

## Colchester District



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





**Chief Inspector Rob  
Huddleston**



Essex Police – Colchester



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**@EPColchester**



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

As a dad of two boys , and I am sure other parents can relate, I am looking forward to the six week holiday to give me a break from trying to figure out fronted adverbials or algebra. Mine are looking forward to being out and about with their friends and we have talked about their responsibility to ensure their fun doesn't impact others, I'd like to ask you all to have those conversations with your young people to keep them safe, and ensure we all have summer fun.

We are also seeing a further lifting of restrictions and are ready to ensure that those who enjoy a night out can do safely. We have worked with partners and businesses to ensure the Town Centre and wider hospitality industry re-opens to give everyone a great experience. There are some hints and tips on keeping safe in this issue.

We continue to target those who think they can come to Colchester and commit crime, especially those who seek to exploit and harm others, this issue details how we dealt with two of those individuals.

The new Offensive Weapons Act is now in force, and it is illegal to have certain items even in your own home. We invite you all to check the detail and safely dispose of any items you may have.

Our teams are out around the clock, keeping you safe, catching criminals, and helping those who need it, even a duck this week! In addition we are keen to get to know you too, so if you have Basketball aspirations check out page 8 and come join us for a game. Wishing you all a great summer.



## Working with partners to tackle ASB

Throughout this month we have continued to work with our partner agencies to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour. As you can see in this photograph we have worked with Colchester Borough Homes in seeking a closure notice for a property in Shrub End, Colchester following continued reports regarding the address. A closure notice is designed to prevent the Anti Social Behaviour from occurring and in essence “closes” a property. Restrictions on such orders can vary but generally the conditions are that only the occupant and in some cases, nobody is allowed on the premises other than a police officer to check for compliance. A really helpful tool in reducing ASB in our neighbourhoods and making area’s far more enjoyable for you to live.



It is always nice to receive some feedback—especially when it is positive so here is an email we were grateful to receive this month following reports of a group of rough sleepers causing issues close to the Abbey Fields Medical Centre—

*I would just like to express my sincere gratitude to PC Mond for all her help and support with the rough sleepers.*

*PC Mond was hugely empathetic and worked hard to find solutions for both us and the rough sleepers – she listened, garnered information and was sympathetic to all parties – the practice, Diabetic Eye Screening, patients and the rough sleepers. PC Mond’s pragmatic approach meant that we have been able to find a way forward whilst keeping everyone happy.*

*I witnessed PC Mond speaking to the rough sleepers – she is firm but fair but in a way which enabled them to maintain their dignity and self respect - hats off to her she has brilliant communication skills.*

*Also the team here were really appreciative for all that she has done.*

Support is available to rough sleepers through our weekly multi agency OP Luscombe meetings. In our first OP Luscombe session following lockdown, working with our partners we managed to house a rough sleeper after 24 hours of her visiting us. This shows how all of the agencies really do pull together and try their best to help.

## Tackling County Lines

Over the past couple of months we have made a number of arrests in Colchester and London regarding county lines being run into Colchester.

A notable recent court result is from a routine stop of a vehicle in Colchester which had two men from London within.

Our officers become suspicious and utilised their powers under stop and search, finding over 200 wraps of Class A drugs, an estimated street value of £4,000.

Both men were arrested, charged and remanded in custody whereby they pleaded guilty the following day.

The men were sentenced to over 11 years between them.

A reminder that if you leave your house to deal drugs, it may be several years before you return home to your family.



## Policing the Town Centre

This coming week will see a further reduction of the restriction on our town centre, meaning our bars, restaurants, pubs and clubs will be getting somewhere back to “normal”.

This seems a perfect time to remind everyone to be responsible if you are enjoying a night out and to drink responsibly. We will continue to work with our partners to ensure the town centre is a safe place at night, however please remember where you are unlikely to have had a night out in a long time, that your body may not respond to alcohol consumption as it did pre lockdown and your drunken behaviour could lead you to one of our cells!

Here are some tips for having a safe and enjoyable night out—

- 1. Safety in numbers** - Always stay within a group when possible. By remaining close to the people you trust and know well, you'll reduce the risk of being targeted by people who are up to no good and could be out to take advantage.
- 2. Get taxis or arrange a lift-** When traveling at night always book a taxi or get a lift with someone you trust. It's worth that little extra expense to take a ride in a cab and get home safely. Don't be tempted to get into an unlicensed cab for a quicker ride home.
- 4. Drink in moderation & watch your drink-** Always stay in control when drinking alcohol. Know your limits and never push them. A few more drinks may seem like fun at the time, but it is never a good idea. Keep a close eye on your drinks and never leave them unattended at any point.
- 5. Stay in well-lit areas-** If walking home after a night out, always stay in well-lit areas where there are plenty of people. People are less likely to commit crime if there is good lighting, CCTV and people around to see what is happening. Always plan a route home and make sure you stick to places you know. Never take short cuts, especially down dark allies, by canals or through unlit parks.
- 6. Keep away from hostile situations** -Don't be a hero on a night out. If there is a fight or an argument stay out of it and get help from door staff or the police.

As a community policing team we look forward to supporting our local businesses in re-opening.



## CYP UPDATE

As schools come to a close we know that many children will be out and about during the summer meeting new people and creating new friendships. We must highlight the risks around new relationships and how when they go online dangers arise. We have investigated numerous incidents throughout the year of young people sharing explicit images of themselves. These can then be used to exploit or coerce the sender into doing something they do not want to.

Ensure you have the chat with your children around sharing images of themselves and the harm that can be caused. Not only will the receiver be committing offences but



the sender is also committing an offence as they are sharing an image of a child. We are always there to assist any person who becomes a victim of revenge porn or is being coerced with the threat of sharing such an image. If you have any concerns around images you have seen on your child's phone please do contact us.

It isn't just the people our children meet while out and about we need to have concerns and conversations about with our children. Children often meet new friends online, through gaming, social media or other means. Just because the person they are speaking to seems like another child, or acts like one, doesn't mean they are one. They may even send your children photographs of 'themselves' to gain trust however there are far too many cases whereby the person in the photographs are not the person you are speaking to.

The Essex Safeguarding Children Board have just done a week of online safety tips and awareness and through their website there are a number of resources for parents and children to learn how to be safe online. In a world where technology develops so quickly, these tips can help make a difference in ensuring your child is safe online.

See [www.escb.co.uk/campaigns/online-safety/](http://www.escb.co.uk/campaigns/online-safety/) for more information.

We as Children and Young Person Officers will be out over the summer holidays speaking to the young people of Colchester. Please encourage your children and teenagers to say hello to us when they see us.

While they are out with their friends over the summer we appreciate they are going to be out enjoying themselves and expressing themselves, making new friends and having fun. Please encourage them to ensure they are considerate to others and not acting in a way that can be seen as anti-social. Make sure you know what they are up to as the last thing we want to do is to be bringing them home, or worse, asking you to come to the police station.



## Some recent activity on social media

 Essex Police - Colchester District  
19h · 🌐

Children & Young Persons Officers PCs Metcalfe & Clough were out conducting enquiries this morning, when they were flagged down by children from [Oxford House School](#) who had spotted this little one running in and out of the road looking very lost. PC Metcalfe scooped him up and he was given a police escort to [Colne Valley Vets](#), where he was handed to Rhiannon, who assured us they will do their very best to look after him. We've decided to name him 'Oxford'.

#epcolchester



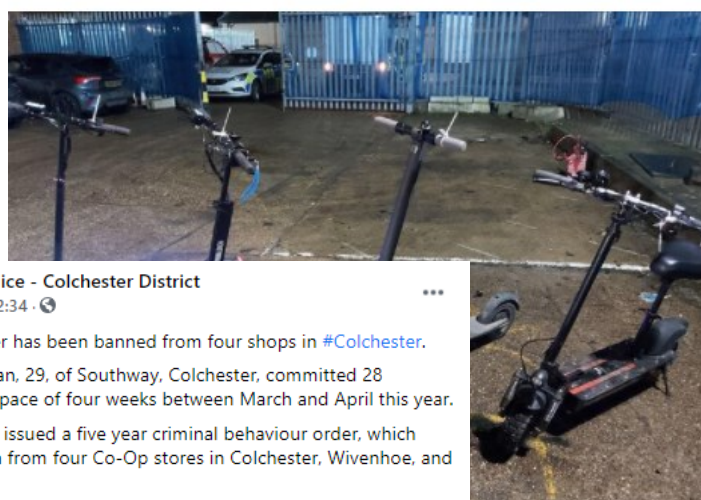
 Essex Police - Colchester District  
8 July at 12:00 · 🌐


I know, I know, it's another post about E-scooters from Essex Police and to pre-empt the inevitable "haven't you got anything better to do with your time?" comments. To be blunt, yes, we do have other things we could be doing but the message around E-Scooters doesn't seem to be getting through to some people and so we need to reinforce our messaging to keep our roads as safe as we can.

Up to this point we have only been seizing E-scooters where they are being driven illegally i.e. without insurance in public. But going forward we will now be issuing tickets for fines and points on your Driving Licence for traffic offences as well as seizing the E-scooter.

If you don't have a driving licence yet you could find that you will already have points on your licence before you even sit your test.


#EpColchester



 Essex Police - Colchester District  
2 July at 12:34 · 🌐

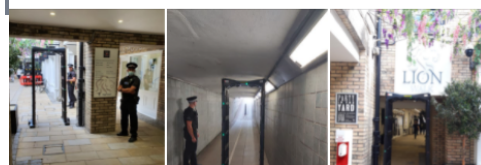
A serial shoplifter has been banned from four shops in [#Colchester](#). Daniel Bannerman, 29, of Southway, Colchester, committed 28 offences in the space of four weeks between March and April this year. A judge recently issued a five year criminal behaviour order, which bans Bannerman from four Co-Op stores in Colchester, Wivenhoe, and Stanway.

<https://www.essex.police.uk/.../colchester-pr>

 Essex Police - Colchester District  
2 July at 11:11 · 🌐

Officers from [#Colchester](#) community policing team deployed on Project Servator at various locations in the town yesterday. Using the Special training they received as Project Servator officers and the metal detector arch the officers were able to identify those who had something to hide and went out of their way to avoid speaking to the officers. As a result 1 male was arrested for failing to appear at court, 1 male interviewed for possession of drugs and 1 illegal eScooter was seized. Project Servator aims to DETER, DETECT and DISRUPT a range of criminal activity including terrorism and knife crime, while providing reassurance for the public.

#epcolchester  
#projectservator



 Essex Police - Colchester District  
7 July at 17:40 · 🌐

Officers have been out checking in with pubs across [#Colchester](#) this afternoon ahead of the match tonight.


It's quiet now but venues are getting ready to welcome fans in.

Our officers will be out and about before, during and after the game this evening to keep you safe. And there will be an increased presence on the roads tonight and tomorrow morning.

And remember, the best way to ensure you're 'coming home' tonight - just as we all hope football will on Sunday! - is to be responsible and look out for one another.

#StaySafeEssex



 Essex Police - Colchester District  
29 June at 08:33 · 🌐

Yesterday afternoon officers were patrolling [#colchester](#) High Street when they noticed a male acting suspiciously. The behaviour seen by the officers led to them utilising their stop and search powers. Following the search a 20 year old male from London was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs.

Officers continued the investigation throughout the night and have now charged the arrested male with three offences. He was remanded in custody and will appear at Colchester Magistrates court today.

#epcolchester



 Essex police Colchester District

 @EPColchester





# Ballin with a Bobby



Essex Police and Essex Rebels have joined together to give you the opportunity to play basketball with some of your local policing team.

**FREE!!**

Where? – Old Heath Recreation Ground Multi Use Games Area

4-5pm – From School year 7 – year 11  
5-6pm – Those who have left school through to adults

Every Wednesday from 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Meet and play Basketball with your local policing team!!

In the event of poor weather please check the Essex Police – Colchester District facebook page in case the activity is cancelled.



For more information on 'Ballin with a bobby' email—[Dex.Adams@essex.Police.uk](mailto:Dex.Adams@essex.Police.uk)

## District Statistics for Colchester – June 2021

District Commander: Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston



## Community Engagement

As lockdown restrictions are relaxed we are engaging with more and more members of our communities. We have held our “Cops Outside Shops” in Wivenhoe, Tiptree, Rowhedge, Stanway as well as outside our main supermarkets and the Town centre.

We are already planning school visits, coffee with cops and scam awareness café’s for the coming months.

If you are interested in attending or hosting such an event please contact us via email—

[colchestercommunitypolicing-team@essex.police.uk](mailto:colchestercommunitypolicing-team@essex.police.uk)





## New Legislation

From the 14th July 2021 it has become against the law to possess certain weapons within your home which you could previously own. The below poster details some of the changes and the website you can find further information.

We take a zero tolerance approach to those who carry and use weapons on our streets and this new piece of legislation will provide us with more powers to keep you safe .

If you collect weapons for decoration or as collector items please make sure you are aware of what you can legally possess .

We previously published details of a scheme being run by the government to dispose of such items. If you are still in possession of now illegal items please ensure there safe disposal.



# The Offensive Weapons Act 2019

- It is now illegal to possess certain weapons in private places, including your home. This includes items such as knuckledusters, flick knives and telescopic truncheons.
- There will also be changes to the process of buying knives online with enhanced age verification checks at point of sale and collection/delivery.
- Please store and dispose of knives safely to reduce the risk of them being used as weapons.
- Help prevent knife crime by reporting any concerns, including about how they are sold, to the Police or anonymously to Crimestoppers.



To find out more visit the National Business Crime Centre  
[www.nbcc.police.uk/knifeguidance](http://www.nbcc.police.uk/knifeguidance)

