

Your local update

17
ISSUE

Colchester, Tiptree, Mersea, Wivenhoe and rural Colchester



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.

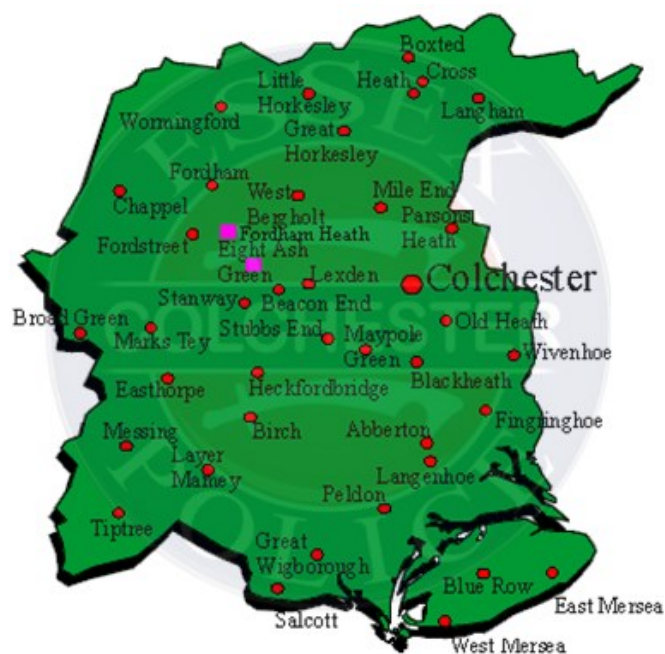
Colchester has a very clear focus on:

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.



This is a map of the area covered by the Colchester's policing team. As you can see we cover areas previously mentioned like the town centre, but also more rural areas such as Boxted and Fingringhoe and also areas such as Tiptree, Wivenhoe and Mersea Island. Along with all of the villages in between.

We continue to ensure all of our communities are kept safe by undertaking patrols of each area and working with our partners in all areas to ensure the Colchester district remains a safe place for people to live, work and visit.





Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston



Essex Police – Colchester



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@EPColchester



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

The start of 2022 has seen us again increasing engagement events with our Community Policing team out across the District to meet with you, discuss your issues, and answer questions. I joined the Police Fire Crime Commissioner for an online live question and answer session, thank you to all who logged in.

The team have enjoyed a really positive week as part of the National Community Policing week and we are busy preparing a further week at the end of February to get out with partners and meet more of our communities.

I enjoyed a meeting with our Special Constables this month, Colchester has 71 volunteer police officers who give up their time to keep us all safe, if you think you would like to try please drop us a line we would welcome volunteers.

Our response teams have been kept busy as we start 2022, attending a variety of calls from across Colchester. Just a reminder for drives out there, at this time of year roads are slippery and it takes far longer to stop so leave a bigger gap and plenty of time for your journey.

Colchester District is not only policed by teams based at Colchester but we enjoy support from across the Force, inclusion Business Crime Team, Rural Engagement Team, Operational Support Group, Roads Policing and our Dog units. Please come and say hello when you see us out on patrol we are always happy to talk and answer any questions you may have.

I wish you all well



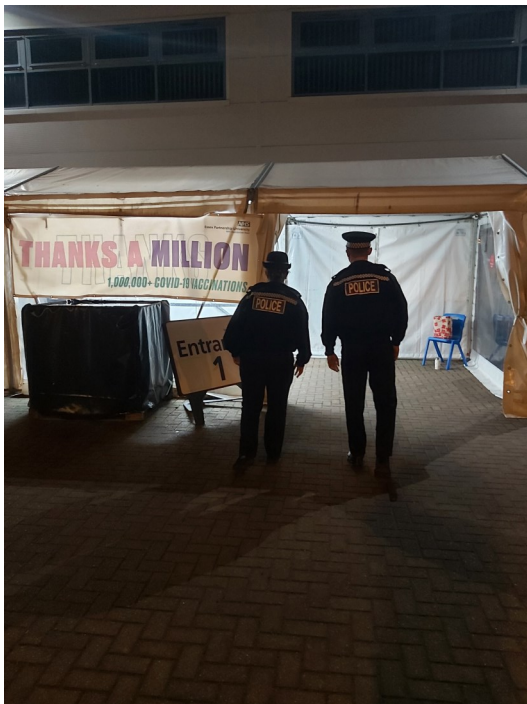
Neighbourhood policing week

January 2021 saw a national week highlighting what neighbourhood policing teams do across the country. The activity in Colchester showed a snapshot of what the team do every day and night to keep Colchester safe.

On the Monday the team were out in North Station Road, speaking to local residents offering crime prevention advice and informing the community how to report anti social behaviour followed by completing a road traffic operation in the town centre focusing on those abusing the road signs in and around the town centre. Staying in the town we visited a number of business premises offering crime prevention advice and completed licence checks at a number of licensed premises in the town.

On the Tuesday our community team deployed in plain clothes in the town centre and other area's around the district to disrupt and investigate information around drug use and supply. We also completed partnership work with Colchester Borough Homes in issuing a closure order to a property that had been causing a large number of issues to the local community. With further work to do, officers attended Phillip Morant School and College to speak to students about the new Degree Apprenticeship Scheme Essex Police are offering when you join our service.

On Wednesday the team spent the day making enquiries into wanted people across the district and conducted joint partnership patrols around the university of Essex, engaging with students and staff.



On the Thursday the community policing team joined forces with Copford primary school to tackle the issue of speeding outside their school. With over 100 vehicles checked and those found to be speeding were stopped and spoken to by the students—who asked some very thoughtful questions such as “do you think its ok to put me at risk of death as you were in a hurry”. While this was taking place our PCSO’s visited a small community in Highwoods and spoke to residents over a coffee with a cop.

Officers conducted patrols with the Royal Military Police around the garrison area of Colchester to reassure the community.

Friday saw an early start for the team as they executed two drugs warrants in Mile End following reports of drug dealing. With two people arrested and a quantity of drugs found, the officers processed the arrested persons including interviews and collating the evidence. These people have been released under investigation as the enquiries continue. While this was happening, officers attended Roach Vale primary school where by year group by year group we spoke to the students around a range of topics including online safety, anti social behaviour and what policing involves. They even had a little look at our police van!

As the weekend appeared our officer utilised our mobile ANPR van to gather intelligence and pursue those who use the road networks to commit crime. As the evening approached, officer and our fantastic special constabulary colleagues policed the town centre, again conducting checks to licensed premises and maintained a visible presence to ensure people enjoying a night out did so safely.

On the Sunday, our team visited Colchester Zoo to offer crime prevention advice to the guests, while the police cadets helped the zoo keepers with their daily tasks. They also conducted patrols around all of our communities.



Interested in a role in policing?

We will be hosting an Essex Police Career café on Friday 4th March between 11am—2pm at the Mcdonalds store in Colchester high street with the Essex Police Positive Action team. If you are interested in one of the many roles we have here at Essex Police as a police officer, police staff member, detective or a volunteering role, come and speak to us about what support is available to help you apply. We will also be discussing the new Degree Apprenticeship Scheme.



Special Constabulary update



Again this month our special constabulary have been out proving their value to the communities of Colchester. Some examples of this are on Saturday 15th January SC Lister and SC Peters completed patrols of areas whereby we have been receiving complaints of nuisance vehicles. While conducting checks in Mason road, while there were no vehicles present, they noticed a gentleman in the area who looked nervous by their presence. Suddenly the man decided he did not want to hang around and began to run away with our special constables in pursuit. He was caught after a short foot chase and turned out to be wanted by the crown court for failing to appear. Having booked him into custody SC Lister and Peters went back out to their patrol area's they had been given which involved completing stop and searches and also issuing some traffic tickets for inappropriate driving.

On 29th January our special constabulary colleagues were out in force this time utilising a mobile ANPR van. Throughout the evening they:

Arrested one driver due to driving with excess drugs in his system.

Seized two vehicles as they had no insurance.

Reported two drivers for driving with no insurance.

Placed a prohibition on a vehicle due to the condition (meaning it can not be driven until it is in a safe condition to be on the road)

Issued 6 fixed penalty tickets for traffic offences.

Completed disruption patrols in areas we have received complaints about anti social behaviour.



Policing Rural Colchester

This month we have been in our libraries to listen to the community in Wivenhoe, Tiptree and West Mersea, where we will visit every month (see the events page) . Our officers and PCSOs have been out patrolling in cars and on foot which providing high visibility reassurance to the communities.

We have worked with Birch Parish Council to place some speed check warning signings in the village and conducted a stop and search of a vehicle travelling through Great Horkesley whereby the passenger was reported for being in possession of cannabis.

Patrols continue around Layer de la haye and Abberton reservoir regarding nuisance vehicles and the teams are often trying to capture evidence of the reported issues so we can issue community protection warnings or section 59 warnings.



We have visited Holy Trinity Primary school in eight ash green and are hoping to attending any community groups that feel a visit from the community policing team would benefit them.

If you would like us to visit your community group/event please contact us on—

[Colchestercommunitypolicingteam](https://www.facebook.com/Colchestercommunitypolicingteam)

[@essex.police.uk](https://twitter.com/essex.police.uk)

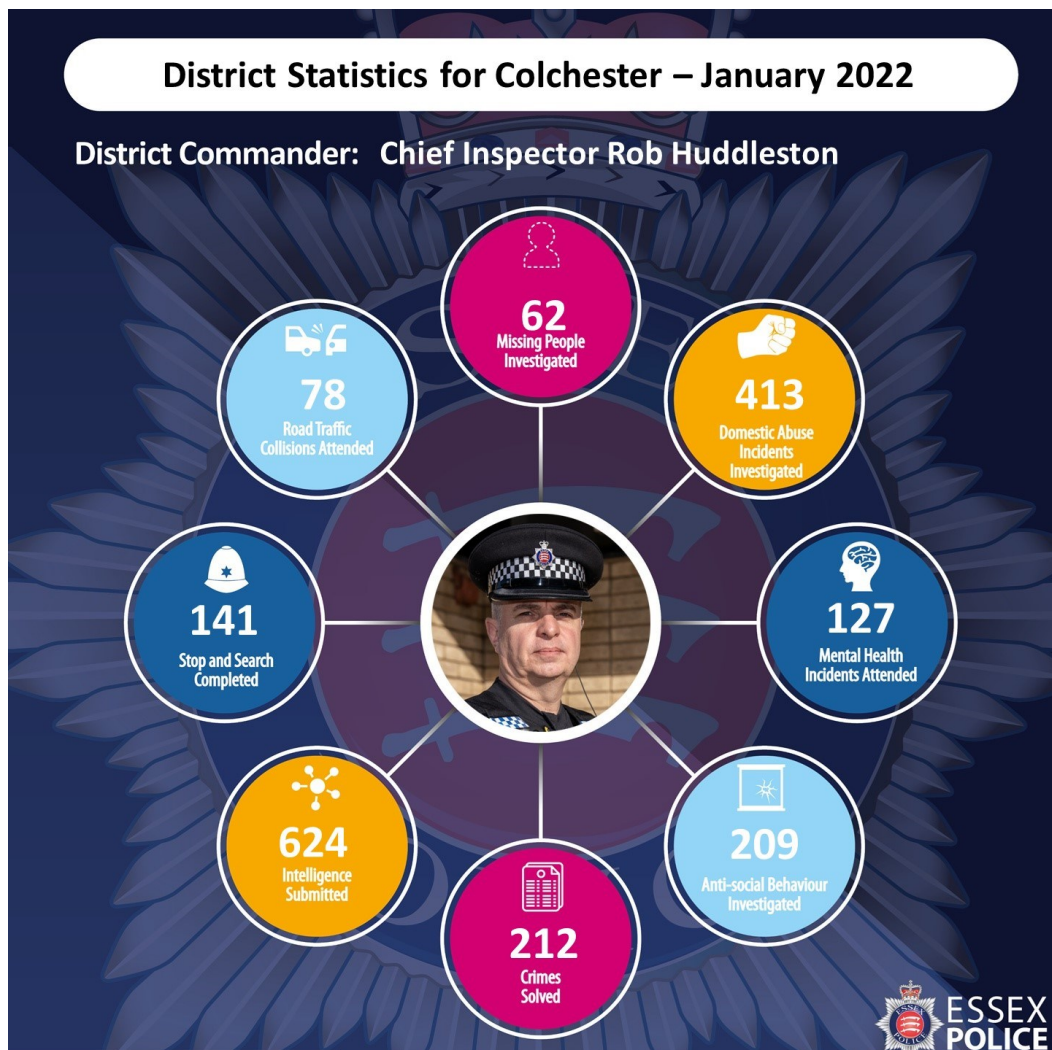


Recognition for our officers

PC Emily Bowyer has been recognised for her outstanding dedication to policing the Colchester district over the past 12 months by the Colchester Association for the Protection of Property .

An award presented to PC Emily Bowyer in a ceremony attended by our district commander and Chief Constable.

Chief Constable BJ Harrington has said “Well done PC Emily Bowyer of Colchester Police station, awarded for her ‘thief taking’. Great partnership and great work showing community policing is proper copping”



Upcoming Events

Below are some of our pre planned events for our communities to come and speak to us in person. Please note events are added regularly so please check our social media accounts for up to date events.

On the first Monday of EVERY month (excluding bank holidays) we will be in the **C360 hub on long wyre street, Colchester town centre (the old Poundland building) between 11am and 12pm** so why not come and join us and have a conversation over a cup of coffee.

From **January 2022** we will be in the local Libraries as per below:

First **Tuesday** of every month between 10:00-11:30 at **Tiptree** Library.

First **Thursday** of every month between 10:00-11:30 at **Wivenhoe** Library.

First **Thursday** of every month between 13:00-14:30 at **West Mersea** Library.

Saturday 19th February 2022 —3pm-4pm—Coffee with Cops – William loveless Hall, Wivenhoe

Monday 28th February 2022—3pm-4pm—Cops outside shops—Co-op Fivefields court, Greenstead

Tuesday 1st March 2022—10am-11pm—Street Meet—Old heath recreation ground, beside GO4 café.

Wednesday 2nd March 2022—10am-12pm—Cops outside shops—Highwoods Tesco.

Thursday 3rd March 2022—3:15pm-4:15pm—Coffee with cops—Perrywoods garden centre, Tiptree

Friday 4th March 2022—11am-2pm—Essex Police Career Café—Mcdonalds, Colchester High Street.

You can report all non urgent matters via our website—www.essex.police.uk, by either completing an online report or utilising the live chat option between 7am-11pm.

If you do not have access to internet you can still use the 101 telephone system.

In an emergency always use 999.



Report



Digital 101
essex.police.uk

Report anti-social behaviour online
Do it online at:
essex.police.uk



A day in the life of:

Acting Police Sergeant Nicholas Pulham



Role: Acting Police Sergeant

Department: Colchester Community Policing Team

Length of service: 11 1/2 Years.

Favourite food: Pie

Hobbies: Over the past year and a bit I have become a bit of a cycling fanatic. I have an indoor bike for when the weather is rubbish but much prefer getting out on my road bike on a Sunday morning for a few hours taking in the scenery as well as getting fit and improving my figures at the same time.

What do you do on a day to day basis: My normal role is a PC however for the past two months I have been the acting sergeant role on A shift CPT in Colchester. There is no denying that being in the Sgt role means a lot more time spent in the office managing the day to day workings of the team but my usual routine begins with the first half of the shift checking my emails, the daily briefing and I get the crime allocations done as soon as possible. I still have my own long term projects that I am OIC for and take some time each week to make contact with the relevant parties to get/give updates, get statements or complete interviews about recent occurrences.

Being on CPT we receive a lot of information from partner agencies as well as Intelligence coming through on Athena (one of our computer systems). I sieve through this and disseminate it to all of the officers on the Colchester CPT. If there is anything relevant to our team specifically then I will allocate an officer to look into it and develop it further. This sometimes results in warrants or operations to tackle a particular problem that affects the local community as a whole. Sometimes information comes in that needs actioning straight away such as instances of cuckooing where vulnerable people are being taken advantage of. I can get the team to the address and completing welfare checks to ensure that those who need it are getting the support they need and deal with any offences they may be victims of.

Recently we completed an engagement activity at Colchester Zoo as part of Neighbourhood Policing Week. The team met with cadets from the unit in Colchester took part in a 'Helping Out' day where we assisted keepers with some of their tasks around the enclosures. This helped build relations with the Zoo which attracts a huge amount of people every day, not only from our own community, but a large amount of tourists from all over the county and further afield.

Favourite part of the job: I have always enjoyed being a front line officer responding to incidents and this will remain the backbone of policing. Being on CPT however has given me an appreciation for the long term projects and the work that goes on with partner agencies to tackle issues within the community that I never saw much of. There is a real satisfaction when you get positive feedback about a long term problem that you and your team have helped resolve.



Over a third of couples in the UK meet online. A number set to increase as more and more of us meet, not just through dating apps and websites, but also Instagram, Facebook or gaming sites.

While the majority of people you interact with online are genuine, criminals can target online platforms, where there is a messaging function, to form friendships or romantic relationships.

Romance, or dating, fraud, occurs when you think you've met the perfect partner online but they are using a fake profile to form a relationship with you. You can meet them via an online dating website or app, social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, or gaming sites.

They gain your trust over a number of weeks or months and have you believe that you are in a loving and caring relationship. However, the criminal's end goal is only ever to get your money or personal information.

Any one of us can be tricked by these clever criminals. You should never feel embarrassed or ashamed to talk to someone about what has happened to you, or report it to police.

**Report to Action Fraud at:
www.actionfraud.police.uk
0300 123 2040**

1

STOP

Take a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information.

CHALLENGE

Could it be fake? It's OK to reject, refuse or ignore any requests for your financial or personal details.

PROTECT

Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.

It's important that no matter how long you've been speaking to someone online and how much you trust them, if you haven't met them in person do not:

- Send them any money,
- Allow them access to your bank account
- Transfer money on their behalf,
- Take a loan out for them,
- Provide copies of your personal, documents such as passports or driving licenses,
- Invest your own money on their behalf or on their advice,
- Purchase and send the codes on gift cards from Amazon or iTunes.

2

How does romance fraud happen?

Criminals will do their research. They'll mould themselves into your perfect match, finding out as much information as they can about you from your online footprint and social media channels, and make it appear that you have interests and experiences in common. They'll seem loving, caring and protective over you.

After building your trust over a number of weeks or months, they will disguise a request for money, dropping it harmlessly into conversation. They'll appear vulnerable and in need of your help, often talking about financial woes relating to sickness or stress and worry to make you feel sorry for them. In some cases, rather than asking for money directly, these manipulative criminals will also groom you into a position where you offer it, to help them out of whatever crisis they are in.



3

How can you spot the signs?

You've struck up a relationship with someone online and they declare their love for you quite quickly.

They constantly make up excuses why they can't video chat or meet in person and they try and move your conversation off the platform that you met on.

They claim to be overseas, working in the military or medical profession. They might say they are abroad, carrying out vital work, including charity work. This helps them paint a picture of themselves as being heroic, trustworthy and reliable, and also gives them an excuse for the use of international dialling codes or poor internet connection.

When they ask for your help, it will be for a time critical emergency. The reason will be something emotive, which pulls at your heartstrings. They'll open up to you about a problem, or something that is worrying them to appear vulnerable and make you feel sorry for them. They may get defensive if you decline to help.

They tell you to keep your relationship private and insist that you don't discuss anything you talk about with your friends and family. This also includes the crisis they find themselves in that requires money. They will convince you this is part of the normal privacy that forms a healthy relationship.

4

How can you protect yourself?

Avoid giving away too many personal details when speaking online to someone you've never met in person, as it can lead to your identity being stolen. This includes revealing your full name, date of birth and home address - even if you're doing it for what seems to be harmless reasons, such as your partner wants to send you flowers or a gift.

Stay on the site's messaging service until you meet in person. Criminals want to quickly switch to other platforms that are less regulated and have better encryption, so there's no evidence of them asking you for money.

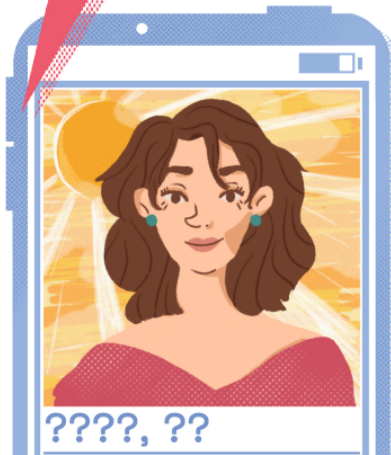
On social media, only accept friend requests from people you know and trust.

Most online platforms have a reporting tool which you can use if you suspect someone online is using pictures that don't belong to them, you are suspicious of their behaviour, or they have asked you for money. Reporting their user profile means it can be blocked which helps protect others.

If their pictures seem too perfect or doesn't match up with what they tell you about themselves, you can perform a reverse image search on Google to see if the photos have been taken from somewhere, or someone, else.

5

Fall for the person,



not the profile.



TO STOP FRAUD

Action Fraud

National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre

actionfraud.police.uk

