



**Safer  
Chelmsford**

**Safer Chelmsford Partnership Strategy  
2021/22**

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## Introduction

This Strategy outlines the work of the Safer Chelmsford Partnership, setting out the partnership aims and outlines how partners will work together to improve community safety by creating a safe environment to live, work and visit.

Community safety is the use of skills, knowledge and techniques, to prevent and reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime and develop safer communities in which to live, work and visit. Community safety is not just an issue for police and fire and rescues authorities, the Safer Chelmsford Partnership consists of representatives from the responsible authorities as follows:

- Chelmsford City Council
- Essex Police
- Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
- Essex Community Rehabilitation Company
- Essex County Council
- Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
- National Probation Service

The strategy outlines the partnership's priorities as identified in the Strategic Assessment, completed every year as part of the statutory duty. This includes the development and effective monitoring of an action plan which supports the agreed priorities and sets out the partnership plan to implement activity to tackle these.

Delivery of the community safety agenda is not restricted to the agencies identified as responsible authorities, and as such the partnership works with other agencies, voluntary sector groups, housing providers, neighbourhood watch and the local community to respond to the community safety needs of the city.

## Review of strategy:

The strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis. Progress in implementing the strategy and the effectiveness of the actions contained within it will be reported to the February meeting of the City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## Vision

Safer Chelmsford Partnership's vision is '**Creating a safe environment to live, work and visit**'. Chelmsford City Council contributes to achieving this vision through [Our Chelmsford Our Plan](#) which articulates the Council's ambition and priorities which includes 'ensure that residents of, visitors to and businesses operating in Chelmsford and surrounding areas feel safe and adequately protected'. The Council achieves this by working with partners and stakeholders in the Community Safety Partnership as detailed below.

## Delivery framework

Partnership structure



**One Chelmsford Board** is the strategic group for the Safer Chelmsford Partnership, meeting quarterly. The group are jointly responsible for addressing crime and disorder, substance misuse and the reduction of re-offending in the city of Chelmsford. The group has overall strategic responsibility for ensuring the implementation of a partnership action plan to address the priorities identified in the Strategic Assessment.

Community Safety Partners work together to deliver against the priorities. The majority of this work is coordinated within the City Council's Community Safety Partnership Hub which organises the operational deployment of resources on a day to day basis, the hub is made up of the City Council Public Health and Protection Services, Essex Police Community Policing and Town Centre Teams, and the County Violence & Vulnerability Reduction Unit. This co-location promotes real time information sharing, allows for an effective partnership response to local issues and encourages closer working relationships between the agencies. The hub is subject to performance measures which are reported on an annual basis to Safer Essex to ensure that the concept is functioning in positive and collaborative manner.

**Community Hub Tasking** meetings take place monthly to monitor delivery against the action plan, share information on emerging trends and current issues, encouraging close working relationships across the wider partnership from both the statutory and voluntary sector.

**Youth Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Forum** meeting includes representatives from the City Council, local secondary schools and housing providers providing a forum to discuss vulnerable young people who display risky behaviours, putting in place an action plan for each individual in an effort to reduce the risks surrounding them.

**Mental Health ASB Forum** is a case management meeting with representatives from the City Council, Social Care and Housing Providers to discuss vulnerable people with known mental health conditions, managing each case on an individual basis ensuring appropriate support in place where necessary and cases are being monitored effectively between agencies.

**Housing Provider ASB Forum** monitors cases known to several partners in order to ensure a coordinated approach and effective case management to achieve the best outcomes, using both support services and where necessary enforcement.

The Safer Chelmsford Partnership Action Plan 2020-21 outlines the interventions, activities and projects to be delivered throughout the coming 12 month period, developed based on the priorities identified through the Strategic Assessment. The Plan will have regard to the priorities of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Police and Crime Plan 2016-2021 as well as the priorities identified in any other relevant plans linked to the community safety agenda such as the Essex Police Crime Prevention Strategy, Essex Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Essex Hate Crime Strategy.

The partnership reports performance on an annual basis to the City Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee in line with statutory requirements.

### Community engagement and communication

Safer Chelmsford Partnership utilises community engagement opportunities to ensure residents' voices are heard about community safety issues and concerns that matter most to them in their local area.

The Partnership recognises the invaluable outcomes from effective community engagement which are used to shape delivery and identify priorities. The strategic priorities of Safer Chelmsford are published on the community safety section of the city council website.

A range of methods are used to engage with residents to ensure views and feedback are always considered including public meetings, community engagement events and the use of local and social media. A public meeting is held by the partnership on an annual basis in conjunction for the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Essex Police and other statutory partners.

Improving communication with residents is a priority for the Partnership and as such a Task and Finish Group has been formed to develop an effective communication strategy to raise awareness, provide reassurance, seek local views and increase community confidence that agencies are working together to make Chelmsford a safe place to live, work and visit.

All community engagement and communication initiatives are evaluated to assess their overall effectiveness, that the intended objective was achieved, and to inform continual improvement.

### Legislative responsibilities

Community Safety Partnerships are a statutory function requiring responsible authorities to work together to address community safety issues in a local area, this work is underpinned by key legislation and guidance as outlined below:

#### Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The Crime and Disorder Act places a statutory duty on responsible authorities to formulate a strategy to work together to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse and reduce reoffending in the local area.

Section 17 places a duty on local authorities to:

“Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it, it shall be the duty of each authority to exercise its various functions with due regards to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area”

Section 115 makes provision for the sharing of information between agencies to reduce crime and disorder.

## Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Anti-Social Behaviour often has a debilitating impact on victims and local communities. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a range of tools and powers for agencies to utilise in order to address incidents effectively and proportionately, whilst ensuring a greater focus on victims and their needs.

## Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking is a complex, organised and often hidden crime. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 identified Community Safety Partnerships as having a key role identifying and supporting victims from the range of crimes that it encompasses such as county lines, children exploitation, gangs, violent crime, drugs and begging amongst others. The role of CSPs is to ensure that information sharing is effectively embedded to allow effective disruption activities and enforcement.

## Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)

A DHR will be established in the event that a domestic homicide occurs in Chelmsford in accordance with Section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004.

## PREVENT

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, in the exercise of their functions, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”, known as the ‘Prevent Duty’. The duty requires identified statutory agencies to consider the need to safeguard people most at risk of radicalisation through identification, early intervention and support. The Prevent lead will receive and review the area Counter Terrorism Local Profile on a quarterly basis.

## Safeguarding legislation

The Partnership will be mindful of the statutory duty on all agencies outlined in the Children's Act 1989 and 2004 and the Care Act 2014 to safeguard children, young people and adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

## Other legislation

The partnership will pay due regard to legislative implications as necessary.

## Priorities

Safer Chelmsford has identified the following priorities through its strategic assessment and agreed to focus its efforts and resources to effectively implement strategies to:

### Priority 1: Tackle Violent Crime

Areas of Focus	What we will do	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gangs, drugs and county lines</li><li>• Knife crime</li><li>• Domestic abuse</li><li>• Night-Time Economy (NTE) disorder</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi agency intelligence sharing meetings</li><li>• Awareness projects and events for young people, parents and professionals</li><li>• Implement and maintain Night-Time Economy initiatives e.g. purple flag accreditation, SOS bus, taxi marshals, street pastors, drink aware crews, nights of action</li><li>• Ensure delivery of local training programmes e.g. J9 domestic abuse awareness training</li></ul>	<p>Reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured as a result of violent crime</p> <p>Disruption of activity linked to gangs, drugs and county lines</p> <p>Improved awareness of domestic abuse resulting in increased and effective management of referrals</p>

## Priority 2: Drive down Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Public Places

Areas of Focus	What we will do	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth nuisance</li> <li>Improved communication with residents</li> <li>ASB associated with rough sleeping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi agency case management meetings</li> <li>Monthly Intervention Hub for rough sleepers</li> <li>Days of action responding to specific issues/trends identified by agencies or the local community i.e. youth nuisance, ASB</li> <li>Public Space Protection Order</li> <li>Regular joint patrols in the City Centre to monitor and engage with rough sleepers</li> <li>Implement and deliver a Communications Plan to raise awareness, provide reassurance and seek local views</li> </ul>	<p>Reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour associated with rough sleeping</p> <p>Effective use of tools and powers by partners to tackle anti-social behaviour</p> <p>Increased community confidence and awareness of work undertaken to address community safety issues</p>

## Priority 3: Identify and Support Vulnerable People

Areas of Focus	What we will do	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emotional health and wellbeing</li> <li>Social isolation</li> <li>Suicide prevention</li> <li>Proactive approach to those are risk of exploitation</li> <li>Hate crime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure appropriate local representation and engagement with county wide strategic groups e.g. Essex Safeguarding Adults Board, Essex Safeguarding Children Board</li> <li>Ensure continuation of local Hate Crime Incident Reporting Centres and training of local Hate Crime Ambassadors</li> <li>Deliver awareness raising projects and event focusing on</li> </ul>	<p>Exploitation of vulnerable people is prevented</p> <p>Vulnerable people are identified and supported</p> <p>Improved awareness of Hate Crime resulting in increased and effective management of referrals</p>

Areas of Focus	What we will do	Outcomes
	exploitation to local businesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement initiatives focusing on vulnerable, isolated groups i.e. older people</li> </ul>	

#### Priority 4: Tackle Rural and Environmental Crime

Areas of Focus	What we will do	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fly tipping</li> <li>• Wildlife crime</li> <li>• Livestock worrying</li> <li>• Theft and damage to property in rural areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted, multi-agency days of action</li> </ul>	Reduction in environmental and rural crime

#### Baseline data and performance management

The Community Safety Partnership and the individual organisations that make up the partnership collect and monitor a range of performance management data.

The use of benchmark data and statistics in a strategy can be a misleading tool for assessing impacts or identifying worrying trends as the focus is on what's being measured not necessarily on what is happening within the community, this is particularly the case with residents' perception of feeling safe .

Essex Police produce monthly crime data and shortly this will be available at postcode level. Chelmsford City Council reports to the One Chelmsford Board three times a year on community safety activity, progress against the community safety action plan and this strategy. The Community Safety Partnership reports on performance annually to the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the public are able to attend this meeting.

Once the police data is available at postcode level the Community Safety Partnership will review how the data can be used in a meaningful way to support performance management and progress of this strategy.

## Information and data sharing

### Wider Eastern Information Sharing Forum (WEISF)

The Wider Eastern Information Stakeholder Forum (WEISF) is a partnership network focussed on how information sharing can be best achieved within the parameters of being legal, compliant and transparent, whilst providing benefits to both the citizen and the organisations involved in service provision. The partnership may also have specific information sharing arrangements for other areas of responsibility (for example: offender management).

### Safer Chelmsford Partnership Information Sharing Protocol

The Safer Chelmsford Partnership Information Sharing Protocol is compliant with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), the purpose of which is to facilitate information sharing between signatory partners in the implementation of the CSP Strategy and between the partner members of the CSP Hub.

The protocol defines the high level purpose for the sharing of data between the partner members of the Chelmsford Community Safety Hub. The document follows the agreed format of the Wider Eastern Information Stakeholder Forum.

Data and information will be shared between partner member organisations to:

- assist with the prevention, detection and reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour within the Chelmsford area of the partnership operation.
- comply with legal obligations or duties placed on partner organisations.

- to undertake strategic, tactical and other analysis of data across all partner organisations data.

Information sharing between signatory partners is an integral part of achieving reductions in crime, re-offending and anti-social behaviour as outlined in any crime detection or reduction strategy, as it enables informed decision making and subsequent action to achieve the strategy's objectives. However, signatory partners also have a legal duty to protect the rights of those individuals who may be affected by information sharing, hence the need for up to date, consistent and valid information sharing protocols.

## Funding

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners (PFCC) are responsible for commissioning community safety, victim support and restorative justice services in their respective Police force areas, including allocation of funds to Community Safety Partnerships.

Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner allocates Community Safety Core Grant Funding to deliver activity which impacts upon the areas of focus within the Police, Fire and Crime Plan.

Safer Chelmsford Partnership will also actively work with other agencies, voluntary groups and interested parties to develop funding bids to other funding streams available to CSPs where it is identified that the criteria meet the partnerships priorities.

## Links to other partnerships, strategies and agencies

The community safety landscape is constantly evolving and growing, Safer Chelmsford Partnership will actively respond to emerging issues and trends ensuring links and effective working relationships are formed with all those contributing to the community safety agenda locally.

Including but not limited to:

- Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Safer Essex
- Essex Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards
- Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit
- Missing and Child Exploitation Group (MACE)
- Mid Essex Stay Safe
- Chelmsford Youth Strategy Group
- Mid Essex Children's Partnership Board
- Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board

#### Appendix One: Safer Chelmsford Partnership Partners

Anglia Ruskin University	Street Pastors
Barnardo's	Sanctuary
British Transport Police	Sanctus
Chelmsford Voluntary Service	Reach Every Generation
CHESS	Probation
Children's Society	Safer Places
CHP	Skylark Church
Citizen Advice Bureau	Swan
Clarion Housing	Victim Support
Colne Housing	Virgin Care
Crimestoppers	Youth Offending Team
District and Borough councils	Essex Fire and Rescue
Eastlight Homes	Essex County Council
East of England Ambulance	Essex Police
Sodexo	Essex Resilience Forum
Stop the Traffik	

Essex Restorative and Mediation  
Service

Genesis

Gang Labour Abuse Authority

Guinness

Neighbourhood Watch

Next Chapter

NHS

Nottinghill Genesis

Open Road

Peabody

Phoenix Futures

Home Group

L&Q

Made for More

Moat

NACRO