



Safer and Stronger Communities

SAFER COLCHESTER PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2016 - 2019

THE SAFER COLCHESTER PARTNERSHIP (SCP)

The Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP) is a statutory partnership of organisations who work together to create strategies and practical interventions to reduce crime and disorder in the Colchester Borough. The members of the SCP (known as responsible authorities) are as follows:

- Colchester Borough Council
- Colchester Borough Homes*
- Colchester Community Voluntary Services
- Colchester Garrison*
- Essex Community Rehabilitation Company
- Essex County Council
- Essex County Fire & Rescue Service
- Essex Police
- National Probation Service
- North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

**Non statutory members who are able to make a valuable contribution to crime and disorder reduction in the Colchester Borough.*

GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES STRATEGIC GROUP (RASG)

RASG consists of **Chief Officers** representing the statutory and non-statutory organisations that are well placed to make a valuable contribution to reducing crime and disorder in the Colchester Borough.
RASG are the strategic decision makers and set the priorities for the SCP



SAFER COLCHESTER OPERATIONAL GROUP (SCOG)

SCOG consists of **Operational Officers** representing the statutory and non-statutory organisations, and other partner agencies that are well placed to make a valuable contribution to reducing crime and disorder in the Colchester Borough.
SCOG take direction from RASG and monitor the SCP's priorities

STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL RESOURCES

The Strategic direction of the SCP is led by the RASG, which is chaired by the Executive Director for Customer Operations and Partnerships, with support from the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety. This ensures that all relevant policies and procedures are considered when putting together the work plan annually and current emerging themes taken into consideration.

The SCP works closely with all relevant CBC departments, but in particular with Zones and Licensing, in order to deliver joint initiatives, share resource and skills and avoid duplication of services. CBC resources used to chair, coordinate and maintain the SCP, however there is a part-time support role which is funded solely from the SCP external funds. The majority of projects which are delivered each year rely on partnership working with internal and external partners to ensure successful delivery, this is a key element.

VISION

**The Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP) will work together in partnership to reduce crime and disorder in Colchester.
The SCP will achieve this by working to 3 main themes:**

PROTECT

Prevent crime, encourage reporting of crime and support victims of crime through education, awareness raising and training

REDUCE

Reduce crime, the fear of crime and re-offending through delivery of initiatives, education and community engagement

ADDRESS

Address drug and alcohol misuse through delivery of projects, initiatives and education

CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION GATHERING

Working alongside partner agencies, and engaging with local communities, the SCP identifies local crime priorities and quality of life issues. A number of information sources are utilised in order to obtain this data annually:

- **Police and Crime Plan for Essex 2016 – 2020:**

A plan to set the strategic direction of Essex Police; the key areas of focus are to: crack down on anti-social behaviour, be tough on domestic violence, reverse the trend in serious violent crime, tackle gangs and organised crime and make Essex Police more local, visible, and accessible.

- **Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018**

This plan sets out the direction and potential for Colchester Borough Council. There are the four main strands' of the plan: the 'Welcoming' strand is relevant when ensuring Colchester is a welcoming and safe place for residents, visitors and businesses with a friendly feel that embraces tolerance and diversity.

- **Colchester Borough Council (CBC) Community Enabling Strategy 2015 onwards**

This is a strategy to support the wider CBC Strategic Plan and demonstrates how CBC will encourage self-help and self-reliance to reduce cost, protect services and achieve the ambitions of local groups.

- **Essex Police Control Strategy 2016 (annual strategy)**

The High Priority Strategic Themes for Essex Police are: child abuse and exploitation, immigration and modern slavery, domestic abuse, urban street gangs and related violence / vulnerability and OCG criminality. Other emerging priorities to be considered are: counter terrorism and domestic extremism, digital crime, criminal use of firearms and dwelling burglary.

- **Strategic Assessment of Crime 2016 – 2017 (annual report)**

An annual report, containing data from partner agencies and residents, to measure and analyse levels, patterns and trends of crime & disorder, anti-social behaviour, reoffending, substance misuse and vulnerability in Colchester. This document also identifies any emerging crime issues and trends.

- **Essex Police North LPA Tasking / Tactical Assessment**

Fortnightly meetings (led by Colchester Divisional Commander) are held at Colchester Police Station, with Tactical Assessments produced to identify current priorities.

- **Community Sources**

Information is obtained from the local community via consultations and events and data collated from these sources is fed into the Annual Partnership Plan where relevant.

PRIORITIES FOR THE SAFER COLCHESTER PARTNERSHIP (SCP)

Once all data is collated and analysed, key priorities are identified and the SCP agrees the objectives it needs to adopt for the coming year. Partnership working plays a vital role in the delivery and achievement of the priorities and this is successfully demonstrated within the SCP in a number of ways:

- **Shared working environment**

A Community Safety Hub is located within Colchester Police Station, which acts as a base from which a number of partner agencies can work together and share information, ideas and resources.

- **Joint campaigns**

Many joint campaigns are delivered in order to share resources, skills and funding. This approach avoids duplication and promotes multi-agency working rather than 'silo' working.

- **Communication**

The SCP holds regular strategic and operational level meetings in which progress of the achievement of its priorities is discussed, monitored and evaluated. Communication between the SCP members often takes place outside of these meetings if required. An SCP website is also being launched in order for the public to be able to access a vast range of community safety advice and find out exactly what the SCP is delivering.

An Annual Partnership Plan is produced to highlight and tackle the key priorities for the forthcoming year – each plan runs from 1st April – 31st March. SCP Annual Partnership Plans are available to view via www.safercolchester.co.uk

For 2016 – 2017, the Key Priorities have been identified by the SCP as follows:

KP1: TO PROTECT VULNERABLE PEOPLE

This priority will include raising awareness of issues such as domestic abuse, hate crime, modern slavery, gangs and prevent/extremism alongside supporting those at risk. It will also enable the partnership to provide support to chaotic families and prevent vulnerable adults becoming victims of crime.

KP2: TO REDUCE REOFFENDING

This priority will deliver jointly agreed initiatives and interventions to effectively reduce reoffending. It will also support and develop the Integrated Offender Management Scheme to focus activity on those individuals responsible for causing the most harm in communities.

KP3: TO ADDRESS ALCOHOL & DRUG MISUSE

This priority will support projects and initiatives that can address alcohol and drug abuse (including legal highs) in the borough throughout both the night time and day time economies alongside working in partnership to encourage behaviour change.

KP4: TO REDUCE CRIME AND THE FEAR OF CRIME

This priority seeks to address both the volumes and severity of crimes occurring across the Borough, by promoting positive partnership working, alongside engaging with local communities and vulnerable groups to develop and support prevention mechanisms and education of young people and vulnerable adults around issues of community safety.

An End of Year Performance Report is compiled by the 31st May each year to summarise the work of the SCP over that period.

EMERGING THEMES

The issues below have been identified as emerging themes for the SCP:

- **Modern slavery**

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 received Royal Assent on 26 March 2015. The SCP is working closely with CBC Equality and Safeguarding Co-ordinator to ensure they discharge their legal duties. This is a 'hidden' crime which has become a high priority issue for many partner agencies. Relevant policies and procedures are being updated to reflect the Act and relevant staff training is taking place. Awareness campaigns will be delivered by the SCP during 2016/17.

- **Prevent**

Prevent is a high priority issue for many partner agencies, with new legislation coming into force which requires CSP to produce both a local Prevent Strategy and Action Plan. Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) training is being delivered to frontline staff (in all partner agencies) to raise awareness of Prevent, with other 70 people trained to date (Aug 2016)

- **Gangs and gang related violence**

This crime is on the increase in Colchester. Essex Police carry out proactive work via Operation Raptor and also deliver training and advice to partner agency staff on how to spot the signs of issues such as ‘cuckooing’. There is a Violence and Vulnerability Board which come together to discuss emerging issues and threats across the County and the Community Safety and Initiatives Manager attends this Board on behalf of the CSP. We have included this specific theme in the job accountability of a new one year role that commences in June, with the expectation the individual will gather data and raise awareness locally.

- **Domestic Abuse**

Historically another ‘hidden’ crime which is a high priority issue for many partner agencies and reported incidents are increasing., Focussed, targeted domestic abuse awareness campaigns to be delivered to encourage reporting but also signpost for support

- **The Peel Report - Police effectiveness 2015 (vulnerability)**

In summer 2015, as part of HMIC annual inspections into police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL), HMIC’s effectiveness programme inspected how well forces keep people safe and reduces crime. This included an assessment of how effectively forces protect vulnerable people from harm, and support victims.

The HMIC ‘PEEL: Police effectiveness 2015 (vulnerability) – An inspection of Essex Police’ report identified significant concerns about the capability of Essex Police to protect vulnerable people (particularly those experiencing domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation) from harm and support victims, as there were serious weaknesses in the force’s arrangements to safeguard and investigate cases involving vulnerable people.

Re-visit findings concluded that Essex Police has made significant progress against the two causes of concern and three areas for improvement identified in HMIC’s ‘PEEL: Police effectiveness 2015 (vulnerability) – An inspection of Essex Police’ report. HMIC observed a change of mind set and approach to vulnerability across the force, putting children and vulnerable people at the centre of everything the force does.

HMIC will continue to monitor Essex Police’s progress against the two causes of concern and three areas for improvement set out in the ‘PEEL: Police effectiveness 2015 (vulnerability) – An inspection of Essex Police’ report published on 15 December 2015 and will carry out an effectiveness inspection in Autumn 2016.

The SCP will continue to support Essex Police in protecting vulnerable people from harm and support victims by raising awareness of the issues and providing support/signposting mechanisms.

DOMESTIC HOMICIDE - LESSONS LEARNED

CSP's have a statutory duty to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's) when a murder takes place in their area and the perpetrator is a relative or partner of the victim. The purpose of a DHR is to:

- Establish what lessons are to be learned from the domestic homicide regarding the way in which local professionals and organisations work individually and together to safeguard victims;
- Identify clearly what those lessons are both within and between agencies, how and within what timescales they will be acted on, and what is expected to change as a result;
- Apply these lessons to service responses including changes to policies and procedures as appropriate; and
- Prevent domestic violence homicide and improve service responses for all domestic violence victims and their children through improved intra and inter-agency working.

When this type of incident occurs in Colchester, the SCP input into the Final Report and Action Plan and ensures all recommendations are implemented within agreed timescales. This can include training of frontline professionals, changes to policies and procedures, awareness raising and cuts across all agencies locally and sometimes nationally.