



Safer Colchester Partnership Newsletter Spring 2021

Welcome to the second Newsletter from the Safer Colchester Partnership highlighting news on current projects, upcoming initiatives, and useful information such as funding opportunities.

Contact Us

Sonia Carr, Community Safety and Safeguarding Co-ordinator
Email: sonia.carr@colchester.gov.uk Mobile: 07946 232808

Lisa Hobson, Community Safety and Safeguarding Officer
Email: lisa.hobson@colchester.gov.uk Mobile: 07985 383321

Sam Goodman, Community Safety Officer
Email: samantha.goodman@colchester.gov.uk Mobile: 07818 625484

Safer Colchester Partnership Email: safer.colchester@colchester.gov.uk

Safer Colchester Partnership – Key Priorities 2020-21

These priorities form the basis of the Safer Colchester Partnership Annual Partnership Action Plan. Follow link to see the current plan [HERE](#)

These key priorities will remain the same for 2021-22:



Priority 1 -Tackling Organised Crime, Gangs and County Lines with an emphasis on Drug Trafficking



Priority 2 - Driving down Anti-Social Behaviour and Violent Crime in Public, focussing on Hate Crime.



Priority 3 - Identifying and Supporting the Reporting of Hidden Harms with a proactive approach to those at risk of Domestic Abuse & Sexual Offences.

Community Safety News

Covid Compliance Co-ordinator/Covid Marshals

Charlotte Williams became Colchester Borough Council Covid Compliance Co-ordinator, in November 2020. Her role, along with those of two full-time Covid Marshal's, supports the borough's Covid compliance efforts.



Says Charlotte: “I worked at Leisure World for nine years as a Swimming Teacher – a very rewarding role – which also led me to work and swim for Colchester Swimming Club as a swim coach and master’s swimmer. All good fun. In July 2020, I was redeployed from Leisure World to work on Colchester Market as a market steward – a role I thoroughly enjoyed as it involved talking to anyone and everyone, which is a favourite pastime of mine! I was also tasked with posting on social media @colchmarket where I used my creative side!

“I started in the role of Covid Compliance Co-ordinator, at the end of November 2020, having been put forward for the role by the Market Trading Manager, something that I will always be grateful for. The role involves managing the Covid Marshals, who are tasked with educating and advising members of the public and business owners of current Covid restrictions. Their reports are sent to me and passed on to either the police or an environmental health officer, as appropriate. The Marshals also assist in Colchester's Track and Trace program when residents have not been contactable. They now work seven days a week across the borough, undertaking patrols directed by residents' comments and complaints regarding the compliance of Covid regulations.

“Ensuring patrols and compliance are borough-wide, means I have the pleasure in working with partners such as Colchester BID, the police, and Community 360, who have recently undertaken some amazing work supplying volunteers for the vaccination centres around the

town. As a partnership, we are currently working on the reopening of Colchester town centre when restrictions are lifted. Exciting times ahead!"

Covid safety messaging

Funded through the European Regional Development Fund's (ERDF) **Reopening High Streets Safely Fund**, Colchester Borough Council has successfully deployed digital vans to help remind the public of the Government's key messages to stay safe during the lifting of restrictions. Look out for them in and around the Town Centre, but also further afield in places such as Mersea and Dedham over the May Bank Holiday weekends.



Colchester Town Centre re-opening

A television advert has been produced to support safe town centre re-opening. See link: www.colchester.gov.uk/coronavirus/residents/town-centre-reopening/

Covidfraudhotline.org

A COVID Fraud Hotline (**0800 587 5030**) to report anonymously and free of charge, suspected fraud about support schemes is being run by the Government and Crimestoppers.

More information is also on the websites: www.crimestoppers-uk.org or

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-hotline-launched-to-report-covid-fraudsters>

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

It's worth having a look at the Colchester Neighbourhood Watch website:

<https://colchesternhw.org.uk/>

Lots of useful advice and information on all topics related to keeping our communities safe, including awareness of the latest scams. Unfortunately, this includes Covid related scams including [Vaccine Fraud](#)

ACT Early: prevent radicalisation

Counter Terrorism Policing has launched a new safeguarding website – www.actearly.uk – aimed at encouraging people to share concerns that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation.

Why? Research shows that family and friends are best placed to spot the signs that someone might be vulnerable to radicalisation. We want them to ACT early so their vulnerable friend or loved one can get the support they need before the situation escalates into something more serious.



Two new Prevent films now live!

Two new animated 2-minute explainer films about Prevent. You can find them on the website here:

<https://actearly.uk/support/reach-out-for-help/>

<https://actearly.uk/working-together/how-we-help/>

Training



Coronavirus has prompted a huge surge in domestic abuse. Latest figures from the Home Office Affairs Committee reported the following increases in people trying to access help and support from Domestic Abuse Support lines between April and December 2020:

- 34% increase - National Domestic Abuse Helpline database
- 36% increase - National LGBT+ helpline run by Galop
- 50% increase - Calls from 16–24-year-olds
- 79% increase - Karma Nirvana helpline (so-called 'honour-based' abuse)
- 39% increase - Respect helpline for male victims of domestic abuse
- 62% increase - Respect helpline for domestic abuse perpetrators looking for help to stop

The free, hour-long awareness raising sessions are designed to help spot the signs of domestic abuse and support those affected. The J9 initiative is named in memory of Janine Mundy, who was killed by her estranged husband while he was on Police bail. It was started by her family and the local police to raise awareness of domestic abuse and assist victims to access help and support. If you would like to attend a J9 training session or would like more information, please contact: j9community@outlook.com

Suicide First Aid Training

Fully-subsidised Suicide First Aid training has been highly successful, with courses free to anyone working on the frontline in Suffolk and Northeast Essex. All forthcoming courses are currently full and a reserve list held. If you would like to be kept informed of any new dates, please email: suicidepreventiontraining@suffolk.gov.uk

Alpha Vesta Training

To book onto Alpha Vesta fully funded domestic abuse awareness sessions and workshops: Link: [Alpha Vesta CIC Events | Eventbrite](#)

Core Workshops – 2 hr online

- Understanding Domestic Abuse and its Impact
- The Complexity of Domestic Abuse
- Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children
- Impact of Domestic Abuse in the Workplace

Enhanced Awareness Sessions – 1 hr online

- Domestic Abuse and Pets
- Domestic Abuse and Eating Disorders – delivered in collaboration with **SEED Eating Disorder Service**.

Enhanced Workshops – 2.5 hrs online

- The Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children and Young People – Extra-Familial Harm

Partner News

CARA

Please find attached a briefing on **Male Sexual Violence and Abuse against Women and Girls**, produced by the Essex Partnership of rape crisis centres (Synergy Essex). This briefing responds to recent events, including the killing of Sarah Everard and the testimonies provided through the [Everyone's Invited](#) movement, which have shone a light on the sexual violence and abuse that women and girls experience. They welcome feedback on the recommendations within the briefing. Please respond to all three Centre Leads listed.



Male Sexual Violence
and Abuse against W



Next Chapter (previously Colchester & Tendring Women's Refuge) became the commissioned provider for domestic abuse services in Mid & North Essex in April 2019, including the borough of Colchester. With recent MHCLG funding, the Together we Can project has enabled the expansion of CYP service, offering specialist DA support services for children and young people experiencing harm through domestic abuse. This includes direct work with clients - running recovery groups and providing 1-1 support to children and parents.

This funding also enabled the recruitment of Domestic Abuse Housing Practitioners for Colchester, along with other Local Authorities involved with this project – Tendring, Chelmsford, Maldon, and Braintree. It is hoped that the increased awareness of the impact of domestic abuse and the various referral pathways and services available will allow housing professionals to refer more clients for support.

Please refer to the Next Chapter website for further information on their support services and domestic abuse guidance www.thenextchapter.org.uk/

The Sanctuary Scheme

The purpose of a Sanctuary Scheme is to provide a victim-centred initiative that aims to make it possible for victims of domestic abuse to remain safer in their home, should they wish to do so. The scheme enhances a person's property with physical security measures, which helps them to feel safe. This ranges from basic additional security to a property such as windows, door locks and external lighting

The Colchester Sanctuary Scheme may be an option for any high risk or repeat victim of domestic abuse and covers those residents living in Colchester Borough only; this includes Colchester Borough Council (Colchester Borough Homes), Housing Association tenants, privately rented or privately owned properties. This is a potential option for any person who is threatened with homelessness due to domestic abuse. The Sanctuary Scheme is a long-term solution to improving the victim's quality of life; therefore, every installation which is made under the Colchester Sanctuary Scheme is tailored to accommodate the needs and circumstances of the individual.

For further details, please contact Nevina Williams on 01206 282851
nevina.williams@cbhomes.org.uk

Funding

Safer Colchester Partnership Funding

The Safer Colchester Partnership's aim is to work together to reduce crime and disorder in Colchester. This fund supports specific projects and initiatives in line with the Key Priorities. Applicants can apply for all or part of the fund. See below for guidance notes and application form. www.safercolchester.co.uk/safer-colchester/safer-colchester-partnership/

This fund has recently been able to support the introduction of s59 notices to address vehicle anti-social behaviour in areas including Weston Homes, Axial Way, Turner Rise and St Mary's Car Park. Colchester Borough Homes were also awarded funding for mobile CCTV cameras to tackle drug related activity in communal areas of hotspot areas.

Safer Rural Communities Fund

This Colchester Borough Council fund to assist communities in the delivery of projects and initiatives that address community safety, anti-social behaviour and/or crime has recently supported Colchester United Football in the Community. A Rural Intervention project focusing on social inclusion and reducing anti-social behaviour in Tiptree and Wivenhoe – sessions have now commenced!

Upcoming Events/Key Dates

Operation Henderson

Tuesday 1st – Monday 7th June 2021

Campaign across Southend, Essex and Thurrock to target Child Sexual Exploitation – partners include Essex Police, Essex County Council and Local Authorities. Will include outreach activity at train stations.

Community Marketplace

1st – 30th June 2021

Online and face-to-face events to highlight community initiatives and find out what support is available. To be held at the new Community Hub on Long Wyre Street. Contact Community 360 for further information.

If you wish to contribute to future newsletters, please email:

Safer.colchester@colchester.gov.uk