



# Violence & Vulnerability Unit Newsletter

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## Win a class trip to award winning anti-knife exhibition

An extra prize has been added to the VVU's knife bin poster competition. The Ben Kinsella Trust, who are partners in the competition will host three classes - one from each of the winning schools - at their award-winning Choices and Consequences anti-knife crime immersive exhibition.



The trip will be for one class from the three schools that the winning pupils attend, to visit the exhibition. The trip will be funded by the VVU. The competition to design the new Essex knife bin livery is open to all secondary school aged pupils in Essex, Southend and Thurrock.

You can enter at [www.essexvvu.co.uk/competition](http://www.essexvvu.co.uk/competition) Entries close 5pm Friday 1 April so don't delay entering!



## Online Exploitation

Our partners over at the Essex Safeguarding Children Board (ESCB) have put together a new video that rounds up the most recent information around exploitation. The video covers online safety, criminal and sexual exploitation, gangs and County Lines.

Watch it at <https://youtu.be/XrmilH1brDM>

From 28 March the ESCB is running an online safety campaign which will highlight emerging trends and how to spot the signs of online exploitation. [The campaign](#) will cover topics from online gaming to bullying and youth involved sexual imagery with videos and podcasts from partners including the VVU.

The campaign aims to challenge the perception that the victim is to blame; instead creating a supportive network around the child in which they feel able to speak openly about concerns they may have. Parents and carers should make sure their children know they can speak to them if they see something they are not comfortable with online.

## People, Partnerships and Prevention Conference

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex is holding a conference on 24 May 2022 at the Colchester Stadium. The conference is an annual event, but this is the first one since the Covid Pandemic.



This year's conference looks at the theme of making society a safe place for everyone, and the idea that by working in partnership we can make this happen.

The PFCC Annual Conference 2022 will take some of the most harmful and impactful crimes affecting our society and ask what more we can do together to build on an innovative and agile approach focused on targeted prevention and early intervention.

Sharing knowledge, experiences and ideas through the voices of victims, practitioners, policymakers, academics and interactive workshops, the People, Partnerships and Prevention Conference will look at how we can continue to develop in new and ambitious ways towards making Essex a safer place for all.

The conference will look at violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, serious violence, gangs, the power of data to protect the vulnerable, reducing death on our roads, safer streets, hate crime and misogyny and reducing reoffending.

To book your place at the conference please visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/people-partnerships-and-prevention-conference-2022-tickets-295094725267>



## County Lines Intensification Week

Essex Police ran a County Lines Intensification Week between March 7 and March 13. The week of action was aimed at disrupting County Lines drug gangs in Essex, targeting those involved in distributing and selling the drugs.

The week saw eight County Lines disrupted, with 49 arrests made. Eleven people have been charged and investigations continue into those released on bail or under investigation.

Specialist officers from the Serious Violence Unit also seized almost £100k in cash, 300g of loose class A drugs, more than 1,000 prepared wraps of cocaine and five weapons.

However, enforcement is just one element of the work of the Serious Violence Unit. Preventing vulnerable people from becoming involved in drugs and the crimes associated with drugs is a priority of Essex Police and one they work closely with the VVU to tackle.

DCI Jim White, said: "During all these intensification weeks we work hard to ensure any people who may at first glance appear to be perpetrators are given the help and support they need if they are in fact victims. This includes ensuring young people at risk of exploitation are identified, safeguarded, and steered away from these criminal gangs, crime and drugs."

A dedicated Gangs and County Lines Officer within the Serious Violence Unit, and safeguarding officers within Essex Police's Op Raptor Unit, are helping ensure that young people are protected and supported to exit a life of crime and exploitation.

If you would like to find out more about any of the items in this newsletter please get in touch [katie.canning@essex.gov.uk](mailto:katie.canning@essex.gov.uk) Visit our website [www.essexvvu.co.uk](http://www.essexvvu.co.uk) or follow us on Twitter [@EssexVVU](https://twitter.com/EssexVVU)



Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex

Victims of crime can access support [here](#)  
Book your free Home Fire Safety Visit [here](#)

