

# Crime and Disorder Committee Meeting

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

**Monday, 18 March 2024 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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Audio recording, photography and filming of meetings by members of the public is also welcomed. Phones, tablets, laptops, cameras and other devices can be used at all meetings of the Council so long as this doesn't cause a disturbance. It is not permitted to use voice or camera flash functions and devices must be set to silent. Councillors can use devices to receive messages, to access meeting papers and information via the internet. Looking at or posting on social media by Committee members is at the discretion of the Chairman / Mayor who may choose to require all devices to be switched off at any time.

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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**  
**Monday, 18 March 2024 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, audio-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 meeting held on 19 September 2023 are a correct record.

**Crime and Disorder Committee Minutes 19 September 2023** 7 - 16

**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** 17 - 148

This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to review the "Strategic Assessment of Crime" report for 2023-24 (Appendix A), the Risk Matrix (Appendix B) and the draft wording for the Key Priorities for the Safer Colchester Partnership for 2024-25. This report will also address the request for benchmarking data and an explanation regarding domestic abuse statistics.

**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

## 19 September 2023

**Present:-** Councillor Laws, Councillor McLean, Councillor Rowe, Councillor Smalls, Councillor Spindler, Councillor Willetts.

**Substitutes:-** Councillor Spindler for Councillor McCarthy

#### 44. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 7 November 2022 and 24 May 2023 were approved as correct records.

#### 45. Have your say

Mr Colin Ffloyd-Thurgood attended and addressed the Committee, pursuant to the provisions of Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1), to raise his concerns regarding antisocial behaviour in Castle Park. As a regular user of the Park, Mr Ffloyd-Thurgood felt concern regarding antisocial behaviour by dog walkers, cyclists, day-drinkers and drug users, especially in Upper Castle Park. Security was described as lax, and signage was described as being ignored. Park gardeners worked hard but often received abuse from antisocial park users. Problems had escalated over the years and an example was given of a police officer refusing to act upon the report of antisocial abuse and drinking. Mr Ffloyd-Thurgood requested better signage around the Park, and a reduction in the grass height where it had grown long.

Councillor Sommers, Portfolio for Communities, gave assurances that she would raise the matters with the relevant Portfolio Holder, including the request for better signage, and would discuss with Cabinet the importance of good signage and the need to enforce rules.

Sir Bob Russell attended and addressed the Committee, pursuant to the provisions of Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1), beginning with an endorsement of the previous speaker's concerns. Sir Bob argued that nothing could be done if there was insufficient enforcement and stated that the Council had lost staff who had been working in Castle Park, totalling around 150 lost hours across the entire parks service. Sir Bob asked the purpose of the Committee, the meeting of which had not been mentioned at the most-recent Cabinet and Council meetings. Sir Bob noted that various churchyards in central Colchester were kept locked to deter antisocial behaviour, but accused the Council of seeking to create an area of antisocial behaviour by Holy Trinity Church, arguing that the area would be open all day every

day in the future. The Chairman noted Sir Bob's concerns, explained the role of the Committee (stemming from the Council's statutory duty to constitute a Crime and Disorder Committee) and gave his understanding that the grounds of Holy Trinity Church would be locked at night. Sir Bob disagreed with this interpretation of the plans for the churchyard and argued that historic gravestones would be under threat of damage.

A local resident [name withheld at resident's request] attended and addressed the Committee, pursuant to the provisions of Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1), raising concerns regarding antisocial behaviour at the St Mary's carpark. 300 incidences of such behaviour had been noted since they had moved near to the carpark in 2017, but only one notice had been issued in the first year of the vehicular Public Spaces Protection Act [PSPO]. Cars had been noted reaching speeds of 40mph in the carpark, with no preventative measures being taken. The problems occurring would cause reputational damage for Colchester, with its effect on visitor experiences. It was also bad for residents. The resident argued for a joined-up strategy to be drawn up, including prevention and enforcement, and asked how the Council could justify leaving the carpark open overnight, when only a few legitimate users parked there overnight.

The Chair gave assurance that the Cabinet and officers were aware of the issues raised, and that the meeting of this Committee would discuss enforcement of PSPOs, which included possible control mechanisms for carpark access. The Chair gave his preference for a 'pay on leaving' system and possible access restrictions overnight. Councillor Sommers, Portfolio for Communities, informed the Committee that Cabinet were looking at ways to prevent the issues reported, including barriers and closed-circuit television [CCTV] cameras. The Portfolio Holder had already discussed this with the Police's District Commander and was keen to resolve the problem, with a meeting with the local residents' association scheduled for the Thursday that week. The resident agreed that there was only so much the police could do, saying that the Council needed to act to use some of the ideas suggested and increase preventative measures.

Ms. Michelle Reynolds attended and addressed the Committee, pursuant to the provisions of Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1), representing 'Colchester Businesses Against Crime.' There was a national shoplifting epidemic at this time, with guards and members of shop staff being subjected to attacks. An estimated eight million shoplifting incidents had occurred since March 2023. The Police had recorded 329,000 incidents reported, with only around 45,000 investigated. Examples were given of attacks on staff who confronted thieves. One example resulted in police action to prosecute for shoplifting, but no action was taken regarding the violence used by the perpetrator. Groups of more than ten shoplifters were common, with even bigger groups seen by some retailers. Bike thieves operated in the City, stealing to order. There was no visible police presence, and thefts and street drinking did not face enforcement action. Confidence in the police had been lost, with many



incidents not reported due to the loss of confidence in the Police. Ms Reynolds called for a zero-tolerance approach to crime.

With the Chair's permission, a statement from Councillor Scordis was read out by the Clerk to the Committee. Councillor Scordis complimented front line police officers but criticised what was, in his view, a lack of leadership by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner [PFCC] and the Police District Commander. Councillor Scordis alleged a decline in policing standards and partnership working. Councillor Scordis stated that fewer Police were now seen, and that crime had worsened. Crime, antisocial behaviour and aggressive city-centre drinking were highlighted, with Councillor Scordis calling for Police leadership and a strategy to be developed to address reported problems.

The Chair gave his view that Councillor Scordis' criticism was unfair, even though some of the issues raised were worthy of discussion. The Chair noted factors which caused or exacerbated problems and increased the workload of the Police, as well as arguing that the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act (2022) contained provisions for more multi-agency work to be undertaken.

#### **46. Safer Colchester Partnership Report**

Councillor Tim Young attended and, with the approval of the Chair, addressed the Committee to praise the partnership working within the Safer Colchester Partnership [SCP]. Whilst acknowledging frustration felt by residents regarding issues being experienced, Councillor Young argued for more and better partnership working. Praising the work of the local Police Community Support Officer [PCSO] working in the Greenstead area, Councillor Young did raise concern that, whilst the PCSO responded to contacts, emails to Community Policing and the District Commander had gone unanswered. Calls to 101 had not led to a response and Councillor Young said that he could not recommend it as an option to residents. The District Commander was asked whether police officers were being properly deployed, with elected members and shop proprietors saying that they were not seeing Police support deployed. Antisocial behaviour was occurring across Colchester, with fear of crime a serious issue. Councillor Young asked why the situation had worsened and why, on occasion, people were told that all officers had been deployed to other areas, such as Southend. Councillor Young praised the deployment of resources to Greenstead, actioned by the PFCC, and informed the Committee that he would speak to the PFCC about the situation, explaining his wish to keep any criticism constructive.

Mr. Vincent Jeeves attended and addressed the Committee, pursuant to the provisions of Meetings Procedure Rule 5(1), in his capacity as the Business Crime Liaison Officer for the Colchester Business Improvement District [BID]. Mr Jeeves expressed the view that local businesses had lost confidence in the Police. The BID

tried to ensure that local businesses reported all crimes, but the level of crime had risen to a point at which this had become difficult. Mr Jeeves stated that he was aware of three crimes reported before he went on leave that had yet to receive a response, with others reported not then resulting in investigation. The Summer had seen an increase in antisocial behaviour [ASB] and Mr Jeeves asked if an impact assessment had been conducted on the deployments of police officers from Colchester to Southend, and the effect on Colchester. Mr Jeeves explained his work liaising with local businesses and gathering relevant data.

A Panel member noted that the Committee had a duty to examine the priorities of the Safer Colchester Partnership [SCP] and how they were set. The Panel member raised concern that the necessary detail to allow this had not been given in the report and requested that the Committee be shown the most recent Strategic Assessment which was used to formulate the SCP's priorities. The Committee could still discuss other elements of the SCP's work, but important content was missing, and strategic analysis was not present. Past reports showed Police priorities and how this mapped onto the priorities and work of the Partnership. The Panel member argued that the Committee needed the Strategic Assessment in order to judge if criticisms were justified, and that an extra meeting would potentially be needed to scrutinise this Assessment. Lisa Hobson, Community Safety and Safeguarding Officer, informed the Committee that the Strategic Assessment covered 1 October to 30 September and was based on data from all SCP partners, including the Police, and confirmed that the Strategic Assessment for the current year could be shared with the Committee.

The Partner representatives were asked to define what criminal activities fell under the definition of 'robbery', where these incidents were occurring, why they had increased and what the SCP's response had been. It was also asked if Colchester's crime rate could be compared to a wider range of other areas, such as Chelmsford, Braintree and Ipswich. One member asked if benchmarking could be done to compare Colchester to similar cities across Europe.

The Committee asked what other statistics could be added to the report, such as on hate crime, shoplifting or cybercrime. The partners were asked how the SCP tracked trends over time, how these were measured, and the impact of actions taken were measured and assessed.

Councillor Sommers, Portfolio Holder for Communities, thanked the SCP for its work and highlighted the positive stories within the report, from across a wide spectrum of work. The statistics showed that crime levels had reduced, but it was noted that perception of crime and individual experiences could differ from this. The Portfolio Holder urged all criminal issues to be reported, either by calling 999 or 101, or online (for non-urgent issues).

A presentation was given, covering the work of the SCP, and covering key data relating to crime and community safety. Chief Inspector Colin Cox, Police District

Commander, noted that the report provided to the Committee was based on the same format as the past year's report, and explained that more information or data could have been provided if SCP partners had been informed that it was wanted. The District Commander emphasised the prioritisation of dealing with serious offences, primarily of a violent and/or sexual nature, but appealed for all crimes to be reported to the Police. This helped to show the true level of crime in the Colchester area, and meant that greater Government funding could be accessed, if the true scale of crime was recorded.

Overall, crime had reduced by 7.5% as at the end of August 2023. The different categories of offences were covered, with robberies increasing due to Castle Park robberies carried out by young people. A number of these youths and their groomers had been arrested and charged, with some being remanded into custody. It was clarified that robberies were a personal use of, or threat of, violence was used to facilitate theft. This could encompass situations such as where one school pupil uses threat of violence to steal from another pupil, even where no weapons are involved.

Residential burglaries had reduced by 12.4% and were at the lowest level for six years. Business-related burglaries had reduced by 16.4%, with a massive prevention and enforcement operation having been carried out. Antisocial behaviour had dropped by 38.1%, with partnership working a key part in facilitating this reduction. 91.5 crimes per 1,000 people had been recorded. The District Commander explained that comparisons with other areas were possible, but cautioned that it was necessary to compare 'like with like'. Meaningful comparisons with somewhere such as Braintree were not possible, as Braintree did not have the night-time economy that Colchester operated.

A Panel member highlighted the public perception survey, ventured that the survey results did not seem to accord with the content of the SCP's report, and asked who had conducted the survey and who had participated. The District Commander confirmed that the survey was conducted by an independent third party, approaching people in the street, victims of crimes and members of the public on random 'phone calls. The survey did not note extensive dissatisfaction, with Colchester having the lowest crime rate in the County being supported by survey data.

The five main priorities of the Safer Colchester Partnership were covered, with an explanation of the work being done to address each one. The five priorities were:

- 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 Partnership representatives were asked what was being done to be in contact with those who were hard to reach, including those for whom English was not the

first language. The work of the Colchester Independent Advisory Group was described, working to help the Police to meet and communicate with hard-to-reach communities and those who might be more likely than most to be victims of hate crime. The process for complaints about the Police was described. One officer was dedicated to engaging with families who had emigrated from African nations, and efforts were made to build trust with groups from a range of ethnic backgrounds.

The SCP representatives answered questions about safeguarding. Rita Jenner, Lead for Partnership Delivery [ECC] highlighted work to address risks by the Community Team, work to safeguard young people, and priorities set to help victims of sexual exploitation and to reduce exclusions from schools. Nathan Suley, CBH, explained the training given to front-line staff to identify hidden harms.

A Committee member asked whether the use of artificial intelligence [AI] had affected investigations and/or predictive analysis, and how the partnership made use of technology. The Police District Commander offered to seek information on this and provide an answer. Deputy Chief Constable Andrew Prophet noted that a range of work was being done on applications of AI to help officers, such as with disclosure reports to the Crown Prosecution Service and use in recruitment.

The Partner representatives were asked about enforcement of the City Centre PSPO by the Committee members, focusing on cracking down on aggressive begging and asking why enforcement was not more widespread. Andrew Tyrell, Head of Public Protection [the Council], explained that the Council could issue fines through the terms of the PSPO, and that this had been done in the past and helped to reduce problems. The Head of Public Protection agreed to take this to the Town Centre Team to discuss what could be done. The Police District Commander outlined Operation Luskan, with work to identify why individuals were begging, identify problems, give support and get people into recovery. It was noted that begging would have to be aggressive before penalty notices could be issued. The Lead for Partnership Delivery [ECC] argued that partners should not be afraid of using PSPO provisions, including the vehicular PSPO.

The Committee discussed City Centre ASB, with one member highlighting incidents where Council wardens had tried to prevent problems, but had not been able to get Police assistance. The SCP representatives were asked how better Police support could be obtained. The Police District Commander explained that the Townlink radio system, as used by Council wardens, was an information sharing system for the City Centre, not a way to report issues to the Police or seek assistance, as it produced no 'paper trail'. Calls for assistance would need to be made via 999, as this allowed the full range of necessary checks of intelligence/data, and checks as to whether specialist or armed officers were required. The problems with using the Townlink radio were described.

Requests for more Police officers and visibility were heard, with the District Commander noted that the survey work had shown that not all people wanted more

visibility from the Police, but agreed that he wanted more officers to do more work, but did not expect to get the resources needed to employ more officers. The 'Right care, right person' approach and prevention of issues helped to avoid the Police having to do things that other SCP partners should be doing.

A Committee member asked how the fear and perception of crime could be addressed, and whether people were not reporting incidents. The Head of Public Protection noted the Council's relationships with many organisations, seeing the mismatch between perception of crime and reality. The types of incident increasing were those driven by 'cost of living' issues. The situation had to be understood, then finding ways for support to be given to people. The overall situation in the UK had changed, leading to increased antisocial behaviour and shoplifting. A recent operation had led to six arrests for shoplifting. The Committee member argued that the SCP should do more to highlight the societal issues driving up crime like shoplifting, and to present this better to the public. Rita Jenner, Lead for Partnership Delivery [ECC], underlined the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, the effect of the 'cost of living' crisis, ways of looking at these across partnerships such as the NHS' Suffolk and North-East Essex Integrated Care Board (ICB). People could not afford food and turned to shoplifting. The Police District Commander intimated that the coming new Strategic Assessment could reflect the situation regarding shoplifting and antisocial behaviour against businesses, which would feed into the coming year's priorities. Some shoplifting was due to lack of income for individuals, whilst for other offenders, this was not the case. Police conducting enforcement action did not check as to the financial background of suspected offenders.

A Committee member asked why Police statistics showed a drop in reports of domestic abuse or violence of 11.6%, whilst other partners which worked with victims [such as Next Chapter] reported a significant increase in victims coming forward. The Committee member argued that the discrepancy meant that it was not possible to assess the performance of the SCP. The District Commander explained that the Police dealt with reported allegations of crime, but that some victims would not report offences to the Police. It was important to empower and support victims to report and act to counter the perpetrators. More domestic abuse cases were being solved than before. Beverley Jones, Chief Executive of Next Chapter, stated that it would help to have a common line to say that a drop in reported cases to the Police did not necessarily mean a reduction in the number of domestic abuse incidents.

The Chief Executive noted that an increase in reporting of domestic abuse incidents would not necessarily mean an increase in domestic abuse, as it may reflect a positive that people were more willing to come forward to report and get support. More people were seeking help from charities such as Next Chapter, seeking lives free from abuse. When supporting some victims, it was found that reporting offences to the Police was not always the best outcome for the individual. Some just wanted to pursue the rest of their lives, whilst trauma bonding may mean that some are reticent at seeking legal action. The lengthy criminal justice process, with current

long waiting times in the Courts Service, also sometimes dissuaded victims from reporting to the Police, with the possible stalling of their work to recover from abuse.

The Lead for Partnership Delivery [ECC] noted that North Essex had the highest number of adult mental health cases, highest rates of drug use and violence in all of Essex. The Deputy Chief Constable agreed, emphasising that it was a good thing for more victims of domestic abuse or violence to be getting support, likewise it was good for more perpetrators to be prosecuted, where the victim wanted to report and proceed.

The Committee discussed how it might be best to present the statistics relating to domestic abuse and violence, with the Chief Executive of Next Chapter arguing for publishing the statistic of victims assisted, alongside the Police's statistic of cases reported, as the Police statistics tended to get more coverage than others. The Chief Executive underlined that cases of abuse and violence were all crimes, even if not reported to the Police. Councillor Sommers, Portfolio Holder for Communities, underlined how complex domestic abuse could be, stating that it was important for the victims to do what was right for them and their families, especially bearing in mind the problems caused by the backlog and delays in the courts system. A Committee member urged that statistics relating to supporting victims be given as much consideration as statistics of incidents reported to the Police, with the performance of all relevant partners being assessed. Another member suggested that it would be worth scrutinising why victims did not wish to go to the Police to formally report domestic abuse or violence. The Deputy Chief Constable agreed and underlined the importance of the SCP's work in providing safety to residents, over and above any reported crime or antisocial behaviour.

The partnership work in reducing the drivers of crime and minimising reoffending was praised by the Chair, although a Committee member raised concern at comments he had received from Council Officers/Wardens, who had said that the Police were not sending officers to back them up when dealing with problem individuals. The Committee member noted Council Officer comments that Police deterrence was needed, using high-visibility patrols to help disperse people such as in the City Centre. The District Commander was asked what was needed to bring back Police patrols. The District Commander stated that patrols could be brought back, but direction was needed as to what was wanted. The Police could work with Council Wardens to identify problems. Partnership and information sharing would help to tackle problems. Frontline Police Officers met with Council Wardens regularly, but the District Commander pushed for higher-level meetings with management to set expectations for the Police and Wardens, followed by frontline staff meeting to liaise and work to meet expectations. Daily patrols were already carried out, every fifteen minutes in locations of concern.

The priority to 'work with communities to build resilience and promote safety' was discussed. A Committee member urged the Committee to make recommendations

which reflect the fact that the Business Improvement District [BID] were discontent with performance in this area.

It was noted that there was no mention of rural crime, such as theft of farming plant, and the Police were asked the extent to which they were engaged in preventing rural theft. The District Commander explained that the Rural Engagement Team worked with farmers, having the intelligence and equipment to engage and enforce to prevent crimes, also including hare coursing and illegal encampments. The Team provided advice and guidance to prevent theft, and monitored port operations to seek stolen equipment. It also worked to reassure rural communities and worked with local landowners. Intelligence was shared nationwide, in efforts to tackle thefts made to order.

The Committee discussed how it might be possible to reduce the amount of time officers had to spend on hospital cases, and whether engagement with the NHS could identify ways to achieve this. Mark Shorter, Head of Transformation (NEE Alliance [NHS]), explained that the Police worked with the hospital on this, emphasising the importance of working with the NHS to see how to reduce the demand on officer time. A mental health response vehicle had been commissioned, supported by the Police and by paramedics. This led to a decrease in trips to Accident and Emergency [A&E], and fewer emergencies. 236 people had been seen thus far, helping at least 134 who would otherwise have needed to be seen at A&E. Individuals were diverted to other services, where possible, such as crisis cafes. The NHS nationwide did not have beds in the numbers needed to meet demand for cases of mental health crisis. Work was ongoing by commissioning teams to try to address this. The Lead for Partnership Delivery [ECC] made a plea for the retention of priority five for the SCP, arguing that partnership would be vital to any future strategic plan.

The Chair summarised that there were a number of external factors hindering the SCP's work in Colchester, such as lack of housing, court backlogs and related problems. However, the Committee agreed that the Partnership seemed to be working well. A Committee member argued that there was a need for all partners to consider their corporate communications, especially bearing in mind the media coverage and public perception. Shoplifting remained a problem in the City Centre, with a public perception that this was not being addressed alongside the perception that there was a lack of presence by the Police and lack of PSPO enforcement.

The Chairman asked the SCP representatives what more the Council and Councillors could do to assist the Partnership. The Police District Commander asked Councillors to encourage residents to report all crime to the Police. Nathan Suley, Community Safety Manager [CBH], agreed and asked Councillors to promote self-help measures to residents, including ways to build better relationships within neighbourhoods. Beverley Jones, Chief Executive of Next Chapter, asked Councillors to become Domestic Abuse Ambassadors, learning how to identify potential abuse and violence and to direct victims to organisations which could

support them. The Chairman suggested that the Council may be able to run a training session for Councillors to cover these suggestions and domestic abuse and violence matters. The Lead for Partnership Delivery [ECC] promoted early intervention and partnership to deal with problems before they became acute.

*RESOLVED* that the CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE: -

- a) Concur that the Safer Colchester Partnership is dealing well with its priorities
- b) Holds an additional meeting, within the next six months, to scrutinise the Strategic Assessment document of the Safer Colchester Partnership for the coming year, and to receive benchmarking data against a wider selection of different geographic areas, and an explanation of the divergence of domestic abuse statistics compiled by different partner organisations.

*RECOMMENDED* to the SAFER COLCHESTER PARTNERSHIP that: -

- a) Enhanced efforts be made by all relevant Safer Colchester Partnership partners to enforce the City Centre and vehicular Public Spaces Protection Orders [PSPOs];
- b) Whilst the Crime and Disorder Committee concurs that the Safer Colchester Partnership is dealing well with its priorities, a clearer place within its priorities should be found for addressing fraud, knife crime, shoplifting and other crimes against businesses.





<b>Crime and Disorder Committee</b>		<b>Item</b> <b>7</b>
<b>18 March 2024</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

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

## 2. Decision Required

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

### **3. Reason for the Decision**

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

### **4. Alternative Options**

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

### **5. Background Information**

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

#### Strategic Assessment of Crime Report

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

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

- 5.4 The strategic assessment should include:
- Analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area.
  - Analysis of the changes in those levels and patterns since the previous Strategic Assessment.
  - Analysis of why those changes have occurred.
  - The matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.
  - The matters which the persons living and working in the area consider the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.
  - An assessment of the extent to which the Partnership Plan for the previous year has been implemented.

#### Risk Matrix Completion:

5.5 To assist in the identification of the community safety priorities for 2024-25, a risk matrix of crime types was completed. The matrix “scores” crime types based on frequency or probability, and by the severity and impact that type of crime has on individuals and the wider social network/community. A risk matrix is a visual risk assessment tool that allows the user to define the level of risk associated to multiple factors (e.g., types of crime), against a range of criteria (See Appendix B). Once the matrix was prepared there was a multi-agency forum that was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 comprising of partners from CARA, Colchester City Council, Essex Police, Next Chapter and Essex County Council Adult Social Care.

5.6 The following areas scored the highest for Colchester:

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

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

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

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

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

This year (24/25) it is proposed that the CSP takes this a step further, with a change in the wording to enable individuals/communities to recognise and take responsibility for some of the wider societal issues that need addressing.

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

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

The importance and impact of corporate communications is key to addressing the above perception issues, as is the ongoing encouragement relating to reporting of crime through the correct channels.

### Benchmarking Data

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 5.13 Business Crime Data

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

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

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

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

#### 6 Year Crime Comparison:

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

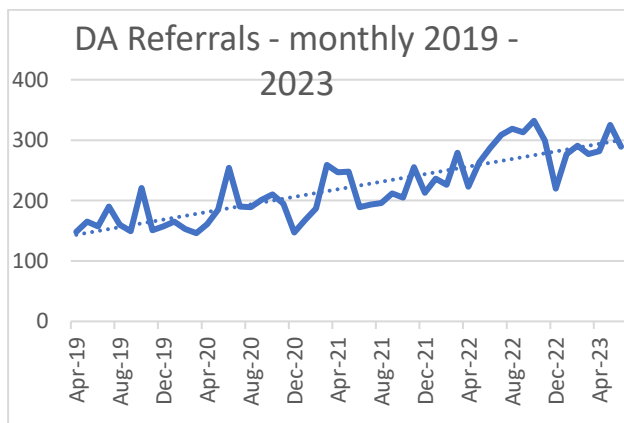
## Anti-Social Behaviour 5 Year Trend:



## Domestic Abuse Statistics

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Essex Police**

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

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

Local Police Operations include:

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

**CARA**

Between 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 included:**

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

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

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

## **Next Chapter**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Colchester City Council**

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

Home Office Safer Streets funded projects to address VAWG including:

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

### **Colchester Borough Homes**

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

DA cases supported (CBH tenants): 20.

DA cases supported (non CBH tenants): 14.

### **Essex Children and Families Services (ECFS)**

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

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

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

### **Probation Service**

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

## **6. PSPO Enforcement Update**

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

- Vehicular Nuisance
- City Centre
- Dog Fouling

Since September 2023 enforcement of PSPO's as below:

### **Tasks raised and actioned:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **7. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

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

## **8. Strategic Plan References**

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

## **9. Consultation**

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

## 10. Publicity Considerations

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

## 11. Financial implications

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

## 12. Community Safety Implications

The Community Safety implications are the subject of this report.

## 13. Health and Safety Implications

There are no specific Health and Safety Implications.

## 14. Risk Management Implications

There are no specific risk implications.

### ACRONYMS:

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

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

**Appendices:**

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

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





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## CONTENTS

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
1.1.	Aim & Purpose.....	4
1.2.	Data Parameters.....	4
1.3.	Key Findings.....	4
1.4.	Strategic Priorities.....	5
1.5.	Matters for the Attention of Safer Essex.....	5
2.	BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....	6
2.1.	The Partnership.....	6
2.2.	Horizon Scan.....	6
2.3.	Police Fire & Crime Commissioner.....	7
2.4.	Essex Police.....	7
2.5.	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service.....	8
2.6.	Safer Essex.....	8
2.7.	Colchester City Council.....	9
3.	POPULATION.....	10
3.1.	District Profile.....	10
3.2.	Population Profile.....	11
3.3.	Health Profile.....	12
4.	ASSESSMENT OF PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023/24.....	13
4.1.	2023/24 Community Safety Plan Priorities.....	13
4.2.	Implementation of 2023/24 Community Safety Plan.....	13
5.	PUBLIC PERCEPTION.....	15
5.1.	Safer Essex Community Safety Survey 2023.....	15
5.2.	Essex County Council Resident’s Survey.....	16
5.3.	Essex Police Public Perception Survey.....	16
5.4.	Feedback from Colchester Annual Public Meeting.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
5.5.	Other Local Consultation & Engagement.....	17
6.	CRIME & ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DATA.....	18
6.1.	Factors Impacting On Crime & ASB Data.....	18
6.2.	Crime Data.....	18
6.3.	Rural Crime.....	19
6.4.	Fraud & Cyber Offences.....	20
6.5.	Anti-Social Behaviour Data – Essex Police.....	21

6.6.	ASB Data – Colchester City Council .....	22
7.	ESSEX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE DATA.....	23
7.1.	Incidents Attended .....	23
7.2.	Fires .....	23
7.3.	False Alarms, Special Service Incidents and Road Traffic Collisions .....	24
7.4.	Prevention Activity .....	24
8.	HIDDEN HARMS .....	25
8.1.	Domestic Abuse.....	25
8.2.	Violence Against Women & Girls .....	28
8.3.	Hate Crime.....	28
8.4.	Missing Persons.....	29
8.5.	Child Exploitation .....	30
8.6.	Prevent (Counter Terrorism).....	30
8.7.	Drugs & Alcohol.....	30
9.	SERIOUS & ORGANISED CRIME.....	33
9.1.	Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking.....	33
9.2.	Organised Crime.....	33
9.3.	Drugs & County Lines .....	34
9.4.	Serious Violence (Violence & Vulnerability Unit).....	35
9.5.	Trading Standards .....	35
10.	OFFENDER MANAGEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE.....	36
10.1.	Integrated Offender Management.....	36
10.2.	Youth Offending Service .....	36
10.3.	Probation .....	37
11.	RISK MATRIX.....	40

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1.1. Aim & Purpose

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

The strategic assessment should include:

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

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

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

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

### 1.2. Data Parameters

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

Data sources are referenced at the start of each section.

### 1.3. Key Findings

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

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

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

#### 1.4. Strategic Priorities

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

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

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

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

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

The draft CSP Priorities for Colchester are:

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

#### 1.5. Matters for the Attention of Safer Essex

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

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

## 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### 2.1. The Partnership

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

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

#### Current Partnership Structure

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

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

### 2.2. Horizon Scan

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

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

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

### 2.3. Police Fire & Crime Commissioner

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

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

### 2.4. Essex Police

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

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

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

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

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

## 2.5. Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

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

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

## 2.6. Safer Essex

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

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

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



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

Continue to deliver effective Community Safety Hubs across Greater Essex.

## **2.7. Colchester City Council – Strategic Plan**

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

### 3. POPULATION

#### 3.1. District Profile

Data Source: Colchester City Council

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

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

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



### 3.2. Population Profile

Data Source: Essex County Council / Office for National Statistics

#### Demography

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

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

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

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

#### Households

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

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

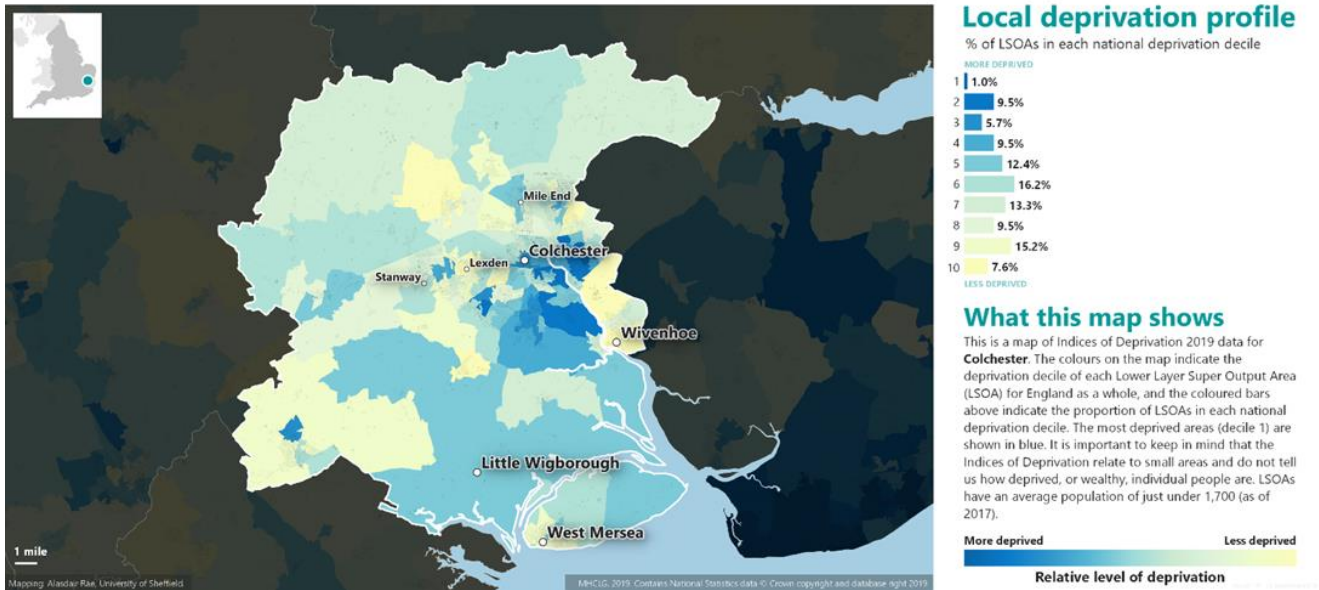
Colchester has the highest number of residents living in communal establishments, 5,098 (2.6% of Colchester residents). It is the only district within greater Essex with a higher than England proportion of residents in communal establishments.

#### Migration

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

# English Indices of Deprivation 2019

## COLCHESTER



### 3.3. Health Profile

Data Source: Essex County Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 4. ASSESSMENT OF PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023/24

### 4.1. 2023/24 Community Safety Plan Priorities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Key projects over the last 12 months include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 5. PUBLIC PERCEPTION

### 5.1. Safer Essex Community Safety Survey 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

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

### 5.2. Essex County Council Resident's Survey

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

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

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

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

### 5.3. Essex Police Public Perception Survey

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

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

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

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

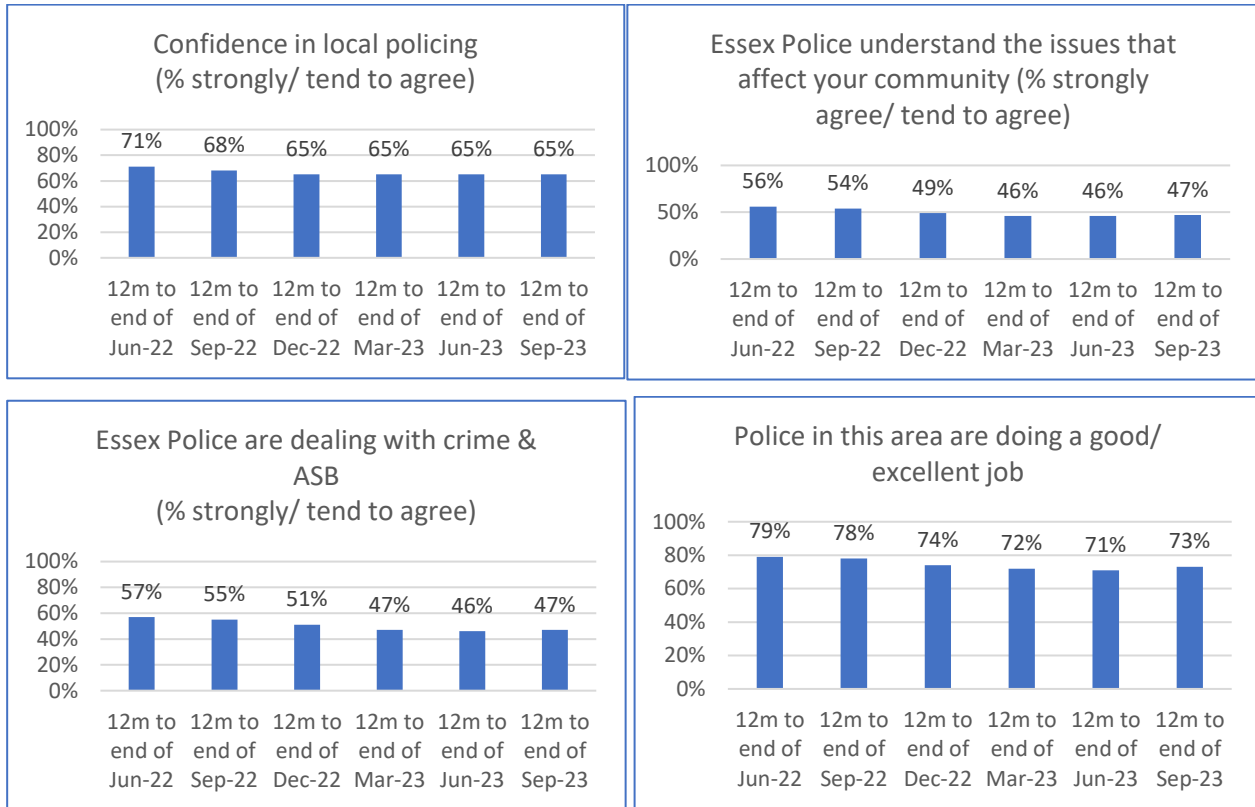
Perception that EP (Essex Police) understand the issues in the community saw an annual decrease of 3% pts., from 55% last year to 52% this year.



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

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

Results specific to Colchester can be found below.



**5.4. Other Local Consultation & Engagement**

Data Source:

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

**6. CRIME & ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DATA**

**6.1. Factors Impacting on Crime & ASB Data**

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

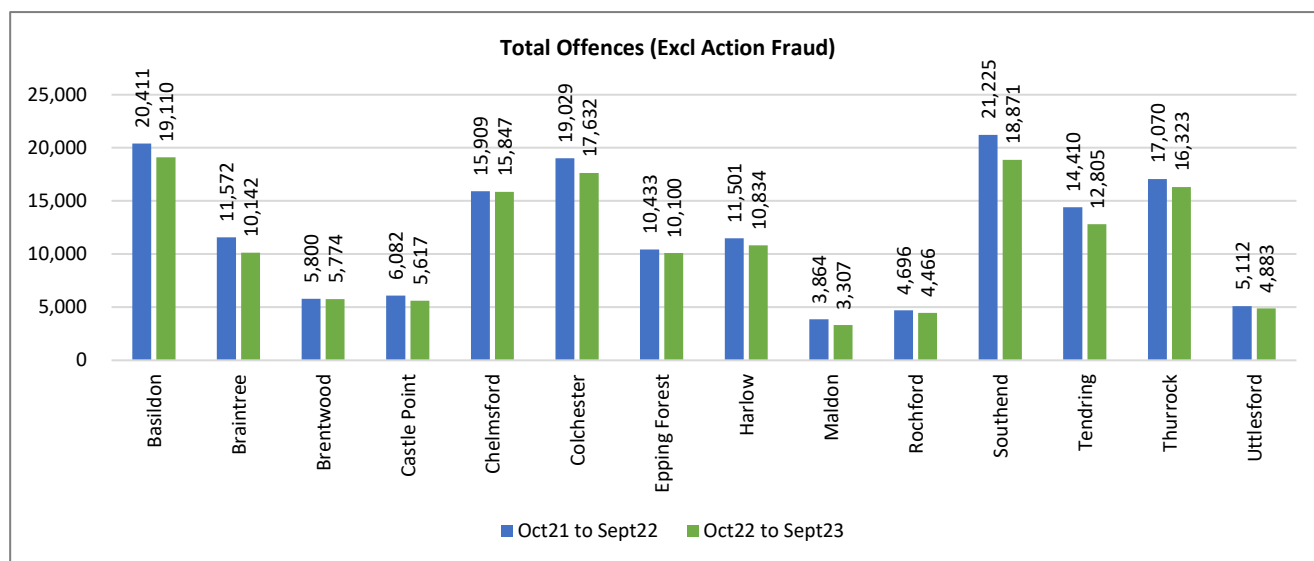
- Stalking & Harassment: There was a change in recording processes in July 2022 which will account for some of the reduction in offences during this period.
- Trafficking of Drugs: The increase in offences will be largely because of proactive activity to identify and target county/drugs lines.

**6.2. Crime Data**

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

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

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



Offence	Difference 21/22 to 22/23				Difference 21/22 to 22/23		Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct22 to Sept23	
	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff.	% diff.	#	Rank
Homicide	3	3	2	17.6%	0	0.0%	0.02	3
Violence With Injury	2,031	1,984	1	13.4%	-47	-2.3%	10.30	1

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

### 6.3. Rural Crime

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 6.4. Fraud & Cyber Offences

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

In 2022/23 in Essex there were 8,446 fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud with a total payment amount of £64,362,853. This was a decrease of 16% on the 10,105 recorded in 2021/22 (with a payment amount of £140,118,284).

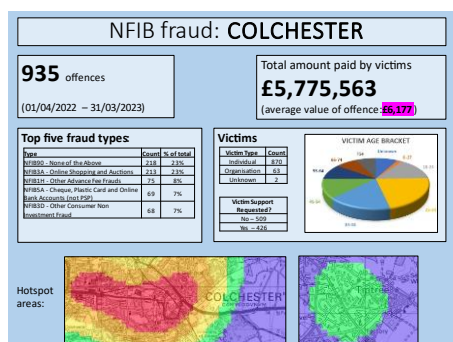
In 2022/23 there were 935 offences recorded in Colchester with a total payment amount of £5,775,563. This is a decrease of 16% on the 1,111 recorded in 2021/22. The payment amount however has increased from £2,749,369. In 2022/23 AREA showed the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest level of offences of all 14 areas.

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

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

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

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



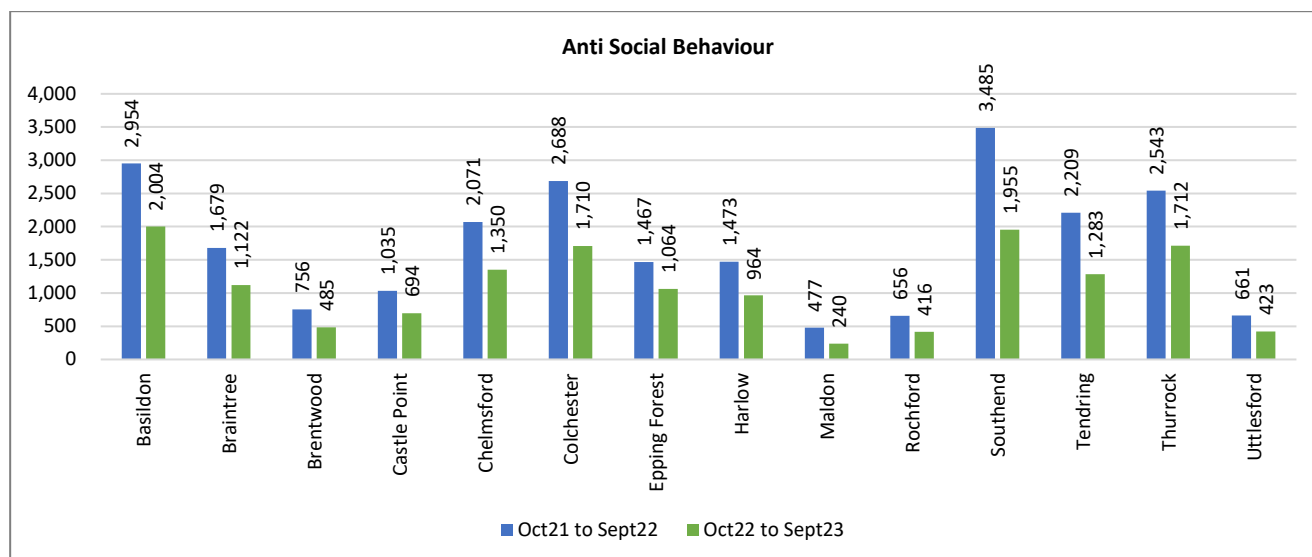
**6.5. Anti-Social Behaviour Data – Essex Police**

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

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

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

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



## 6.6. ASB Data – Colchester City Council

Data Source: [Colchester City Council / Colchester Borough Homes / Crime and Disorder Committee Report](#)

### Colchester City Council:

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

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

### Colchester Borough Homes

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

## 7. ESSEX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE DATA

### 7.1. Incidents Attended

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

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

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

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

### 7.2. Fires

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**7.4. Prevention Activity**

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

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

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

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

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

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



**8. HIDDEN HARMS**

**8.1. Domestic Abuse**

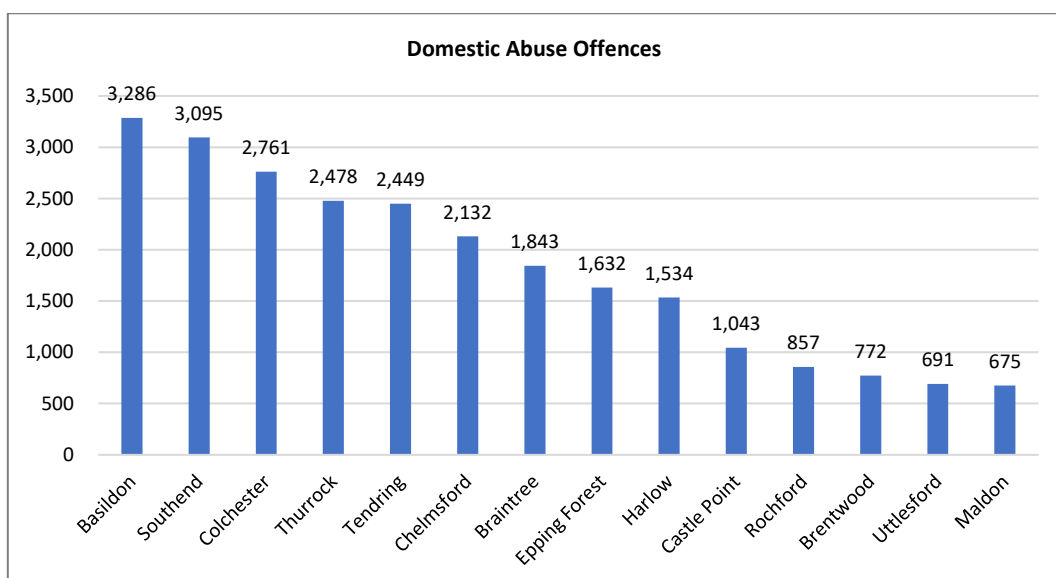
Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023.

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

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

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

Domestic Abuse - Colchester								
Domestic Abuse Risk Level	Total Incidents				Difference 21/22 to 22/23		Incidents Per 1,000 Population Oct22 to Sept23	
	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff.	% diff.	#	Rank
High Risk	311	296	3	10.7%	-15	-4.8%	1.54	6
Medium Risk	460	461	1	13.8%	1	0.2%	2.39	1
Standard Risk	2,380	1,828	3	10.4%	-552	-23.2%	9.49	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>2,761</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>-497</b>	<b>-15.3%</b>	<b>14.33</b>	<b>5</b>



## Next Chapter

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

Next Chapter offers:

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

For more information and for referral pathways, please see our newly refreshed website

[www.thenextchapter.org.uk](http://www.thenextchapter.org.uk)

## Report – Total Referrals

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

## Report – Referral Source

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

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

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

Report – Gender

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

Report – Type of Abuse

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

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

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

## 8.2. Violence Against Women & Girls

Data Source: CARA

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

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

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

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

The services that CARA provides for victims and survivors:

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

For more information and for referral pathways, please see our website [www.caraessex.org.uk](http://www.caraessex.org.uk)

## 8.3. Hate Crime

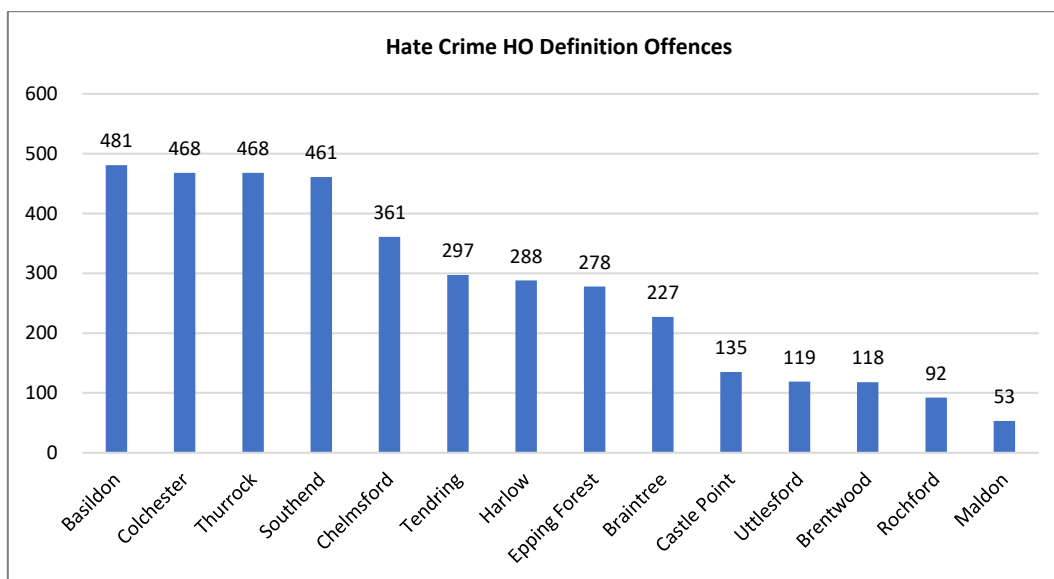
Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for October 2022 to September 2023.

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

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

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

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



**8.4. Missing Persons**

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

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

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

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

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

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

For HIGH RISK Missing Children:

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

### 8.5. Child Exploitation

Data Source: Essex Children’s Safeguarding Board

Data has not been provided.

### 8.6. Prevent (Counter Terrorism)

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

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

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

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

The current priorities for the Essex Prevent Delivery Group are:

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

### 8.7. Drugs & Alcohol

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

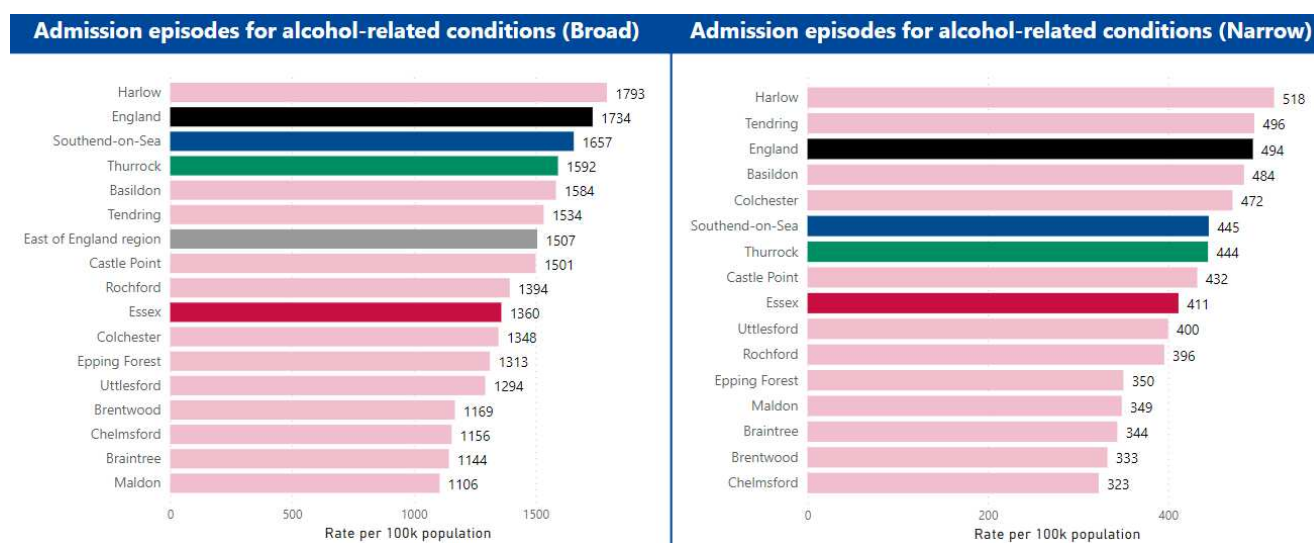
**NHS hospital admission episodes where there was a primary diagnosis of drug related mental and behavioural disorders (2019/20):** Southend saw a rate of 78 per 100,000 population and Essex a rate of 45, both above the regional average of 39 and England average of 39. Thurrock had a rate that was the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

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

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

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

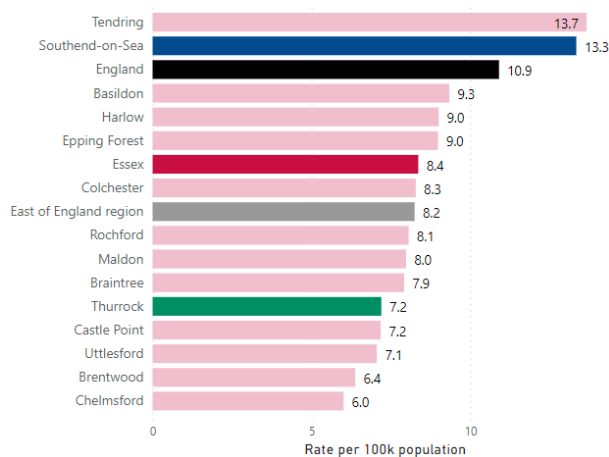
**Hospital admissions attributable to alcohol, narrow (2021/22):** Southend had a rate of 445 per 100,000 population, Thurrock had a rate of 444 and Essex a rate of 411, all below the England average of 494. Within Essex, there were 2 Districts with rates above the England average: Harlow (518) and Tendring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



**Broad definition:** A measure of hospital admissions where either the primary diagnosis (main reason for admission) or one of the secondary (contributory) diagnoses is an alcohol-related condition. This represents a Broad measure of alcohol-related admissions but is sensitive to changes in coding practice over time.  
**Narrow definition:** A measure of hospital admissions where the primary diagnosis (main reason for admission) is an alcohol-related condition. This represents a Narrower measure. Since every hospital admission must have a primary diagnosis it is less sensitive to coding practices but may also understate the part alcohol plays in the admission.

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

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE



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

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

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

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

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

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



## 9. SERIOUS & ORGANISED CRIME

### 9.1. Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

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

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

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

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

### 9.2. Organised Crime

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 9.3. Drugs & County Lines

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

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

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

**9.4. Serious Violence (Violence & Vulnerability Unit)**

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

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

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

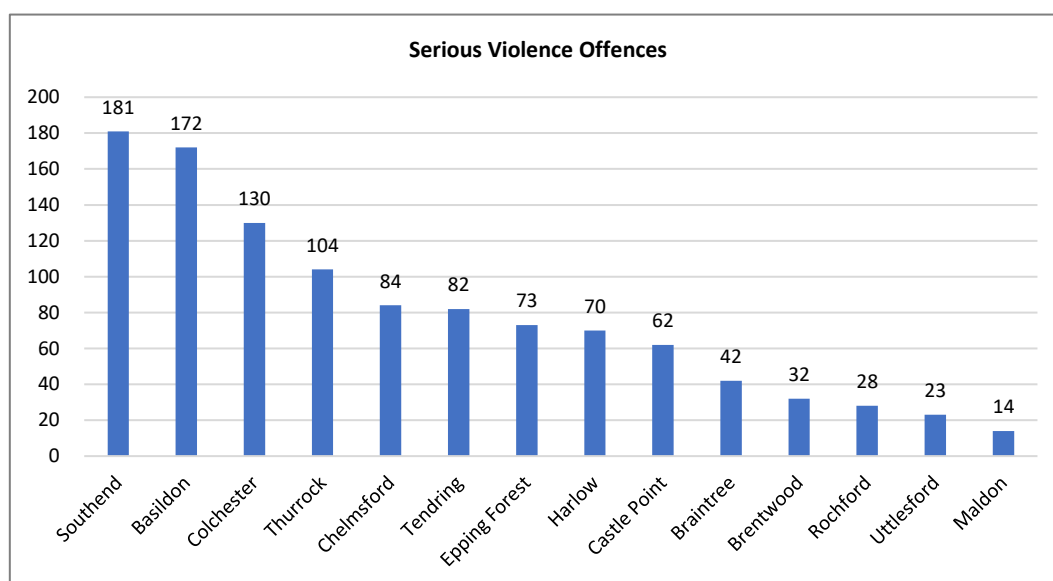
The wards recording the highest number of incidents are:

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

New Town: 18 (increase from 10 in previous 12 months)

Greenstead: 17 (increase from 13 in previous 12 months)

Mile End: 12 (increase from 3 in previous 12 months)



**9.5. Trading Standards**

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

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

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

Intelligence

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

Test Purchases Undertaken

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

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

Sales made.

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

**10. OFFENDER MANAGEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE****10.1. Integrated Offender Management**

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

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

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

**10.2. Youth Offending Service**

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

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

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

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

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

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

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

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

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

### 10.3. Probation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 11. RISK MATRIX

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

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

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

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



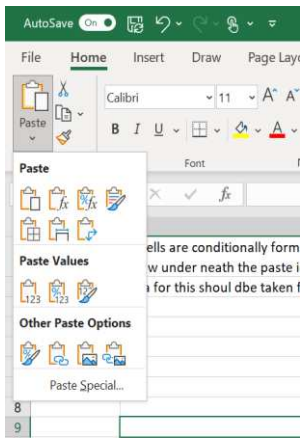
## OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

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



General
Column A
Columns B&C
Column D
Column E
Column F to I
Column J to Q
Column R
Column S
Column T&U

All cells are conditionally formatted - so when entering data you need to make sure you paste values only (click on the little down arrow under neath the paste icon at the top left of the screen and then select the first option under Paste Values)
You do not need to enter anything in this column
Data for this should be taken from the spreadsheet titled 'SIA Crime Comparison Tables' with the exception of the ASB data which comes from spreadsheet titled 'ASB data'
You do not need to enter anything in this column - it will automatically calculate
Data for this should be taken from the spreadsheet titled 'Crime Overview District Data' with the exception of the ASB data which comes from spreadsheet titled 'ASB data'
You do not need to enter anything in these columns - they will automatically calculate
You do not need to enter anything in these columns - they have been pre populated with Essex wide scores
Enter 1 or 0 based on if the offence is a priority (1) or not a priority (0) for your CSP
Enter 1 or 0 based on if the offence is a priority (1) or not a priority (0) for the community using the data from the Community Safety Survey
You do not need to enter anything in these columns - they will automatically calculate



Offence	Volume			
	Oct 2022 to Sept 2023	Oct 2021 to Sept 2022	Score	Essex Ranking (1=lowest)
<b>Violence Against The Person</b>	7703	8532	2	12
Homicide	3	3	1	13
Violence With Injury	1984	2031	1	14
Death Or Serious Injury Caused By Unlawful Driving	5	1	1	12
Violence Without Injury	3409	3592	1	12
Stalking & Harassment	2302	2905	1	12
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	763	904	1	14
Rape	336	405	1	14
Other Sexual Offences	427	499	1	13
<b>Robbery</b>	188	137	1	13
Robbery - Business	18	8	1	12
Robbery - Personal	170	129	1	13
<b>Burglary</b>	669	753	1	10
Burglary - Residential	225	276	1	10
Burglary - Business & Community	444	477	1	14
<b>Vehicle Offences</b>	1052	827	1	7
Theft From A Motor Vehicle	485	427	1	7
Theft Of A Motor Vehicle	378	280	1	7
Vehicle Interference	189	120	1	11
<b>Theft</b>	2984	2926	1	10
Theft From The Person	116	117	1	11
Bicycle Theft	332	271	1	14
Shoplifting	1157	1121	1	10
Other Theft	1379	1417	1	11
<b>Arson &amp; Criminal Damage</b>	1604	1855	1	13
Criminal Damage	1508	1711	1	12
Arson	96	144	1	11
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	2761	3258	1	12
High Risk Domestic Abuse	296	311	1	12
Medium Risk Domestic Abuse	461	460	1	14
Standard Risk Domestic Abuse	1828	2380	1	12
<b>Drug Offences</b>	574	604	1	12
Trafficking Of Drugs	148	132	1	9
Possession Of Drugs	426	472	1	12
<b>Possession Of Weapons Offences</b>	169	149	1	12
<b>Public Order Offences</b>	1584	1978	1	12
<b>Hate Crime HO Definition</b>	468	574	1	13
<b>ASB (Police)</b>	1720	2699	1	11
Environment	93	100	1	14
Nuisance	944	877	1	11
Personal	673	1,711	1	12

Risk Matrix								
Performance				Harm, Risk & Impact				
# Difference	% Difference	Score	Trend Compared To Essex	Harm to Property	Physical Harm to People	Psychological Harm to People	Risk to Vulnerable Groups	Hidden Crime
-829	-9.7%	-1	2	0	2	2	1	1
0	0.0%	0	ERROR	0	2	2	1	0
-47	-2.3%	0	2	0	2	2	1	1
4	400.0%	0	1	0	2	2	0	0
-183	-5.1%	-1	2	0	0	2	1	1
-603	-20.8%	-2	2	0	0	2	1	1
-141	-15.6%	-2	2	0	2	2	1	2
-69	-17.0%	-2	2	0	2	2	1	2
-72	-14.4%	-2	2	0	2	2	1	2
51	37.2%	2	1	2	1	2	1	0
10	125.0%	0	1	2	1	2	0	0
41	31.8%	0	1	2	1	2	1	0
-84	-11.2%	-2	2	2	0	2	1	0
-51	-18.5%	-2	2	2	0	2	1	0
-33	-6.9%	0	2	2	0	1	0	0
225	27.2%	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
58	13.6%	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
98	35.0%	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
69	57.5%	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
58	2.0%	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
-1	-0.9%	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
61	22.5%	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
36	3.2%	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
-38	-2.7%	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
-251	-13.5%	-2	2	2	0	1	1	0
-203	-11.9%	-2	2	1	0	1	0	0
-48	-33.3%	0	2	2	1	1	1	0
-497	-15.3%	-2	2	0	2	2	2	2
-15	-4.8%	0	2	0	2	2	2	2
1	0.2%	0	1	0	2	2	2	2
-552	-23.2%	-2	2	0	1	2	2	2
-30	-5.0%	0	2	0	0	0	2	2
16	12.1%	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
-46	-9.7%	0	2	0	0	0	2	1
20	13.4%	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
-394	-19.9%	-2	2	0	0	0	0	0
-106	-18.5%	-2	2	0	1	2	2	2
-979	-36.3%	-2	2	0	0	2	2	1
-7	-7.0%	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
67	7.6%	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
-1,038	-60.7%	-2	2	0	0	2	1	1

CSP Approach of Benefit	Priorities				Total	Rank
	PFCC Priority	Police Priority	Local Priority (CSP)	Community Priority (CSP)		
1	1	0			23	
1	1	0	1	1	9	31
1	1	1	2	2	30	3
0	1	0	0	0	19	23
1	1	0	1	1	22	16
2	1	0	2	2	24	10
1	1	1			25	
1	1	1	2	2	29	4
1	1	0	2	2	27	7
1	0	1			25	
0	0	0	1	1	21	21
1	0	1	1	1	25	8
1	0	1			18	
1	0	1	2	1	21	21
0	1	0	1	0	22	16
1	0	0			14	
1	0	0	1	1	16	28
1	0	0	1	1	16	28
1	0	0	0	0	17	25
1	0	0			15	
1	0	0	0	0	17	25
1	0	0	1	1	22	16
1	0	0	1	1	16	28
1	0	0	0	0	16	28
2	0	0			20	
2	0	0	1	1	19	23
2	0	0	1	0	22	16
2	1	1			25	
2	1	1	2	2	31	2
2	1	1	2	2	32	1
2	1	1	2	2	28	6
1	1	1			22	
1	1	1	2	2	22	16
1	0	1	1	2	23	11
1	1	0	2	2	22	16
1	0	0	0	1	15	30
2	0	1	2	2	28	6
2	0	0			19	
2	0	0	1	2	24	10
2	0	0	1	2	22	16
2	0	0	1	2	22	16



Volume	
1	>4999
2	5000 to 14,999
3	>15,000

Performance	
-2	10% Or More Decrease
-1	Under 10% Decrease
1	Under 10% Increase
2	10% Or More Increase
0	Actual change is less than 50 offences

Trend Compared to Essex	
-2	CSP is showing decrease or static BUT Essex is showing increase
-1	CSP is showing decrease or static AND Essex is showing decrease
0	CSP is the static AND Essex is static
1	CSP is showing increase AND Essex is showing increase
2	CSP is showing increase BUT Essex is showing decrease

CSP Approach of Benefit	
0	No benefit
1	Some benefit
2	Strong benefit





### **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. Planning underway for 2024 delivery.	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.	Dates held in Spring and Autumn 2023. Further dates planned for 2024.	1,2,3,4	Complex Needs / Organised Crime
	Op MakeSafe	Spot checks on hotels checking for signs of exploitation.	Several failures – education given. Further checks will follow.		
	Op Jupiter	Safeguarding for young people in conjunction with Colchester Institute. Educating on issues including knife crime and substance misuse.			
	Op Wolfskin	To tackle vulnerability in the North of Essex and involves a large number of children and young adults. This operation is focussed on disruption of this vulnerability and safeguarding those involved.	Partners engaged to support Police.		
	Test Purchasing Exercise	Using police cadets, checks made on businesses selling to underage young people – checks relating to alcohol, vapes, knives.	3 premises failed and were reported. Further test purchasing taking place in January 2024.		

	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.	Ongoing.	2,7,8,12	Organised Crime / Serious Violence
<b>Progress initiatives to combat Violent Crime, County Lines and Knife Crime</b>	Op Raptor	Op Raptor operations occur on a regular and ongoing basis.	Successes resulting in disruption of lines, individuals charged and remanded, seizure of phones, drugs and money.	1,2,4	Serious Violence
	Op Spade	Dog deployment operation in city centre, focusing on detection of knives and drugs. Additional engagement opportunity.			
	Knife Angel	Hosted 1 <sup>st</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> October. Included opportunity to engage with visitors and raise awareness of knife/violent crime. Series of workshops for young people through schools/colleges. Linked into the VVU Knife Crime awareness campaign in October, and the play that was delivered to secondary schools.	90,000 visitors 6492 conversations with visitors 26 workshops for schools/colleges – 669 students attended. 3000 pupils watched bespoke play 343 attended Fire Education Team – Additional educational workshops 400 Attended United Against Knife Crime – educational workshops		
	Its About Your Son	Production funded by Violence and Vulnerability Unit and Colchester Council. The production toured Colchester secondary schools, to coincide with the			

		Knife Angel in Colchester. The drama was engaging and impactful and featured a cast of local performers. It centred around four characters coming to terms with the impact of a knife crime, for individuals, families, and communities.			
	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.	Servator week of Action October 2023. Numerous deployments and engagement in city Centre, with businesses, at railway station. Resulting proactive arrest and resolution conversations.	1,2,3,6	Vulnerabilities
<b>Raise awareness of Modern Slavery and the support available</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 Against Modern Slavery' CAMS launched and Action Plan outlined.	Conference attended by over 45 delegates in April 2023. First partnership meeting held in June 2023. Task and Finish groups formed and met in August/September 2023 and ongoing. Steering Group formed to oversee Partnership. Forum working effectively.	3,5,8,10 12	Organised Crime
	Participate in campaigns to raise awareness of exploitation	Campaigns including Anti-Slavery Day	Awareness raising event and social media campaign 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	Strategy updated and available on website.	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. Sharing of Hate Crime Survey developed by Hate Crime Strategic Partnership.	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. Police Week of Action in October.	Social media content prepared and shared.	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. Ongoing – Thursdays.	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	Diversions 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.	Ongoing- focus on initiatives already in place, including Box Smart, Premier league Kicks, the Rugby Club, and engagement with Garrison.	1,3,4,5,10,12	Vulnerabilities / Violent Crime
	Boxsmart 'On the Ropes'	Programme delivered in several locations across Colchester. Aimed at both secondary and tertiary young people via referral from YOS, YS, Turnaround (MOJ funded project) Childrens Social services teams and education. offer sports plus session which includes mentoring, topical discussions, guest speakers, sports and training and volunteering ( youth sports mentors and leaders qualifications) opportunities extended Programme extended from 9 weeks to 24 weeks (2 x 12 week courses) to allow for sustained engagement and mentoring with young people who are vulnerable or at risk/already involved in ASB/offending behaviour.	The first of the 12-week courses completed – second part due to complete June 2024. 17 young people registered. All achieved significant positive change in behaviour. Other outcomes reported.		
	Girls with Goals – rebranded to Girls Inspired Project	3 programmes funded by Safer Streets. Engaging with both victims and perpetrators of crime. To divert away from criminal behaviour. Participated in activities including boxing, first aid and self defence. A further 6 courses are planned from January 2024 with weekly sessions, mentoring,	Over 32 girls participated and achieved range of certificates. Reports of increased school attendance,		

		training and qualification and volunteering opportunities.	improved attitude and behaviour.		
	Active Essex Foundation led After School Intervention	After school (secondary age intervention) at Urban Extreme, Changing Lives and Ninja Warrior. All are funded by AEF and others and offer sports sessions plus mentoring, topical discussions, guest speakers, sports and training opportunities.			
	Essex Youth Service detached youth work	Delivering detached youth work fortnightly in the Hythe area. 8-week trial of detached youth work in an area of Colchester identified by Colchester City Council and Essex Police – February 2024.			
	Dry Skate Project	New project started at Colchester Townhouse (Dry Skate Project – indoor skateboarding) for young people.			
<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. Further being developed for daytime hospitality.	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. Best Bar None assessment		

			and Purple Flag achieved. Portal launched. SOS bus launch February 2024.		
<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
	Op Dial	Police and Council led patrols of hotspot areas including Greenstead and Colchester Leisure World. Commenced July 2023 and ongoing until April 2024. St Mary's added as additional hotspot area December 2023.	Ongoing monitoring of ASB data in line with patrols.		
	Op Grip	High visibility police patrols in hotspot areas.	Ongoing monitoring of ASB data and hotspot areas reviewed.		
	Op Bugg	High visibility patrols in the Dutch quarter and North Station area. This is to tackle drug supply and ASB associated with use of drugs.	Ongoing		
	Op Stronghold	Engagement and problem-solving focus for hotspots identified in the city centre. Multi-agency activity.	February 2024		
	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 held in September –	2,9	Vulnerabilities

			resulting in renewal of PSPO.		
	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.	Increased membership encouraged through partnership working.		Vulnerabilities / Organised Crime
	ASB Toolkit	Document to help Councillors, public know when and how to report the different types of ASB.	Circulated to Councillors – November 23.		
	Transport Support Officers (TSO's)	Department of Transport funded project to tackle ASB on public transport. TSO's will patrol targeted transport links including Colchester rail routes, to deal with low level nuisance and disorder.	Launching January 2024.		

**Priority Three: Support victims of**

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

Objective	Project / Initiative	About the Project / Initiative	Outcomes	PFCC Priority	ECPS Strand
<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 local and national awareness campaigns including 16 Days of Action, Violence Against Women Day, National Stalking Awareness Week.		3,4,5	Complex Needs
	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	Regular partnership updates/meetings to review outcomes. Excellent feedback	2,3,4,5	Complex Needs

		support for CYP affected by domestic abuse, and support from a Domestic Abuse Housing Practitioner. Extended until March 2024.	and positive outcomes achieved. Confirmation of further extension of programme for 2024-25.		
	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 held throughout September 2023. Further funding achieved through Safer Streets 5 to extend project.		
	ECFRS VAWG Firebreak	The course was developed in collaboration with ECC and the University of Essex. Focuses on behavioural and healthy relationships awareness that explores the consequences of low-level behaviours which may lead to violence, misogyny and harm towards women and girls.			
<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.	Ongoing	3,4,5	Complex Needs
	CARA – Specialist Sexual Violence Counselling	Funded by ECC in addition to the services they provide. This project supports victims part of a DA relationship in refuge, dispersed accommodation, sanctuary scheme.	Ongoing – further funding achieved through SS5 for Mile End for 2024-25.		
	VAWG Safe Space pilot	Safe space launched at Sports Park, to encourage those experiencing sexual harassment, feelings of unease to speak with trained staff and receive signposting to appropriate support. Increase	Launch date 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2023. Ongoing monitoring		

		intelligence gathering to build picture of any individuals or areas causing concern.	of response and further comms.		
	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
	Op Sandy	Police operation throughout the summer of 2023. Patrols by sexual violence trained officers in the NTE to support vulnerable people and get people home safely.	Engagement with SOS bus, transport hubs. Prevention of multiple disturbances Supported vulnerable females to get home safely Missing people found		
	Safe Space in NTE	Linked to Op Grip patrols. Offering safe space in NTE for vulnerable people in need. Deployments have continued in city centre over festive period and OP GRIP team have completed a night-time economy survey with the public.	Survey results to follow but highlight concerns around lighting, public transport and taxis.		
	Commonplace Tool	Tool developed to capture public perception of places they feel safe/unsafe and share their views on what could be put in place to improve these places. <a href="#">Commonplace perception tool</a>	Tool shared with CSP partners. Consultation in progress until Spring 2024. Analysis will then commence.		
	DAHA Accreditation	Colchester Borough Homes applying for DAHA accreditation (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance). Establishes best practice when dealing with and supporting survivors of DA. It then implements this best practice across organisations to ensure every survivor gets the same level of support.	Application is process.		

<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	Operations listed under each priority.			
	Op Gerberara	Home office funded project whereby police officers in plain clothes and uniform are being deployed to the city centre to identify possible vulnerabilities and act before they occur. Working with NTE venues and security to improve the safety within the NTE.			
<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.	Ongoing. Now incorporates ASB Panel.	1,2,6	Organised Crime
<b>Early Engagement/ Interventions opportunities</b>	Sporting Events with Essex Police	Essex Police run sporting activity to engage young people and divert away from crime. Positive role model and improve perception of policing. Ballin with a Bobby and events with Essex Rebels.	Various events through Spring/Summer		
	Partnership task and finish group	Task and Finish Group formed to look at early intervention activity that can be implemented to tackle youth offending/asb.	Formed February 2024.		Vulnerabilities
	TAFSO – Team Around the Family Support Officers	Funded by the VVU. ECC Children and Families - early help for families includes young people.	Promoted through the partnership.		

	Essex Youth Justice Service delivery	Turnaround project POWER project	Ongoing delivery		
<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. Working with Essex Police on a project supplying informative data to assist in identifying crime prevention strategies.	Sharing NHW benefits and useful website links via CSDB partners.		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 Reach Out for Mental Health – football event March 2024.	Light up Green – castle and Town Hall 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 organisations to all work together on suicide prevention for Colchester. Forum used to share messaging.	First meeting June 2023. Meet quarterly. New ECC suicide prevention role recruited – leading group for 2024.	10, 12	Complex Needs
<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. Results of survey included in Strategic Assessment of Crime.	1-12	Serious Violence / Vulnerabilities / Organised Crime / Complex Needs
	Outreach Events	University of Essex events supported by partners including Police, Paramedics, BID and KAT	Positive feedback from students, numerous		



		Marketing, to share safety messaging. Events including Freshers Fayre.	students engaged and messaging shared.		
	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.	Ongoing by ECFRS – stats included in Strategic Assessment of Crime report.	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>	Messaging shared through CSDB.		
	Stroll with a Patrol	Police initiative to engage the community and partners to understand community issues. Events held across all wards in Colchester.	42 events held between May and September 2023.		





<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.

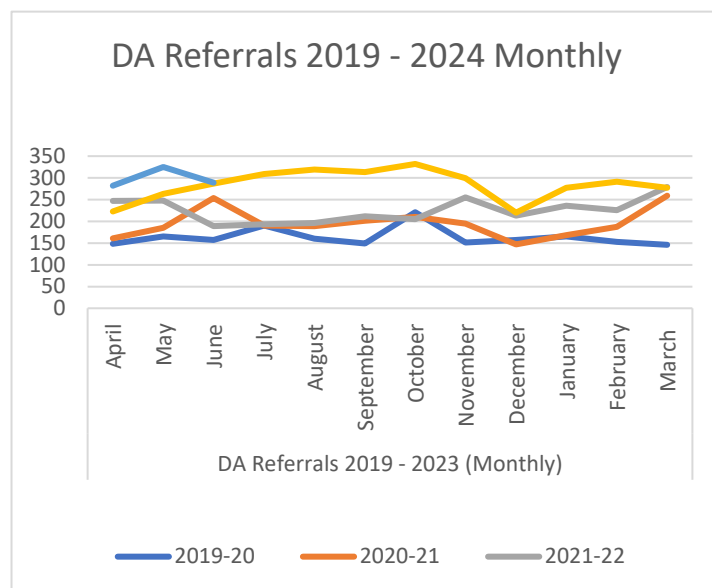
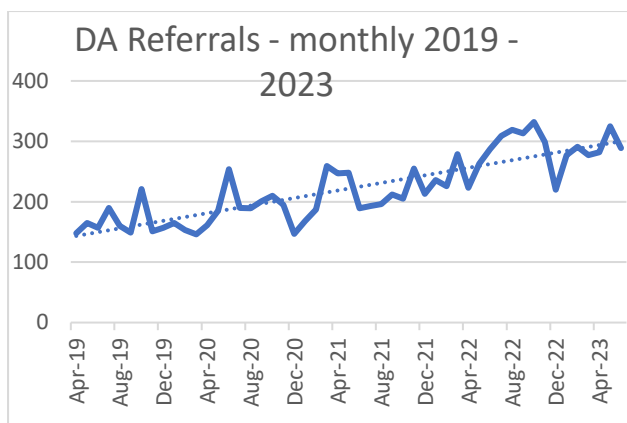
Community-based services offer safety planning & advice, advocacy, support & access to recovery group-work, counselling services and signposting to other services as required. Our Community DAP (Domestic Abuse Practitioner) Team supports individuals who are assessed as having a standard or medium risk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

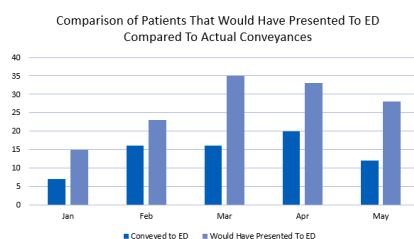
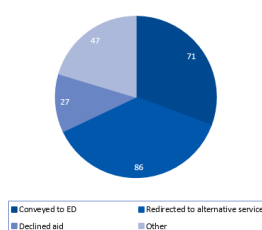
### 10.8 SNEE Integrated Care Board

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.

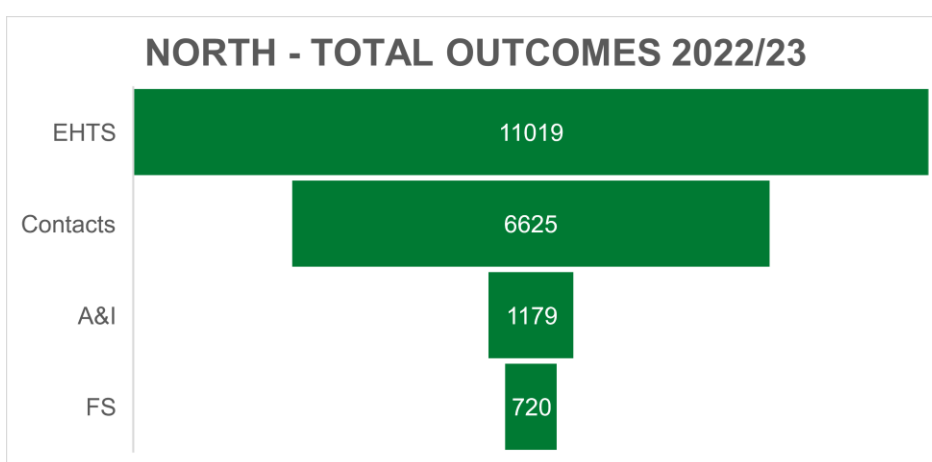
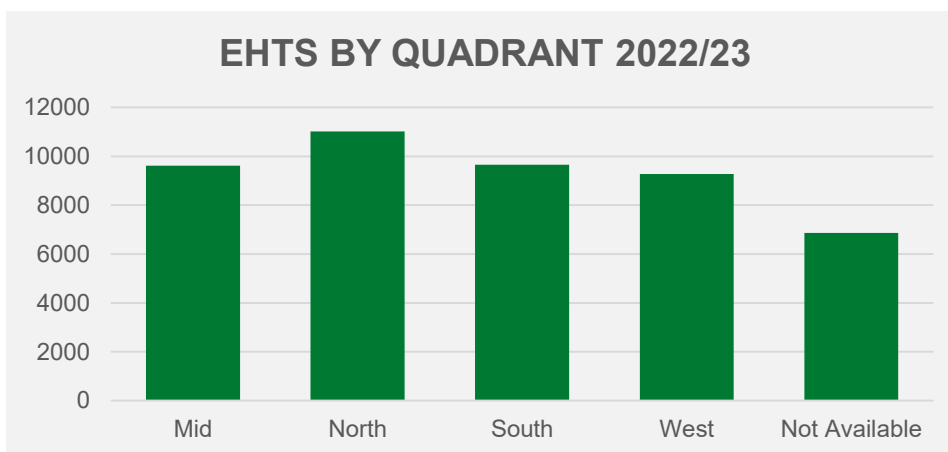
### **11.8 ECC Children and Families Service**

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.

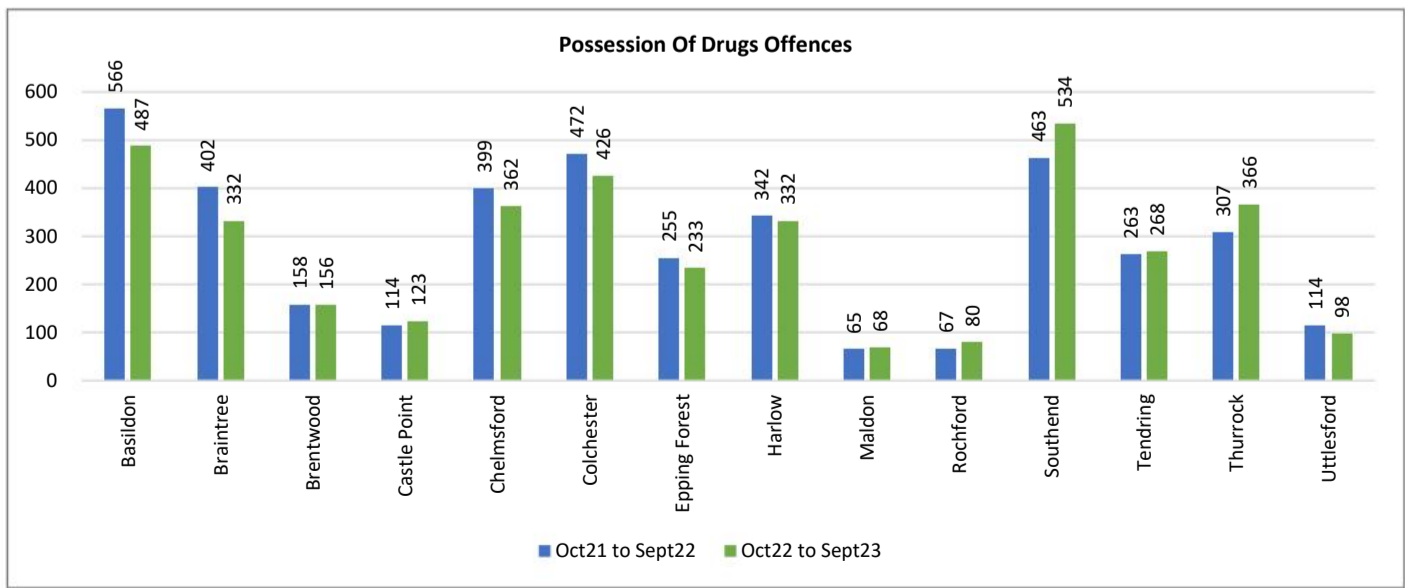
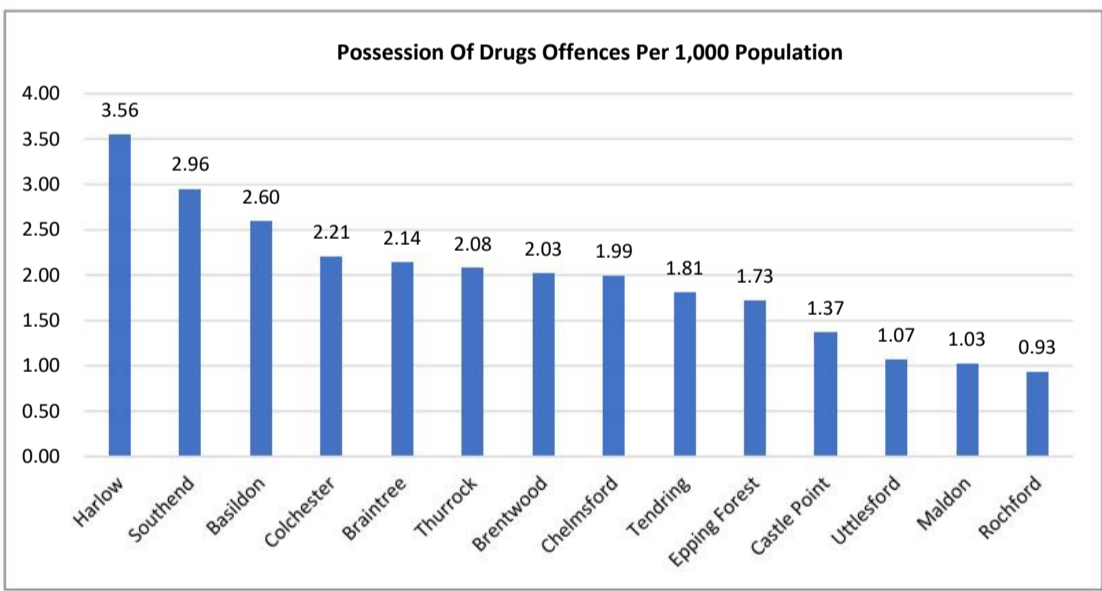
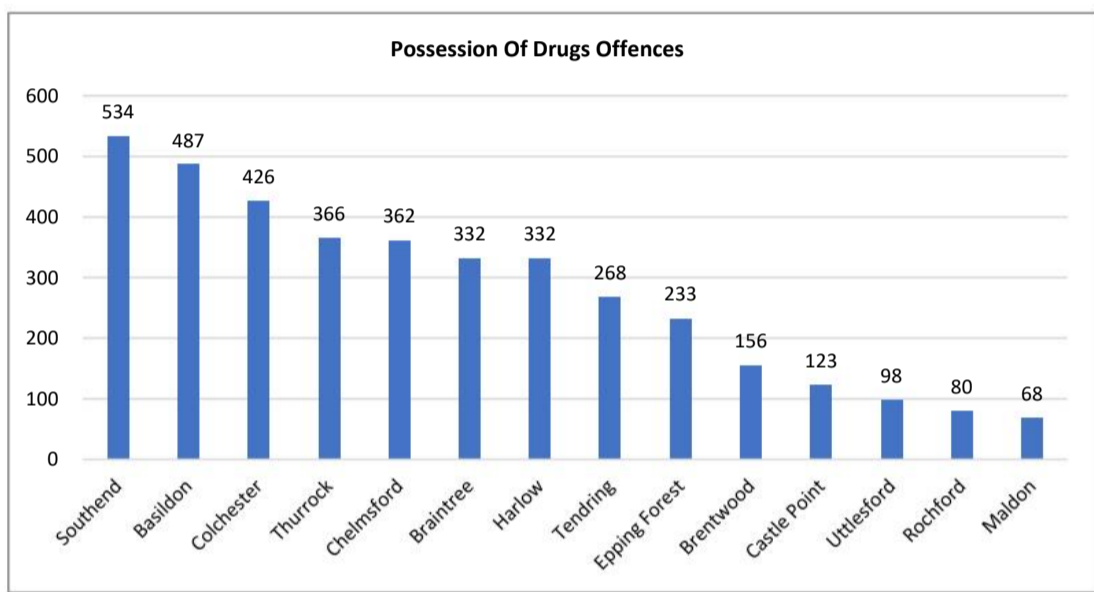
### ACRONYMS:

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

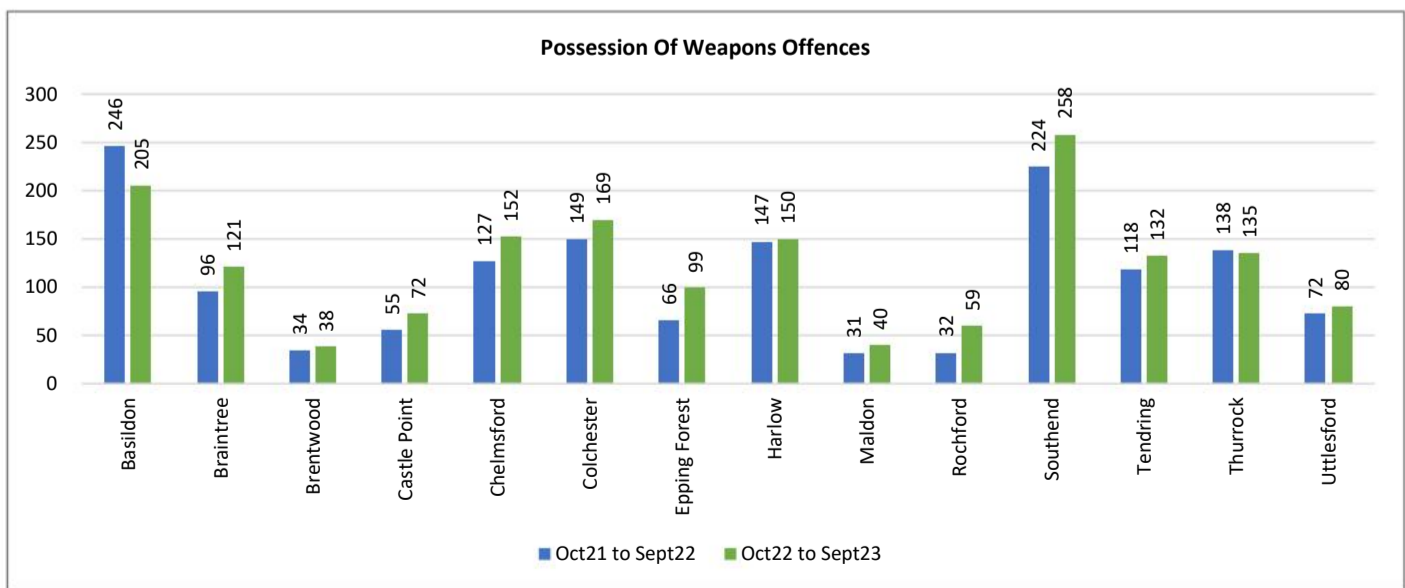
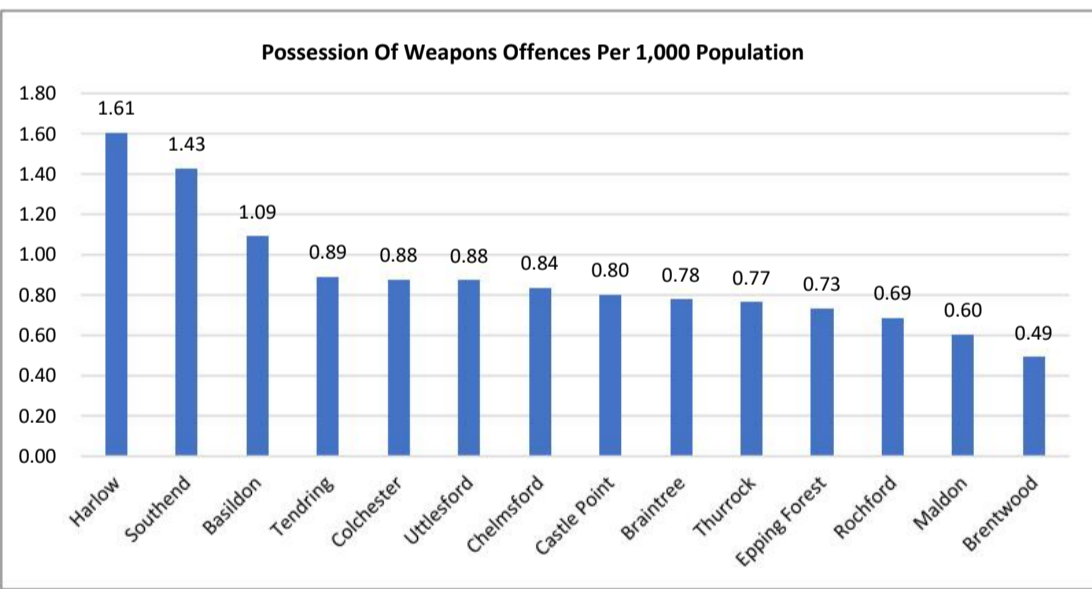
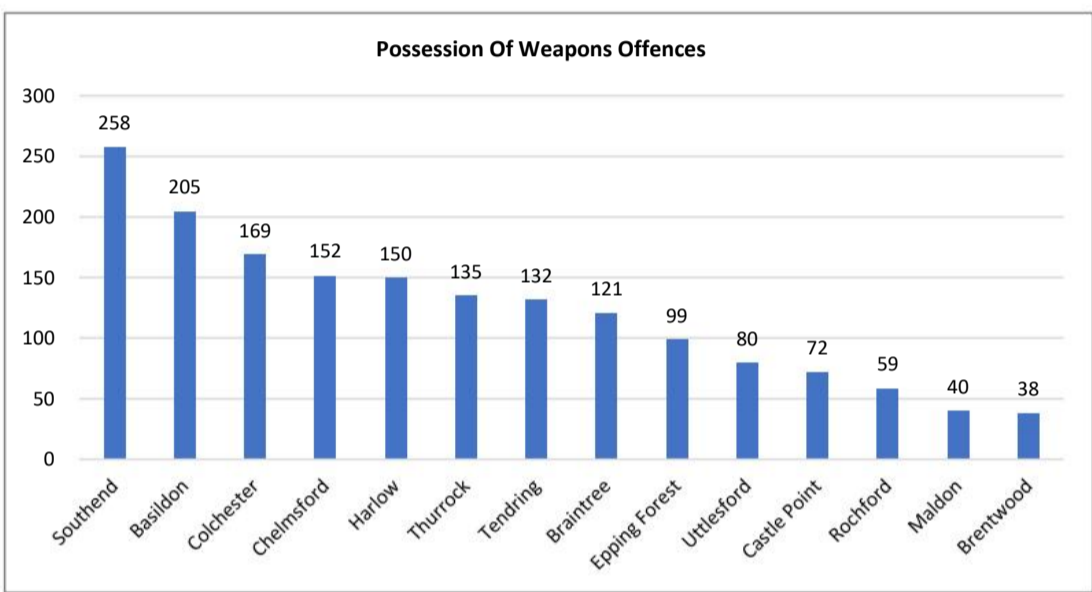
Possession Of Drugs Offences								
Area	Total Offences				Difference 21/22 to 22/23		Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct22 to Sept23	
	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff.	% diff.	#	Rank
Basildon	566	487	13	12.6%	-79	-14.0%	2.60	12
Braintree	402	332	9	8.6%	-70	-17.4%	2.14	10
Brentwood	158	156	5	4.0%	-2	-1.3%	2.03	8
Castle Point	114	123	4	3.2%	9	7.9%	1.37	4
Chelmsford	399	362	10	9.4%	-37	-9.3%	1.99	7
Colchester	472	426	12	11.0%	-46	-9.7%	2.21	11
Epping Forest	255	233	6	6.0%	-22	-8.6%	1.73	5
Harlow	342	332	9	8.6%	-10	-2.9%	3.56	14
Maldon	65	68	1	1.8%	3	4.6%	1.03	2
Rochford	67	80	2	2.1%	13	19.4%	0.93	1
Southend	463	534	14	13.8%	71	15.3%	2.96	13
Tendring	263	268	7	6.9%	5	1.9%	1.81	6
Thurrock	307	366	11	9.5%	59	19.2%	2.08	9
Uttlesford	114	98	3	2.5%	-16	-14.0%	1.07	3
<b>Essex (Excl Stanstead)</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>3,865</b>			<b>-122</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>	<b>2.08</b>	
<b>Essex Average</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>276</b>						



Southend	534
Basildon	487
Colchester	426
Thurrock	366
Chelmsford	362
Braintree	332
Harlow	332
Tendring	268
Epping Forest	233
Brentwood	156
Castle Point	123
Uttlesford	98
Rochford	80
Maldon	68

Harlow	3.56
Southend	2.96
Basildon	2.60
Colchester	2.21
Braintree	2.14
Thurrock	2.08
Brentwood	2.03
Chelmsford	1.99
Tendring	1.81
Epping Forest	1.73
Castle Point	1.37
Uttlesford	1.07
Maldon	1.03
Rochford	0.93

Possession Of Weapons Offences								
Area	Total Offences				Difference 21/22 to 22/23		Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct22 to Sept23	
	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff.	% diff.	#	Rank
Basildon	246	205	13	12.0%	-41	-16.7%	1.09	12
Braintree	96	121	7	7.1%	25	26.0%	0.78	6
Brentwood	34	38	1	2.2%	4	11.8%	0.49	1
Castle Point	55	72	4	4.2%	17	30.9%	0.80	7
Chelmsford	127	152	11	8.9%	25	19.7%	0.84	8
Colchester	149	169	12	9.9%	20	13.4%	0.88	10
Epping Forest	66	99	6	5.8%	33	50.0%	0.73	4
Harlow	147	150	10	8.8%	3	2.0%	1.61	14
Maldon	31	40	2	2.3%	9	29.0%	0.60	2
Rochford	32	59	3	3.5%	27	84.4%	0.69	3
Southend	224	258	14	15.1%	34	15.2%	1.43	13
Tendring	118	132	8	7.7%	14	11.9%	0.89	11
Thurrock	138	135	9	7.9%	-3	-2.2%	0.77	5
Uttlesford	72	80	5	4.7%	8	11.1%	0.88	9
<b>Essex (Excl Stanstead)</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>1,710</b>			<b>175</b>	<b>11.4%</b>	<b>0.92</b>	
<b>Essex Average</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>122</b>						

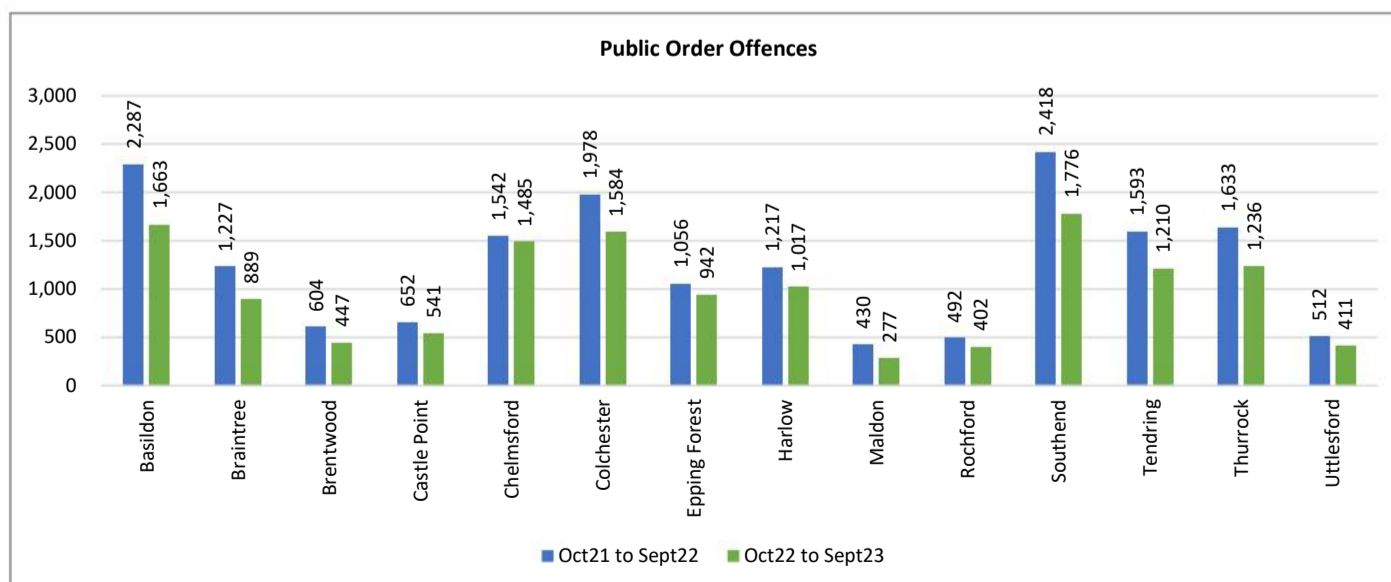
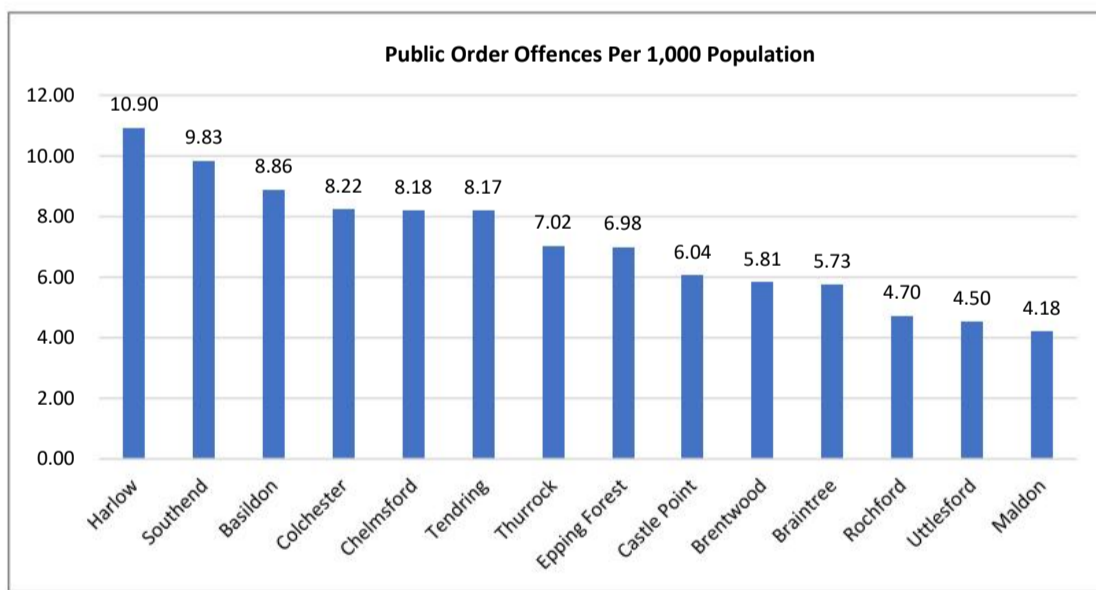
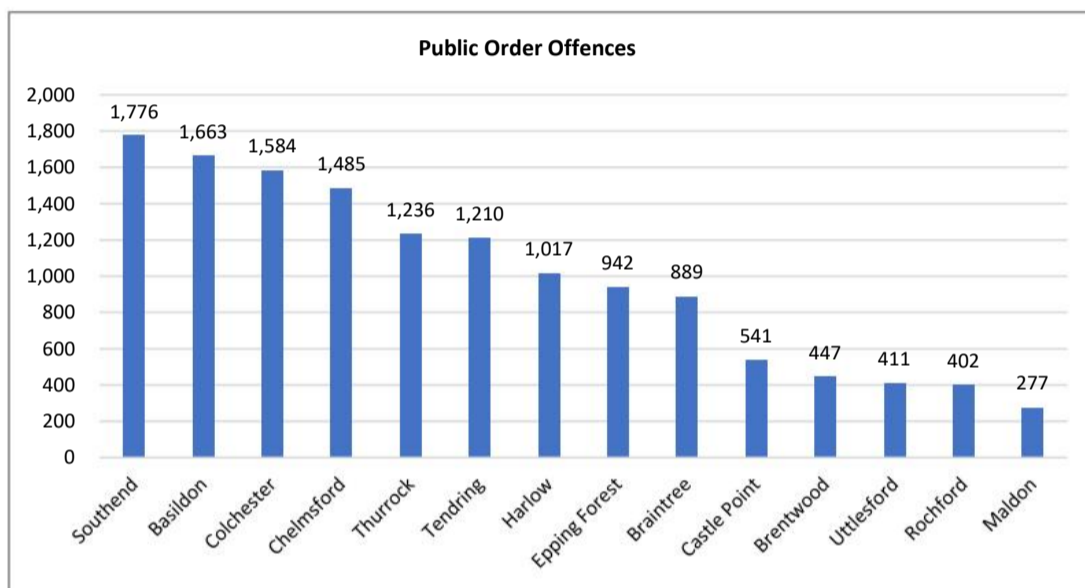


Southend	258
Basildon	205
Colchester	169
Chelmsford	152
Harlow	150
Thurrock	135
Tendring	132
Braintree	121
Epping Forest	99
Uttlesford	80
Castle Point	72
Rochford	59
Maldon	40
Brentwood	38

Harlow	1.61
Southend	1.43
Basildon	1.09
Tendring	0.89
Colchester	0.88
Uttlesford	0.88
Chelmsford	0.84
Castle Point	0.80
Braintree	0.78
Thurrock	0.77
Epping Forest	0.73
Rochford	0.69
Maldon	0.60
Brentwood	0.49



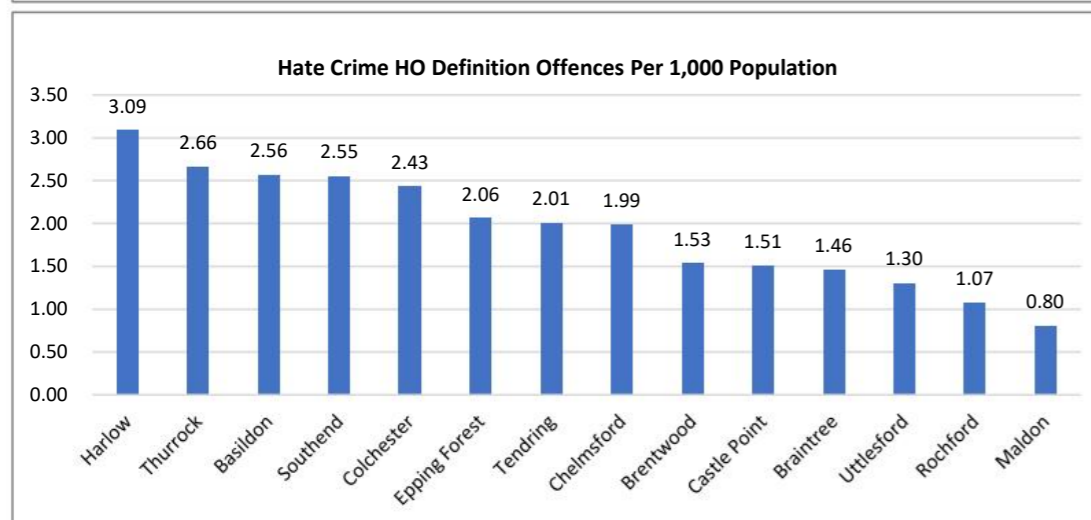
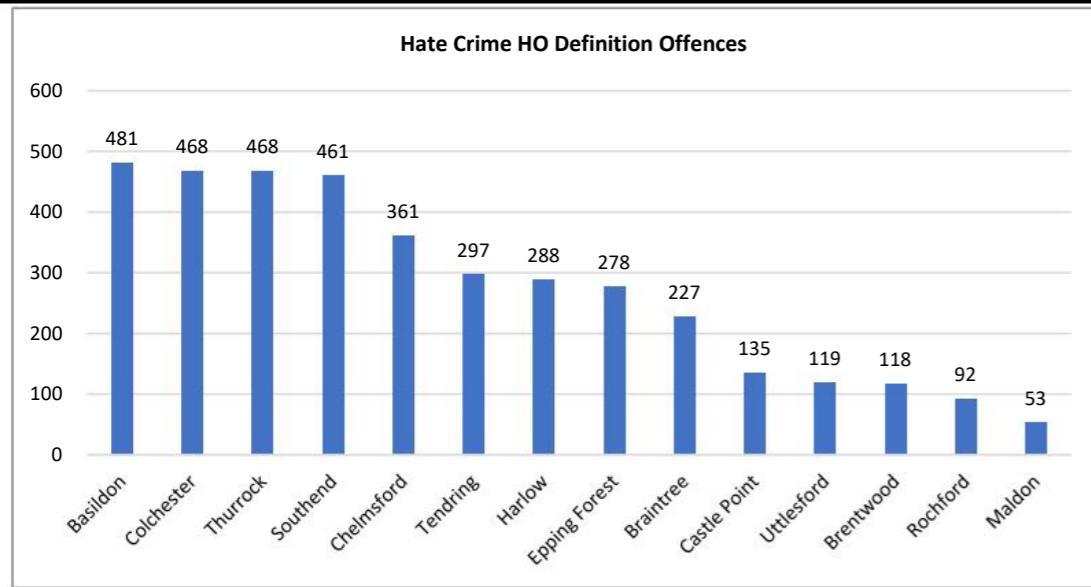
Public Order Offences								
Area	Total Offences				Difference 21/22 to 22/23		Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct22 to Sept23	
	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff.	% diff.	#	Rank
Basildon	2,287	1,663	13	12.0%	-624	-27.3%	8.86	12
Braintree	1,227	889	6	6.4%	-338	-27.5%	5.73	4
Brentwood	604	447	4	3.2%	-157	-26.0%	5.81	5
Castle Point	652	541	5	3.9%	-111	-17.0%	6.04	6
Chelmsford	1,542	1,485	11	10.7%	-57	-3.7%	8.18	10
Colchester	1,978	1,584	12	11.4%	-394	-19.9%	8.22	11
Epping Forest	1,056	942	7	6.8%	-114	-10.8%	6.98	7
Harlow	1,217	1,017	8	7.3%	-200	-16.4%	10.90	14
Maldon	430	277	1	2.0%	-153	-35.6%	4.18	1
Rochford	492	402	2	2.9%	-90	-18.3%	4.70	3
Southend	2,418	1,776	14	12.8%	-642	-26.6%	9.83	13
Tendring	1,593	1,210	9	8.7%	-383	-24.0%	8.17	9
Thurrock	1,633	1,236	10	8.9%	-397	-24.3%	7.02	8
Uttlesford	512	411	3	3.0%	-101	-19.7%	4.50	2
<b>Essex (Excl Stanstead)</b>	<b>17,641</b>	<b>13,880</b>			<b>-3,761</b>	<b>-21.3%</b>	<b>7.46</b>	
<b>Essex Average</b>	<b>1,260</b>	<b>991</b>						

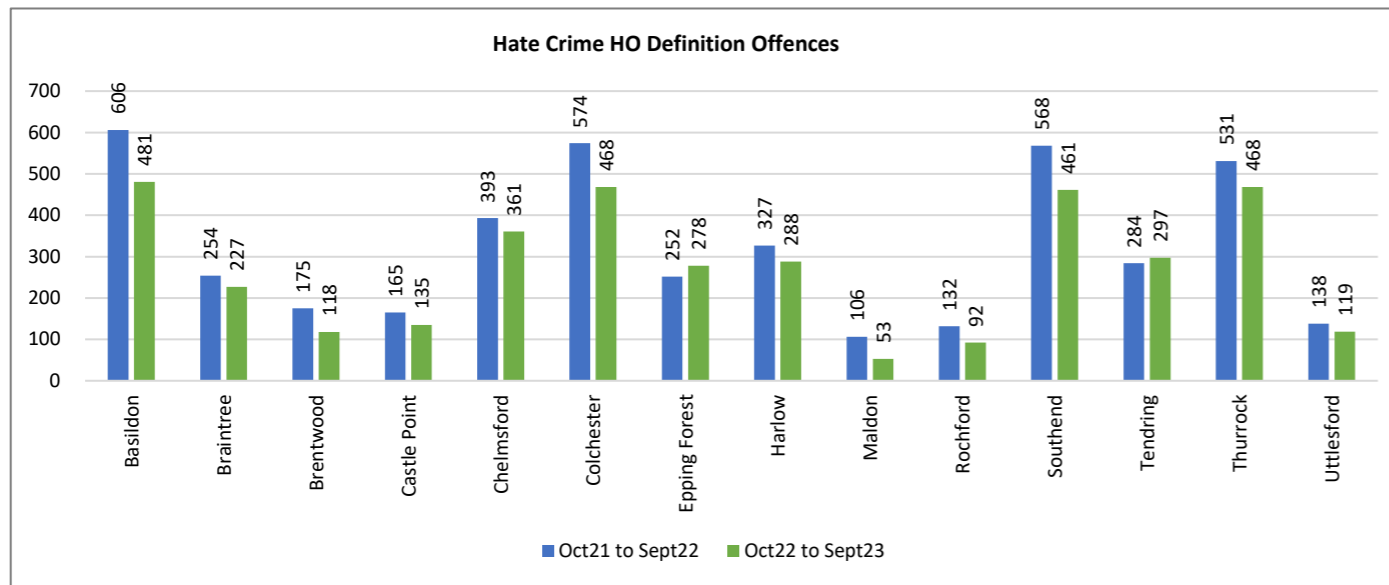


Southend	1,776
Basildon	1,663
Colchester	1,584
Chelmsford	1,485
Thurrock	1,236
Tendring	1,210
Harlow	1,017
Epping Forest	942
Braintree	889
Castle Point	541
Brentwood	447
Uttlesford	411
Rochford	402
Maldon	277

Harlow	10.90
Southend	9.83
Basildon	8.86
Colchester	8.22
Chelmsford	8.18
Tendring	8.17
Thurrock	7.02
Epping Forest	6.98
Castle Point	6.04
Brentwood	5.81
Braintree	5.73
Rochford	4.70
Uttlesford	4.50
Maldon	4.18

Hate Crime HO Definition Offences								
Area	Total Offences				Difference 21/22 to 22/23		Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct22 to Sept23	
	Oct21 to Sept22	Oct22 to Sept23	Rank 22/23	% of Essex Total 22/23	# diff.	% diff.	#	Rank
Basildon	606	481	14	12.5%	-125	-20.6%	2.56	3
Braintree	254	227	6	5.9%	-27	-10.6%	1.46	4
Brentwood	175	118	3	3.1%	-57	-32.6%	1.53	6
Castle Point	165	135	5	3.5%	-30	-18.2%	1.51	5
Chelmsford	393	361	10	9.4%	-32	-8.1%	1.99	7
Colchester	574	468	13	12.2%	-106	-18.5%	2.43	10
Epping Forest	252	278	7	7.2%	26	10.3%	2.06	9
Harlow	327	288	8	7.5%	-39	-11.9%	3.09	14
Maldon	106	53	1	1.4%	-53	-50.0%	0.80	1
Rochford	132	92	2	2.4%	-40	-30.3%	1.07	2
Southend	568	461	11	12.0%	-107	-18.8%	2.55	11
Tendring	284	297	9	7.7%	13	4.6%	2.01	8
Thurrock	531	468	13	12.2%	-63	-11.9%	2.66	13
Uttlesford	138	119	4	3.1%	-19	-13.8%	1.30	3
<b>Essex (Excl Stanstead)</b>	<b>4,505</b>	<b>3,846</b>			<b>-659</b>	<b>-14.6%</b>	<b>2.07</b>	
<b>Essex Average</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>275</b>						





Basildon	481
Colchester	468
Thurrock	468
Southend	461
Chelmsford	361
Tendring	297
Harlow	288
Epping Forest	278
Braintree	227
Castle Point	135
Uttlesford	119
Brentwood	118
Rochford	92
Maldon	53

Harlow	3.09
Thurrock	2.66
Basildon	2.56
Southend	2.55
Colchester	2.43
Epping Forest	2.06
Tendring	2.01
Chelmsford	1.99
Brentwood	1.53
Castle Point	1.51
Braintree	1.46
Uttlesford	1.30
Rochford	1.07
Maldon	0.80