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# COLCHESTER PARTNER BRIEFING

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Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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## **Introduction**

The purpose of this briefing paper is to keep our partners across Colchester informed and up to date on Policing activity. The ambition is to publish a briefing every two months to provide an overview in the following areas:

- Community Policing Team
- Local Policing Team
- Crime trends of note
- Prevention Messages
- Forthcoming Engagement

The Community Policing Team encompasses the Town Centre Proactive team. The teams undertake pro-active and reactive policing tasks covering engagement, crime prevention, crime disruption, and safeguarding of vulnerable people. The teams have embedded specialist officers covering Missing Persons, and Children's and Young Person officers, these officers work with partners in education and social care to protect vulnerable people from harm.

The Local Policing Team respond to calls for assistance from members of the public, undertake pro-active overt patrols and focus, however, their main role is reactive policing.

Colchester is supported by a Criminal Investigation Department, A Domestic Abuse Investigation Team, and we also house members from our Crime & Public Protection Command. These Detectives work to investigate the more serious crimes that occur in the North of the County, to provide safeguarding to the victims and to bring to justice the perpetrators. This newsletter will focus on our uniform elements and the work they undertake in the Borough.

The information contained within this report is to inform Members of Parliament, Councillors, and members of the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Group. Requests to use any data or information for further distribution must be referred back to the document author for permission.

This report covers the period from Feb to April 2020.

Author

Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston

District Command – Colchester

## **Policing Focus**

**As you will all be aware by now Policing in Colchester will focus on Violence – disrupting those who commit serious organised crime and to dismantle the supply of controlled drugs in the Borough. 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.**

**Over the period we are also providing support to partners and ensuring we protect and support our community during the Covid period. We are visible and using as many channels as possible to show you what we are doing to keep you safe. Most importantly we are listening to your concerns and acting on them. We are still addressing:**

- **Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Drugs**
- **Violence**
- **Speeding**
- **Nuisance vehicles**

**All the things you tell us about.**

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## Community Policing Team (CPT)

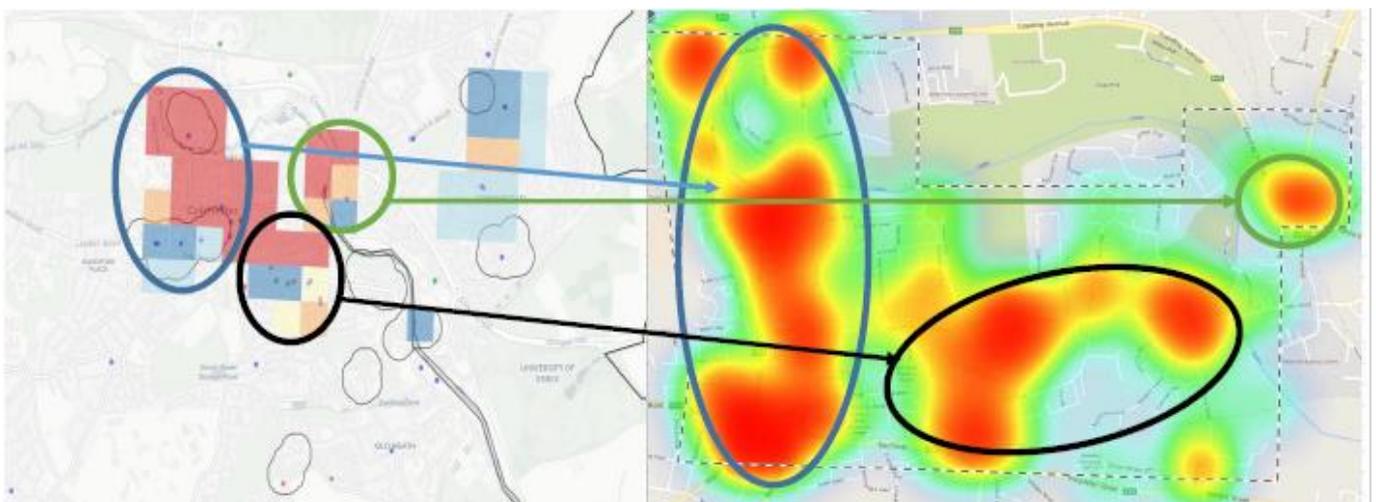
Tiptree was a focus toward the end of the last report, and this was rounded off in a public meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> February attended by the Police Fire Crime Commissioner and the Home Secretary. This public meeting attended by over 200 people gave the opportunity to inform the community of the work we had undertaken, provide reassurance and offer volunteering opportunities. A really positive meeting and we continue our rural engagement across the District.

The current topic is Covid and I want to use this newsletter to reassure our communities that we are here protecting you, helping you and locking up criminals. We have put in place a patrol plan which directs officers to key areas identified as those places where criminality is more likely to occur:

- Iconic sites such as First Site and the Mercury Theatre
- Accommodation provided for vulnerable people
- Supermarkets
- Pharmacies
- The Hospital
- Open Spaces
- Business areas with closed businesses
- Town centre

We are patrolling these regularly, engaging with people, explaining why their journey may be unnecessary and ensuring they return home, if necessary, we will enforce the regulations.

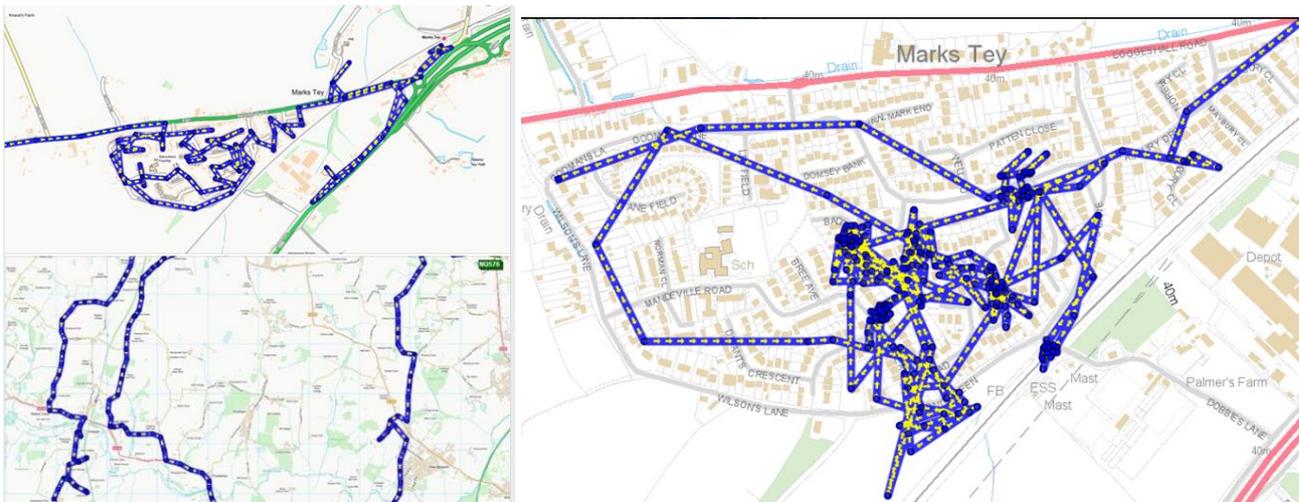
The below image shows the areas across Colchester identified and the areas patrolled: from green a few patrols to red, greater number of patrols



However, there has been an impact from this, and it was with great sadness that we cancelled our Kickoff@3 football competition. We will be looking to bring this back next year so have a think about those young people who love football and get your teams together.

Now we have covered COVID I will update you on other work.

Through February and March, we continued our high visibility deployments in our rural areas, making sure policing is accessible. Using Social media, we have publicised our patrol areas and planned engagement events, in addition to posters, and newsletter through local groups.



The engagement events are really important as this is where we can hear your concerns, please don't forget partners can send into our Community Policing Team email and our communities can report information online via our website. Where we are unable to meet face to face we are running regular social media live

question and answer sessions.

The Team continue to undertake regular engagement events, having changed our focus to take part in regular events we are getting to meet with more people. If you have a regular meeting in your area, please ask the coordinator if they would like our CPT to attend and we will do our best to accommodate. If the organiser contacts [Colchestercommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk](mailto:Colchestercommunitypolicingteam@essex.police.uk)

We are still addressing local issues:

Three nuisance riders have been making themselves a nuisance in the Monkwick, Berechurch, St Michaels areas. We are following up a number of enquiries to locate the bikes and to prosecute the riders.

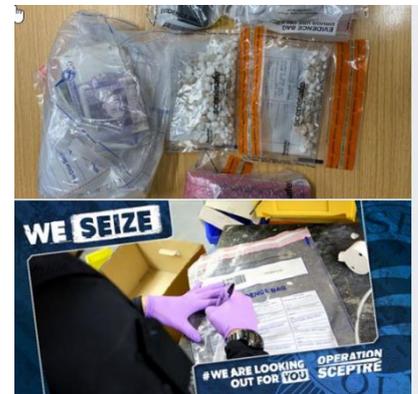


You told us about speeding in Bergholt Road, and Church Road Tiptree, so we have deployed with speed enforcement. We have a number of other deployments planned

You told us about drugs in Wivenhoe – we located the vehicle and seized it

While we identify issues through our analysts please keep feeding in your concerns.

The teams continue to target those who commit criminality in Colchester, our focus continues to be on prevention of violence and protecting the vulnerable and we have seen numerous results from proactive use of stop and search. We have made numerous arrests and seized cash, drugs and stolen items.



We are working with young people through schools and clubs. We have invested in our Children's and Young Persons officers doubling the number to four operating in Colchester. These specially trained officers work to protect vulnerable young people and ensure they are not drawn into criminality through multi agency support, diversion and sometimes just fun and we like to start early!



We continue to be supported by some of our specialist units such as Operational Support Group, Rural Engagement Team, and Raptor (Gangs) Teams. Officers from these teams regularly deploy into Colchester to address various issues from driving to drugs, from violence to visibility and all to ensure we keep Colchester safe.

## Town Centre Team



Our Town centre Team have continued their great work. In partnership with the BID (Business improvement District) we have worked with businesses to reduce shop lifting. We respond and take positive action to reports of incidents in the Town Centre.

Joint patrols with our partners are really important and you will see us working with Zone Wardens, Licensing teams, Trading Standards, Security, and our Royal Military Police Colleagues to keep you safe.



The team also undertake proactive operations to disrupt criminals operating in our Town Centre and have enjoyed success with arrests of criminals for a range of crimes from cycle theft to drug dealing.

We undertake a lot of disruption activity through patrol and are a visual deterrent to crime.



We continue to deliver Operation Sceptre, which impacts on those who commit criminality. The team have led targeting criminals supported by officers from the teams already mentioned and this has led to a number of arrests, seizures of drugs, and weapons.

Operation Luscombe supporting our vulnerable homeless community has continued to enjoy success helping to engage and support. Due to the current crisis this is on hold and support is available via our partners.

### **Local Policing Team (LPT)**

Demand across February and March has seen the teams responding to a range of incidents and the numbers for some are below:

- 129 Reports of missing people
- 746 Domestic Abuse Incidents
- 116 Road Traffic Collisions
- 627 Reports of Anti-Social Behaviour
- 98 Mental Health incidents

The teams have been responding to demand and we have enjoyed the benefit of new officers joining the teams from training college. We have been ensuring we get out and prevent crime using our proactive powers and a snapshot is below

- 834 Stop Search
- 1464 Intelligence reports generated

40% of our stop search has a positive result which means we either found drugs, a weapon, stolen items, or items to commit damage. All of which are now safely removed from the streets.

Our response teams do not just deal and move on PC Jess Kluss attended a theft where an older gent had his brother prescription, his own shopping and cash card stolen. After giving the victim reassurance and undertaking numerous enquiries Jess went the extra

mile. Through her compassion the victim was contacted by our Community 360 organisation and offered support and a food package to replace the shopping.

We are really well supported by our amazing team of Special Constables who volunteer their own time to keep Colchester safe and support our community.

### **Commander's Conclusion**

We are currently policing under some difficult conditions and have been given further powers to enforce the Government requirement. We police by consent and seek to maintain community cooperation. Our approach is that we will respond to reports and will engage with people explain why being out puts them and others at risk, educate them as the dangers and only in the last resort will we move to enforcement. Our Colchester Safety Partnership is still working closely together utilising technology to ensure we stay updated and ensure services are delivered by the most appropriate teams.

Your policing team are here and being visible please follow Essex Police – Colchester on a Facebook or @CInspHuddleston on Twitter. We have seen an increase in people accessing our pages and will continue to publish the work we are doing to provide reassurance and support.

We continue to disrupt criminals, help and protect our vulnerable people, and keep our community safe.

I wish you all the best in the current climate and look forward to catching up with you face to face when we can.

Rob Huddleston District Commander