COLCHESTER COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

COLCHESTER STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2025

Document Owner: **Colchester Community Safety Partnership**

Author(s): **Samantha Goodman, Community Safety Lead Officer**

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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 2024 to 30 September 2025.

Data sources are referenced at the start of each section.

For brevity, where 'Greater Essex' is used this refers to the Southend, Essex & Thurrock area (as covered by Essex Police) where 'Essex' is used this refers to the Essex County Council area only.

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 reported by Next Chapter and CARA.

4. We have based our key areas of focus 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 shoplifting and fraud.

1.4. Strategic Priorities

To assist in the identification of the CSP Key Areas of Focus for Colchester for 2026-27, 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: Colchester City Council, Essex Police, Active Essex Foundation, Colchester Borough Homes, Business Improvement District, Next Chapter, Probation Service, Crimestoppers, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Essex County Council Family Solutions.

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

1. Domestic Abuse
2. Hate Crime
3. Rape
4. Other Sexual Offences
5. Nuisance ASB
6. Stalking and Harassment
7. Violence with Injury

Compared to 2025/26, the results were similar with Domestic Abuse scoring the highest. Crime types that feature year on year are Hate crime, Rape and Other Sexual Offences.

The draft CSP key areas of focus for the coming year will be shared with CSP partners at the Community Safety Delivery Board meeting in January 2026, with a wide range of community groups, and the Crime and Disorder Committee in February 2026. Following feedback from these forums, they will be formalised and agreed.

For 2026-27 we have identified 4 key areas of focus to improve community safety. Underpinning them all, partners will work together and share information to respond to emerging issues.

Preventing domestic abuse and sexual offences while fostering safer, healthier relationships.

- Awareness and Education: Promote understanding of abuse and available support.
- Early Intervention: Encourage safe, healthy relationships from the outset.
- Victim Support: Provide accessible, trauma-informed services.
- Perpetrator Accountability: Address and reform abusive behaviour.
- Professional Training: Equip frontline workers with skills to respond effectively.
- Data Sharing and Reporting: Enhance collaboration and streamline reporting systems

Safeguarding individuals vulnerable to violence or exploitation

- Awareness and Education: Highlight high-harm crimes and empower communities to report and prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
- Early Intervention: Support those at risk of violence or exploitation through proactive measures.
- Community Action: Strengthen local networks to tackle violence and exploitation.
- Victim Support: Ensure access to safe spaces, counselling, and legal aid.
- Perpetrator Action: Target offenders with enforcement and rehabilitation.
- Collaboration: Strengthen partnerships including Colchester Against Modern Slavery, to enhance agency coordination to safeguard vulnerable individuals.

Addressing antisocial behaviour, neighbourhood crimes, and their root causes

- Identify and Target Hotspots: Use data (police, fire, local authority and business reports) and community insights to pinpoint ASB trends, shoplifting and neighbourhood crime locations. To ensure focused interventions in high-impact areas.
- Community Education: Raise awareness of the impacts of ASB and crime (including financial and emotional), fostering understanding and encouraging responsibility.
- Empower Communities: Improve public perceptions and support local groups to take an active role in resolving neighbourhood issues. Encourage the reporting of ASB and suspicious activity.
- Prevent and Mitigate ASB: Implement measures (including environmental design and targeted patrols) to prevent ASB and minimise its impact on individuals, communities, and businesses. Support businesses in implementing effective security measures and reporting protocols.
- Engage Young People: Deliver early intervention programmes to divert young people from ASB and crime, addressing low-level behaviours before they escalate.
- Collaborate for Sustainable Solutions: Strengthen partnerships among agencies, community groups and business community to tackle root causes and promote long-term safety.
- Engage with Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP): Actively promote and facilitate engagement with the local BCRP to integrate businesses into the wider crime reduction strategy.

Promoting safety, inclusivity, and social, economic, and environmental wellbeing for all of Colchester's community.

- Engage Diverse Voices: Strengthen engagement with lesser-heard groups to ensure inclusivity and representation in community safety efforts.
- Tackle Hate Crime: Reduce incidents of hate crime through awareness, prevention initiatives, and support for victims.
- Raise Awareness: Promote suicide awareness, fraud prevention, and personal safety to empower individuals and reduce victimisation.
- Improve Public Safety: Enhance perceptions of safety and reduce crime through visible community policing and proactive measures.
- Support Safer Roads: Collaborate on road safety initiatives to reduce accidents and promote responsible behaviour.
- Effective Signposting: Provide clear pathways to advice, support services, and resources for all community members.
- Monitor Legislation: Proactive monitoring of legislative developments affecting our communities, assess potential impacts, and contribute to relevant consultations.

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. Based on feedback from the Crime and Disorder Committee in September 2024, the CSP work to 'Key Areas of Focus'.
2. All CSP partners were invited to participate in the matrix scoring workshop and discussion regarding the key areas of focus for 2026-27.
3. The draft wording of the 2026-27 key areas of focus will be shared with all CSP partners, town and parish council clerks, range of faith and community groups, youth forums and businesses.

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 Probation Service and SNEE Integrated Care Board, the Partnership has maintained the list of previously engaged additional Partners, and this year welcomed:

- Essex Police – Domestic Abuse Problem Solving Team
- Cranstoun

Current Partnership Structure

The Community Safety Delivery Board (CSDB) is set up as a forum for the CSP partners to work together to reduce crime and disorder in Colchester and deliver the key areas of focus through an action plan.

CSP partners:

- Report on how they are contributing to each key area of focus, update the Annual Partnership Plan and highlight any projects requiring partner support.
- Monitor and evaluate all projects and initiatives being delivered.
- Consider funding opportunities, make decisions on how the PFCC CSP Core Grant funding is allocated, and offer feedback where CSP endorsement is required.

2.2. Horizon Scan

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

- **Devolution & LGR:** Devolution will see a combined authority created and election of a Mayor in May 2026, followed by the functions of the PFCC being brought under the new Mayor in 2027. Under LGR, new unitary authorities will replace the current two-tier system, with elections to shadow authorities in May 2027, and vesting day in April 2028. LGR will also mean that current CSP arrangements will need to be reviewed along the new unitary boundaries and discussions are already underway via Safer Essex.
- **Integrated Care Boards:** There are currently three ICBs that operate within the Greater Essex area: Herts & West Essex ICB, Mid & South Essex ICB and Suffolk & North East Essex ICB. ICB mergers are currently underway nationwide, and as part of this a single ICB that is co-terminus with the Greater Essex boundaries will be created from April 2026.
- **Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews:** The outcome of the Home Office consultation is expected. If unchanged, this will add additional responsibilities / work for CSPs. We are still awaiting the outcome of this consultation from summer of 2024; over the past couple of years we have received more notifications for deaths by suicide than homicide.
- **Offensive Weapons Homicide Reviews:** Pilots began in April 2024, but no further details have been released by the Home Office, and an implementation date is not yet known.
- **Prevent:** Policy changes are expected in Prevent / Channel Panel in 2025/26 as a result of various reviews taking place including the Southport Public Inquiry, End-To-End Review of Prevent Thresholds, Lord Anderson's 'Lessons for Prevent', and the Evaluation of Channel Panels.
- **Crime and Policing Bill:** This Bill will create a duty for local partners to co-operate to tackle antisocial behaviour, with an antisocial behaviour lead in every local authority area. Details on this new duty are not yet known but are likely to fall to CSPs.
- **ACT for Local Authorities:** There are currently no specific partnership arrangements in place for Protect, however guidance for developing 'Protect & Prepare' Groups has recently been released. Discussions for implanting this within Essex are underway.
- **Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 (Martyn's Law):** Whilst there is no direct role for CSPs, they may be best placed to provide a co-ordinating role in sharing resources and best practice.
- **Police Landscape Reform:** A Bill is expected to be introduced to Parliament in 2025.

- **Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee:** In April 2025 the Government announced that nationally 3,000 additional neighbourhood police officers and police community support officers will be in post within the next 12 months.
- **"Restoring control over the immigration system"** – White Paper establishes the government's strategic direction in terms of immigration policies and signals a significant shift towards an even tighter and more restrictive immigration system, with the explicit aim of bringing net migration down. The new "Earned Settlement" model due to be implemented in April 2026. Concern from partners regarding the implication of these changes – potential increased homelessness, domestic abuse and exploitation.

2.3. Police & Crime Plan 2024-28

The priorities set out in the Police & Crime Plan 2024-2028 are as follows:

- More local, visible and accessible policing
- Drive down anti-social behaviour and crime
- Beat knife crime and drug gangs and protect young people
- Tackle violence against women and girls and domestic abuse
- Ensure vulnerable people are protected
- Improve road safety and reduce road deaths in Essex to zero

2.4. Essex Police Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-25

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

A new Crime Prevention Strategy 2025-30 is currently in final drafting stage.

2.5. Essex Fire & Rescue Plan 2024-28

The Fire & Rescue Plan 2024-2028 sets out the following priorities:

- Protect vulnerable people
- Improve road safety and reduce road death in Essex to zero
- Make buildings safer
- Adapt to our changing environment
- Promote a positive culture and develop the workforce
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness

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
vi. Continue to deliver effective Community Safety Hubs across Greater Essex.

Safer Essex does not set specific priorities within its Community Safety Agreement but instead aligns with those within the Crime Prevention Strategy.

To ensure that Safer Essex also focuses on the priorities of the Community Safety Partnerships, the Community Safety Plan assess the priorities set by them. The Community Safety Agreement 2025/26 found the following to be most prevalent areas of focus:

- Gaining a better understanding of the issues surrounding shoplifting and how Safer Essex and CSPs can become more involved in tackling the issue.
- Supporting the roll out of the VAWG and ASB Minerva projects and exploring other areas that could benefit from the Minerva approach. Safer Essex should both challenge how we look at our data and enable us to share and focus resources, including road safety and water safety.
- Bringing together the findings from our collective community engagement / perception exercises (with adults and children) to establish common themes for action and establish any gaps in our understanding.
- Working with CSPs to navigate the changing landscape that devolution, LGR and ICB restructures will bring, supporting them in continuing to deliver for their communities.
- Continuing to explore how Safer Essex, CSPs and SERP can work closer together on road safety to significantly reduce road deaths and serious injuries.
- Supporting the Prevent Delivery Group in implementing the expected policy changes resulting from national reviews.
- Supporting the Prevent Delivery Group in monitoring permissive environments and community tensions.

- Reviewing current information sharing arrangements, with a focus on the Community Safety Hubs, to ensure they are fit for purpose, support partnership working and are understood by all agencies.
- Supporting CSPs and Essex Police with the co-ordination and delivery of Op Guardian.
- Through the VAWG Strategic Partnership, developing a strategy to co-ordinate our work on the safety of women and girls in the public realm.
- Through the MAAF, carrying out a fraud research project to explore the experiences and understanding of Essex residents and help direct the work of the partnership going forward.
- Working with SETDAB to support CSPs in meeting any new requirements from the review into Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Supporting the review and refresh of the Crime Prevention Strategy by Essex Police.
- Working with ECFRS to better understand location / demographic data on fires to target work within communities.

2.7. Colchester City Council

The work of the Colchester Community Safety 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. Area Profile

Data Source: Colchester City Council website

The city of Colchester is situated in the north east of Essex, is approximately 60 miles from London and covers an area of approximately 125 square miles.

The main town is Colchester but there are many surrounding small towns and villages - the largest are Stanway, Tiptree, West Mersea and Wivenhoe. The countryside areas of the city are mainly used for agriculture.

Colchester has a rich and vast heritage - as Camulodunum, it was the first capital of England, and it is also Britain's oldest recorded town. The city is home to a large university of approximately 8,000 students and is also home to a garrison with capacity for approximately 4,000 military personnel.

3.2. Population Profile

Data Source: Colchester City Council website

Population mid-2024
Colchester's population was estimated to stand at 200,222. This is an increase of 0.9% (1,725 people) from the figure recorded in mid-2023.

In mid-2024, approximately 125,828 individuals were aged 16-64, equating to 62.8% of the total population.

An estimated 36,045 people in Colchester were 65+ in mid-2024 accounting for an estimated 18% of the population.

2021 Census

On Census Day 2021, the population of Colchester was estimated at 192,700 (an increase of 11.3% from 173,100 in 2011)

The estimated number of households across the city was 79,300 (an increase of 11.3% 71,600)

Colchester 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. The largest age group in the East of England was those aged 50 to 54 years.

Deprivation - The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019

Deprivation is measured using the IMD 2019. The higher the IMD 2019 score or rank is the more deprived an area is.

Colchester is ranked 5th in Essex on average score for IMD.

Colchester has one LSOA in the top 10% of most deprived in the country found in the ward of Greenstead.

The least levels of deprivation are in Bergholt in Lexden and Braiswick, Drury in New Town and Christ Church, and Layer in Marks Tey and Layer.

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 2025/26

4.1. 2025/26 Community Safety Plan Priorities

Colchester Community Safety Partnership set the following key areas of focus within its 2025/26 Annual Partnership Plan:

Preventing domestic abuse and sexual offences while fostering safer, healthier relationships.

- Awareness and Education: Promote understanding of abuse and available support.
- Early Intervention: Encourage safe, healthy relationships from the outset.
- Victim Support: Provide accessible, trauma-informed services.
- Perpetrator Accountability: Address and reform abusive behaviour.
- Professional Training: Equip frontline workers with skills to respond effectively.
- Data Sharing and Reporting: Enhance collaboration and streamline reporting systems

Safeguarding individuals vulnerable to violence or exploitation

- Awareness and Education: Highlight high-harm crimes and empower communities to report and prevent VAWG.
- Early Intervention: Support those at risk of violence or exploitation through proactive measures.
- Community Action: Strengthen local networks to tackle violence and exploitation.
- Victim Support: Ensure access to safe spaces, counselling, and legal aid.
- Perpetrator Action: Target offenders with enforcement and rehabilitation.
- Collaboration: Enhance agency coordination to safeguard vulnerable individuals.

Addressing antisocial behaviour, neighbourhood crimes, and their root causes

- Identify and Target Hotspots: Use data and community insights to pinpoint ASB trends and neighbourhood crime locations for focused interventions.
- Community Education: Raise awareness of the impacts of ASB and crime, fostering understanding and encouraging responsibility.
- Empower Communities: Improve public perceptions and support local groups to take an active role in resolving neighbourhood issues.
- Prevent and Mitigate ASB: Implement measures to prevent ASB and minimise its impact on individuals, communities, and businesses.
- Engage Young People: Deliver early intervention programmes to divert young people from ASB and crime, addressing low-level behaviours before they escalate.
- Collaborate for Sustainable Solutions: Strengthen partnerships among agencies, businesses, and community groups to tackle root causes and promote long-term safety.

Promoting safety, inclusivity, and social, economic, and environmental wellbeing for all of Colchester's community.

- Engage Diverse Voices: Strengthen engagement with lesser-heard groups to ensure inclusivity and representation in community safety efforts.
- Tackle Hate Crime: Reduce incidents of hate crime through awareness, prevention initiatives, and support for victims.
- Raise Awareness: Promote suicide awareness, fraud prevention, and personal safety to empower individuals and reduce victimisation.
- Improve Public Safety: Enhance perceptions of safety and reduce crime through visible community policing and proactive measures.
- Support Safer Roads: Collaborate on road safety initiatives to reduce accidents and promote responsible behaviour.
- Effective Signposting: Provide clear pathways to advice, support services, and resources for all community members.

4.2. Implementation of 2025/26 Annual Partnership Plan

Colchester Community Safety Partnership has assessed the extent to which the 2025/26 Annual Partnership Plan (APP) has been implemented. The Annual Partnership Plan is a working document until the end of March 2026 at which point it will be made available on the CSP Website here: Our Work - Colchester Community Safety Partnership

Proactive efforts to increase participation and engagement by all CSP partners, has resulted in wider input into the Annual Partnership Plan activity.

CSP meeting agenda allows the opportunity to hear from inspiring guest speakers, open dialogue to generate innovative ideas and share expertise. This has resulted in greater collaboration, creation of agile task and finish groups and pooled resources.

Introduction of a new way to capture partner activity into the central Annual Partnership Plan, ensures that partners take responsibility for their role and contribution to the CSP and tackling the key areas of focus. This includes a focus on outcomes from all projects delivered.

Some of the key projects contributing to the key areas of focus are detailed below.

Preventing domestic abuse and sexual offences while fostering safer, healthier relationships.
CSP partners have supported several comms campaigns to raise awareness of domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), including 16 Days of Activism messaging and Behind the Smile, along with J9 training.

CARA continues to support victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse. And Next Chapter continue to run specialist safe accommodation for female domestic abuse victims who are in active addiction at the point of referral. This is a unique project in the UK (The Nest). They also successfully ran a male victim project resulting in a seminar for professionals to share learning and the launch of a new website designed entirely for male victims. They have expanded their Resettlement Service and Volunteer Service, and launched an online self-help recovery tool, called Ready to Rise.

Cranstoun as the new commissioned provider for Essex, are delivering free Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse and support victims.

New ways to tackle domestic abuse and VAWG resulted in a highly praised conference that saw 75 organisations learn about the impact of modern slavery and VAWG on women and girls, from reputable speakers. Along with the screening of Invisible Voices - a documentary of real conversations to combat DA and VAWG.

Further training to raise awareness of domestic abuse ‘The Bruise you can’t see’ was arranged by Colchester Borough Homes and attended by over 40 partners.

The Stronger Together project has expanded its delivery to more secondary schools in Colchester, educating to challenge and change the narrative around sexism and misogyny to combat VAWG.

Safeguarding individuals vulnerable to violence or exploitation

Aligned with the CSP, Colchester Against Modern Slavery is an action orientated antislavery partnership that has delivered 7 conferences to over 500 participants, 62 training sessions for 2028 people, and supported 13 awareness raising events engaging with 900 residents.

To address the national and local concerns relating to County Lines and knife crime, It’s About Your Son, (a hard-hitting knife crime production) is the central theme of our Crucial Crew programme for Year 6 pupils. Attended by 1400 pupils from 32 primary schools in June 2025.

Awareness events at the University and anti-spiking campaigns, have kept students informed. Along with campaigns in partnership with Crimestoppers to highlight online safety and sextortion.

Addressing antisocial behaviour, neighbourhood crimes, and their root causes

Funding has been secured to enable NTE warden patrols on Friday and Saturday nights, along with increased CCTV coverage responsive joint patrols between Council wardens, Police, Youth Service and Open Road. Vehicle nuisance continues to be tackled through enforcement of the Vehicle Nuisance PSPO – resulting in 68 Fixed Penalty Notices this year. These initiatives have contributed to the reaccreditation of the Purple Flag status.

Our Youth Early Intervention Group has delivered the second free Youth Festival this year, with increased partner involvement and attendance up by 50%, including an increase in the target age group of 14-16 yrs. Diversionary projects such as Girls Inspired have offered positive pathways - successfully delivered to 97 girls, showing 84% improved behaviour and 92% improved attitude towards learning.

Promoting safety, inclusivity, and social, economic, and environmental wellbeing for all of Colchester's community.

Hate crime awareness week this year saw partners come together to raise awareness – resulting in over 70 direct engagements.

A tailored package of community safety workshops was produced for the Bangladeshi Women's Association utilising CSP partner expertise. Now available as a template to share with other community groups.

This year has seen the launch of the Tiptree Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) - the first in Essex. Partners are actively working together to reduce alcohol harm in young people.

Suicide awareness has been highlighted through the CSP - 'lighting-up' campaigns and promotion of training, along with input into a working group to consider a 'hotspot' and ways to address this including comms messaging.

Open Road and Beacon House are working with vulnerable individuals to tackle addiction and homelessness. Our dedicated CSP website is a "one-stop" public access to partner services.

5. PUBLIC PERCEPTION

5.1. Safer Essex Community Safety Survey 2025

Data Source: Essex County Council. Data for 2025 survey.

Across Greater Essex, the crime type that most respondents were concerned about was Burglary (82.8%), followed by Frauds/Scams (82.2%) and Theft of/from a Car/Motorbike (80.8%).

In Colchester the crime type that most respondents were concerned about was Fraud (77.3%), followed by Burglary (71.3%) and Theft of/from a Car/Motorbike (69.0%).

Across Greater Essex, the crime type that most respondents said they had been a victim of was Fraud/Scams (25.6%), followed by Criminal Damage (15.5%) and Hate Crime (10.6%).

In Colchester the crime type that most respondents said they had been a victim of was Fraud (22.5%), followed by Criminal Damage (19.1%) and Hate Crime (14.6%).

Across Greater Essex, the ASB type that most respondents said they had seen in their area was Groups hanging around and being a nuisance (62.6%), followed by Drunken behaviour (61.2%) and People using drug/evidence of drug taking (60.5%).

In Colchester the crime type that most respondents were concerned about was Fly-tipping (58.0%), followed by Drunken behaviour (55.0%) and People using drug/evidence of drug taking (46.0%).

Across Greater Essex, when asked to pick three issues that they felt their CSP should have greater focus on this, Anti Social Behaviour was ranked highest (51%), followed by Gangs/County Lines (48%), Violent Crime (34%). (Note: A simplified list was provided in 2025 which means that year-on-year comparisons are not possible. Also, respondents were asked to pick 3, but because of the technical limitations on the survey they were able to pick more than 3).

In Colchester, Anti-Social Behaviour was ranked highest (43.8%), followed by Gangs/County Lines (39.3%) and Road Safety (36.0%).

Priority	Greater Essex			Colchester		
	#	%	Rank	#	%	Rank
ASB	470	51%	1	39	43.8%	1
Business Crime	173	19%	8	12	13.5%	10
Domestic Abuse	83	9%	11	12	13.5%	10
Environmental Crime	280	30%	4	20	22.5%	8
Fraud	159	17%	9	20	22.5%	8
Gangs/County Lines	443	48%	2	35	39.3%	2
Hate Crime	41	4%	13	10	11.2%	13
Modern Slavery	39	4%	15	11	12.4%	11
Online Safety	83	9%	11	10	11.2%	13
Preventing Terrorism	57	6%	12	8	9.0%	14
Property Crime	278	30%	5	27	30.3%	4
Road Safety	257	28%	6	32	36.0%	3
Water Safety	24	3%	16	2	2.2%	16
VAWG	179	19%	7	23	25.8%	6
Violent Crime	316	34%	3	23	25.8%	6
Other	39	4%	15	4	4.5%	15

5.2. Essex County Council Resident's Survey 2024

Data Source: Essex County Council. 2024 Resident's Survey.

The Essex Resident Survey has changed from 2025 to become the Greater Essex Resident Survey and will now include the views of residents in Southend & Thurrock. The Greater Essex HDRC (Health Determinants Research Collaborations) will now hold responsibility for the survey. As a result of these changes, fieldwork on the survey will not take place until late November 2025 and therefore out of scope for this strategic assessment. Data from the 2024 survey is presented below.

In the 2024 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. This is consistent with 2023 results for Colchester.

In the 2024 survey, 55% 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. This is consistent with 2023 results for Colchester.

Felt very or fairly safe in their local area	Essex			Colchester		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024

During the day	91%	87%	87%	90%	88%	88%
At night	55%	51%	55%	49%	53%	53%

5.3. Essex Police Public Perception Survey

Data Source: Essex Police. Quarter 1 2025/26 Survey.

In the 12 months ending June 2025, 72.2% of respondents thought that Essex Police were doing a good/excellent job compared to 76.7% in the previous 12 months. This compares to 80.3% in Colchester – 8% above the Force level.

70.0% of respondents believe they would be treated fairly if they made a complaint about an officer or staff member, compared to 73.7% in the previous 12 months. This compares to 68% in Colchester.

68.5% said that they were confident that the Police use their stop and search powers respectfully, compared to 65.4% in the previous 12 months. This compares to 74.5% in Colchester – ranked highest of all districts.

59.2% agreed that they have confidence in the police in this area, a decrease from last year (67.2%). This compares to 70% in Colchester.

48.4% of respondents thought that Essex Police were dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour in their area, the same as the previous 12 months (48.4%). This compares to 63% in Colchester – the district with the highest level of confidence for this question.

In the latest data period, Colchester **ranked highest** of all the districts, for 10 of the 19 questions asked including

Colchester were the only district that saw significant increases in this period. Colchester respondents also reported significant increases when asked if the police understand the issues that affect their community – 65.3% up from 56.0% in the previous period.

Area	Essex Police are doing a good/excellent job	Essex Police are dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour
Basildon	71%	45%
Braintree	72%	44%
Brentwood	69%	46%
Castle Point	67%	47%
Chelmsford	70%	44%
Colchester	80%	63%
Epping Forest	63%	37%
Harlow	73%	53%
Maldon	71%	47%
Rochford	74%	46%
Southend-on-Sea	75%	55%
Tendring	80%	61%
Thurrock	66%	39%
Uttlesford	77%	47%
Total	**72%**	**48%**

5.4. Feedback from Colchester Annual Public Meeting

Data Source: Crime and Disorder Committee meeting draft minutes – March 2025

The Crime and Disorder Committee met on 11th March 2025. Minutes will be approved at the next Crime and Disorder Committee meeting in February 2026 and will then be available on the Colchester City Council's website.

Key Points from the meeting:

The Committee agreed with the four areas of focus set by the Colchester CSP for 2025-26.

The Committee suggested that the CSP should widen its non-statutory membership to include parish, town and community councils, being organisations with significant interests in reducing crime and enhancing public safety in their areas.

The Committee suggested that the CSP should, for future setting of areas of focus, widen its consultees to include parish, town and community councils, as well as groups representing a wider range of communities across the Colchester area.

The above 3 recommendations were shared at the April 2025 Community Safety Delivery Board for feedback, and in November 2025 when drafting the key areas of focus for 2026-27.

Questions were raised by Committee members relating to the following, with answers given by the Council representative and District Commander:

The differences between actual levels of crime and public perception; Difference in reports of Domestic Abuse/VAWG to Police and support services; Prevent Strategy; Enforcement of street drinking, begging and preaching; County Lines statistics.

Graham Stehle, Chairperson of the Colchester District Neighbourhood Watch, gave a presentation on his organisation's work and opportunities to prevent opportunistic crime.

6. CRIME DATA

6.1. Factors Impacting On Crime Data

The following factors should be taken into consideration when reviewing the data on Crime:

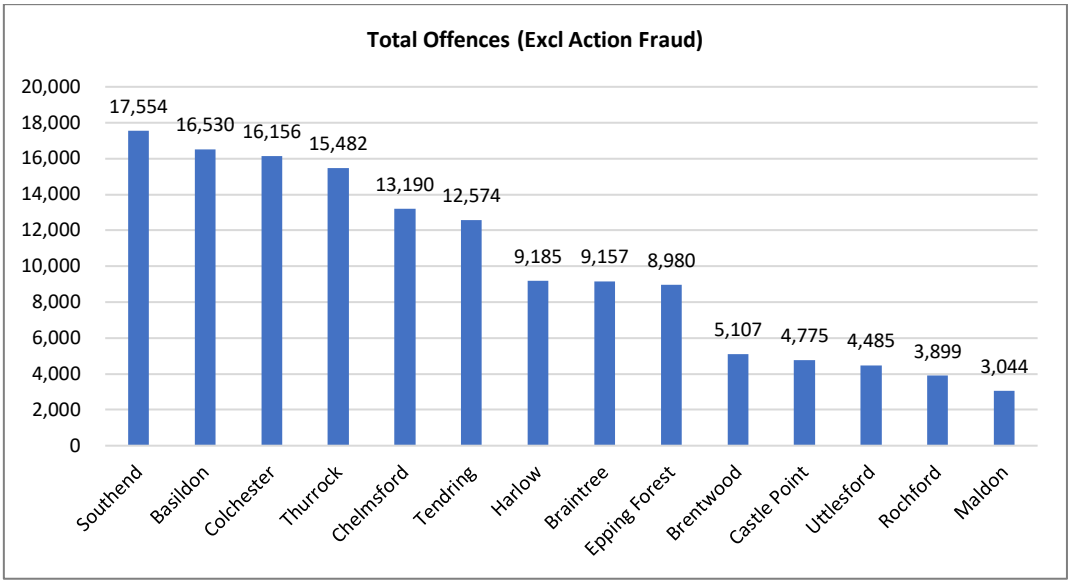
- There were no changes to counting rules or other analytical issues that would cause significant changes or in/decreases to any Crime types.

6.2. Crime Data

Data Source: Essex Police. NB Totals exclude Stanstead. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

In Greater Essex, a total of 140,118 offences were recorded by Essex Police during the 12 months to September 2025, of which 16,156 (11.5%) were recorded in Colchester. This equates to 75.34 offences per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 83.84 per 1,000 population in Colchester.

Across Greater Essex, there was a decrease in offences of 6,321 (-4.3%), compared to Colchester where there was an increase in offences of 88 (0.5%).



Victim Based Offences	Oct23 to Sept24	Oct24 to Sept25	% of Greater Essex Total 24/25	# diff.	% diff.	Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct24 to Sept25
Violence Against the Person						
Homicide	0	0	0.0%	0	N/A	0.00
Violence With Injury	1,841	1,696	12.6%	-145	-7.9%	8.80
Death Or Serious Injury Caused By Unlawful Driving	4	4	10.8%	0	0.0%	0.02
Violence Without Injury	3,288	3,346	13.1%	58	1.8%	17.36
Stalking & Harassment	1,885	2,005	11.4%	120	6.4%	10.40
Sexual Offences						
Rape	276	320	14.9%	44	15.9%	1.66
Other Sexual Offences	453	471	12.6%	18	4.0%	2.44
Robbery						
Robbery - Business	23	27	10.6%	4	17.4%	0.14
Robbery - Personal	151	111	10.5%	-40	-26.5%	0.58
Theft Offences						
Burglary - Residential	371	406	11.5%	35	9.4%	2.11
Burglary - Business & Community	159	146	9.3%	-13	-8.2%	0.76
Theft From A Motor Vehicle	412	395	9.6%	-17	-4.1%	2.05
Theft Of A Motor Vehicle	371	335	6.5%	-36	-9.7%	1.74
Vehicle Interference	100	159	10.9%	59	59.0%	0.83
Theft From The Person	126	113	11.2%	-13	-10.3%	0.59
Bicycle Theft	314	320	27.8%	6	1.9%	1.66
Shoplifting	1,229	1,663	11.6%	434	35.3%	8.63
Other Theft	1,211	1,048	10.7%	-163	-13.5%	5.44
Criminal Damage/Arson						
Criminal Damage	1,328	1,252	11.3%	-76	-5.7%	6.50
Arson	73	110	8.1%	37	50.7%	0.57
Total Victim Based Crime	**13,615**	**13,927**	**11.8%**	**312**	**2.3%**	**72.27**

Flagged Offences	Oct23 to Sept24	Oct24 to Sept25	% of Greater Essex Total 24/25	# diff.	% diff.	Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct24 to Sept25
Domestic Abuse	2,390	2,357	10.5%	-33	-1.4%	12.23
Hate Crime	458	498	13.4%	40	8.7%	2.58

Note there are no separate offences for Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime. Instead, offences (as listed in table above) are flagged as such. These are therefore separated from the table above to avoid double counting.

State Based Offences	Oct23 to Sept24	Oct24 to Sept25	% of Greater Essex Total 24/25	# diff.	% diff.	Offences Per 1,000 Population Oct24 to Sept25
Trafficking Of Drugs	150	202	8.5%	52	34.7%	1.05
Possession Of Drugs	431	323	8.2%	-108	-25.1%	1.68
Possession Of Weapons Offences	189	146	9.3%	-43	-22.8%	0.76
Public Order Offences	1,366	1,255	11.8%	-111	-8.1%	6.51
Miscellaneous Crimes against Society	317	303	9.0%	-14	-4.4%	1.57
Total Offences	**16,068**	**16,156**	**11.5%**	**88**	**0.5%**	**83.84**

6.3. Rural Crime

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for August 2024 to July 2025.

Across Greater Essex, there were 19,222 rural crime offences in the 12 months to July 2025, a decrease of 4.3% on the 20,091 offences the previous 12 months. In Colchester, there were 1,806 rural crime offences in the 12 months to July 2025, a decrease of 3.0% on the 1,861 offences the previous 12 months.

Area	12m to July 2024	12m to July 2025	Trend
Basildon	179	168	-6.1%
Braintree	2,458	2,290	-6.8%
Brentwood	1,125	1,007	-10.5%
Castle Point	0	1	+100%
Chelmsford	1,855	1,812	-2.3%
Colchester	1,861	1,806	-3.0%
Epping Forest	2,409	2,045	-15.1%
Harlow	18	11	-38.9%
Maldon	1,625	1,435	-11.7%
Rochford	644	552	-14.3%
Southend-on-Sea	2	1	-50.0%
Tendring	3,073	3,324	+8.2%
Thurrock	1,758	1,816	+3.3%
Uttlesford	3,085	2,953	-4.3%
Undefined	1	4	+300%
Total	**20,091**	**19,222**	**-4.3%**

Across Greater Essex, the only rural crime types that saw increases were Hare Coursing (+34.0%) and Wildlife Incidents (+4.5%). The rural crime types that saw the greatest decreases were Dog Theft (-57.9%) and Urban Agricultural & Construction Equipment Theft (-39.5%).

This compares to Colchester, where the only rural crime type that saw an increase was Acquisitive Crime (+11.5%). The rural crime types that saw the greatest decreases were Unauthorised Encampment (-43.5%) and Urban Agricultural & Construction Equipment Theft (-43.5%).

Colchester saw the largest numerical decrease of all districts in unauthorised encampments, -43.5%, 10 fewer incidents.

Rural Crime Type	Greater Essex			Colchester		
	12m to July 2024	12m to July 2025	Trend	12m to July 2024	12m to July 2025	Trend
Acquisitive Crime	6,515	5,945	-8.7%	503	561	11.5%
Domestic Abuse	3,301	3,215	-2.6%	336	287	-14.6%
Rural: Agricultural & Construction Equipment Theft	193	187	-3.1%	8	7	-12.5%
Urban: Agricultural & Construction Equipment Theft	387	234	-39.5%	23	13	-43.5%
Dog Theft	38	16	-57.9%	4	4	0.0%
Wildlife Incidents	3,105	3,244	+4.5%	207	206	-0.5%
Hare Coursing	150	201	+34.0%	3	2	-33.3%
Unauthorised Encampment	75	72	-4.0%	23	13	-43.5%
Fly-tipping	222	233	5.0%	9	9	0.0%

6.4. Fraud Offences

Data Source: National Fraud Intelligence Bureau. Data is for October 2023 to September 2024. Note that data for October 2024 to September 2025 was not provided by Essex Police and therefore data from last year's assessment is included instead.

In Greater Essex in the 12 months to September 2024 there were 9,604 fraud offences recorded by Action Fraud with a total payment amount of £68,526,443. This was an increase of 6.1% on the 9,052 recorded in the previous 12 months.

In the 12 months to September 2024 there were 1,095 offences recorded in Colchester, with a total payment amount of £3,669,081. This is an increase of 8.2% on the 1,012 recorded in the previous 12 months. This is however a reduction in the amount paid in the previous 12 months £5,775,563.

In 2023/24 Colchester showed the highest level of offences of all 14 areas. However, the amount paid in Colchester was significantly lower than the top 3 areas – Epping (£14,070,203), Uttlesford (£11,532,001) and Southend (£9,208,429)

Area	Offences 12m to Sept 2023	Offences 12m to Sept 2024	Difference	Rank 12m to Sept 2024	Payment 12m to Sept 2024
Basildon	869	956	+10.0%	4	£3,742,665
Braintree	684	660	-3.5%	8	£1,662,481
Brentwood	414	419	+1.2%	11	£1,692,949
Castle Point	344	419	+21.8%	12	£3,490,174

Chelmsford	881	939	+6.6%	5	£5,235,083
Colchester	1,012	1,095	+8.2%	1	£3,669,081
Epping Forest	670	741	+10.6%	6	£14,070,203
Harlow	493	524	+6.3%	9	£2,134,332
Maldon	275	312	+13.5%	14	£2,562,000
Rochford	354	393	+11.0%	13	£869,536
Southend-on-Sea	1,002	1,031	+2.9%	2	£9,208,429
Tendring	711	702	-1.3%	7	£5,006,182
Thurrock	916	974	+6.3%	3	£3,651,327
Uttlesford	427	439	+2.8%	10	£11,532,001
Total	**9,052**	**9,604**	**+6.1%**		**£68,526,443**

In Colchester in 2023/24 the Top 5 fraud types were:

Top 5 Fraud Types	#	% of Total	Average Value
NFIB90 - None of the Above	270	24.7%	£3,701
NFIB3A - Online Shopping and Auctions	192	17.5%	£885
NFIB1H - Other Advance Fee Frauds£5,775,563	106	9.7%	£5,454
NFIB52C - Hacking - Social Media and Email	91	8.3%	£0
NFIB3D - Other Consumer Non Investment Fraud	82	7.5%	£2,323

In Colchester in 2023/24, of the 1,095 offences, 1,027 were against individuals, 68 against organisations.

The three areas with the most fraud offences were:

- St Andrews/Greenstead: 92 offences (8.4%)
- Castle: 92 offences (8.4%)
- Shrub End: 82 offences (7.5%)
- 26 could not be assigned to an area.

7. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME DATA

7.1. Factors Impacting On Anti-Social Behaviour & Environmental Crime Data

The following factors should be taken into consideration when reviewing the data on ASB:

- There were no changes to counting rules or other analytical issues that would cause significant changes or in/decreases to any ASB types.

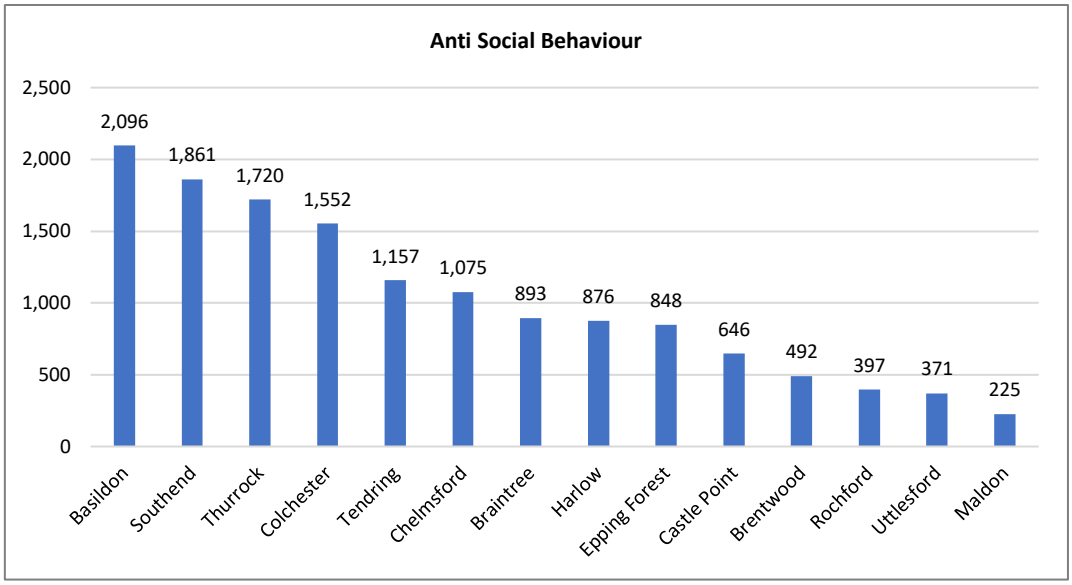
7.2. Anti-Social Behaviour Data – Essex Police

Data Source: Essex Police. NB Essex totals exclude Stanstead. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

In Greater Essex a total of 14,209 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents were recorded by Essex Police during the 12 months to September 2025, of which 1,552 (10.9%) were recorded in Colchester. This equates to 7.64 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 8.05 per 1,000 population in Colchester.

Across Greater Essex, there was an increase in incidents of 0.5% (+71) compared to Colchester where there was a decrease in incidents of -51 (-3.2%).

ASB Type	Oct23 to Sept24	Oct24 to Sept25	% of Greater Essex Total 24/25	# diff.	% diff.	Incidents Per 1,000 Pop Oct24 to Sept25
Environment	63	60	10.9%	-3	-4.8%	0.31
Nuisance	996	1,140	10.5%	144	14.5%	5.92
Personal	544	352	12.7%	-192	-35.3%	1.83
Total	**1,603**	**1,552**	**10.9%**	**-51**	**-3.2%**	**8.05**



7.3. Anti Social Behaviour Data – Colchester City Council

Data Source: Colchester City Council / Colchester Borough Homes

Colchester City Council

Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs):

- Town Centre
- Vehicular Nuisance
- Dog Fouling

Colchester City Council have received 355 ASB Complaints.
The top 3 complaints relate to:

- Drugs
- Noise
- Verbal Abuse

Vehicular Nuisance ASB Enforcement:
68 Fixed Penalty Notices issued
Of which 63 paid and 5 prosecutions for non-payment

ASB Case Reviews: 4 requests, 3 did not meet the Essex threshold. 1 ASB case review is currently ongoing.

Op GUARDIAN: Proactive patrols in High Street, Castle, and Eld Lane, five times per week in 4-hour blocks. Working closely with local teams and Essex Police, supplying evidence for breaches of City Centre and Vehicular PSPOs, supporting ASB interventions, and joint planned operations.

NTE Wardens: Patrols in Colchester City Centre on Fridays and Saturdays from 20:00–04:00, using two SIA-licensed and CSAS-accredited officers. Supporting ASB prevention, PSPO enforcement, and partnership working with Essex Police, NTE venues, and council services.

- Increased visible presence and reassurance in the Night-Time Economy.
- Reduction in ASB and improved compliance with PSPOs.
- Strengthened partnership working and intelligence sharing.
- Enhanced public confidence and positive community engagement.

Outcomes: 21 informal warnings and 19 enforcements (April 2025 – September 2025)

Street Care and Safety

Engagement

Reason for Engagement	**Total**
Begging	49
Dog Fouling	7
Drinking/intoxication in public space	78
Waste Education letters Whole streets	24
Fly Tipping – Investigations but no evidence found	284
Educational Flyers used when engaging and on Pop up Stalls	29
Homeless (welfare checks, Signposting, Education, Checking and Dispersing, safeguarding, referrals	127
Household Waste	144
Illegal Bike	14
Safety Advice/Signposting	24
Urination	3
Community Meetings	24
Graffiti removal	1093
Abandoned vehicles	1059
Stray Dogs	47
No Duty of Care	9
Deployment of Mobile Cameras	33 occasions *since April 2025

Penalty Notices Issued

CPW	8
CPN	2

FPN	143
Fly tips	59

In comparison to last year, there are fewer FPN's. There has been a focus on building cases for court cases against breaches of the PSPO in the City Centre. In addition to enforcement, warden duties include safeguarding, signposting to support services and education.

Environmental Protection

	2023-24	**2024-25**
Nuisance Neighbour Complaints	242	215
Excessive Noise	565	470

Colchester Borough Homes

	2022-23	**2023-24**	**2024-2025**
ASB Cases Investigated	355	399	372
CPW (Community Protection Warnings) / CPN's Served	107	138	128
Closure Orders Applied	5	6 (Full closures)	8
Evictions due to ASB	2	3	2
Notices Seeking Possession served	28	26	22
Tenancies Sustainment referrals	150	201	207
Domestic Abuse cases supported/referred (CBH tenants)	20	61	74
Domestic Abuse cases supported (non CBH tenants)	14	98 approaches due to DA	141
Safeguarding Referrals submitted	43	41	45
Days spent volunteering in the community	15	5	9

8. FIRE, ROAD & WATER SAFETY

8.1. Incidents Attended by Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

Data Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

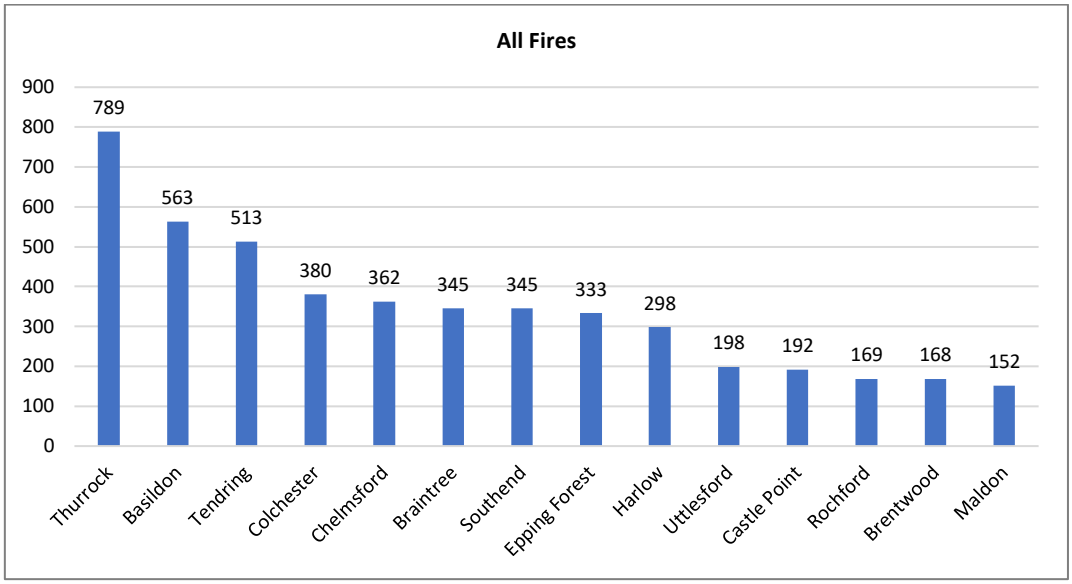
Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 18,410 incidents in the 12 months to September 2025, 1,609 (8.7%) were in Colchester.

Incident Type	Greater Essex			Colchester		
	Oct 23 to Sept 24	Oct 24 to Sept 25	Difference	Oct 23 to Sept 24	Oct 24 to Sept 25	Difference
False Alarms	7,240	7,733	+6.8%	585	676	15.6%
Fires	3,637	4,892	+34.5%	283	380	34.3%
Road Traffic Collisions	1,287	1,350	+4.9%	122	115	-5.7%
Special Service	4,275	4,426	+3.5%	416	438	5.3%
Total	**12,168**	**18,410**	**+33.9%**	**1,406**	**1,609**	**14.4%**

8.2. Fire Data

Data Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

In the 12 months to September 2025, Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 4,892 fire incidents, 380 (7.8%) were in Colchester (the 4th highest of all 14 areas.). This is an increase of 1,255 (34.5%) on the previous 12 months, compared to an increase of 34.3% in Colchester. This equates to 2.63 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 1.97 per 1,000 population in Colchester.



In the 12 months to September 2025, there were a total of 751 Accidental Dwelling Fires in Greater Essex, 62 in Colchester. This is an increase of 87 (+13.1%) on the previous 12 months, compared to an increase of 3 (5.1%) in Colchester. This equates to 0.40 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 0.32 per 1,000 population in Colchester.

In the 12 months to September 2025, there were a total of 5 fatalities in Greater Essex from Accidental Dwelling Fires (1 of which was in Colchester), an increase from 3 the previous 12 months. There were 33 injuries, a decrease from 46 the previous year. 4 of these were in Colchester, a decrease from 9 the previous year.

In the 12 months to September 2025, there were a total of 1,614 Deliberate Fires in Greater Essex, 117 in Colchester. This is an increase of 605 (+60.0%) on the previous 12 months, compared to an increase of 55 (88.7%) in Colchester. This equates to 0.87 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 0.61 per 1,000 population in Colchester.

8.3. False Alarms, Special Service Incidents and Road Traffic Collisions Attended by Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

Data Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

In the 12 months to September 2025, Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 7,733 false alarms, 676 (8.7%) were in Colchester. This is an increase of 493 (+6.8%) on the previous 12 months, compared to an increase of 15.6% in Colchester. This equates to 4.16 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 3.51 per 1,000 population in Colchester.

In the 12 months to September 2025, Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 4,426 Special Service incidents, 438 (9.9%) were in Colchester. This is an increase of 151 (+3.5%) on the previous 12 months, compared to an increase of 5.3% in Colchester. This equates to 2.38 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 2.27 per 1,000 population in Colchester.

In the 12 months to September 2025, Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 1,350 Road Traffic Collisions, 115 (8.5%) were in Colchester. This is an increase of 63 (+4.9%) on the previous 12 months, compared to a decrease of 7 (-5.7%) in Colchester. This equates to 0.73 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 0.60 per 1,000 population in Colchester.

8.4. Prevention Activity Carried out by Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

Data Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue. Data is for April 2024 to March 2025.

In the 12 months to March 2025, Essex County Fire & Rescue carried out a total of 10,695 Home Safety Visits. This is an increase of 5.8% from last year when 10,111 visits were carried out.

It is important to note that home fire safety visits completed by ECFRS includes both home fire safety checks and safe and well visits.

Activity	2023/24	2024/25	Change	% Change
Home Safety Visits	10,111	10,695	584	+5.8%
Home fire safety checks	3,863	3,997	134	+3.5%
Safe & Well Visits	6,248	6,698	450	+7.2%
Standard Smoke Alarms fitted	11,836	12,306	470	+4.0%
Sensory Smoke Alarms Fitted	1,431	1,859	428	+29.9%
CO Alarms fitted	1,223	2,065	842	+68.9%

In the 12 months to March 2025, Essex County Fire & Rescue made 7,163 visits to those over 65 (compared to 6,614 the previous year) and 5,245 to people with a disability (compared to 4,601 the previous year).

Number of individuals visited	2023/24	2024/25	% change
The number over 65 years old	6,614	7,163	8.3%
The number who had a disability	4,601	5,245	14.0%

8.5. Water Safety

Data Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

In the 12 months to September 2025, Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 65 water incidents.

There were 58 people involved in water incidents, of which 48 were rescued without injury, 8 were rescued with injury and 2 were fatalities. Since, according to the revised definition, victims are only considered to be fatalities and people rescued who suffered from injuries, this means that there were 10 victims of water incidents in the 12 months to September 2025 and 15 victims of water incidents the year before.

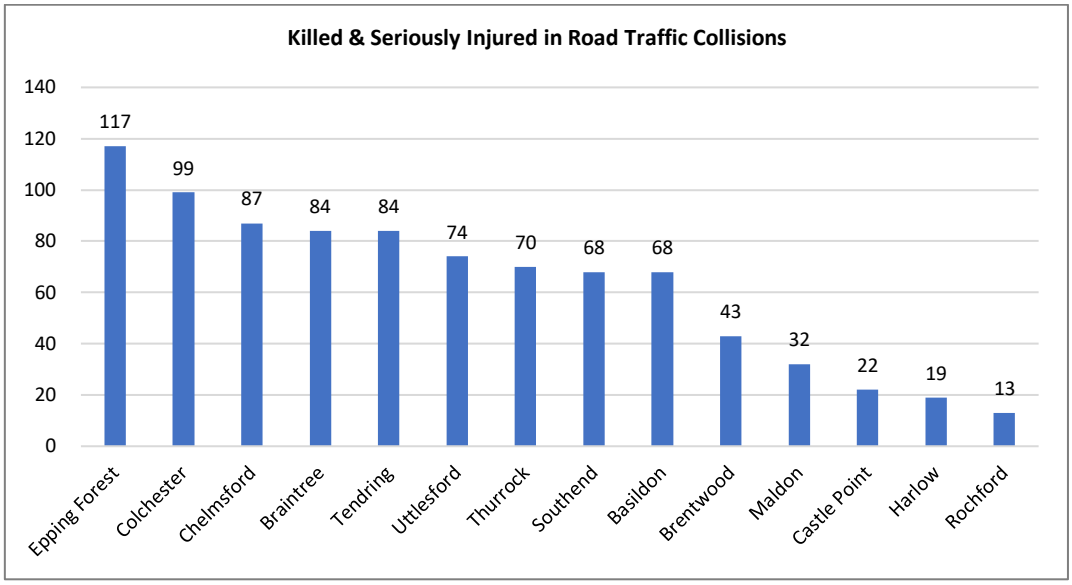
Of the 10 victims of water incidents in the 12 months to September 2025, 5 were found in a lake/pond/reservoir, 2 at a beach, 2 in a river/canal and 1 at sea.

Activity	2023/24	2024/25	Change	% Change
Water Incidents	108	65	-43	-39.8%
Victims of Water Incidents	15	10	-5	-33.3%

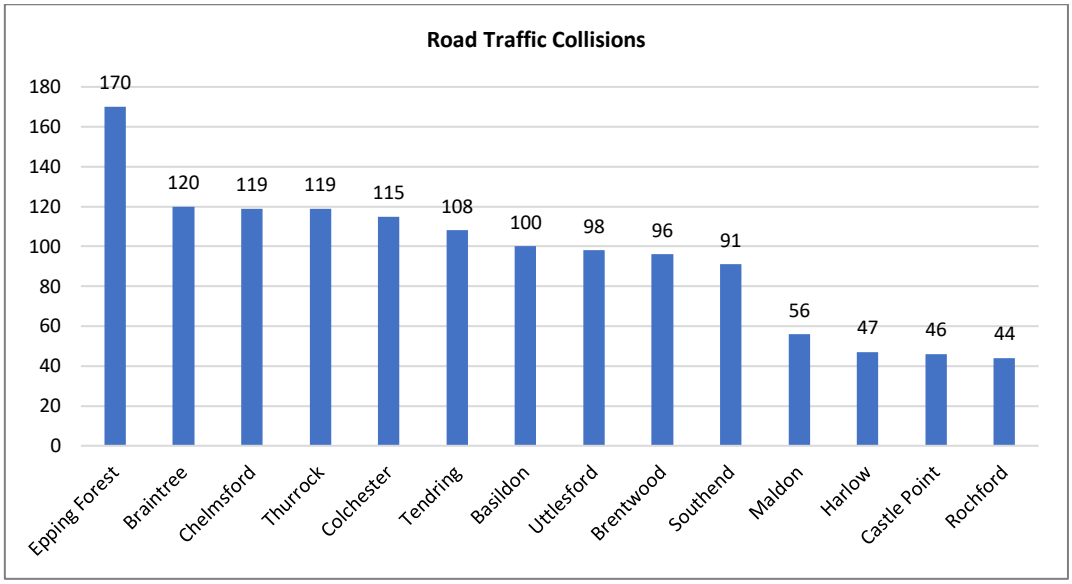
8.6. Road Traffic Collisions

Data Sources:
Safer Essex Roads Partnership. Data is for September 2024 to August 2025.
Essex County Fire & Rescue. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.
Essex Police. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

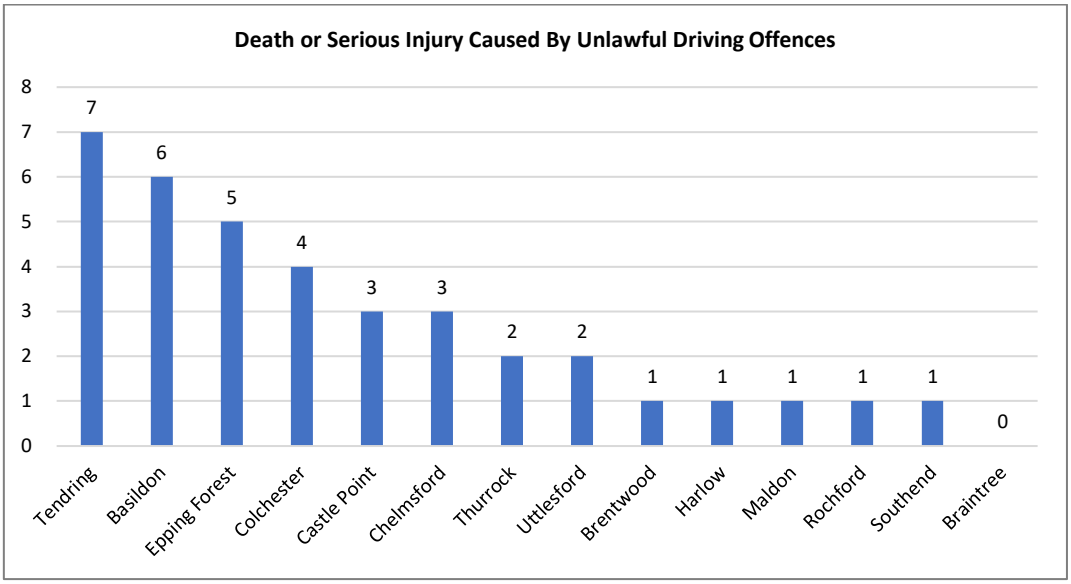
In the 12 months to August 2025, there a total of 880 people killed or seriously injured on the roads in Greater Essex, 99 (11.3%) were in Colchester. This is an increase of 30 (+3.5%) on the previous 12 months, compared to an increase of 12 (13.8%) in Colchester. This equates to 0.47 per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 0.51 per 1,000 population in Colchester.



In the 12 months to September 2025, Essex County Fire & Rescue attended a total of 1,350 Road Traffic Collisions, 115 (8.5%) were in Colchester. This is an increase of 63 (+4.9%) on the previous 12 months, compared to a decrease of 7 (-5.7%) in Colchester. This equates to 0.73 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 0.60 per 1,000 population in Colchester.



In the 12 months to September 2025, Essex Police recorded a total of 37 Death or Serious Injury Caused By Unlawful Driving Offences, 4 (10.8%) of which were in Colchester. This is a decrease of 10 (-21.3%) on the previous 12 months, compared to Colchester where the numbers were the same as the previous year (4 offences). This equates to 0.02 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 0.02 per 1,000 population in Colchester.



9. HIDDEN HARMS

9.1. Domestic Abuse

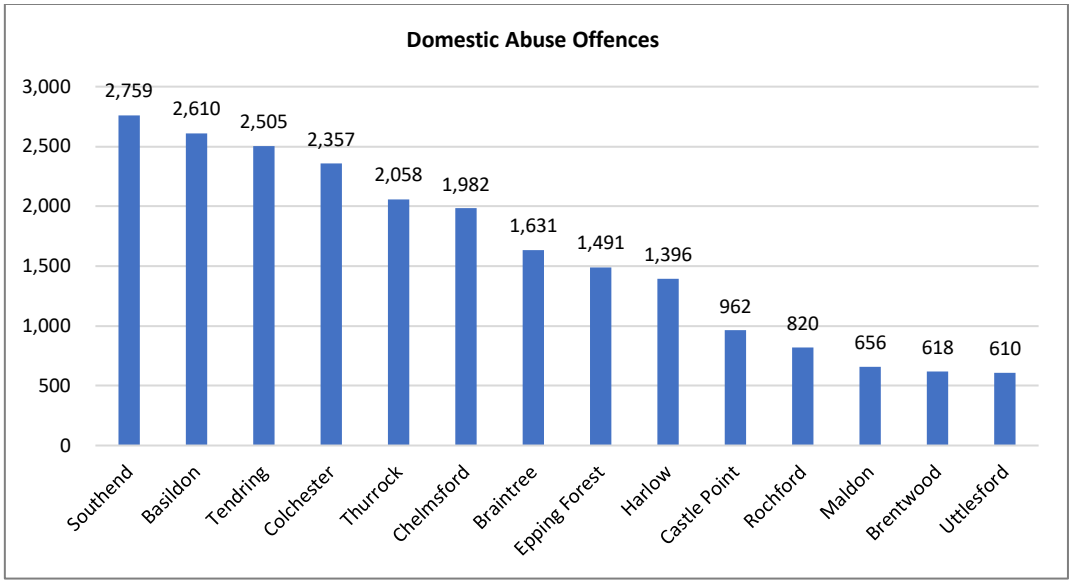
Data Sources:
Essex Police. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.
SETDAB. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.
Next Chapter. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

In Greater Essex a total of 22,455 Domestic Abuse Offences were recorded by Essex Police during the 12 months to September 2025, of which 2,347 (10.5%) were recorded in Colchester. This equates to 12.07 offences per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 12.23 per 1,000 population in Colchester.

Across Greater Essex, there was a decrease in incidents of 1,149 (-4.9%), compared to Colchester where there was a decrease in incidents of -33 (-1.4%).

Across Greater Essex, there was a solved rate of 12.9%, compared to the rate of 11.4% in the previous 12 months. In Colchester, the solved rate was 13.0%, an increase from the rate of 11.5% in the previous twelve months.

Domestic Abuse Risk Level	Oct23 to Sept24	Oct24 to Sept25	% of Greater Essex Total 24/25	# diff.	% diff.	Incidents Per 1,000 Pop Oct24 to Sept25
High Risk	207	297	11.6%	90	43.5%	1.54
Medium Risk	527	581	11.0%	54	10.2%	3.02
Standard Risk	1,536	1,386	10.0%	-150	-9.8%	7.19
Not Assessed	120	93		-27	-22.5	
Total	2390	2357		-33	-1.4	



In Greater Essex a total of 2,333 MARAC cases were heard during the 12 months to September 2025, of which 511 (21.9%) were recorded across Colchester and Tendring.

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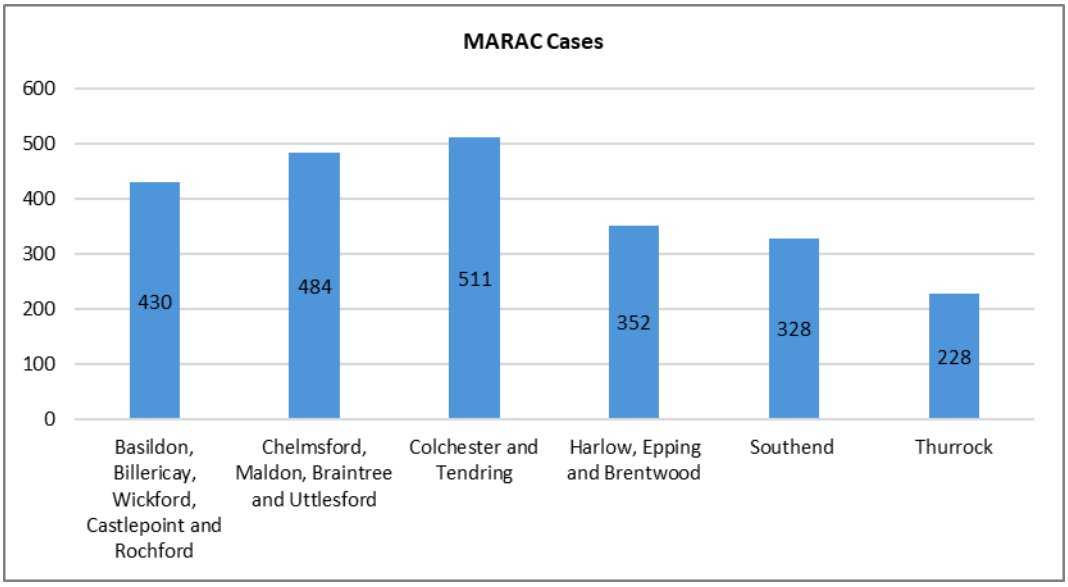
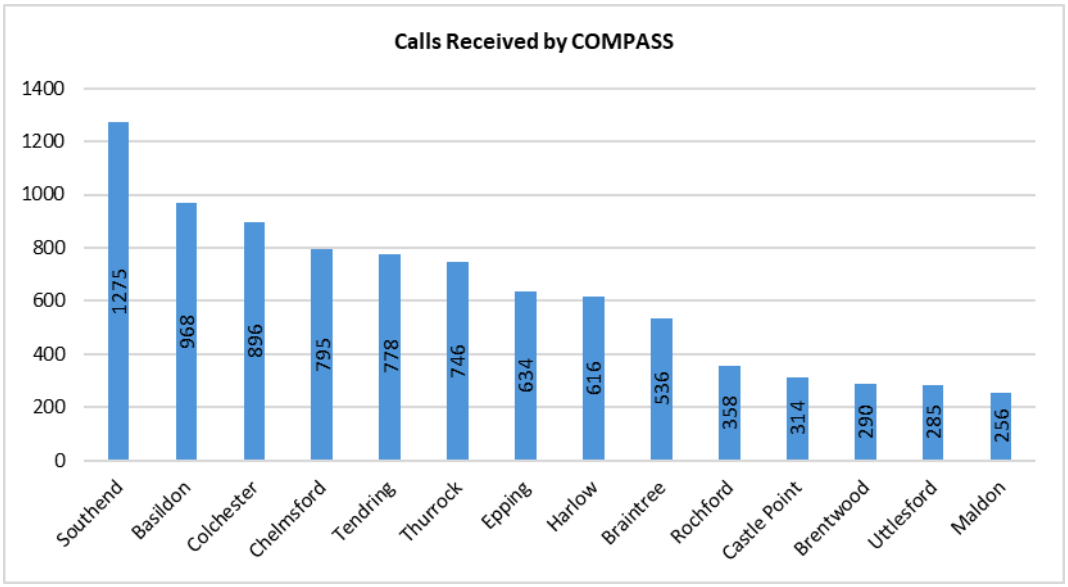


In Greater Essex a total of 16,033 calls were received by COMPASS during the 12 months to September 2025, of which 896 (5.6%) were recorded in Colchester.



Next Chapter

Next Chapter Total Outreach Referrals: **3672**

Total number of individuals referred for Colchester	Value
Total number of individuals referred	943

Colchester outreach referrals equate to 26% of all referrals into Next Chapter.

Referral Source

Referral Source	Value	%
Adult Social Care	10	0.91
Any Counselling	1	0.09
Any other agency	80	7.29
Big House Refuge	1	0.09
Braintree District Council	1	0.09
CAB	1	0.09
CARA	7	0.64
Change Project	2	0.18
Chelmsford Borough Council	1	0.09
Childrens Social Care	30	2.73
Colchester Borough Council	25	2.28
Community Outreach	9	0.82
CYP Family DAP referral	1	0.09
CYP Programmes	1	0.09
CYP referral	5	0.46
Duty	1	0.09
Education	41	3.73
EPUT Project	3	0.27
Family Solutions	18	1.64
GP	6	0.55
Health Visitor	2	0.18
Hospital Adults	9	0.82
Hospital Children	2	0.18

IAPT Therapy 4 You	20	1.82
IDVA	9	0.82
Maldon District Council	1	0.09
MARAC	12	1.09
MARAT	15	1.37
Mental Health EPUT	6	0.55
Mental Health General	10	0.91
Open Road	2	0.18
Other VAWG/DA Service or Refuge	1	0.09
Peabody	3	0.27
Phoenix Futures	3	0.27
Police	372	33.88
Refugee Action (RAMA)	2	0.18
Safe Steps	1	0.09
Secondary Assessment	7	0.64
Self	361	32.88
Sexual abuse	1	0.09
Sexual Health	1	0.09
Tendring District Council	2	0.18
Victim Support	8	0.73
Youth Enquiry Service	3	0.27
YPVA	1	0.09

CLIENT PROFILES – 884 clients

Age

Age	**Value**	**%**
Missing Data	1	0.11
0 - 15	1	0.11
16 - 20	45	5.09
21 - 25	87	9.84
26 - 30	97	10.97
31 - 35	163	18.44
36 - 40	158	17.87
41 - 45	128	14.48
46 - 50	82	9.28
51 - 55	48	5.43
56 - 60	28	3.17
61 - 65	21	2.38
66 - 70	11	1.24
71 - 75	2	0.23
76 - 80	9	1.02
81 - 85	2	0.23
86 - 90	1	0.11

Gender

Gender	**Value**	**%**
Declined	4	0.45
Female	787	89.03
Male	88	9.95
Non binary	1	0.11
Not Asked	4	0.45

Ethnicity

White	**Value**	**%**

British	622	70.36
Irish	6	0.68
Gypsy or Irish Traveller	2	0.23
Eastern European	21	2.38
Roma	1	0.11
Any other White background, please describe	24	2.71

Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Background	**Value**	**%**
White and Black Caribbean	12	1.36
White and Black African	2	0.23
White and Asian	3	0.34
Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background, please describe	12	1.36

Asian / Asian British	**Value**	**%**
Indian	5	0.57
Pakistani	10	1.13
Bangladeshi	2	0.23
Chinese	3	0.34
Any other Asian background, please describe	8	0.90

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	**Value**	**%**
African	33	3.73
Caribbean	8	0.90
Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, please describe	13	1.47

Other Ethnic Group	**Value**	**%**
Arab	2	0.23
Any other ethnic group, please describe	2	0.23
Don't Know	1	0.11
Not Asked	35	3.96
Declined	57	6.45

Disability

Disability	**Value**	**%**
Yes	223	25.23
None	600	67.87
Don't Know	4	0.45
Not Asked	34	3.85
Declined	23	2.60

Disability Details	**Value**	**%**
Physical	82	9.28
Learning	40	4.52
Hearing	6	0.68
Visual	3	0.34
Mental Health	141	15.95
Long Term Health Condition	31	3.51
Speech Impairment	1	0.11

Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation	**Value**	**%**
Bisexual	34	3.85
Declined	52	5.88

Don't Know	3	0.34
Gay	3	0.34
Heterosexual	725	82.01
Lesbian	8	0.90
Not Asked	52	5.88
Other	1	0.11
Pansexual	6	0.68

Client Language

Client Language	**Value**	**%**
Afrikaans	2	0.23
Albanian	1	0.11
Bengali, Bangla	3	0.34
Declined	12	1.36
English	814	92.08
Greek (modern)	1	0.11
Herero	1	0.11
Hungarian	1	0.11
Italian	1	0.11
Lithuanian	1	0.11
Mandarin	1	0.11
Nepali	1	0.11
Not Asked	23	2.60
Polish	5	0.57
Portuguese	3	0.34
Romanian	3	0.34
Russian	1	0.11
Sinhalese, Sinhala	1	0.11
Spanish	2	0.23
Swahili	2	0.23
Swedish	1	0.11
Urdu	4	0.45

Accommodation type	**Value**	**%**
Missing Data	52	5.88
Bed and Breakfast	11	1.24
Children's Home / Foster Care	2	0.23
Don't Know	26	2.94
Hospital	1	0.11
LA General Needs	159	17.99
Living with Family / Friends	102	11.54
Military Accommodation	4	0.45
Mobile Home / Caravan	1	0.11
Other	60	6.79
Owner Occupier	133	15.05
Private Sector	159	17.99
RSL General Needs	21	2.38
Sheltered Housing	2	0.23
Social housing	54	6.11
Sofa Surfing	3	0.34
Student Accommodation	7	0.79
Supported Housing	11	1.24
Temporary Accommodation	70	7.92
Women's Refuge	6	0.68

Children

	Value
Average number of children per client	2.11
Number of clients with children	566
Total number of children	1194

Child Age	Value	%
Missing Data	8	0.67
0 - 5	337	28.22
6 - 10	383	32.08
11 - 15	331	27.72
16 - 20	126	10.55
21 - 25	8	0.67
26 +	1	0.08

Needs Identified at Assessment

Physical Health	Value	%
Physical health (any need)	26	3.93
Accessing treatment for physical health	14	2.12
Help to register with GP	15	2.27
No physical health needs	595	90.02

Finances	Value	%
Finances (any need)	188	28.44
Accessing benefits	101	15.28
Accessing own income	42	6.35
Debt and money management	82	12.41
Destitution	4	0.61
No finance needs	502	75.95

Immigration Status	Value	%
Immigration (any need)	19	2.87
DDVC application	11	1.66
No immigration needs	596	90.17
Support regularising status	10	1.51
Support with clarifying status	7	1.06

Criminal and Civil Justice	Value	%
Criminal and civil justice (any need)	449	67.93
No criminal or civil justice needs	281	42.51
Support at court	84	12.71
Support to report to police	215	32.53
Support with criminal justice system / process	202	30.56
Support with family law	179	27.08
Support with injunction/s	296	44.78

Housing	Value	%
Housing (any need)	347	52.50
Emergency accommodation / refuge	84	12.71
Home security	166	25.11
Homelessness through DV	85	12.86
No Housing Needs	373	56.43

Resettlement	188	28.44
Support maintaining tenancy	65	9.83

Work, Training and Education	**Value**	**%**
Work, training and education (any need)	84	12.71
Finding new work	33	4.99
No work, training or education needs	580	87.75
Staying in current work safely	47	7.11
Training	6	0.91
Volunteering	5	0.76

Children	**Value**	**%**
Children (any need)	299	45.23
Accessing parenting support	99	14.98
Accessing specialist support for children	134	20.27
Issues around child contact	212	32.07
No children related needs	414	62.63

Safety	**Value**	**%**
Safety (any need)	535	80.94
No safety needs	186	28.14
Support keeping children safe	277	41.91
Support keeping safe at home	469	70.95
Support keeping safe on phone and online	289	43.72
Support keeping safe out and about	355	53.71
Support preparing to leave	102	15.43

Social Networks	**Value**	**%**
Any social network needs	171	25.87
Accessing community, faith based or social groups, including online groups	55	8.32
No social network needs	524	79.27
Re-establishing relationships with friends and family	137	20.73

Mental Health	**Value**	**%**
Mental health (any need)	309	46.75
Accessing counselling	226	34.19
Accessing treatment for mental health	151	22.84
No mental health needs	419	63.39
Self-harming	18	2.72
Substance misuse	30	4.54
Suicidal thoughts / feelings	25	3.78

Emotional Health and Well-being	**Value**	**%**
Emotional health and well-being (any need)	355	53.71
Accessing counselling	302	45.69
Accessing group work	117	17.70
Accessing healthy eating groups	5	0.76
Accessing life-skills groups	23	3.48
No emotional health or well-being needs	385	58.25

Sexual Health	**Value**	**%**
Sexual health (any need)	67	10.14

Accessing specialised sexual violence support	63	9.53
Accessing treatment for sexual health	4	0.61
No sexual health needs	578	87.44

ABUSE PROFILES

Current or Historic

Current or Historic	Value	%
Current	676	84.71
Historic	122	15.29

Perpetrator Relationship to Client

Perpetrator Relationship to Client	Value	%
Missing Data	3	0.37
Acquaintance	1	0.12
Aunt	3	0.37
Brother	12	1.49
Brother in law	2	0.25
Current intimate partner	111	13.79
Daughter	9	1.12
Don't Know	16	1.99
Ex intimate partner	432	53.66
Ex partner of parent / carer	9	1.12
Ex spouse	45	5.59
Father	12	1.49
Intermittent intimate partner	1	0.12
Mother	10	1.24
Mother in law	5	0.62
Not Asked	5	0.62
Other	7	0.87
Other Female relative	2	0.25
Other Male relative	4	0.50
Parents intimate partner	1	0.12
Sister	1	0.12
Sister in law	1	0.12
Son	20	2.48
Son in law	3	0.37
Spouse	86	10.68
Step Daughter	1	0.12
Step Father	1	0.12
Step Son	1	0.12
Uncle	1	0.12

Abuse Summary

Abuse Summary	Value	%
Abuse using Survivor's Identity	87	10.79
Controlling and Coercive Behaviour	663	82.26
Economic Abuse	337	41.81
Emotional / Psychological Abuse	741	91.94
Honor Based Abuse	18	2.23
Physical Abuse	591	73.33
Post-separation Abuse	201	24.94
Sexual Abuse	209	25.93
Stalking or Harassment	253	31.39
Tech-facilitated Abuse	208	25.81

9.2. Violence Against Women & Girls

Data Sources:

Essex Police. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

CARA. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

Across Greater Essex, in the 12 months to September 2025, 29,679 of the 56,636 Violence Against the Person Offences recorded had a female victim (52.4 %). This is compared to 30,581 of the 58,136 offences the previous 12 months (52.6%).

Across Greater Essex, in the 12 months to September 2025, 4,548 of the 5,885 Sexual Offences recorded had a female victim (77.2%). This is compared to 4,088 of the 5,326 offences the previous 12 months (76.8%).

Through Project Minerva, Colchester CSP has been able to identify areas of focus for VAWG. This includes not just areas of high volume, but those were VAWG offences are disproportionately high compared to other offences in the area, and areas where offences are lower than may be expected for the type of area and could indicate under reporting. In Colchester, the following areas have been targeted for action:

Super VAWG hot spot areas - top 10% volume and over representation

Stanway – Stronger Together production delivered at Philip Morant School.

City Centre – East Hill area

NTE Wardens funded to patrol Friday and Saturday evenings (16 hours per week)

Ask for Angela and Vulnerability Training delivered to city centre NTE venues

Purple Flag status

Mile End – Girls Inspired and Stronger Together projects delivered at Trinity School

VAWG Safe Space at Colchester Sports Park – staff trained to be able to signpost to support for anyone vulnerable and accessing the site.

Greenstead – Seeyousafer messaging highlighted at Freshers Fayre – University of Essex

Stronger Together delivered to Colchester Academy.

CARA (Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse)

CARA works with victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse, providing independent, specialist support and promoting and representing their rights and needs. CARA works with victims and survivors of all ages and genders.

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.
- Play therapy for children aged 12 and under.
- An Integrated Support service, providing flexible support for victims and survivors with complex needs.
- A specialist advocacy service.
- Support groups.

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

CARA received a total of **670** new referrals from victims and survivors of sexual violence and child sexual abuse from the Colchester area.

	Female	Male	Other genders
Adults (18+)	481	62	18
13-17	65	11	4
12 and under	14	15	0
Total	**560**	**88**	**22**

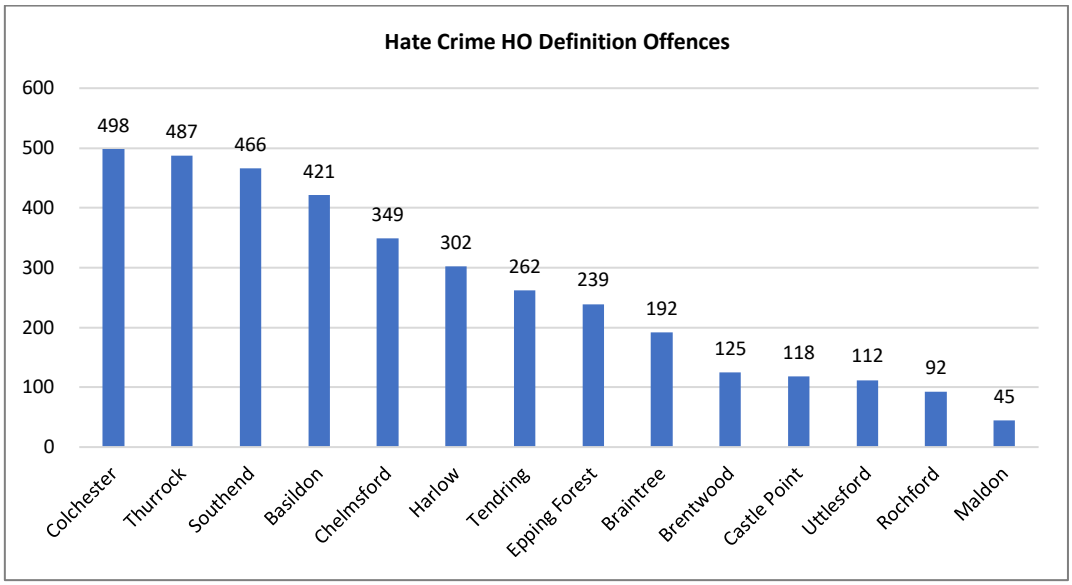
9.3. Hate Crime

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

In Greater Essex a total of 3,708 Hate Crime Offences were recorded by Essex Police during the 12 months to September 2025, of which 498 (13.4%) were recorded in Colchester. This equates to 1.99 offences per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 2.58 per 1,000 population in Colchester.

Across Greater Essex, there was an increase in incidents of 194 (5.5%), compared to Colchester where there was an increase in incidents of 40 (8.7%).

Across Greater Essex, there was a solved rate of 14.9%, compared to the rate of 16.2% in the previous 12 months. In Colchester, the solved rate was 9.6%, a decrease from the rate of 17.7% in the previous twelve months.



9.4. Missing Persons

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

In Greater Essex during the year there were 2,044 Missing Person Reports for Adults (18+) involving 1,888 people (a person may be reported missing more than once), of which 226 reports involving 204 people were from Colchester.

Across Greater Essex, there was a decrease in reports of 251 (-10.9%), compared to Colchester where there was a decrease in reports of -2 (-0.9%).

In Greater Essex during the year there were 5,503 Missing Person Reports for Children (under 18) involving 3,241 people (a person may be reported missing more than once), of which 663 reports involving 395 people were from Colchester.

Across Greater Essex, there was a decrease in reports of 363 (-6.2%), compared to Colchester where there was a decrease in reports of -308 (-31.7%).

Area	Adult 18+			Child Under 18		
	Oct23 to Sept24	Oct24 to Sept25	% Difference	Oct23 to Sept24	Oct24 to Sept25	% Difference
Basildon	131	126	-3.8%	431	462	7.2%
Braintree	153	114	-25.5%	359	288	-19.8%
Brentwood	69	41	-40.6%	40	50	25.0%
Castle Point	47	53	12.8%	89	84	-5.6%
Chelmsford	203	178	-12.3%	510	331	-35.1%
Colchester	228	226	-0.9%	971	663	-31.7%
Epping Forest	120	91	-24.2%	393	120	-69.5%
Harlow	119	95	-20.2%	457	511	11.8%
Maldon	53	82	54.7%	90	124	37.8%
Rochford	57	43	-24.6%	76	77	1.3%
Southend-on-Sea	224	189	-15.6%	556	636	14.4%
Tendring	286	280	-2.1%	494	420	-15.0%
Thurrock	205	149	-27.3%	426	599	40.6%
Uttlesford	52	52	0.0%	127	144	13.4%
Unknown/Stanstead	348	325	-6.6%	847	994	17.4%
Total	**2,295**	**2,044**	**-10.9%**	**5,866**	**5,503**	**-6.2%**

9.5. Children At Risk of Exploitation

Data Source: Essex Children's Safeguarding Board. Data is a snapshot on 31/07/25.

The Missing and Child Exploitation (MACE) Meeting is a two-part meeting which outlines the Essex response to Risk in the Community (RIC) concerns. This includes criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, and missing episode concerns for young people who are receiving a service from Essex Children's Services, including young people over the age of 18 who are receiving a Leaving and After-Care service. MACE Meetings are co-Chaired by Social Care and Police, and the MACE Partnership includes colleagues from Social Care, Police, Education, Health, Youth Justice, Youth Service, District and Borough Councils, and The Children's Society. Overall governance of MACE sits with the Essex Safeguarding Children Board.

MACE in Essex is split into MACE Part 1 and MACE Part 2. MACE Part 1 discusses individual high-risk young people with the goal of creating a multi-agency MACE plan that is targeted at reducing risk for each young person, while also sharing accountability for risk across the Partnership. MACE Part 1 is for Partners to provide suitable scrutiny for each MACE plan and share collective responsibility for the delivery and success of each plan. MACE Part 2 is a strategic-level meeting that is to explore the current local picture of exploitation by analysing trends and themes, identifying exploitation hotspots, and ensuring that Partners are working in harmony to address exploitation concerns in the community. Further details around MACE including Terms of References, guides, and the RIC and Missing Arrangements can be found at:
https://www.escb.co.uk/safeguarding-topics/exploitation-risk-in-the-community/mace-12/

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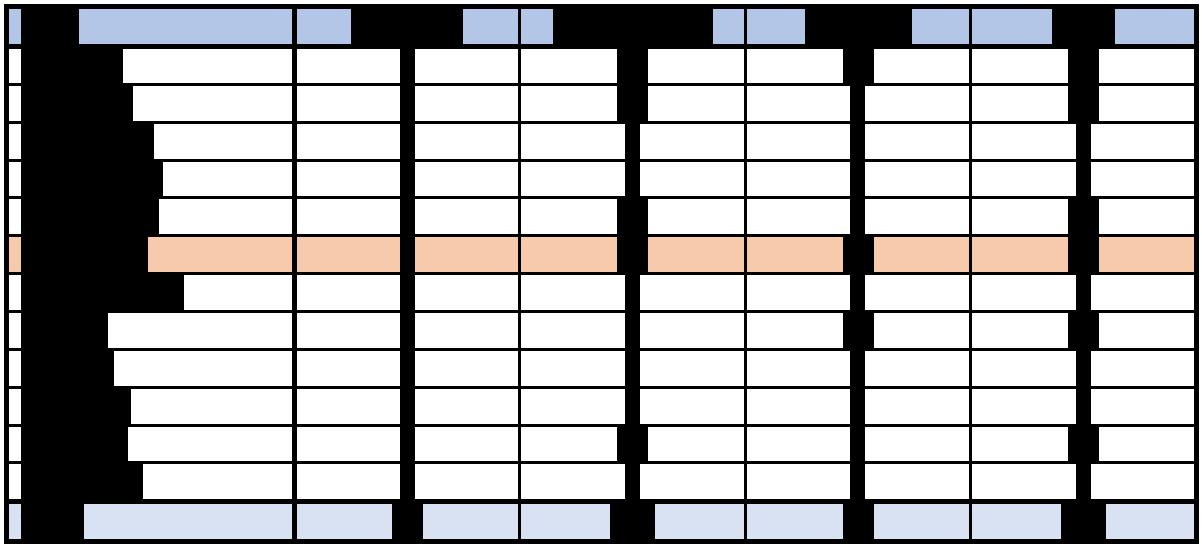


9.6. Drugs & Alcohol

Data Source: Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Dates varies as stated below.

Hospital admissions for substance misuse (15-24) 2021/22 – 23/24: Essex saw a rate of 46.4 per 100k population and Thurrock saw a rate of 37.7, both below the England average of 47.4. Southend saw a rate above the England average at 69.3.

Deaths related to drug misuse 2021-23: Southend saw a rate of 5.4 per 100k population, Essex a rate of 2.7 and Thurrock a rate of 2.1, all below the England average of 5.5.

Hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions (Broad definition) 2023/24: Thurrock saw a rate of 1,757 per 100k population and Essex saw a rate of 1,449, both below the England average of 1,824. Southend saw a rate above the England average at 1,838.

Admission episodes for alcohol-specific conditions 2023/24: Southend saw a rate of 550 per 100k population, Thurrock a rate of 387 and Essex a rate of 362, all below the England average of 612.

Alcohol-Specific Mortality 2023: Southend saw a rate of 16.8 per 100k population, above the England average of 15.0. Essex had a rank that was below the average at 9.9. The data for Thurrock is too low to be included in calculations.

10. SERIOUS & ORGANISED CRIME

10.1. Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025. This represents the volume of investigations within the Essex Police Force area, as recorded through the Intelligence Analyst Scanning Process. These figures may fifer from those reported to the Home Office for counting purposes.

There was a total of 338 Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Offences in Greater Essex in the year, 45 (13.3%) of which were in Colchester.

Across Greater Essex, there was a decrease in offences of 100 (-22.8%), compared to Colchester where there was a decrease in incidents of -8 (-5.6%).

Area	Exploitation Type						Area Total
	Criminal	Immigration / Trafficking	Labour	Multiple	Sexual	Other / Unknown	
Basildon	22	0	8	2	3	1	36
Braintree	9	9	24	2	5	4	53
Brentwood	2	0	1	2	0	1	6
Castle Point	2	0	3	0	0	1	6
Chelmsford	23	3	3	1	3	2	35
Colchester	24	1	7	3	9	1	45
Epping Forest	12	0	2	2	3	1	20
Harlow	11	0	4	1	1	1	18
Maldon	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Rochford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southend	29	2	7	5	4	3	50
Tendring	12	0	0	4	3	0	19
Thurrock	27	2	6	2	2	1	40
Uttlesford	0	3	0	3	1	1	8
Total	**174**	**20**	**65**	**28**	**34**	**17**	**338**

Note: 7 offences recorded against Uttlesford occurred at Stanstead Airport.

Colchester Against Modern Slavery (CAMS) Partnership

Quarterly meetings are well attended by 25-35 partners for each meeting. Networking, partnership updates, and best practice are shared. CAMS objective is to partner towards a slavery-free Colchester.
Task and Finish groups meet quarterly. These groups focus on awareness raising and training; intelligence and disruption; survivor care. A steering group provides strategic oversight and accountability.
A part-time coordinator is employed for the CAMS partnership including allocated hours to work with vulnerable migrants and asylum seekers – linking in with partner agencies, research and developing processes, training to raise awareness, NRM referrals.

Strategic work continues to progress the partner engagement within CAMS, embed processes and activity within the task and finish groups, creation and implementation of a CAMS Action Plan, develop sustainability and organisational resilience, develop referral pathways and survivor support systems, along with a focus on crime and intelligence reporting.

Modern Slavery training delivered this period: **31** sessions –with over **1000** participants.
Awareness raising events – **9** – engaging with over **900** individuals.
Includes events for Antislavery Day (October 2024) and World Day Against Trafficking (30 July 2025).

2 Conferences: engaging with a combined total of over 150 individuals.

RAMA

Three staff have become First responders for the Salvation Army, with a further 3 planned to undertake the training.

Referrals: **11** NRM referrals, and carried out 3 of the subsequent interviews

179 - Clients identified with an existing history of modern slavery or trafficking and accessing services as asylum seekers

67 - Clients identified as victims for whom the NRM has not been made - but for whom other support has been successful in supporting them - immigration applications, police reports, victim support, counselling and therapeutic support/activities number

Other interventions:

- Offer space for the Migrant Help team to meet with clients who have a reasonable grounds decision and get extra support, counselling and money.
- 16 clients attended a therapeutic project with Migrant Help and Colchester Makerspace for 3 months - all with RG or CG decisions and living in Colchester
- 3 clients granted VTS leave - as victims of trafficking - giving them leave to remain for up to 2 years.
- 1 former victim of both trafficking and modern slavery ended his life by suicide at Colchester Train station - severe mental health issues - he leaves his brother who is also a victim.

10.2. Serious Organised Crime

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

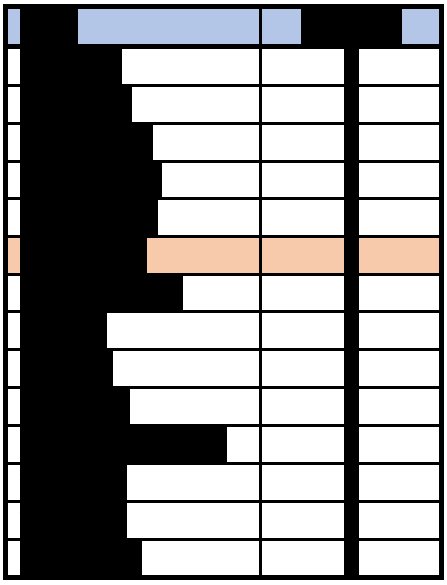
[redacted]

[redacted]

10.3. County Lines

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is a snapshot taken September 2025.

[redacted]



10.4. Serious Violence

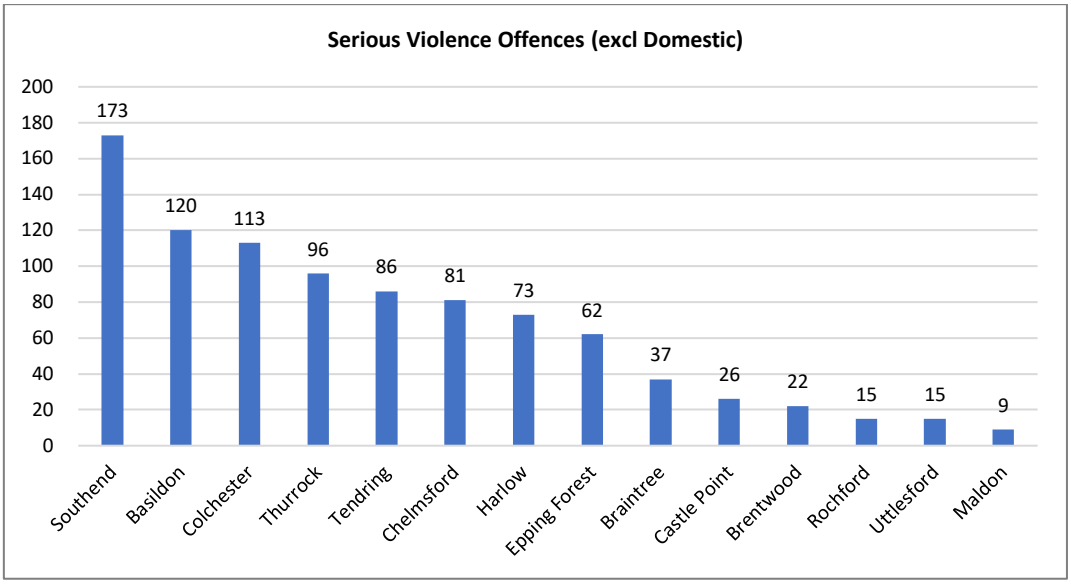
Data Source: Violence & Vulnerability Unit. Data for October 2024 to September 2025.

In Greater Essex there were a total of 928 Serious Violence Offences recorded in the 12 months to September 2025, 113 (12.2%) of which were in Colchester. This equates to 0.50 incidents per 1,000 population across Greater Essex, 0.59 per 1,000 population in Colchester.

Across Greater Essex, there was a decrease of 178 offences (-16.1%) on the previous 12 months, in Colchester there was a decrease of 13 offences (-10.3%).

In Colchester, the wards with the highest volume of Serious Violence Offences recorded were Castle (23 offences), Greenstead (20 offences) and New Town and Christchurch (18 offences).

Castle was ranked 4th in all wards across Essex. Castle accounted for 21% of the offences in Colchester, and 2% of the offences across Essex as a whole.



10.5. Trading Standards

Data Source: Essex County Council. Data for April 2024 to March 2025.

In Essex, there were a total of 103 test purchases were made (22 for alcohol, 80 for vapes, 1 for cigarettes,) with a total of 16 successful purchases 4 for alcohol, 11 for cigarettes, 1 for vapes).

In Colchester, a total of 19 test purchases were made (8 for alcohol, 11 for vapes, none for cigarettes) with a total of 2 successful purchases, both for alcohol.

Area	Alcohol		Vapes		Cigarettes	
	Test Purchases	Sales	Test Purchases	Sales	Test Purchases	Sales
Basildon	0	0	13	4	0	0
Braintree	0	0	14	1	0	0
Brentwood	2	0	7	2	0	0
Castle Point	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chelmsford	2	1	7	0	1	0
Colchester	8	2	11	0	0	0
Epping Forest	3	0	1	0	0	0
Harlow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maldon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford	0	0	9	1	0	0
Tendring	7	1	18	3	0	0
Uttlesford	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**22**	**4**	**80**	**11**	**1**	**0**

11. OFFENDER MANAGEMENT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

11.1. Integrated Offender Management

Data Source: Essex Police. Data is a snapshot taken October 2025.

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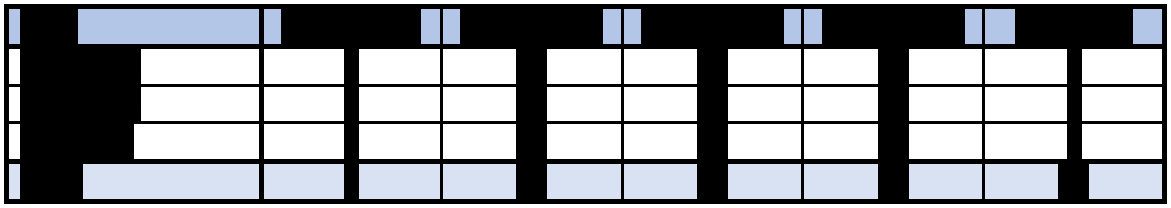

11.2. Youth Justice Service

Data Source: Essex Youth Justice Service. Data is for October 2024 to September 2025.

Between 1st October 2024 and 30th September 2025, **754** young people were active on Youth Justice Service (YJS) 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, 109 (14.4%) were from Colchester.

Across Essex, 81% were male and 19% were female, compared to 80% male and 20% female in Colchester.

Across Essex, 16% were from the Global Majority, compared to 17% in Colchester.

Based on the young person's age at the commencement of their programme, across Essex most young people were aged 17 (20%) This compares to area, where most young people were aged 15 (22%).

Of 965 programmes, there were 1,394 offences, and the top three offence types across Essex were Violence against person (35%), Criminal damage (11%) and Drugs (10%). This compares to Colchester, where the top three offence types were Violence against person (33%), Criminal Damage (14%) and Vehicle Theft (9%).

Programme Type	Essex	Colchester
Community	287 (30%)	57 (38%)
Early intervention	255 (26%)	25 (17%)
Pre-court disposal	156 (16%)	26 (17%)
Prevention	132 (14%)	21 (14%)
Voluntary support	48 (5%)	7 (5%)
Bail programme	41 (4%)	2 (1%)
Remand	22 (2%)	7 (5%)
Custodial order	15 (2%)	2 (1%)
Licence	9 (1%)	2 (1%)

11.3. Probation

Data Source: National Probation Service. Data is snapshot of caseloads taken on 01 October 2025.

There was a total of 6,337 people on Probation in Essex, of which 618 were in Colchester.

People on Probation		
Area	**People**	**% of County**
Basildon	760	11.99%
Braintree	351	5.54%
Brentwood	190	3.00%
Castle Point	250	3.95%
Chelmsford	491	7.75%

Colchester	618	9.75%
Epping Forest	240	3.79%
Harlow	446	7.04%
Maldon	155	2.45%
Rochford	162	2.56%
Southend-on-Sea	749	11.82%
Tendring	536	8.46%
Thurrock	651	10.27%
Uttlesford	133	2.10%
Homeless at Sentencing	549	8.66%
Unpaid Work Only	56	0.88%
Total	**6337**	

When looking at risk of reoffending of those on the caseload (excluding those not assessed):

- Across Greater Essex, 8.9% of people were assessed as being of Very High risk of reoffending, this compares to 7.8% in Colchester.
- Across Greater Essex, 21.4% of people were assessed as being of High risk of reoffending, this compares to 20.7% in Colchester.
- Across Greater Essex, 26.4% of people were assessed as being of Medium risk of reoffending, this compares to 24.8% in Colchester.
- Across Greater Essex, 43.2% of people were assessed as being of Low risk of reoffending, this compares to 46.8% in Colchester.

Assessed Risk Levels Of Reoffending								
Area	**Very High**		**High**		**Medium**		**Low**	
	#	**% of Area**	**#**	**% of Area**	**#**	**% of Area**	**#**	**% of Area**
Basildon	64	8.4%	179	23.6%	219	28.8%	298	39.2%
Braintree	15	4.3%	73	20.8%	89	25.4%	174	49.6%
Brentwood	4	2.1%	31	16.3%	55	28.9%	100	52.6%
Castle Point	8	3.2%	43	17.2%	59	23.6%	140	56.0%
Chelmsford	43	8.8%	121	24.6%	133	27.1%	194	39.5%
Colchester	48	7.8%	128	20.7%	153	24.8%	289	46.8%
Epping Forest	17	7.1%	50	20.8%	56	23.3%	117	48.8%
Harlow	37	8.3%	76	17.0%	135	30.3%	198	44.4%
Maldon	6	3.9%	23	14.8%	42	27.1%	84	54.2%
Rochford	10	6.2%	32	19.8%	40	24.7%	80	49.4%
Southend-on-Sea	76	10.1%	145	19.4%	201	26.8%	327	43.7%
Tendring	40	7.5%	107	20.0%	141	26.3%	248	46.3%
Thurrock	57	8.8%	122	18.7%	174	26.7%	298	45.8%
Uttlesford	7	5.3%	19	14.3%	33	24.8%	74	55.6%
Homeless at Sentencing	141	21.9%	222	34.4%	151	23.4%	131	20.3%
Unpaid Work Only	2	3.6%	7	12.5%	20	35.7%	27	48.2%
Total	**575**	**8.9%**	**1,378**	**21.4%**	**1,701**	**26.4%**	**2,779**	**43.2%**

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

- Across Greater Essex, 1.4% of people were assessed as being of Very High risk of serious harm, this compares to 1.8% in Colchester.
- Across Greater Essex, 30.4% of people were assessed as being of High risk of serious harm, this compares to 29.1% in Colchester.

- Across Greater Essex, 59.0% of people were assessed as being of Medium risk of serious harm, this compares to 60.8% in Colchester.
- Across Greater Essex, 7.9% of people were assessed as being of Low risk of serious harm, this compares to 6.8% in Colchester.

Assessed Risk of Serious Harm								
Area	Very High		High		Medium		Low	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Basildon	15	2.0%	208	27.4%	470	61.8%	59	7.8%
Braintree	4	1.1%	104	29.6%	216	61.5%	25	7.1%
Brentwood	2	1.1%	46	24.2%	120	63.2%	20	10.5%
Castle Point	3	1.2%	61	24.4%	166	66.4%	19	7.6%
Chelmsford	2	0.4%	141	28.7%	296	60.5%	43	8.8%
Colchester	11	1.8%	180	29.1%	376	60.8%	42	6.8%
Epping Forest	1	0.4%	42	17.5%	160	66.7%	29	12.1%
Harlow	4	0.9%	126	28.3%	266	59.6%	46	10.3%
Maldon	1	0.6%	38	24.5%	98	63.2%	14	9.0%
Rochford	0	0.0%	44	27.2%	112	69.1%	6	3.7%
Southend-on-Sea	9	1.2%	225	30.0%	459	61.3%	47	6.3%
Tendring	10	1.9%	168	31.5%	310	57.8%	41	7.6%
Thurrock	7	1.1%	210	32.3%	372	57.1%	58	8.9%
Uttlesford	0	0.0%	25	18.8%	86	64.7%	17	12.8%
Homeless at Sentencing	20	3.1%	340	52.8%	252	29.1%	26	4.0%
Unpaid Work Only	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	37	66.1%	18	32.1%
Total	**89**	**1.4%**	**1,958**	**30.4%**	**3,797**	**59.0%**	**510**	**7.9%**

12. 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 area of focus.

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.

Risk Matrix 2025																				
Offence	Volume				Performance				Harm, Risk & Impact					CSP Approach of Benefit	Priorities				Total	Rank
	Oct 2023 to Sept 2024	Oct 2024 to Sept 2025	Score	Essex Ranking (1=lowest)	# Difference	% Difference	Score	Trend Compared To Essex	Harm to Property	Physical Harm to People	Psychological Harm to People	Risk to Vulnerable Groups	Hidden Crime		PFCC Priority	Police Priority	CSP Priority	Community Priority		
Violence Against The Person	**7,018**	**7,051**	**3**	**13**	**33**	**0.5%**	**0**	**-2**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**			**22**	
Homicide	0	0	1	4	0	N/A	0	-2	0	2	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	10	31
Violence With Injury	1,841	1,696	3	13	-145	-7.9%	-1	-1	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	25	8
Death Or Serious Injury Caused By Unlawful Driving	4	4	1	11	0	0.0%	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	18	20
Violence Without Injury	3,288	3,346	3	13	58	1.8%	1	-2	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	22	12
Stalking & Harassment	1,885	2,005	3	12	120	6.4%	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	25	8
Sexual Offences	**729**	**791**	**2**	**13**	**62**	**8.5%**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**1**			**27**	
Rape	276	320	1	14	44	15.9%	0	1	0	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	28	4
Other Sexual Offences	453	471	1	13	18	4.0%	0	1	0	2	2	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	26	5
Robbery	**174**	**138**	**1**	**11**	**-36**	**-20.7%**	**0**	**-1**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**			**19**	
Robbery - Business	23	27	1	12	4	17.4%	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	18
Robbery - Personal	151	111	1	11	-40	-26.5%	0	-1	2	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	19	18
Burglary	**530**	**552**	**2**	**13**	**22**	**4.2%**	**0**	**-2**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**			**21**	
Burglary - Residential	371	406	1	13	35	9.4%	0	-2	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	22	12
Burglary - Business & Community	159	146	1	11	-13	-8.2%	0	-1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	15	26
Vehicle Offences	**883**	**889**	**2**	**10**	**6**	**0.7%**	**0**	**-2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**			**13**	
Theft From A Motor Vehicle	412	395	1	10	-17	-4.1%	0	-1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	14	28
Theft Of A Motor Vehicle	371	335	1	8	-36	-9.7%	0	-1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	13	30
Vehicle Interference	100	159	1	11	59	59.0%	2	-2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	14	28
Theft	**2,880**	**3,144**	**3**	**12**	**264**	**9.2%**	**1**	**-2**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**			**16**	
Theft From The Person	126	113	1	12	-13	-10.3%	0	-1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	16	24
Bicycle Theft	314	320	1	14	6	1.9%	0	-2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	15	26
Shoplifting	1,229	1,663	3	12	434	35.3%	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	23	10
Other Theft	1,211	1,048	3	11	-163	-13.5%	-2	-1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	13	30
Arson & Criminal Damage	**1,401**	**1,362**	**3**	**12**	**-39**	**-2.8%**	**0**	**-1**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**			**20**	
Criminal Damage	1,328	1,252	3	12	-76	-5.7%	-1	-1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	18	20
Arson	73	110	1	10	37	50.7%	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	20	15
Domestic Abuse	**2,390**	**2,357**	**3**	**11**	**-33**	**-1.4%**	**0**	**-1**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**			**25**	
High Risk Domestic Abuse	207	297	1	12	90	43.5%	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	30	2
Medium Risk Domestic Abuse	527	581	2	12	54	10.2%	2	1	0	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	31	1
Standard Risk Domestic Abuse	1,536	1,386	3	11	-150	-9.8%	-1	-1	0	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	25	8
Drug Offences	**581**	**525**	**2**	**9**	**-56**	**-9.6%**	**-1**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**1**			**19**	
Trafficking Of Drugs	150	202	1	8	52	34.7%	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	21	13
Possession Of Drugs	431	323	1	9	-108	-25.1%	-2	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	17	22
Possession Of Weapons Offences	**189**	**146**	**1**	**11**	**-43**	**-22.8%**	**0**	**-1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**17**	**22**
Public Order Offences	**1,366**	**1,255**	**3**	**13**	**-111**	**-8.1%**	**-1**	**-1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**17**	**22**
Hate Crime (HO definintion)	**458**	**498**	**1**	**14**	**40**	**8.7%**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**28**	**4**
ASB (Police)	**1,603**	**1,552**	**3**	**11**	**-51**	**-3.2%**	**-1**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**0**			**23**	
Environment	63	60	1	13	-3	-4.8%	0	-1	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	20	15
Nuisance	996	1,140	3	11	144	14.5%	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	25	8
Personal	544	352	1	13	-192	-35.3%	-2	-1	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	20	15