

Your local update



Colchester District

February 2021



essex.police.uk/Colchester



Hello!

Welcome to our monthly newsletter, which will keep you up to date on what we're doing to keep communities safe in Colchester. It will focus on:

- The work of the Community Policing Team and Local Policing Team
- Crime trends
- Crime prevention
- How you can contact us

The Community Policing Team includes the Town Centre Proactive Team. Their work includes responding to issues and carrying out proactive work, including public engagement, crime prevention, crime disruption, and safeguarding vulnerable people. The teams include specialist Missing Persons and Children' and Young Person officers, who work with partners in education and social care to protect vulnerable people from harm.

The Local Policing Team's main role is to respond to calls for assistance from members of the public, but they also carry out proactive patrols.

Our Colchester community and local policing officers are supported by detectives working in the Criminal Investigation Department, Domestic Abuse Investigation Team, and Crime and Public Protection Command. They investigate the more serious crimes that occur in north Essex, safeguard victims and bring offenders to justice.

Our priorities —in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership—mirror the Essex Police Force Plan for 2020/21

<p>To investigate and tackle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violence in all its forms• Online crime• Anti-social behaviour• Gangs and organised crime• Safety/crime on the roads• Domestic abuse• Burglary	<p>To support and protect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and vulnerable people• Victims of crime• Visible policing in communities
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Colchester has a very clear focus on:

Violence – disrupting those who commit serious organised crime and to dismantle the supply of controlled drugs in the district. We will target those who carry knives and commit violence, ensuring Colchester remains a safe place for all.

Vulnerability – we will ensure we engage with our communities to understand their needs and deliver policing to safeguard those who are vulnerable in our community.

Victims – we will provide victims with a first-class service.

Visibility – we will be visible in our communities to provide reassurance and reduce the fear of crime.





T/Chief Inspector Jon Evans

“We are here to help you, keep you safe and catch criminals”.



Essex Police – Colchester



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<http://www.essex.police.uk>

Dear All,

Following the announcement of the government’s road map to ease Corona Virus restrictions by the Prime Minister, we saw the return of the local schools /educational establishments on 8th March 2021 and a slight change in relation to the social contact element— being able to meet one other person for recreational activity (eg– picnic or coffee in an outdoor space).



Colchester Officers have been supporting this change by carrying out visible patrols during the start and end of the school day and our Child and Young Persons officers continue to work in partnership with the safe guarding leads within schools.

We have been working with our strategic partners to plan ahead for each stage of the road map to enable us to keep people safe across the district. We have a number of events across the district in the summer— including the Euro 2020 Football championship, which I am sure the football fans will be looking forward to.

In terms of the local policing picture, all recorded crime is down by 13.7% in comparison to the previous 12 months.

This week is the ‘national response policing week of action’ - recognising our response policing officers.

Our Local Policing Teams are Colchester, are the first responders to reports of incidents and really do deal with all the diverse situations 24/7—Helping people, keeping people safe and catching criminals.

Please be re-assured that our dedicated teams are responding to calls from the public and working in line with our policing codes of ethics, which is at the centre of everything we as police officers do.



Dealing with Anti Social Behaviour

A female from Colchester has been ordered to pay in excess of £1,000 after breaching a community protection notice in Colchester. Dace Omondiale, 31 of Brooklands appeared at Colchester magistrates court on Tuesday 16th February charged with breaching a community protection notice on 19th December 2020 after initially being issued with the notice on 1st December 2020. The court heard that Omondiale had been warned in November against organising a gathering of people as it would breach the coronavirus regulations. After she continued to post on social media she was served with a community protection warning with conditions not to publish any materials encouraging non-compliance with COVID restrictions. But the court heard she continued to post on social media to encourage people to break lockdown restrictions. On 1st December 2020 Omondiale was issued with a community protection notice which held the same conditions as the warning, and she was warned she could face arrest if she did not comply with the notice. But she continued to post on social media naming the group "Stand Up Colchester". On 19th December 2020 a group of people were seen gathering in Culver Square, Colchester. Omondiale was identified as the group leader and subsequently arrested. Omondiale admitted to breaching the notice at Colchester magistrates court on 16th February. Lucy Lavender, chairwoman of the bench, said: "Irrespective of what you believe, the law is there to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of the British public. "We all have a duty to therefore abide by it." Omondiale was ordered to pay a total of £1,173 in fines and court costs. As a community policing team we would like to thank the very large majority of the public who are staying at home and protecting the NHS.



Closure Orders

Across the district we work closely with our partner agencies to reduce anti social behaviour. This month we have worked closely with Colchester Borough homes to close 3 properties which were attracting a large number complaints due to anti social behaviour of not only those living there, but those visiting. A closure order can range from a partial closure order, where only named persons can be on the premises, to a full closure order whereby nobody can be on the premises, those found to be in contravention of a closure order are liable for arrest and prosecution. It is a great tool to keep those in our communities safe and deal robustly with people who allow their properties to be used for anti social behaviour or crime.

33 Years of volunteering

This month saw SC Joe Eardley retire. Joe has been a special constable in the district for 33 years. We want Joe to know how grateful we are for his dedication and professionalism over the last 33 years, giving up so much of his free time to make Colchester a safer place.

Those who have worked with Joe will know how much he will be missed by his colleagues at Colchester.

If you would like to help your community in the same way as Joe has over the years please visit the address below to see how you can also make a difference.

www.Essex.Police.uk/Careers



Some of this months activity on social media

Essex Police - Colchester District
28 February at 12:00 · 🌐

Its been a busy week for the community policing team. While the officers have been conducting warrants, stop checks, speed checks, arrests and high visibility patrols to keep you safe, Sgt Denning has been attending various virtual meetings with the same aim, to keep you safe and to catch criminals.

One of the meetings needed a site assessment with Colchester Zoo and while there he saw some "exotic" animals "baskin" in the sun.

He was pleased to meet Tatana, Pascha and Mischa who are looking forward to welcoming visitors back to the zoo when it can re-open.



It's a Gr-r-eat place to visit.

#communitypolicing



Essex Police in Colchester District @EPColchester · Feb 13
Colchester LPT have been busy with valentines day preparations... unfortunately for some, these bouquets will not be delivered to loved ones tomorrow. 1 person's romantic valentines meal will be spent in custody with us. #Sized #GreenThumbPolicing #MealForOne



Follow us on social media-
 Essex police Colchester District
 @EPColchester

Essex Police - Colchester District
16 February at 10:08 · 🌐

Our Special Constabulary continually work with our communities to help people, keep them safe and catch criminals.

Recently 14 of our Special Constables spent time with our rural communities offering advice to residents on steps they can take to prevent becoming a victim of burglary.

Working alongside our Rural Engagement Team, our Specials spent time in Tiptree, Layer de la Haye, Birch, Abberton, Dedham, Great Horksley, West Bergholt, Fordham and Eight Ash Green.

While patrolling the areas, officers spoke to residents about what they can do to secure their property, protect it from opportunist criminals, helping to prevent becoming a victim of burglary.

They also spent time in areas where burglaries had recently been reported, with high visibility patrols from uniformed officers to deter potential criminals.

For advice on steps you can take to help secure your belongings, protect yourself and prevent becoming a victim of crime visit www.essex.police.uk/cp

#SecureProtectPrevent

Essex Police - Colchester District
10 February at 16:09 · 🌐

The vast majority of people in Essex are doing the right thing by staying home, protecting the NHS and saving lives. But in the rare cases where people are not, we will take action.

Thank you to everyone who is taking steps to keep themselves and others safe.

#epcolchester
#staysafe



Essex Police - Colchester District
11 February at 16:00 · 🌐

Officers from the community team were in #Westmersea last night after reports of suspicious activity around the boat yards.

#epcolchester
#yousaidwedid
#communitypolicing



Essex Police in Colchester District @EPColchester · Feb 13
Pcso Wright has been out and about in #StJohns this morning patrolling in and around St John's Church & Community Centre, a stroll into Bullock Woods and she's visited St John's Shops. Positive engagement from local residents spoken to whilst out on her patrols.
#yousaidwedid



Essex Police in Colchester District @EPColchester · Feb 19
Back out in #salcott today as part of our patrols of the South #Colchester rurals #communitypolicing #inyourarea



Essex Police - Colchester District
5 February at 16:00 · 🌐

Officers from the road policing unit were conducting speed checks on Layer Road in Colchester last night.

5 vehicles were stopped speeds ranging from 42mph to 52mph. These speeds are not acceptable on a 30mph road.

I wonder where they will be tonight? #Mysterious

#EPRoadsPolicing
#EPColchester
#OPCColchester
#75692





As we come out of lockdown we will be hosting “street meets” in the community giving you the opportunity to come and speak with local officers about issues within your area—or just to say hello. If you can not make a meet local to you—you can attend a different one and your comments, issues etc will be passed to the correct person. Further dates and locations will be released so please keep an eye on our social media for these—no access to social media? No problem—email the Community policing team at Colchestercommunitypolicing-team@essex.police.uk and we will update you when we are coming to your area!

- 17th April – Wivenhoe – Outside Co-Op – 12-13:30*
- 17th April – Culver Square – 1500-1600*
- 18th April – West Mersea – West Mersea centre car park – 1000-1130*
- 18th April – Stanway – Outside Staway Library, Villa Road – 1500-1600*
- 21st April – West Bergholt – Outside Co-Op – 1700-1800*
- 22nd April – Highwoods – Tesco car park – 1700-1800 *
- 24th April – Monkwick – Parade of shops Queen Elizabeth way – 1000-1100*
- 24th April – East Bay Play Park – 1500-1600*
- 24th April – Rowhedge Village hall Car Park – 16:30-17:30*
- 25th April - Greenstead community centre car park – 1300-1400*
- 30th April – St Christopher road parade of shops – 1900-2000*
- 1st May – Catchpool road – Entrance to cricket ground – 1000-11:30*
- 1st May – Langenhoe village hall car park 1200-1300*
- 1st May – Tiptree tesco car park – 1600-1700*
- 2nd May – Chappel Village hall car park – 1500-1600*
- 4th May – Gt Horkesley village hall outside area – 1700-1800*
- 6th May – Old heath recreation ground car park (port lane) – 1700-1800*
- 8th May – Layer de la haye - Village hall car park– 1000-1100*
- 8th May – Dedham – outside church (high street) – 1400-1500*
- 9th May – Mile end sports ground (Fords Lane) – 1500-1600*
- 15th May – King Edward quay – 1400-1500*



* Please remember social distancing and “the rule of 6” so if the officers are already speaking please patiently wait—we know this is not ideal, however we want to do everything we can to keep you safe and adhere to government guidelines.



Other Departments

POSTIVE ACTION

I would like to introduce myself and the team to discuss our newly formed Positive Action Team within Essex Police.

We are a team consisting of myself and two Positive Action Sergeants, Anne Bray & Simon Miah.

We are responsible for Attraction, Recruitment, Retention and Progression for all underrepresented groups especially those from ethnic minority backgrounds and females.

Our key message is quite simple and that is, Essex Police is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive workforce truly reflecting the community we serve.

Essex Police realises that not everybody starts from the same position in life. There may be barriers that prevent people from achieving their potential. The Equality Act empowers us to remove these barriers when they are in connection to a protected characteristic so that we can work together towards achieving true equality.

Positive action is about ensuring all people have the same opportunities.

If you are considering a career within Essex police, be it as a Police Constable or a member of Police Staff, please have a look on our Essex Police recruitment page (www.essex.police.uk/fitthebill) and our "We Value Difference",

YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWy9tX8Lvyo>).

We have all types of useful information, hints, tips on how to successfully complete applications and pass interviews.

We are an employer that is sensitive to family dynamics/modern day living and where possible flexible working/part-time hours and job shares are all considered to help/support/assist our most valuable asset; our workforce.

If you have any further questions please drop us an email at Positive.Action@essex.police.uk.

Chief Inspector Sharn Taylor

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS OFFICERS

Children and Young Persons Officers are focusing on the return to school. Each secondary school has an allocated officer who assist the safeguarding officers within the school. Working together allows early intervention into any concerns the school may have with exploitation. Meetings are often held to ensure that any crucial information is shared to the most appropriate agency. On the return to school PCSOs and Officers will be at different schools showing a presence engaging with young persons and their parents/carers.

As highlighted in the news recently by Zara McDermott it is important that parents/carers highlight the dangers to their children around sharing explicit images with partners and friends and the dire consequences this can have. It is an offence for anyone under the age of 16 to share explicit images of an under 16-year-old so even by sharing a photo of themselves they are committing an offence. 'Revenge Porn' is also an offence when a person shares a private sexual photo without consent of the individual.

Not only is the criminal element a matter for concerns this can also cause major distress and upset for any person involved with lifelong repercussions. The sharing of images is something that is on the rise and as students are re attending school relationships will no doubt develop again. For any advice please consult the government website, NSPCC and Children Society. Educational courses such as Sisters in Strength provide help for young girls who feel pressure within a relationship.

There is a lot of support available for young people and parents. Any concerns please do not hesitate to make contact with the schools, the above agencies and the police.



Crime prevention advice



Hopefully by the time that you read this we will be moving into spring and the weather improving inviting us out into the garden. It is a good time to take a look around; are your fences and gates in good condition do you have good quality locks on gates, will they keep the unwelcome intruder out? To the front of your property where possible keep fencing, planting and hedges to about 1.5m in height so that an intruder is not hidden from view.

Defensive planting: Security does not have to be just about locks, bolts, and spiky fence toppings; nature provides some excellent plants to keep people away. There are a number of attractive, fragrant plants of a spiky nature such as climbing roses, pyracantha and berberis and other planting of a dense nature that can work

quite well. Have a chat at your garden centre or with the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) for the right plant for the right location. We have worked with the RHS at Hyde Hall and there are a number of mature examples that can be viewed there, why not book a visit at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/hyde-hall> .

New plants: Larger plants etc. can be secured to land or rootball anchors or plant through chicken wire covering the area with soil. Cement or bolt down containers to the ground. The RHS or your local garden centre or DIY store should be able to help.

Working in the garden: It is easy to get engrossed in what you are doing when working in the garden, if the house is empty it is wise to close and lock the door (don't forget the key though!). Remember when you stop for a break put your tools away, and at the end of the day as well as putting tools away put the wheelbarrow and wheelie bin away too. "It will add insult to injury" if your tools are used to break into your house, a neighbour's, nearby building such as a church, or provide a climbing aid or method of carrying things away.



New tools and lawn mowers: Be mindful of how you dispose of the packaging to your new purchases; don't advertise it to the thieves and burglars with your empty boxes on display outside for roadside collection. Fold boxes inside out or break them up and put them in bag for collection. If you are not using your lawn mower, jet washer or other put it away out of sight from prying eyes.



Property marking: It may deter a thief if your property or flower pots is visibly security marked with your house number and post code such as www.creproducts.co.uk or labelled if a forensic (hidden) property marking system is used such as www.smartwater.com or www.selectadna.co.uk. You can also record the serial numbers of any tools at www.toolwatchapp.com or www.immobilise.com/ . If your property does get stolen with property marking and/or recording there is a greater chance of you getting it back.

For suitable security products look for the Secured by Design or Sold Secure logo's and for further garden security advice see the following webpages:

www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/

