



**ESSEX
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex

Your local update



Colchester District



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



Follow **@CInspHuddleston** or
@EPColchester



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

Hello All,

It has been a pleasure to be Colchester District Commander over the past few months, working strategically with our partners to keep the community of Colchester safe. I hand command of the district back over to our returning District Commander Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston at the end of the month.

Crime continues to fall across Colchester as new figures show you and your property are even safer.

Figures for the 12 months to the end of April 2021 show we received nearly 2,000 fewer crimes recorded across the district than the year before.

In that time we've seen fewer reports people being injured following assaults, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, and vehicle crime.

You are safer:

- 151 fewer violence with injury offences (down 4.6%);
- 47 fewer sexual assaults (down 7.3%)
19 fewer robberies (down 13.5%).

Your property is safer:

- 366 fewer burglaries (down 37.7%);
- 134 fewer thefts from vehicles (down 29.3%);
- 93 fewer vehicle thefts (down 34.4%);
370 fewer reports of criminal damage (down 20.5%).

And we were seeing a fall in reports of many of these types of crimes even before the pandemic.

Your local team are here to **help people, keep people safe and catch criminals**, with a focus on Visibility, Victims, Violence and Vulnerability.



Dealing with Anti Social Behaviour

Officers from our special constabulary have been conducting disruption patrols in relation to numerous reports of anti social driving and behaviour at Stane Park, Tollgate by local businesses and residents.

In the time we were present we noticed a number of vehicles driving and people acting in an anti social manner.

This can be intimidating and dangerous for members of our community.

As a result we have issued:

3 community protection warnings

3 warnings to antisocial drivers.

We have identified another 22 vehicles whereby we will be taking action against those who were witnessed by our plain clothed officers driving erratically in the area at the time.

Late last year we placed signage up warning those who gather here to act responsibly.



Prolific thief going to court

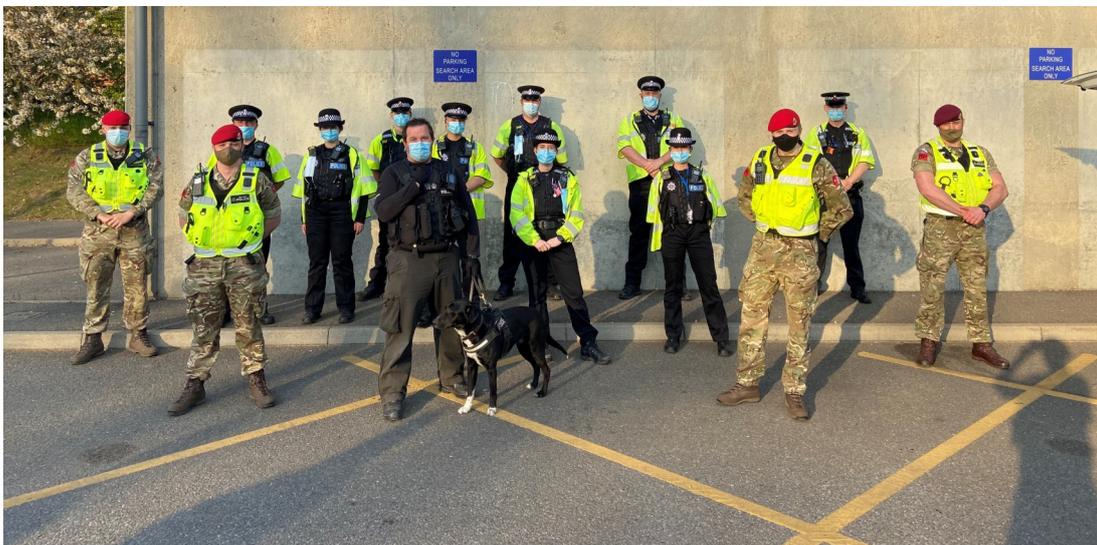
Colchester Town Centre team have been investigating a large number of reported shopliftings. Working through lots of CCTV they arrested a man from Colchester, Essex on Thursday 22nd April 2021. He was later charged with 27! Yes twenty seven! Shoplifting offences and one count of public order. He has now appeared at court and is on remand awaiting his sentencing. The shops mostly affected were co-op stores around the district. We will continue to work with our businesses to ensure they are not targeted for crime.



Working with partners

With Colchester being a large military town, it is only right that we work closely with our counterparts in the royal military police. We regularly complete work such as information sharing, joint patrols and joint operations.

On Friday 30th April 2021 we undertook OP Landseer which saw Colchester community policing team work with RMP and our dog section to carry out additional patrols and security checks for those approaching the barracks.



These unpredictable deployments will continue as we continue on the pathway out of lockdown to engage with our military community and work with our partners in RMP.



First look inside a multi million pound cannabis factory



In April 2021 officers were “tipped off” about a potential cannabis grow in North Station Road, Colchester.

We arrived and found inside the building a cannabis factory which was producing more than £2.5 million worth of cannabis.

Inside the factory we have arrested an adult male who has since been charged and remanded into custody while he awaits further court appearances.



These types of grows are often linked to serious and organised crime with those who profit most exploiting the most vulnerable people in society for their profit.

If you have a suspicion that a property is being used for criminality please feel confident in reporting it. You can do this directly to Essex Police using the telephone or website, or for your own piece of mind, through crimestoppers which will anonymise any information you wish to give.

Working with our communities

As we come out of lockdown we will be holding numerous activities to engage with our communities and community groups. If you are a local School or community group and feel we could provide a positive impact on your organisation by coming and engaging with your students or participants please let us know by emailing Colchestercommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk and we will see what we can arrange.

We have already hosted a number of “street meet” activities whereby we have interacted with many members of our community and parish councils, with more street activities planned and with restrictions easing, we will be looking to come to coffee mornings and other community events to have a chat and ensure we are aware of any issues you are experiencing in your communities. From these street meet activities the team have been made of some issues they were not already aware of and are targeting those responsible in partnership with Colchester Borough Homes and other partner agencies. For the most up to date list of our event activities please check our facebook page—Essex Police—Colchester District .

If you are experiencing anti social behaviour this can be reported via the 101 telephone system or via our website www.essex.police.uk where there is a live chat function and also a report it online section.

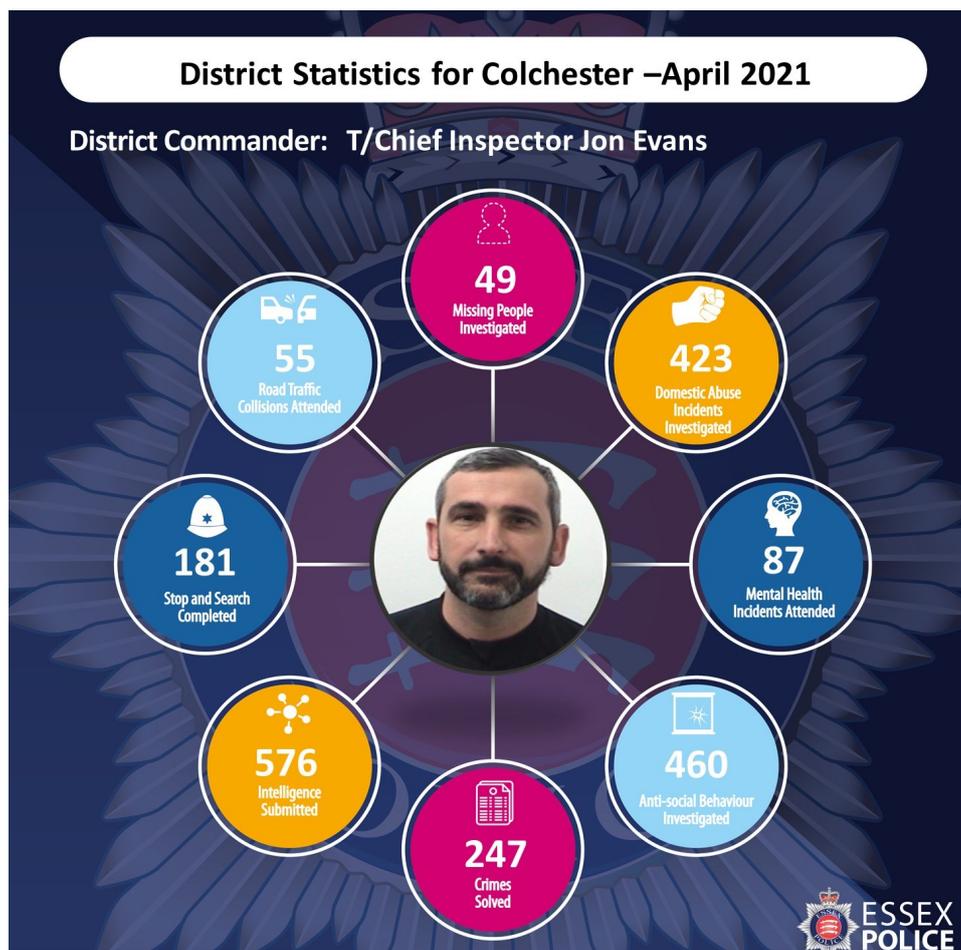


CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS OFFICERS UPDATE

During our patrols and interaction with young people and their schools we are finding more and more children are smoking cannabis under the pretences they cannot become addicted or reliant on it however this is not the case. Cannabis consumed on a weekly basis can affect the mental health of a person, their physical wellbeing and has a huge financial cost. To fund this habit young people often turn to selling items from their home or supplying cannabis on the side. This can then lead to exploitation and a criminal record. Mood swings, anxiety and depression are all associated with the drug and many young people who consume cannabis to ease their worries will often become more paranoid and anxious resulting in further cannabis use. Whilst it is a common habit and trendy at the moment it is a dangerous trend which will only lead to further mental health problems. Police will not tolerate cannabis use but will encourage when possible those who consume it to seek help. If you have concerns around Cannabis or no someone who is dependant on it, contact EYPDAS <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/information/young-people/east/EYPDAS>.



In addition to this, as children and young persons officers, we are here to help children where we can, this also involves helping them when they are the victim of a crime. We would appreciate if the public do not share images of suspects as this can sometimes lead to complications in investigations further down the line, but also in a recent case lead to people being wrongly identified and targeted—we recently spoke to an 11 year old who had been wrongly accused online ad had been receiving threats due to this.



Some recent activity on social media



Essex Police - Colchester District

29 April at 10:02 · 🌐

Last week our officers visited 34 local scrapyards and vehicle dismantlers as part of a week of action to tackle catalytic converter theft.

Working alongside colleagues from [British Transport Police](#), who led on the nationwide operation, officers from our Rural Engagement Team, Special Constabulary and Community Policing Teams visited scrap metal dealers and vehicle dismantlers across Essex with partners from local authorities.

Our officers, pictured here at a scrapyard in [#colchester](#), worked with local business owners and staff to disrupt and deter criminal activity around the buying and selling of stolen metals, particularly catalytic converters.

The precious metal in catalytic converters has led to an increase in their theft, not just in Essex but across the country.

To find out more about catalytic converter theft, what we're doing to tackle it and how you can protect your vehicle, click the link:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/.../catalytic-converter-theft/>



Essex Police - Colchester District

10 April · 🌐

Officers from the community policing team have been in the town centre in various locations with our knife arch.

Working with security staff around the town we aim to keep everyone safe and catch criminals.

[#epcolchester](#)



Essex Police in Colchester District @EPColchester · Apr 24

Officers from CPT visited over 9 of our Colchester East Of England Cooperative stores. Fantastic interaction and engagement with staff, local residents and security.



Follow us on social media - 0:05 / 0:27

[f](#) Essex police Colchester District

[t](#) @EPColchester



Essex Police - Colchester District

5 May at 18:00 · 🌐

Just a little reminder for everyone

If you don't want to stop at roadworks at a red light do you

a) take a few minutes out of your day and wait patiently for the light to turn green

or

b) Decide that red lights don't apply to you, pull out and don't check your mirrors first for the Two marked police bikes just behind you in the Queue. Then spend the next 10 mins earning yourself 3pts and £100 fine.

2 Drivers reported

[#roadcrimeteam](#)

[#epmotorcycleunit](#)

[#opccolchester](#)

[#epcolchester](#)

#78321



Essex Police in Colchester District @EPColchester · Apr 30

Stop and searches conducted by PS Jones and PC Kedar sees another knife taken off the streets, one suspect interviewed and reported for process to appear in Court. [#Epcolchester](#) [#police](#)



Crime prevention advice

It's very hard to know how to respond to a violent situation, as things can develop very quickly, requiring fast decisions.

We've compiled a list of things you should do in the highly unlikely event that you find yourself in a violent situation.

It's important to never lose sight of the fact that your personal safety is the most important thing. Your belongings can be replaced but you can't. So, when responding to a violent situation, please try to remember the following:

- trust your instincts and if you think a situation is getting worse, try not to get involved
- look for a way to leave
- if you're in a building with security personnel, tell them immediately about what is happening
- put distance between yourself and the other person
- if you are able to, call [999](tel:999)
- if you're unable to call the police during the incident, then call as soon as you can
- Try to travel with people you know and, where possible, stick to routes and forms of transport that others are using and avoid shortcuts in lonely places.

Plan your route in advance. Carry a charged mobile phone and some cash, and tell someone where you're going.

If it comes to the worst, you are entitled to defend yourself using reasonable force, but you may be asked to account for and justify any action you take.

Engine Oil Scam

Car sellers are warned to be on the lookout for a re-emerging scam that sees potential buyers try to knock thousands off a car's asking price, by tampering with its engine.

The scam, which has been around for a number of years, sees criminals secretly pour oil into the coolant reservoir of the vehicle for sale, then request a large discount claiming it will require a new engine.

The scammers often arrive to view the car in pairs or threes and will try and distract the seller. One may ask to look at the engine whilst the other wants to see the spare tyre in the boot. When the car is taken for a test drive, the engine may smoke or make loud noises, which will prompt the scammers to ask for a cut-price deal.

We have seen an increase in the number of reports of this scam in Essex.

If selling a car, remember:

- Stay with the buyers. Don't leave them alone with the car or allow yourself to be distracted at the rear of the vehicle whilst someone is looking at the engine.
- Be aware of suspicious behaviour. Scammers will often request an enormous discount due to the 'fault' with the vehicle.
- Be confident to refuse the sale. If you are doubtful about how genuine the buyer is, or you believe that something suspicious is going on, don't hand over the keys.

For advice on steps you can take to protect yourself and prevent becoming a victim of fraud visit

www.essex.police.uk/fraud

