Chapter having been based in Colchester for years, with more local awareness of the services provided.

The Committee discussed the waiting time to get action and court orders against perpetrators. In very severe cases, the police worked with Next Chapter to identify and prevent imminent danger and offences. A new app had been developed to help victims upload evidence quickly and easily. The guests were asked if there were other ways to expedite action. The Chief Executive of Next Chapter said that courts had given some priority to dealing with domestic abuse cases, but the volume of cases meant major delays were experienced. The DCI explained that one option, where possible, was prosecution to be carried out in ways which did not require victim participation. This could also minimise trauma.

Comments from the Committee noted that the partnership arrangements worked well, with no serious issues identified, but underlining the importance of review and scrutiny. Statistics seem to indicate that Colchester had one of the best performing partnerships, with a surprisingly wide intelligence gathering network. A Committee member stated that it would help to have a manned advice and contact line for the partners such as the probation service. Another member suggested improving signposting to reporting options and asked how digitally excluded residents could report concerns.

The Committee discussed whether it should table a work item to look at the backlog in getting cases processed through the courts system, and ways for cases to be seen more quickly. It was noted that there was nothing the Council could do to influence the speed of the courts' working, but the Committee signalled interest in giving further consideration to this matter.

The Portfolio Holder noted the comments and concerns regarding vulnerable tenants and levels of safeguarding by different social housing providers, promising to follow up on these to seek assurances and push other social landlords to increase their proactive safeguarding.

The Chairman thanked all of the organisations and individuals represented at the meeting for their continuing work.

*RESOLVED* that: -

- a) The Committee had scrutinised the work of the Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP);
- b) An item be added to the work programme of the Scrutiny Panel to seek any ways in which the backlog of court cases could be reduced and speed of court actions increased, and any ways the Council can act to that aim.





# CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

**24 May 2023**

*Present:-*

Councillor Arnold, Councillor Laws, Councillor McCarthy,  
Councillor McLean, Councillor Rowe, Councillor Smalls,  
Councillor Willetts.

## **42. Appointment of Chairman**

*RESOLVED* that Councillor Laws be appointed as Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

## **43. Appointment of Deputy Chairman**

*RESOLVED* that Councillor Willetts be appointed as Deputy Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.





<b>Crime and Disorder Committee</b>		<b>Item</b> <b>7</b>
<b>19 September 2023</b>		
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Head of Public Protection</b>	<b>Author</b> <b>Samantha Goodman</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Safer Colchester Partnership</b>	
<b>Wards affected</b>	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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1067</b>

### 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.

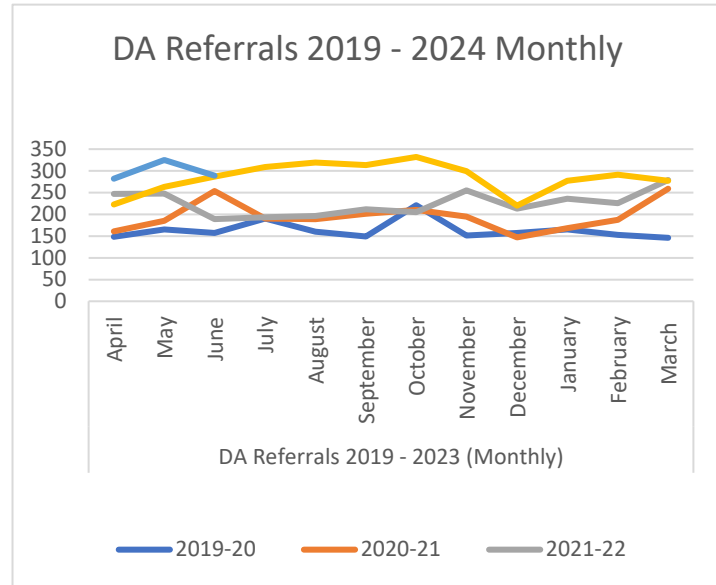
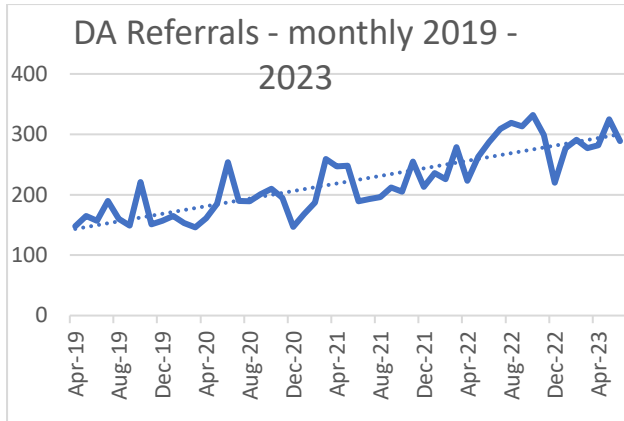
Community-based services offer safety planning & advice, advocacy, support & access to recovery group-work, counselling services and signposting to other services as required. Our Community DAP (Domestic Abuse Practitioner) Team supports individuals who are assessed as having a standard or medium risk 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>902 (29% incr)</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>75</b>

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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

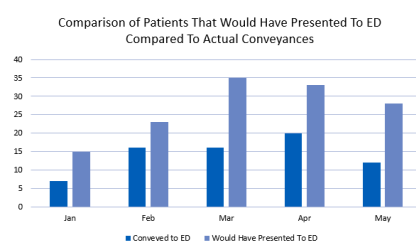
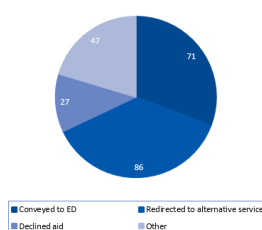
### 10.8 SNEE Integrated Care Board

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.

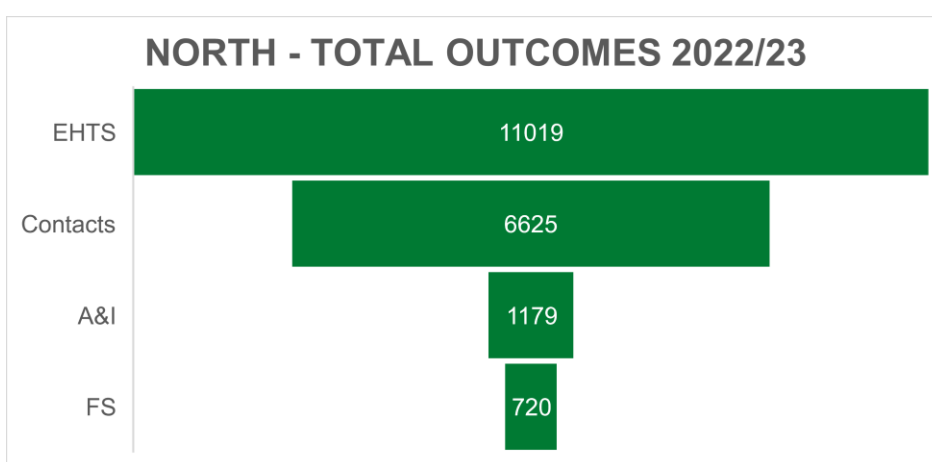
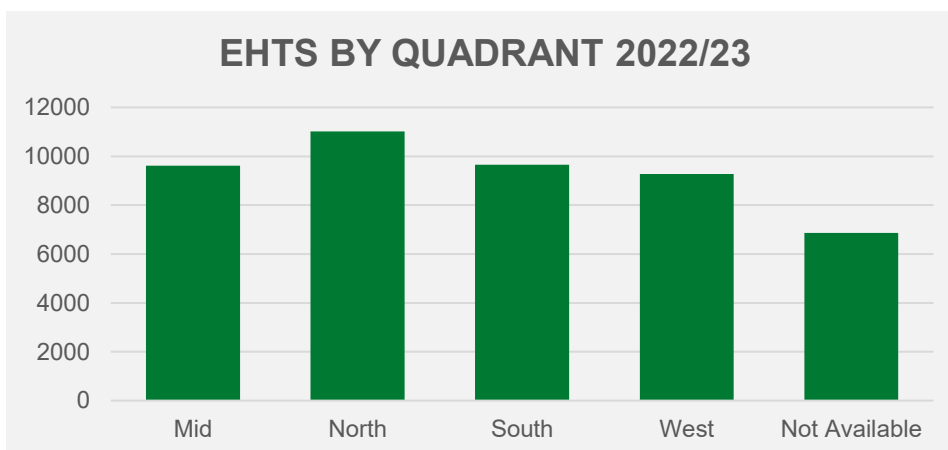
### **11.8 ECC Children and Families Service**

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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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



### **ANNUAL PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023-2024**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Community Safety Partnerships to complete an annual partnership plan. The legislation also places a joint responsibility upon specific agencies to work together to protect the local community from crime, and to help people feel safer.

The Safer Colchester Partnership consists of representatives from the following statutory authorities:

- Colchester City Council (CCC)
- Essex Police
- Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
- Essex County Council
- The Probation Service
- NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB)

Safer Colchester Partnership also consists of non-statutory representatives from:

- Colchester Garrison
- University of Essex
- Community 360
- Colchester Borough Homes
- Crimestoppers
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Open Road
- Business Improvement District (BID)
- Next Chapter
- Beacon House
- Youth Enquiry Service (YES)
- Firstsite
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Eastlight Community Homes
- Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse in Essex (CARA)
- Phoenix Futures
- Victim Support
- Behaviour, Attendance and Inclusion Partnership (BAIP)

## **Key Priorities for 2023-2024**

The Partnership identified five priorities for 2023/2024 following an assessment of crime and disorder, and consultation with various agencies.

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

**Priority Two:** Tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour

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

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

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

This document provides an overview of projects and initiatives that have contributed towards achieving the Annual Partnership Plan priorities and meeting the objectives of the Crime and Fire plan. Consideration also given to meeting the targets of the Essex Crime Prevention Strategy launched in November 2021 [Crime-Prevention-Strategy-2020-v17-1.pdf \(pfcc.police.uk\)](https://www.pfcc.police.uk/Assets/Document/Essex-Crime-Prevention-Strategy-2020-v17-1.pdf)

### **Police and Crime Plan Priorities 2021 – 2024**

The Police and Crime Plan sets out the policing priorities and aims for keeping Essex safe. It brings together police, partners and the people of Essex to build safe and secure communities, thereby promoting public confidence in the police and ensuring that victims are satisfied with the service and support they receive. The commitments set out in the plan build on existing partnerships and seek to develop them in new and ambitious ways. These include greater collaboration between police and fire and closer working with local councils, community safety partnerships, and the voluntary, community and health sectors

The twelve plan priorities:

1. Further investment in crime prevention
2. Reducing drug driven violence
3. Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
4. Reducing violence against women and girls
5. Improving support for victims of crime
6. Protecting rural and isolated areas
7. Preventing dog theft
8. Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime
9. Improving safety on our roads
10. Encouraging volunteers and community support
11. Supporting our officers and staff
12. Increasing collaboration

## Priority One - Safeguard adults and children at risk of violence and exploitation

Objective	Project / Initiative	About the Project / Initiative	Outcomes	PFCC Priority	ECPS Strand
<b>Increase knowledge and awareness among CYP of issues affecting their safety</b>	Crucial Crew	Colchester Council to deliver an annual awareness/engagement event with Year 6 pupils, to improve their knowledge of personal safety, key community safety messages and potential exploitation.	1629 pupils from 40 primary schools participated - an increase of 50% compared to 2022, with a further 11 schools taking part.	1,2,3,4	Organised Crime / Complex Needs
	Operation Henderson	Continue initiative by the Essex Safeguarding Children Board, British Transport Police, Essex Police, other partners including local councils, to raise awareness of the vulnerability of young people to exploitation and abuse at stations and transport networks.		1,2,3,4	Complex Needs / Organised Crime
	ECFRS Education Officers work with schools under the collaboration project between ECFRS and Essex Police	Education Officers deliver assemblies and lessons to schools, including Knife Crime Prevention and Gang Awareness.		2,7,8,12	Organised Crime / Serious Violence
<b>Progress initiatives to combat Violent Crime, County Lines and Knife Crime</b>	Op Sceptre / Op Pegasi	Op Sceptre a national operation to tackle knife crime. Locally operational name is Op Pegasi - targeting hotspots for knife crime.		1,2,4	Serious Violence
	Project Servator	Support Police operation to deter, detect and disrupt a range of criminal activity, including terrorism. Consider how partners, businesses and organisations can benefit and support this operation.		1,2,3,6	Vulnerabilities
<b>Raise awareness of Modern Slavery</b>	Anti-Slavery Partnership	Launch of the Anti-Slavery Partnership - to raise awareness and support vulnerable members of the community and progress any projects to identify and support victims of modern slavery. 'Colchester	Conference attended by over 45 delegates in April 2023.	3,5,8,10 12	Organised Crime

<b>and the support available</b>		Against Modern Slavery' CAMS launched and Action Plan outlined.	First partnership meeting held in June 2023. Task and Finish groups formed and met in August/September 2023.		
	Participate in campaigns to raise awareness of exploitation	Campaigns including Anti-Slavery Day	Awareness raising event and social media campaign planned for 18/10/23.	3,5,10	Organised Crime
<b>Raise awareness of PREVENT and how partners can support those at risk</b>	Review the PREVENT Strategy and annual Action Plan	Through Community Safety Delivery Board (multi-agency forum) review the strategy and action plan and ensure activity is progressing and new interventions in place as required. Including promotion of Home Office PREVENT E-learning and ACT Early website	Ongoing review.	3,5,8,10	Vulnerabilities
<b>Develop interventions to tackle and reduce Hate Crime</b>	Continue delivery of Hate Crime Awareness and Ambassador workshops	Support Essex Police in the promotion of workshops to enable them to build on the 120 people trained as Hate Crime Ambassadors in Colchester.	Promotion of hate crime training to partners – August 2023.	3,4,5	Vulnerabilities
	Support Hate Crime Awareness Week	Promotion to partners and wider community. Support through social media channels. Ensure relevant websites are updated including Safer Colchester Partnership website, with information, guidance, training links and how to report Hate Crime.		3,4,5,10 12	Vulnerabilities
	Project Omnis	Continue promotion of the Omnis Project. A weekly hub at the Greenstead Community Centre aimed to reduce hate/mate crime, cuckooing and violent crime associated with county lines, and domestic abuse support. Project funded for a further 12 months.	Increased participation and successful case studies evidenced	1,3,4,5,10,12	Vulnerabilities / Complex Needs



## Priority Two - Tackle neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour

Objective	Project / Initiative	About the Project / Initiative	Outcomes	PFCC Priority	ECPS Strand
<b>Develop initiatives for vulnerable and young people to reduce ASB</b>	Project Morpheus	Diversionary work that encourages young people aged 10-18 years to engage and participate in activities such as Army days and paintballing to prevent young people going down the route of crime and ASB.		1,3,4,5,10,12	Vulnerabilities / Violent Crime
<b>Support activity to ensure the safety of those participating in the Night-time economy</b>	Nights of Action	Bring together partners including Police, Environmental Health, Business Improvement District and Army to ensure businesses are adhering to legislation and any license restrictions. Equipment and materials purchased with Safer Streets funding including drugs wipes, urine testing kits and launch of Bleed Control kits, and resource costs to deploy police dogs.	Events held with evidence of education and enforcement.	1,2,3,4,8 11,12	Serious Violence
	Ask for Angela	Initiative to improve women's safety in NTE, in development by BID and supported by Essex Police and partners.	300 booklets distributed, over 80 staff trained.	3,4	Violent Crime / Complex Needs
	Safer Streets funded town centre projects	Vulnerability Training, Partnership Portal, NTE Audits, Best Bar None, SOS Bus projects underway, due for completion by September 2023.	Over 120 staff received vulnerability/CSE training. Awaiting outcome of Best Bar None assessment. Portal launched.		

<b>Participate in partner activity, Essex Police Operations and local communities to tackle ASB</b>	Op Luscombe	Continue this multi-agency approach to reduce homelessness and ASB linked to homelessness. Continue to provide a drop-in centre on a weekly basis for homeless community to access services and support.	Ongoing	2,3,5,12	Complex Needs
	Mobile CCTV cameras	CBH and CCC to continue to deploy mobile CCTV cameras to assist in identifying and tackling ASB in hotspot areas along with environmental ASB, fly tipping etc.	Impressive results from mobile deployment resulting in enforcement.	2,4,5,6	Vulnerabilities / Organised Crime
	Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)	Ongoing review of existing PSPO's and any updates needed.	City Centre PSPO consultation in place until 15 <sup>th</sup> September.	2,9	Vulnerabilities
	Neighbourhood Watch	Increase membership and awareness of Neighbourhood Watch. Use a variety of communication methods to engage with the community to influence change in behaviours and deter opportunistic crime.			Vulnerabilities / Organised Crime

**Priority Three: Support victims of**

**domestic abuse and sexual offences and reduce violence against women and girls**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Project / Initiative</b>	<b>About the Project / Initiative</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>PFCC Priority</b>	<b>ECPS Strand</b>
<b>Raise awareness of Domestic Abuse services and the support available</b>	Promotion of Domestic Abuse awareness training	Promote to partners and the wider community, through relevant forums and distribution channels training by 'J9' and Alpha Vesta, and others as appropriate.		3,4,5	Complex Needs
	Participate in Domestic Abuse and Stalking Awareness campaigns	Link in with partners including Next Chapter, Essex Police and CARA to share information on social media. Support any location and national awareness campaigns including 16 Days of Action,		3,4,5	Complex Needs

		Violence Against Women Day, National Stalking Awareness Week.			
	Continue to deliver the Together we Can Project	Delivered by Next Chapter and Open Road, this project supports 5 Local Authorities including Colchester. Support victims of domestic abuse through the Recovery Refuge, Community based support and Resettlement programme, specialist support for CYP affected by domestic abuse, and support from a Domestic Abuse Housing Practitioner. Extended until March 2024.	Regular partnership updates/meetings to review outcomes. Excellent feedback and positive outcomes achieved.	2,3,4,5	Complex Needs
	Stronger Together Project	Funded by Safer Streets – project to cascade messaging to address VAWG. Methods include series of focus groups to young people and production to secondary schools, various activities to capture an adult audience. For completion by end of September 2023.	Production delivered to 6 secondary schools. Adult shows/forums booked throughout September 2023.		
<b>Support victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence</b>	Integrated Support Project	Project delivered by CARA to deliver a range of additional support services aimed at victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse who have a high level of immediate need and/or face multiple disadvantages, including due to mental ill-health.		3,4,5	Complex Needs
	Essex Police DAPS Team	Specialist officers conducting activity including supporting Afghan community, to address religious/cultural barriers to reporting domestic abuse and VAWG.		3,4,5	Complex Needs
	Safe and Well Visits	Safe and Well Visits conducted by ECFRS for victims of domestic abuse, victims of/people at risk of arson, and other vulnerable members of the community.		12, 3, 4, 5	Vulnerabilities
<b>Address perpetrator behaviour</b>	Perpetrator Programme	Funded for 2 years to implement a Perpetrator Programme in Colchester.		1,2,3,4,5 8,10	Organised Crime / Complex Needs

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

Objective	Project / Initiative	About the project / initiative	Outcomes	PFCC Priority	ECPS Strand
<b>Identify perpetrators and victims of crime</b>	Essex Police Operations				
<b>Share intelligence/data to generate a consistent picture of criminal activity</b>	MAC Panel	Working together through the Multi Agency Coordination Panel partners to target individual criminals and to disrupt the criminal in addition to the criminality.		1,2,6	Organised Crime
	Crime Prevention Sub-Group	Forum to review and plan activity targeting specific concerns and crime types.	Two meetings held to agree activity to address knife crime and drugs/alcohol dependency		
<b>Influence change in behaviour to reduce those becoming victims of crime</b>	Neighbourhood Watch	Consider campaigns to reduce incidents of opportunistic crime and educate residents/visitors to Colchester on adopting safer behaviours to prevent/reduce these crime types.			Vulnerabilities / Organised Crime

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

Objective	Project / Initiative	About the project / initiative	Outcomes	PFCC Priority	ECPS Strand
<b>Suicide Awareness and Prevention</b>	Support promotional activity including local and national campaigns	Support World Suicide Prevention Day – 10 <sup>th</sup> September and Self Harm Awareness Day	Light up Green – castle and Town Hall will be lit from 4-10 September	10,12	Complex Needs
	Suicide Prevention Operational Group	Forum for partners to meet as an operational group. To consider requests from participating	First meeting June 2023. To be held bi-monthly.	10, 12	Complex Needs

		organisations to all work together on suicide prevention for Colchester.			
<b>Public Safety and Perception of Crime</b>	Fear of Crime Survey	CCC to repeat the Fear of Crime survey across the city. Build on the data collated last year to identify trends and inform further action planning.	For 2023 this was replaced by an Essex-wide Community Safety Survey.	1-12	Serious Violence / Vulnerabilities / Organised Crime / Complex Needs
	Outreach Events	University of Essex events supported by partners including Police, Paramedics, BID and KAT Marketing, to share safety messaging. Events including Freshers Fayre.	Positive feedback from students.		
	Safe, Well and Secure	Events organised by ECFRS to deliver safety messages/advice to residents in target areas and ultimately reduce accidental dwelling fires and deliberate fires.		1,6,9,12	Vulnerabilities
	Police Station Open Day	3 <sup>RD</sup> June 2023	Attended by just under 3000 people. Will be repeated next year.		
	Firestoppers	Firestoppers information line – to reduce/prevent deliberate fires <a href="https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk">FireStoppers   Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (essex-fire.gov.uk)</a>			



## Safeguarding Information from Partners

### Colchester City Council

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

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

### **CCC Referrals October 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 – Adult: 33 Child 3**

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

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

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

### **Partnership Working:**

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

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

#### **Looking Forward (23-24)**

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

#### **Colchester Borough Homes**

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

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

#### **CBH Referrals October 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – June 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 – Adult: 35 Child: 5**

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



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

**Looking Forward (23-24)**

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

**CARA**

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

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

**Partnership working around safeguarding:**

We regularly work with other agencies around safeguarding, including:

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

Essex Ambulance Service

Essex MARAC

**Probation Service**

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

**Percentage of staff who have completed e-learning**

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

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

### **Next Chapter**

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

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

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

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



# Crime and Disorder Committee Report.

August 2023

David Messam

With thanks to David Fallows; Michele Walker; and  
Paulina Baraniecka

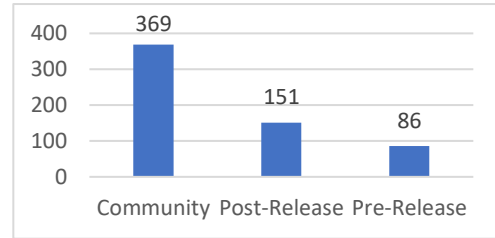
## APPENDIX C

### Crime and Disorder Committee Report

This report contains a summary of active cases managed as of 02/05/2023 by Colchester Sentence Management Team in the East of England Region. There are 606 cases identified as a resident in Colchester area or are No Fixed Abode and sentenced in Colchester.

**Table 1: Number of cases by Order Type and Order Description**

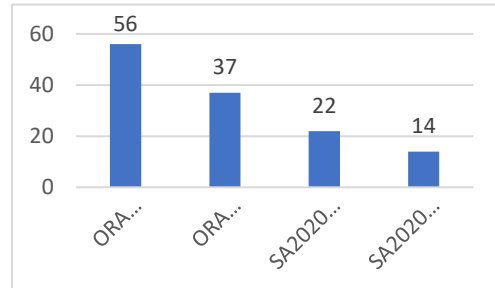
Order Type	
Community	369
Post-Release	151
Pre-Release	86
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>606</b>



*Figure 1 Cases by Order Type*

**Table 1a: Number of cases by Order Description ending during the financial year 2022-2023**

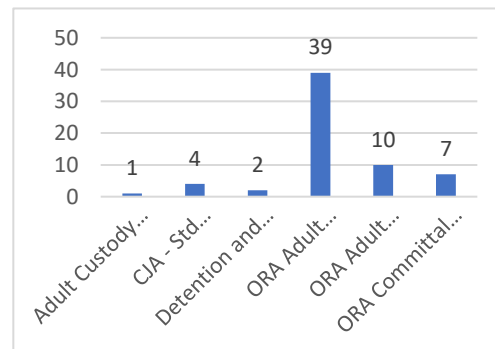
Order Description	Positive Outcome
ORA Community Order	56
ORA Suspended Sentence Order	37
SA2020 Community Order	22
SA2020 Suspended Sentence Order	14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>129</b>



*Figure 1a Cases by Order Description*

**Table 1b: Number of cases by Order Description ending during the financial year 2022-2023**

Order Description	Positive Outcome
Adult Custody 12m plus	1
CJA - Std Determinate Custody	4
Detention and Training Order	2
ORA Adult Custody (inc PSS)	39
ORA Adult Custody (not PSS)	10
ORA Committal for PSSR Breach	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>63</b>



For use by the East of England Region and Crime and Disorder Committee in the Essex area. NOT FOR PUBLICATION. Further dissemination must be approved by a person at Head of probation delivery unit level or above.

**Table 2: Number of cases by Risk of Serious Harm**

RoSH	
High	106
Low	100
Medium	394
Not Known	5
Very High	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>606</b>

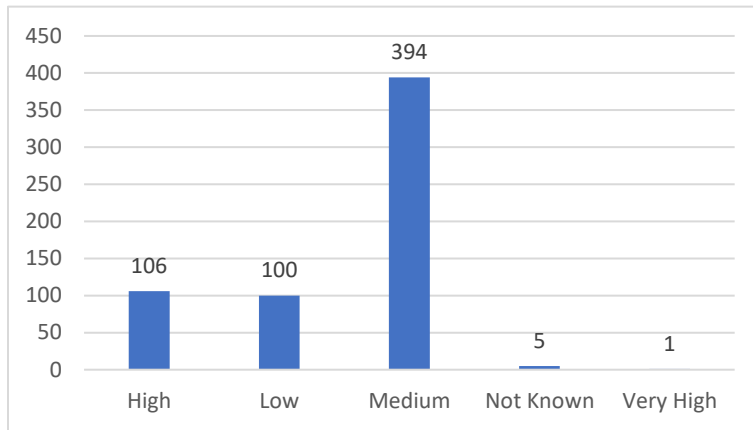
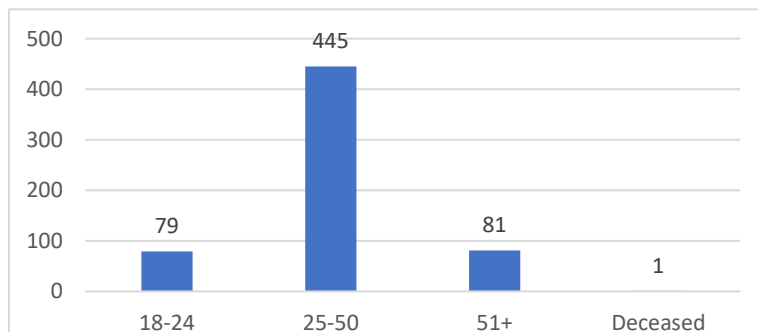


Figure 2 Cases by RoSH

**Table 3: Number of cases by Age**

Age	
18-24	79
25-50	445
51+	81
Deceased	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>606</b>



For use by the East

FOR PUBLICATION.

Further dissemination must be approved by a person at Head of probation delivery unit level or above.

Figure 3 Cases by Age

Table 4: Number of cases by Gender

Gender	
Female	58
Male	548
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>606</b>

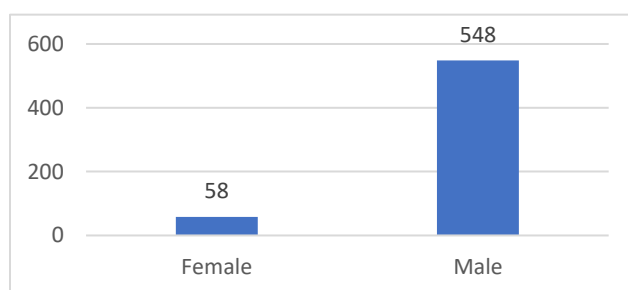


Figure 4 Cases by Gender

Table 5: Number of cases recorded as having a Disability

Disability	
Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)	3
Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), Dyslexia	1
Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), Dyslexia, Learning Difficulties, No Disability	1
Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), Dyslexia, Learning Disability, Mental Illness, Other	1
Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), Learning Difficulties, Mental Illness, Other	1
Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), Mental Illness	1
Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), Mental Illness, Other	3
Dyslexia	10
Dyslexia, Hearing Difficulties	1
Dyslexia, Mental Illness	8
Dyslexia, Mental Illness, No Disability, Reduced Physical Capacity	1
Dyslexia, Mental Illness, Other	2
Dyslexia, Mental Illness, Progressive Condition	1
Dyslexia, Mental Illness, Reduced Mobility	3
Dyslexia, Mental Illness, Speech Impairment	1
Dyslexia, No Disability	1

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Dyslexia, Other	1
Hearing Difficulties	2
Hearing Difficulties, Learning Difficulties	1
Hearing Difficulties, Learning Difficulties, Learning Disability	1
Hearing Difficulties, Learning Difficulties, Learning Disability, Other, Reduced Mobility	1
Hearing Difficulties, Mental Illness	2
Hearing Difficulties, Reduced Physical Capacity	1
Learning Difficulties	10
Learning Difficulties, Learning Disability	1
Learning Difficulties, Learning Disability, Mental Illness	1
Learning Difficulties, Learning Disability, Other	1
Learning Difficulties, Mental Illness	6
Learning Difficulties, Mental Illness, No Disability	1
Learning Difficulties, Mental Illness, Other	1
Learning Difficulties, Mental Illness, Other, Reduced Physical Capacity	1
Learning Difficulties, Mental Illness, Reduced Mobility	1
Learning Difficulties, No Disability	1
Learning Difficulties, No Disability, Other	1
Learning Difficulties, No Disability, Reduced Mobility	1
Learning Difficulties, Other	1
Learning Disability	4
Learning Disability, Mental Illness	4
Learning Disability, Mental Illness, No Disability	1
Learning Disability, Mental Illness, No Disability, Other	1
Learning Disability, Mental Illness, Other	1
Learning Disability, Mental Illness, Other, Reduced Mobility	1
Learning Disability, Mental Illness, Reduced Physical Capacity	1
Learning Disability, No Disability, Speech Impairment	1
Learning Disability, Other	1
Learning Disability, Reduced Mobility	1
Mental Illness	74
Mental Illness, No Disability	18
Mental Illness, No Disability, Other	1
Mental Illness, No Disability, Reduced Mobility, Reduced Physical Capacity	1
Mental Illness, No Disability, Reduced Physical Capacity	1
Mental Illness, No Disability, Visual Impairment	1
Mental Illness, Other	16
Mental Illness, Other, Progressive Condition	1
Mental Illness, Other, Reduced Mobility	2
Mental Illness, Other, Reduced Mobility, Reduced Physical Capacity	1
Mental Illness, Other, Reduced Physical Capacity	2
Mental Illness, Progressive Condition	2
Mental Illness, Reduced Mobility	3
Mental Illness, Reduced Physical Capacity	1
No Disability	120
No Disability, Other	3
No Disability, Reduced Physical Capacity	1

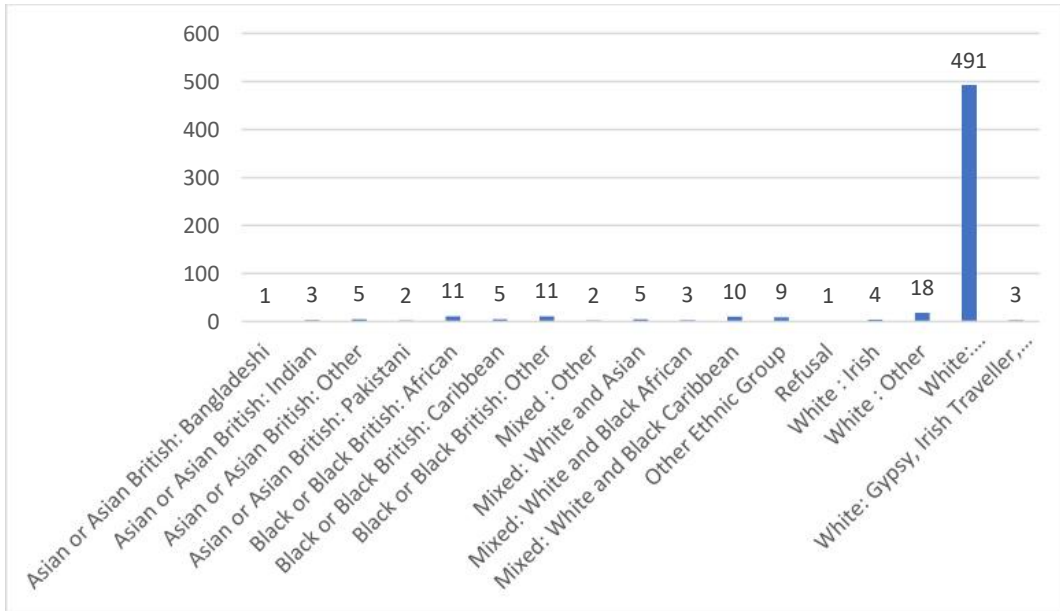
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Other	53
Other, Progressive Condition	1
Other, Progressive Condition, Reduced Mobility, Reduced Physical Capacity	1
Other, Reduced Mobility	1
Other, Refusal to disclose	1
Prefer Not to Say	1
Progressive Condition	3
Progressive Condition, Reduced Physical Capacity	1
Reduced Mobility	2
Reduced Mobility, Speech Impairment	1
Reduced Physical Capacity	4
Refusal to disclose	1
Visual Impairment	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>412</b>

**Table 6: Number of cases by Ethnicity**

<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi	1
Asian or Asian British: Indian	3
Asian or Asian British: Other	5
Asian or Asian British: Pakistani	2
Black or Black British: African	11
Black or Black British: Caribbean	5
Black or Black British: Other	11
Mixed: Other	2
Mixed: White and Asian	5
Mixed: White and Black African	3
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	10
Other Ethnic Group	9
Refusal	1
White: Irish	4
White: Other	18
White: British/English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish	491
White: Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Romany	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>584</b>

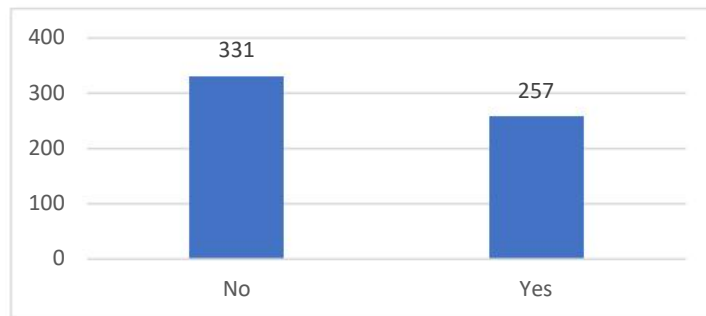




OASys is an assessment tool used to inform on the needs of individuals. This information is only available when a full assessment is used. Low risk of serious harm People on Probation do not have such an assessment. Therefore, the needs identified below do not represent the full caseload.

**Table 7: Number of cases where ETE is a Need**

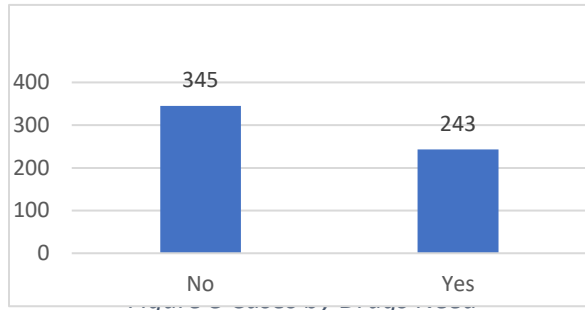
ETE Need	Number of Cases
No	331
Yes	257
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>588</b>



*Figure 7 Cases by ETE Need*

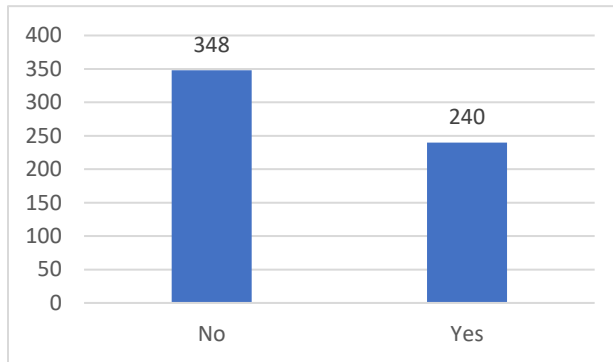
**Table 8: Number of cases where Drugs is a Need**

<b>Drugs Need</b>	
No	345
Yes	243
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>588</b>



**Table 9: Number of cases where Alcohol is a Need**

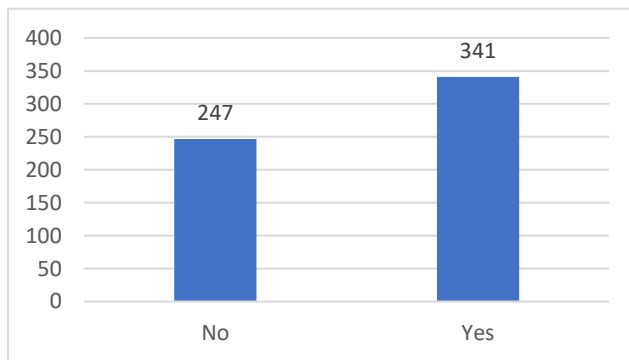
<b>Alcohol Need</b>	
No	348
Yes	240
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>588</b>



*Figure 9 Cases by Alcohol Need*

**Table 10: Number of cases where Relation is a Need**

<b>Relation Need</b>	
No	247
Yes	341
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>588</b>



*Figure 10 Cases by Relation Need*

**Table 11: Number of cases with Mental Issues – This looks at nDelius registers together with OASys Assessments and so covers the full caseload.**

<b>Mental Issues</b>	
No	245
Yes	361
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>606</b>

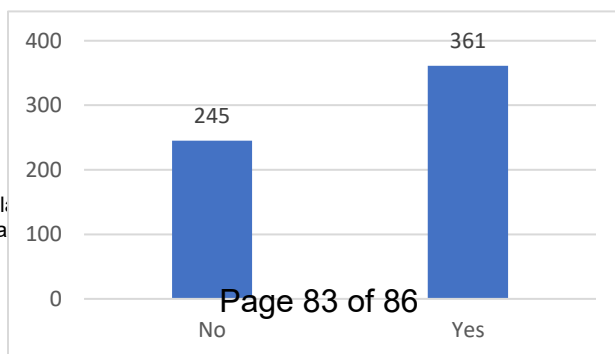


Figure 11 Cases by Mental Issues

Table 12: Number of cases where Finance is a Need

Finance Need	
No	363
Yes	225
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>588</b>

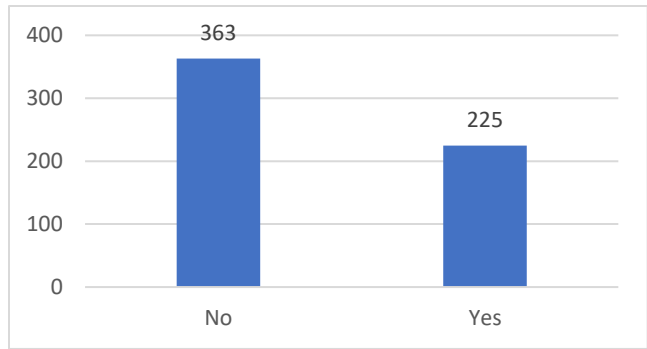
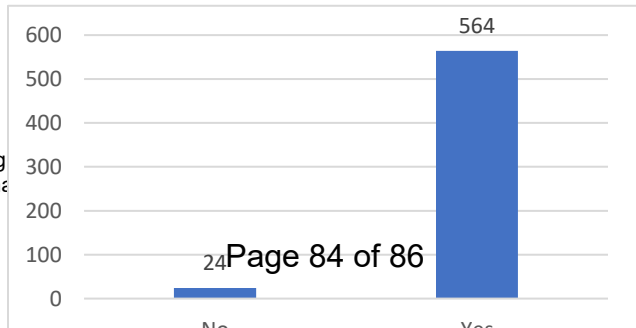


Figure 12 Cases by Finance Need

Table 13: Number of cases matched up with OASys where Thinking and Behaviours is a Need

Thinking and Behaviours Need	
No	24
Yes	564
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>588</b>



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nit level or above.

Figure 13 Cases by Thinking and Behaviors Need

**Table 14: Number of cases matched up with OASys where Attitude is a Need**

<b>Attitude Need</b>	
No	159
Yes	429
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>588</b>

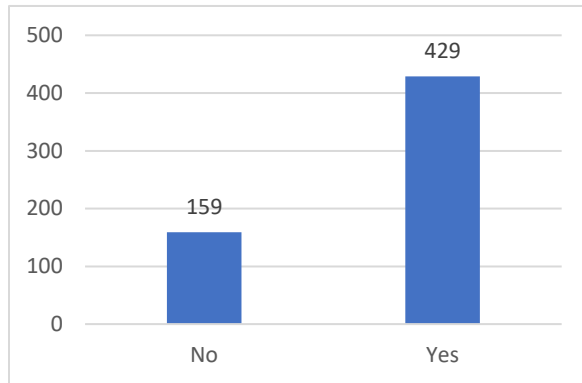


Figure 14 Cases by Attitudes Need

