

## STROLL WITH A PATROL CONTINUES—JOIN US!

Stroll with a patrol is continuing to prove a popular way of you speaking to your local officers about your local issues and actually showing us where the issues are and discussing what can be done to resolve them. Whether you want to discuss local issues, discuss joining the police or what policing Colchester is like or would just like to have a conversation with a local police officer come along to a Stroll with a patrol near you.

So far we have welcomed our partner agencies and communities on 10 patrols including area's such as **Rowhedge, Mile End, Wakes Colne, Stanway and Greenstead.**

Our next set of SWaP date and locations are—

18th May—12pm Meet—The Square, **University of Essex.**

22nd May—6pm Meet—Lakelands Walk, Lakelands estate,  
**Stanway**

26th May—6pm Meet—Marks Tey Village Hall, **Marks Tey**

1st June— 6PM Meet—Play park on School Road, **Monkwick**

1st June—6PM Meet—Iceni Road shops, **Shrub End**

13th June—10am meet—St Christopher road shops, **St Johns**

16th June—5PM Meet—Outside Willowbrook Primary school,  
**White city**



For a full list of dates and times please check the Essex police website or contact us.



**Domestic abuse is all about control. If you notice that someone seems to be controlled in all areas of their life, it could be a sign they are being abused.**

**SETDAB.org**

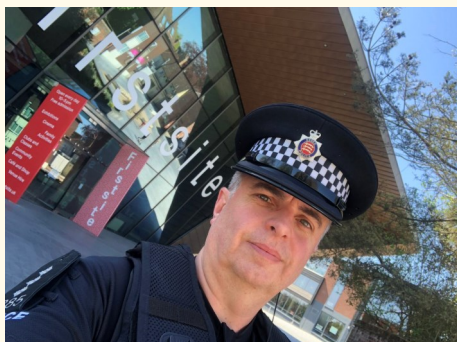
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**IN AN EMERGENCY  
ALWAYS CALL 999**

## Monthly District Commander Update



### Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston

It really feels like spring has finally arrived and it has been lovely seeing so many people enjoying the range of facilities our District has to offer, from the coastline at Mersea, to our vibrant town centre, just a reminder though to look after your possessions to we don't give others the opportunity to commit crime.

Our teams have been hard at work keeping you safe, and thank you to all those who have supported sharing CCTV, calling in reports, and being

Willing to give a statement, together we keep our community safe. As the summer evenings get longer please enjoy the outdoors but remind

Children and young people to respect others peace and property, in this news you will read about young people putting themselves at risk on

Roofs in the town centre, and we are already seeing people jumping into rivers and lakes to cool off, and these can be really cold.

We are gearing up for the Platinum Jubilee weekend and looking forward to being with you across the range of events taking place, what a great

Time to be part of our community with the Gun Salute in Castle Park, a picnic and the proclamation, to the street parties and events across the

District. Enjoy the bank holiday weekend and stay safe



Essex Police – Colchester



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### District Statistics for Colchester – April 2022

District Commander: Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston



Contact [colchestercommunitypolicingteam](https://www.colchestercommunitypolicingteam.essex.police.uk)  
[@essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)



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## Your Local PCSO

### Town Team - Ps Thrower

Town Centre and Christchurch areas- PCSO March/Nutkins/ Woolford

### Colchester South - Ps Temme

Newtown/Hythe -PCSO Hardy

Old Heath -PCSO Oscroft

Blackheath/ Monkwick

Rowhedge- PCSO Ryder

Mersea Island—PCSO Ryder

Abberton/Fingringhoe/Langenhoe -PCSO Ryder

Peldon, Layer, Birch, Inworth—PCSO Ryder

Tiptree—PCSO Ryder

Stanway & Tollgate—PCSO Compton

Shrub end & St Michael's -PCSO Howe

Lexden—PCSO Howe

Prettygate—PCSO Howe

### Colchester North- Ps Buckley

St Annes- PCSO Wright

Greenstead - PCSO Wright

University— PCSO Wright

Wivenhoe -PCSO Wright

Highwoods - PCSO Beverly

Mile end/Braiswick—PCSO Beverly

St Johns—PCSO Beverly

Dedham & Langham— PCSO Robinson

Great Horkesley/Boxted/Wormingford/Fordham—PCSO Robinson

West Bergholt/Eight ash green—PCSO Robinson

Gt Tey/Chappel/Wakes Colne/Aldham—PCSO Robinson

Copford—PCSO Robinson

Marks Tey—PCSO Robinson

Please say hello to your local PCSO when you see them patrolling your communities. If you have a community event or a school event whereby you would like the community policing team present to speak to people about policing in the area please make contact with the PCSO for that area who will be happy to help and look to arrange attendance where they can. They can also help with minor local issues and crime prevention advice. Alternatively you can contact [colchestercommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk](mailto:colchestercommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk). Please do not report crimes directly to the email addresses, these can be done over the telephone or via [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk).

PCSO Nutkins—[Jonathan.nutkins@essex.police.uk](mailto:Jonathan.nutkins@essex.police.uk)

PCSO March—[Wayne.March@essex.police.uk](mailto:Wayne.March@essex.police.uk)

PCSO Woolford—[Gary.woolford@essex.police.uk](mailto:Gary.woolford@essex.police.uk)

PCSO Oscroft—[Rachael.oscroft-curtis@essex.police.uk](mailto:Rachael.oscroft-curtis@essex.police.uk)

PCSO Howe—[Hayley.howe@essex.police.uk](mailto:Hayley.howe@essex.police.uk)

PCSO Robinson—[Amy-jane.Robinson@essex.police.uk](mailto:Amy-jane.Robinson@essex.police.uk)

PCSO Beverly—[claire.beverly@essex.police.uk](mailto:claire.beverly@essex.police.uk)

PCSO Wright—[emma.wright@essex.police.uk](mailto:emma.wright@essex.police.uk)

PCSO Hardy—[Sarah.hardy@essex.police.uk](mailto:Sarah.hardy@essex.police.uk)

PCSO Ryder—[Adam.ryder@essex.police.uk](mailto:Adam.ryder@essex.police.uk)

PCSO Compton—[Lee.compton@essex.police.uk](mailto:Lee.compton@essex.police.uk)

## Children and young persons update

Our Town Centre Policing team have been dealing with a large number of reports of young people gaining access to the roof tops in the town centre and running along them, jumping between them and sometimes just hanging around on the top of them.

Not only is this extremely dangerous as a fall from such height would be life changing, if not life ending it is also seeing damage caused to the roof tops which could see these young people end up with criminal records. It is also important to note that the businesses could take their own civil action against you or your children for trespassing on their properties.

So far the town centre team have spoken to 18 young people who have been identified as being on top of



the buildings along with their parents to highlight the dangers and in an attempt to keep them safe. The youngest person we have spoken to was 12 years old. So if your children are hanging around in the town, please ensure you know what they are up to. Three teenagers have also been arrested for damage offences and have all been issued acceptable behaviour contracts.

We have been completing site visits to the points of entry to the roofs and are working with businesses, Essex County Fire and Rescue and Colchester Borough Council to prevent access to these sites.

If you have information about children involved in this, to keep them safe please let us know so we can provide some intervention and make them aware of these dangers.


## Community Engagement

As well as stroll with a patrol, we have been out this month engaging with different members of our community in different ways.


It was a pleasure to visit Kingswood hoe School to run our missing person scenario with year 9 at the school. The children read through statements, checked CCTV and learned about different ways police investigate leading us to successfully find the “missing person”. Afterwards the children all had the opportunity to speak to us about policing and try on some uniform.

### Highlights

On Tuesday 26th April, Year 9 had a visit from PC Adams and PC Speirs. Pupils completed a missing persons scenario and used their skills to be a police detective. Pupils had to demonstrate team work, communication skills, peer pressure awareness and safety. PC Adams and PC Speirs were impressed with our detectives. Well done Year 9!



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The community team were delighted to have been present at the official opening of the One Colchester hub run by Community 360 where we spoke to many partners and members of the public.

We also managed to see the whole of Montgomery Infants school, talking about how the police help people in the community and showing our uniform and police car along.

While out on in Highwoods country park

on patrol PCSO Claire Beverly was speaking to people and ensuring everyone felt safe and was enjoying their day when she come across this friendly group of NHS staff enjoying a picnic. Even while we are out on our patrols we are always happy to engage with our communities and about topics or area's of policing, or just to say hello! So if you see us on patrol please come and talk to us.



PCSO Emma Wright has been conducting a number of events in Wivenhoe and Greenstead over the last month including high visibility patrols, multi agency drop in centres, coffee with cop events and has become a frequent visitor of the Wivenhoe friendship group.



There are a list of our upcoming events further in this newsletter. If you are a school or community group that would be interested in some police engagement please contact us on the below email address.

Contact **colchestercommunitypolicingteam**  
**@essex.police.uk**



Do it online at:  
[essex.police.uk](https://essex.police.uk)

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## Six charged following incident at School

Six teenagers have been charged after damage worth almost £30,000 was caused to a school in Colchester.

Three 14-year-olds, two 13-year-olds and a 15-year-old, all from Colchester, have been charged with criminal damage and being found in or upon an enclosed premises.

The teenagers are due to appear in Colchester Magistrates' Court on June 10.



We responded to reports of a disturbance at Unity Primary School, in Hickory Avenue, at about 6pm on Saturday 27 November 2021 to reports of a disturbance.

Enquiries later found an outdoor learning area had been significantly damaged and some equipment had been destroyed.

In total, repairs cost the school £27,915.

## Arson investigation launched

Two people have been arrested after a motorbike caught fire in Colchester in early hours of this morning.

We were called by colleagues in the fire service to Stalin Road shortly after 2am today Thursday 5 May.

We arrived and found significant damage had been caused to the motorbike and parts of the front of the property had been charred.



The fire did not spread into the home thanks to quick-thinking actions of the homeowner and a fast response from the fire service.

A 12-year-old boy and a 16-year-old boy, both from Colchester, have been arrested on suspicion of arson and theft of a motor vehicle.

They remain in custody for questioning.

We are also investigating two people acting suspiciously in Rowhedge late last night. We believe they were wearing dark clothes and balaclavas.

We need anyone who witnessed either incident or has any CCTV, dash cam, or doorbell footage to contact us.

If you have any information, you can [submit a report online](#) or use the 'Live Chat' button to speak to an online operator between 7am-11pm.

Please quote crime reference number 42/112017/22.

You can also call us on 101 or contact [Crimestoppers](#) anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Work by officers see burglars jailed for total of 25 years

Work by specialist officers have ensured two men who carried out a horrifying aggravated burglary have been jailed for a total of 25 years.

A couple in their 50s were subjected to a violent and terrifying ordeal at their home in Halstead Road, Fordham on the morning on 17 November 2018.

Two men wearing high visibility jackets knocked on the front door at around 9.10am and the woman living there, believing them to be delivering flowers, opened it.

The men forced their way inside and in doing so, shocked the woman with what was described as a stun device.

The pair threatened her and demanded money before striking her to the head with an object.

She then saw a third man come through the front door with her husband and then witnessed him being assaulted, having his head stamped on.

He is also shocked with a stun device before the pair had their hands tied with cable ties and further threats of violence were made.

The man also had ladders put on top of him to further incapacitate him.

The men left taking money and jewellery.

Hearing the house was quiet, the man got free from his ties, tended to his wife and managed to call his son and the police were called.

### How they were caught

A tradesperson, who had been carrying out some work in a commercial premises on the site, had witnessed the vehicles the men had arrived in – a Citroen Berlingo van – and was able to provide the registration number.

CCTV identified a white BMW in company with the van shortly before the burglary took place.

Officers were able to identify one of the registered keepers of the BMW was 45 year-old Barry Sharp, from Britten Road, Lowestoft.

DNA matching another man, 47 year-old Gary Thompson, of Sidney Road, Ludlow, Shropshire, was found on the cable ties used to tie the wife.

Officers were also able to establish that Thompson and Sharp had been in contact frequently in the days leading up to burglary.

They were arrested in May the following year and later both charged with conspiracy to commit burglary.

They both denied the charges but, following a trial at Ipswich Crown Court they were found guilty on Thursday 12 May.

At the same court the following day Thompson was jailed for 12 years while Sharp was sentenced to 13 years.



Barry Sharp and Gary Thompson

## Men jailed over kidnapping

Two men who admitted kidnapping and seriously assaulting a man over drug debt have been jailed thanks to our Serious Organised Crime Unit.

Two men who admitted kidnapping and seriously assaulting a man over drug debt have been jailed thanks to our Serious Organised Crime Unit.

Carlos Reich and Ishmail Menevili were jailed for kidnap, GBH and affray offences when they appeared at Ipswich Crown Court on Thursday 12 May.



*Custody image of Carlos Reich and Ishmail Menevili*

Carlos Reich, 26, of Carlton Road, Lower Edmonton, London was jailed for a total of five years and two months, while Ishmail Menevili, 29, of Church Street, Lower Edmonton, London was sentenced to a total of for four years and five months in prison.

The two pled guilty to all charges when they appeared at the same court two days earlier

It follows an incident on Wednesday 8 January 2020, a dog walker called police to report that while walking their dog at Homefield Road, Colchester, they heard screaming and saw a person being forced into a pickup truck which quickly speed off and out of the area.

Shortly after, police received a report of a naked man, covered in blood, in Elm Close, who had been beaten up.

The victim told officers he had arranged to meet Reich and Menevili but he did not have any money to give them.

All three got into a pickup truck and he was taken to an address and told to deliver a drugs package.

As he was dropped off, he made his escape.

Reich and Menevili went to a nearby address, threatening the occupant, in an attempt to find him but left after discovering he wasn't there.

They continued to search the area and when they found the victim, he was beaten and forced into a vehicle.

He was driven to Elm Close where he was further assaulted and left stripped of his clothing.

The victim, 30s, was beaten, sustaining broken ribs, a punctured lung and bruising over his head and body and was hospitalised.

An investigation was launched by the Serious and Organised Crime Unit and resulted in Menevili being arrested on 11 February and Reich arrested on 19 February 2020.

Detective Superintendent Lee Morton said:

“The perpetrators of this offence have shown themselves to be violent and they showed no mercy in attacking the victim after he refused to do what they wanted him to do.

“They carried out this attack showing that they valued the drugs more than they valued a person.

“The occupant of the property they attended was left traumatised from the threats made to them in their own home.

“It's only right that they have been jailed for this terrible attack.”



## Drug gang taken down in specialist operation

Six people have been jailed for a total of more than 40 years for their roles in the supply of drugs into Colchester and Chelmsford after a drug network was taken down by specialist Essex Police drug teams.

The sentences come as a result of a two-year investigation by specialist drug team into the Captain, Max and TJ drug lines.

The lines were initially disrupted in July 2020, when Rowan Brown was arrested, charged and sentenced to 67 months in jail for being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs.

However, whilst serving that sentence it was identified that Brown was continuing to run the Max line from his prison cell. That line was responsible for supplying drugs into Chelmsford.



Seized - some of the drugs discovered during the investigation

Brown had direct contact with Amy Goldfinch and Peter Okunzuwa who were playing leading roles in running the lines outside of prison.

Goldfinch continued to run the day-to-day business of the line with the instruction of Brown, who had two small phones with him in his prison cell.

He would arrange reloads for her and give instruction of where to go for pickups. Goldfinch had a number of people working for her to deal drugs in Chelmsford, most notably Tony Wilde and Keith Webb, who regularly dealt for her at a street level. Webb also acted as a driver.

Susan Poulton was also a trusted member of the group and drive Goldfinch to London for reload missions while Kevaughn Henriques helped package the drugs for sale.

At the same time, Okunzuwa was involved in supplying crack cocaine into Colchester through the Captain drugs line

He used others to assist him to operate this line, including Tona Reid, who allowed her bank account to be used to facilitate the movement of money. She admitted laundering a total of £25,000 for Okunzuwa.

Okunzuwa also used Faith Divine-Mark to sell drugs in Colchester while she also transferred large amounts of money through her bank account to Okunzuwa.

At the same time, Dejah Henriques headed up the TJ line, which was supplying crack cocaine and heroin in Chelmsford. The 23-year-old was also helping Goldfinch with the Max line.

Each player admitted their part, with all but two being sentenced at Chelmsford Crown Court on Friday 6 May.

They are: • **Rowan Brown**, a serving prisoner, admitted two counts of conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin. He was sentenced to a total of 11 year, to run consecutively to his original sentence. He is now serving a total of 16 year

• **Amy Goldfinch**, 28, Church Road, London admitted two counts of conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin. She was sentenced to a total of nine years in jail

• **Peter Okunzuwa**, 32, of Lea Bridge Road, Hackney, admitted two counts of conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin. He was sentenced to six years and nine months in prison

• **Dejah Henriques**, 23, of Digby Road, Hackney, admitted two counts of conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin. He was sentenced to seven years and six months in jail.

• **Tony Wilde**, 55, of Widford Park Place, Chelmsford, admitted two counts of conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin and was sentenced to a total of 48 months in jail.

- **Keith Webb**, 51, of St Marys Mead, Chelmsford admitted two counts of conspiracy to supply, crack cocaine and heroin and was jailed for a total of 21 months.
- **Susan Poulton**, 40, of Cromwell Close, Boreham, admitted two counts of conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin and was given a 36-month community order and made the subject of a 12-hour daily curfew which is in place for one year.
- **Faith Divine-Mark**, 22, of Brook Drive, London, admitted two counts of conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin and was jailed for a total of 21 months, suspended for two years. She must also complete 240 hours of unpaid work.



Jailed - Amy Goldfinch, Dejah Henriques and Peter Okunzuwa



Jailed - Tony Wilde, Rowan Brown and Kevin Webb

Brown, Goldfinch, Okunzuwa and Henriques have all had proceeds of crime proceedings instigated against them. Applications for each to receive a Serious Crime Prevention Order (SCPO) have also been made.

Such orders are intended to be used against those involved in serious crime, with the specific terms designed to protect the public by preventing, restricting or disrupting involvement in serious crime.

Kevaughn Henriques, 20, of Amersham Avenue, in London who admitted two counts of conspiracy to supply crack cocaine and heroin and Tonae Reid, 28, of Handel Walk, Colchester, who admitted money laundering, are yet to be sentenced.

Temporary Detective Chief Inspector Neal Miller, who leads the Essex Police Op Raptor teams, said:

*"There is no doubt that the sentences handed down to this group so far reflect the seriousness of their offending. These people were intent on causing harm to the most vulnerable people in our communities.*

*"The tenacity of the officers' work in this case cannot be underestimated; we will continue to pursue people and bring them to justice, even if they are already in prison.*

*"This group of people believed they could carry on their business of exploitation because they were above the law. They were wrong.*

*"They had no idea our teams were building overwhelming cases against them so that when we did strike, they had very little option but admit their crimes and accept the sentences handed down to them.*

*"The streets of Colchester and Chelmsford are safer and cleaner places with these people behind bars. However, we cannot and will not rest on our laurels. We know others will attempt to fill the holes left by the disruption to these lines and our work to tackle drug supply in Essex will continue."*

Detective Constable Lee Winfield, who led the investigation, added:

*"This was a complex and intensive investigation which took more than two years.*

*"The effort put in by all elements of the team was incredible and the sentences reflect the culpability of those arrested, charged and put before the court.*

*"Our message is clear - drugs and drug dealers are not welcome in Essex. If you are determined to do that, you will be caught and, as this case shows, you will be sentenced accordingly."*

## Spring Garden Security Advice – Sheds, Garages and Objects

We spoke last month about garden security now we will look at sheds, garages, and objects within them. As mentioned before controlling access is your first line of defence and you may consider using good old gravel on paths and drives or round statues etc as an audible warning and/or a “Driveway Alert Monitor” (can be found by internet search). Sensitively and effectively placed lighting and CCTV may be considered to help protect outbuildings, ornaments, and statues but CCTV and lighting should not be your only thoughts on security. Don’t forget motion activated lighting may also be triggered by animals and shrubs moving in the wind.

Shed and outbuilding security: If you are installing a new shed try and find a place in view of the house and neighbours. The padlock hasp fittings of a shed should be coach-bolted to the frame and door, strengthen the fitting area with a metal plate inside and out; don’t forget the hinges ensure they cannot be unscrewed. Cheap locks and padlocks are a poor investment; use good quality locks, look for a “Close Shackle” padlock or a key operated mortice lock to at least “Sold Secure” Silver or Gold standard. Protect windows with a wire mesh and fit a curtain or whitewash the windows to prevent prying eyes. NB some of this advice can apply to aviaries, kennels, barns, and other buildings of similar nature.

On garage doors consider adding locking bolts to both sides of an “up and over door” or a garage door defender in the ground in front of the door. Don’t forget the other doors and windows in the garage and secure them as you would in a house. LOCKS ARE A WASTE OF TIME IF YOU DO NOT LOCK THEM.

When storing larger items like motorcycles, cycles, lawn mowers etc consider a fixing set/ground anchor into the concrete floor, a heavy chain and again a good quality padlock to secure it. If the chain or lock is lying across the floor it could provide a surface for it to be smashed against so, try and keep it tightly secured. Consider a shed alarm if you do not have one, there are shed alarms available that contact you on the phone when activated such as [www.uwatch.co.uk](http://www.uwatch.co.uk).

Products that are fit for purpose can be found by looking for the "Secured by Design" or "Sold Secure" logos, or on their websites [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) or [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com).

Tips for Statues, ornaments, and pots:

- Drill and secure with quality chain/padlock larger pots and ornaments to a secure surface.
- Consider a Plant Anchors for valuable plants and pots.
- Make the plant pot heavier with a layer of gravel at the bottom.
- Some planters/pots can be marked/post-coded /etched carefully with a small Hobbyist drill or an indelible pen can work sometimes on the base.
- Hanging baskets can be secured with chains or cable ties BUT there is a danger the offender may simply wrench from the fixing point making even greater damage.
- Where possible position statues, ornaments etc in view of the house and neighbours.
- Photograph more unusual ornaments with a scale rule included. Where possible ensure statues and ornaments are in view of a house and have good lighting. Consider using a property marking product
- To ensure good provenance only buy plants, ornaments and architectural material from reputable sources and report any suspicions to Police/Trading Standards.



## 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. Also see the Stroll with a patrol dates at the beginning of this newsletter.

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 Pound-land 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.



Tuesday 17th May 2022—Coffee with a cop—**Well Methodist Church, Nayland Road**—1030am-12pm.

Thursday 19th May 2022—Coffee with a cop—**St Helena's Shop, West Mersea**—1:30pm-2:30pm

Friday 20th May 2022—Career Talk—**Community 360 building/Colchester jobs fair**—10am-1pm

Friday 20th May 2022—Coffee with a cop—**Maison Mollie Coffee Shop, Wivenhoe**—11am-1pm

Saturday 21st May 2022—Cops outside shops—**Wivenhoe Onestop, Vine parade**—12pm-2pm.

Wednesday 25th May 2022—Coffee with a Cop—**Greggs Bakers, St Christopher Road, St Johns**—9:30am-11am

Wednesday 25th May 2022—Cops outside shops—**Co-Op, Fivefields court, Greenstead**—12pm-2pm

Saturday 4th June 2022—Coffee with a cop—**Nothern gateway leisure centre**—10am-11:30am

Sunday 5th June 2022—Coffee with a cop—**GO4 Café, Recreation ground, Old Heath**—4pm-5pm

Tuesday 7th June 2022—Coffee with a cop—**Highwoods Tesco café**—4pm-5:30pm

Friday 10th June 2022—Street Meet—**Colchester castle park band stand**—12pm-1pm

Saturday 11th June 2022—Coffee with a cop—**Stanway Community centre**—10am-12pm

Wednesday 15th June 2022—Meet your local PCSO event—**Hythe community centre**—9:30am-10:30am

Wednesday 15th June 2022—Coffee with a cop—**Asda café**—1030am –12pm

Wednesday 15th June 2022—Community drop in session with Police, Colchester Borough Homes, Eastlight Homes and ECFRS—**Greenstead community centre**—3pm-6pm.

A knife amnesty will be launched across Essex alongside the rollout of new branding on knife bins placed at 14 sites across the county. Essex Police has now taken over responsibility for the bins, which are funded by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC), the Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU) and Essex Police.

We have also partnered with the Ben Kinsella Trust, an educational charity set up following the tragic murder of 16-year-old Ben Kinsella in 2008.

The organisation campaigns against knife crime and works with more than 4,000 young people each year in order to prevent them from straying into crime. The re-launch of the bins coincides with a knife amnesty, which will take place across the county in the week commencing May 9.

The amnesty allows for anyone who wants to dispose of bladed weapons to do so safely and without fear of prosecution. The priority is for as many knives as possible to be taken off the streets of Essex.

These bins are, of course, just one element of our wider approach to tackling knife crime.

*"We put significant effort into tackling knife crime including 'hotspot' policing, intelligence gathering, using knife arches, and utilising additional powers such as dispersal orders and Section 60 powers, which are an extension of the stop-and-search activity which takes place every day. Thankfully, knife enabled crime is falling across Essex; in the year 2019/2020 – the best year with which to compare given the impact of covid – there were 1,881 offences recorded. In 2021/2022, 1,629 offences were recorded – a drop of 13 per cent. But we aren't resting on our laurels. Knife crime and violence is not an issue the police can tackle alone, and we work with partners to address it. In Essex, we are incredibly lucky to have so many partners, such as the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit, who believe the same as we do – that the response to knife crime requires a multi-agency approach by working with education, health, local authorities, local organisations and probation services. A key focus is to help divert people who are involved in, or at risk of being involved in, knife and violent crime away from this lifestyle and into areas as sports, education, volunteering, rehabilitation. This is a battle that we as a community must fight together. That includes educating our children about the reality of being involved in gangs and the reality that carrying a knife will not protect them but put them at more risk of being hurt or hurting someone else." - Temporary Detective Chief Inspector Clayton Ford, of the Prepare, Prevent and Protect Team, Serious Violence Unit.*



## Digital 101

You can report non-emergency crime by calling **101** or by using **Digital 101**, our quick and easy to use online service that's available at any time.



**Digital 101** is available on the Essex Police website: [essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)



If you, or anyone you know, is interested in protecting and serving Essex, you can follow us on social media, or search **#FitTheBill**