

Colchester District

October 2020



essex.police.uk/Colchester



Hello!

Welcome to our new 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's 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

To investigate and tackle:	To support and protect:
<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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and vulnerable people• Victims of crime• Visible policing in communities

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.





Essex Police – Colchester



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



Welcome to the October edition of our Bulletin keeping you updated on what your Police are doing.

I want to start with a thank you to all of the people in Colchester who are following guidelines and ensuring they and their families remain safe from Covid and to reassure you that the patrol work we are doing to provide visibility, reassurance and engagement is in addition to our usual officer numbers keeping Colchester safe. We have been working closely with partners such as the University to provide advice and keep their students safe.

Traffic matters continue to be a recurring theme in the correspondence we receive from you, please keep reporting your concern online our Community Policing Team plan their deployments to respond to the things that cause you concern. These deployments have seen a number of drivers warned, reported and in some cases having their vehicles seized. We are working with Colchester Borough Council on some visible warning signs in areas that drivers congregate and cause a nuisance too.

We continue to target those who carry weapons and choose to bring drugs into Colchester and this month has seen warrants executed at a number of properties, with support from our wider police family, quantities of drugs, cash and mobile phones have been seized and a number of people arrested, we will continue to target people involved in criminality to make sure Colchester remains a safe place to live, work, and visit.

The start of the month saw a number of reports of attempted child abductions and rumour circulated that children were at risk, Chief Superintendent Mariner issued a press release, and every report we received was fully investigated and negated.

With the autumn weather and darker nights we are attending more road traffic collisions please ensure you check your car before driving, that your windscreen is completely clear, and leave a bigger distance between you and the car in front on wet roads, we want you to arrive not meet us and ambulance crews.

It was great to see two of our Colchester team win awards at the Force Awards Virtual Ceremony, I would like to congratulate both and thank them for the work they do to keep you safe, you can read about these two fantastic people in this issue.

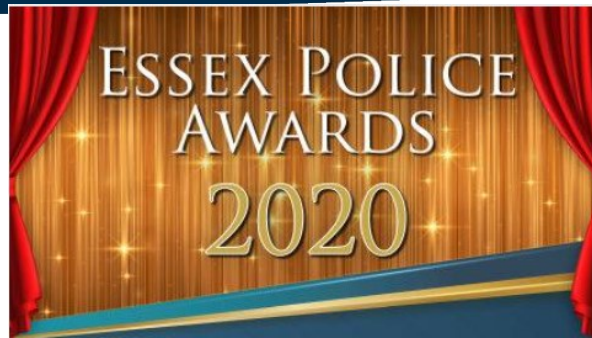
We said goodbye to a stalwart of Colchester this month when PC Al Hubbard retired and we wish him a long happy retirement, and we continue to see new officers arrive at Colchester please when you see us out and about do say hello.

I know that the next few weeks with a lock down will be a challenge for us all. Please take care, stay safe and look out for each other.

Stay Safe and Take Care
Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston
District Commander – Colchester

Pc Al Hubbard during his last shift
before retirement.





Each year Essex Police holds our Force Awards . Nominations are open to officers, staff, volunteers and cadets - everyone who plays a role in serving and protecting the people of Essex.

There was a clear theme throughout the nominations this year of hard work, pulling together and dedication shown by our Essex Police family.

The past few months have been tough and required a hands-on approach, quick thinking and commitment, which has been shown in abundance.

Colchester has been lucky enough to have two winners this year PCSO Rachael Oscroft– Curtis and Special Sergeant Justyna Nowicka

Police Community Support Officer of the Year - Rachael's work ethic, enthusiasm and dedication has earned her respect with local young people and amongst her colleagues inspiring them to work together as a community. She organised a successful football tournament for more than 90 local young people to channel their energy and break down the barriers between police and the community.



Special Constable of the Year - Justyna has shown great commitment to her role as a Special. Her business has been hit during the pandemic, but instead of complaining she has committed more time to her policing duties. In May, she broke her ribs and sustained significant bruising on duty whilst apprehending a suspect. Despite being in pain, Justyna turned up for duty the next day to complete a warrant as she did not want to let them down.





Officers from the community policing team and the rural crime team joined forces yesterday while visiting scrap metal dealerships in Colchester.

These visits include checking the sites are complying with all regulations under the scrap metal dealers act 2013, some of these regulations include, not paying cash for scrap metal and taking identification from anyone selling scrap metal.

The act and the purpose of the visits is to ensure this trade is regulated and make it difficult for those involved in metal theft to make profit from their crimes.

Of the sites visited we are satisfied the regulations are being followed and will continue to make unannounced visits to such sites in the district.

#MetalTheft
#opcrucible
#EPColchester



Essex Police - Colchester
16 October at 14:04 · Public

Last night officers from B shift Roads policing North spent a good proportion of their shift dealing with another Drink driver who crashed his van on the #A12 #Colchester.

Driver was arrested after blowing 66 at the road side.

#fatal4
#EP_RPU_North
#EPRoadsPolicing



Essex Police - Colchester
31 October at 10:00 · Public

Yesterday officers deployed to increased reports of anti-social behaviour within the town centre.

They took a couple of 4 legged friends with them to assist in detecting some people we may want to speak to.

While in the town officers conducted a weapon sweep of some areas of the town resulting in a knife being recovered.

If you were in the town yesterday you may have seen the officers patrolling, however you may have missed some in plain clothes.

The dogs were better at sniffing than they were at posing for a picture as the gentleman found out that was out selling illegal substances.

#epcolchester
#communitypolicing
#YouSaidWeDid



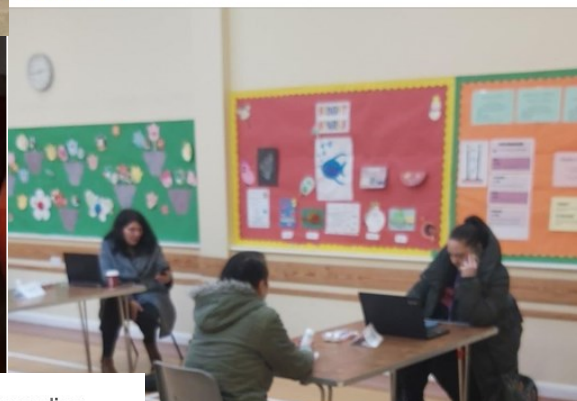
Essex Police - Colchester
30 October at 17:00 · Public

Following our post from yesterday regarding the re-launch of Op Luscombe we are pleased to update that the young homeless lady our officers found and took along has now been offered suitable housing, within 24 hours of her attending.

This shows the amazing work that can be done with Op Luscombe whereby the police work with their partner agencies to help those in need.

Op Luscombe is run every Thursday between 1pm and 3pm at the Baptist church, Eld Lane, Colchester whereby a number of services are available for the homeless community.

#opluscombe
#epcolchester



Op Koi was an operation which has been set up to target speeding, Mobile phone usage and not wearing seat belts while driving.

We were on Berechurch Road and Bromley Road and the highest speed recorded was 37mph Several tickets were issued for speeding.

Words of advice were given for other issues that were spotted.

#Epcolchester
#speedcheck



Theft of Metals – A crime that affects us all?

REDUCE THE RISK OF CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

TO REDUCE THE RISK OF THEFT OF YOUR CAR'S CATALYTIC CONVERTER

- PUT YOUR CAR IN A GARAGE WHEREVER POSSIBLE
- PARK YOUR CAR IN WELL-LIT AREAS
- LOOK OUT FOR PEOPLE WORKING UNDER CARS
- CONSIDER AN APPROVED 'CAT' ALARM AND/OR 'CAT' GUARD
- CONSIDER MARKING THE METAL SHELL OF THE CONVERTER WITH A UNIQUE MARK SO THAT IF IT IS REMOVED BY THIEVES IT WILL BE EASIER TO TRACE BACK TO YOUR VEHICLE. FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT WWW.RETAINAGROUP.COM



You may well think “theft of metal” how does that affect me? Just look around you, your car has a very desirable catalytic convertor on its exhaust system, a roof has lead if not for the whole roof then it's there in places, in the ground there is cabling for utilities such as telecommunications and many other examples where around us there are valuable metals. It does not then take a lot then to see that the loss of a catalytic convertor means a trader cannot work resulting in a loss of income to him and your delivery or work delayed or the trip you were taking is cancelled as vehicle cannot be used, the theft of lead from a roof and its resultant water damage catastrophic to a heritage building and potentially also causing the cancellation of a wedding or other function, theft of utility or telecommunication cabling can effectively cut off a village or whole area causing a loss of business or connectivity for the vulnerable, these just but a few of the results of metal theft.

So, what can be done? We can make it more difficult to steal and we can make it more difficult to dispose of.

Making it more difficult to steal or dispose of:

Report any suspicious activity: i.e. the unmarked van or other vehicle parked with activity around a manhole or sub-station etc, an unknown person working under a car late at night/ early hours of the morning, activity around a church, heritage or other building when it's not normal especially on a roof. Protect your neighbourhood by setting up a Neighbourhood Watch, Heritage Watch or Business Watch if you have not got

one, the signage deters, and many eyes are better than one pair. NB – If you have planned building work let your neighbours/parishioners/employees know including who they are and what hours they will be there.

Make it harder to steal: i.e. where your vehicle is parked – choose an area where people can see it or put it “under lock and key”, in a yard park vehicles with high ground clearance parked between those with low ground clearance, look at security devices with a vehicle it could be a protective cage, reduce access make them walk further and into public view especially when protecting buildings and their roofs, remove aids to the thief i.e. tools to do the job and climbing aids or something to carry their ill-gotten gains away, consider an alarm, with lead from roofs especially try and make access difficult subject to certain conditions you could use a spiky topping around downpipes fencing and roofs.

Making it harder to dispose of: to start off with if its less attractive its less likely to be stolen so property marking and signage of this and other security devices may deter. Property marking makes it harder to dispose of, and there is something for almost everything from historic artefacts on the seabed to catalytic convertor to roofing material to your day to day property. An unmarked piece of property can be anonymous when stolen, in most cases we don't know where it came from and therefore any prosecution is that much more difficult. A thief will know this and therefore anything that ties it back to the owner presents a risk not only to the thief but also to the handler, if the handler will not take it or it causes difficult questions at a boot fair or other then it's not worth stealing it in the first place.

For further advice on crime prevention of crime prevention products see: www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/ or www.securedbydesign.com/member-companies/accredited-product-search

