



# Braintree District Strategic Assessment 2021-22

Document Owner: **Braintree District Community Safety Partnership**

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# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1.1 Aim & Purpose

The aim and purpose of this document is to assist the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to determine the strategic priorities for the financial year of 2022-23.

These priorities will inform the Partnership's 2022/23 Action Plan, which will assist in the allocation of appropriate resources to tackle the issues identified.

## 1.2 Data Parameters

Unless otherwise stated all data will be 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Section source will be identified under the section heading.

Data has been taken from the following sources (any open source data will be referenced) –

- Essex Police's crime recording system, Athena
- Essex Police's incident reporting system, STORM

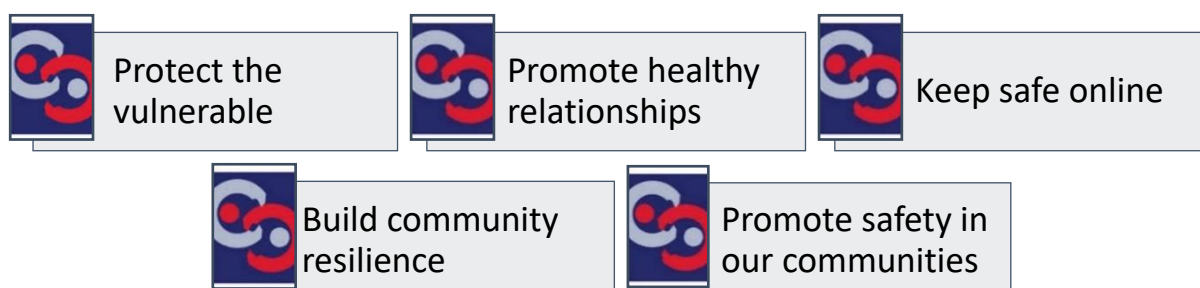
Relevant data or input sources are identified at the start of each section.

## 1.3 Strategic Priorities

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places responsibility on the Community Safety Partnership to annually review levels and patterns of crime and disorder. This will support local communities to counter the perception, threat and consequence of criminal and anti-social behaviour by striving to reduce both crime and the fear of crime, and to reduce reoffending.

Community Safety work encompasses Anti-Social Behaviour, disorder and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.

The findings of this assessment, together with inputs from key CSP stakeholders at a multi-agency workshop held in March 2022, have informed the decision to select the CSP priorities for 2022-23 which will be:



To assist the identification of the Community Safety priorities, a Risk Matrix of crime types was completed. A Risk Matrix is a visual risk assessment tool that allows the user to define the level of risk associated to multiple factors (e.g. types of crime), against a range of criteria. The following areas scored the highest for Braintree District (see 7. Appendix):

1. Rape
2. Domestic Abuse
3. Other Sexual Offences
4. Trafficking of Drugs
5. Hate Crime

## 2 THE PARTNERSHIP

### **Responsible Authority Group**

The Responsible Authority Group is the strategic group of the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership and currently meets four times a year. The group consists of strategic and operational officers who are collectively responsible for addressing crime and disorder, community safety, substance misuse, and reoffending across the Braintree District.

These organisations include Braintree District Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, National Probation Service, Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS), Eastlight Community Homes, Essex County Council and Community360 (voluntary sector).

The group has overall strategic responsibility for making sure that the priorities identified from the annual Strategic Assessment are outlined within the Action Plan, and the projects within the Action Plan are delivered.

### **Community Safety Hub**

Multi-agency working is essential in the prevention of crime and disorder. The Braintree District Community Safety Hub aims to maximise the benefits of collaborative working with partners, develop better information sharing and closer working practices and tackle key issues identified in the CSP Action Plan, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's (PFCC) Police and Crime Plan, and from emerging crime trends and patterns.

Membership of the Hub is varied and includes representation from partner organisations of the CSP, other statutory services and the voluntary sector.

The Hub is coordinated by Braintree District Council which has the necessary community knowledge and oversight to set the agenda and coordinate the work of the hub to deliver against the Strategic Priorities.

### **Essex Police Community Safety Engagement Officers**

To increase support to Community Safety Partnerships, Essex Police introduced Community Safety Engagement Officers to each district during 2020.

Their main responsibilities include the following:

- To build relationships within and as part of the Community Safety Hub, enhance and strengthen information sharing between agencies and ensure a more comprehensive and joined-up operational approach is taken to crime reduction, public safety and enhancing community trust and confidence.
- Work with partners to identify and understand the public's community safety concerns undertaking community engagement to capture community intelligence.

- Evaluate the level of public confidence and reasons for it from feedback obtained from public engagement activities and CSP/Police activity. Liaising with partners and internally within Essex Police to identify themes/trends and actions to address and improve trust and confidence.
- Communicate with local communities and hard to reach diverse groups to encourage their engagement and inclusion, demonstrate that public concerns are understood and describe how they are being addressed/resolved within the partnership.
- Develop, improve and promote CSP media channels and Police channels in support of CSP objectives. Manage public facing websites and use social media as appropriate to support the work of the CSP and Community Policing Team to improve public confidence. Conduct face-to-face outreach with diverse groups and communities where appropriate to build trust and unity with those groups.
- Actively seek to coordinate and align Public Engagement, Communications and Inclusion strategies with those of the CSP, and activity undertaken in support of them, to improve trust, confidence and credibility in the CSP and Essex Police.

## 2.1 Police Fire and Crime Commissioner

Source: Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

The Police and Crime Plan sets out the policing priorities and aims for keeping Essex safe. It brings together police, partners and the people of Essex to build safe and secure communities, thereby promoting public confidence in the police and ensuring that victims are satisfied with the service and support they receive. The commitments set out in the plan build on existing partnerships and seek to develop them in new and ambitious ways. These include greater collaboration between police and fire and closer working with local councils, community safety partnerships, and the voluntary, community and health sectors.

The Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 2024 will make a strategic commitment to prevention, a shift in our main effort from rapid response into a model of targeted prevention and early intervention. This is the approach that will help us get crime down across Essex.

We also need to protect the vulnerable from being preyed on by County Lines gangs, we need to protect people in their homes from domestic abuse and we need to protect women and girls from violence and abuse on our streets. By working together, we can identify where people are most at risk and deliver effective interventions to keep them safe.

The twelve plan priorities are:

- Further investment in crime prevention
- Reducing drug driven violence
- Protecting vulnerable people and breaking the cycle of domestic abuse
- Reducing violence against women and girls
- Improving support for victims of crime
- Protecting rural and isolated areas

- Preventing dog theft
- Preventing business crime, fraud and cyber crime
- Improving safety on our roads
- Encouraging volunteers and community support
- Supporting our officers and staff
- Increasing collaboration

The full Plan can be viewed online at [www.essex.pfcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk) Search 'Police and Crime Plan'.

## 3 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

### 3.1 District detail

Data Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit



Braintree is a large, mainly rural district that covers 612 square kilometres in north and mid Essex, and is the second largest Essex local authority in terms of geographical area. Whilst large in area, the district is only the fifth most populated of the 12 Essex local authorities.

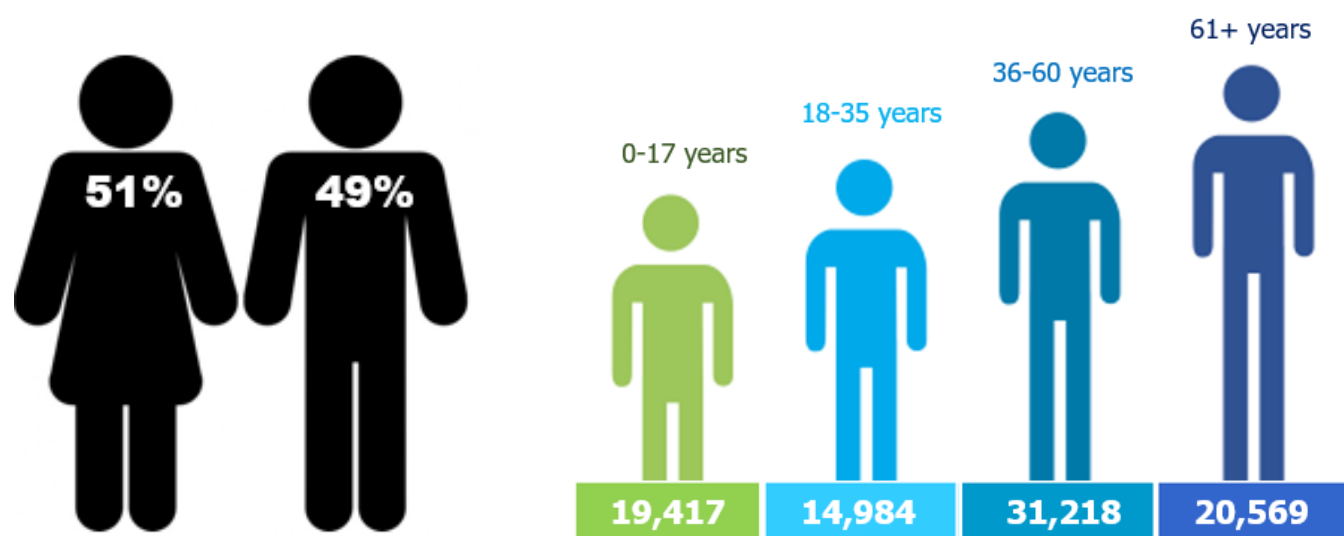
The district consists of the two large market towns of Braintree and Halstead along with the 1970's urban 'expanded town' of Witham interconnected with many smaller villages and rural areas. Crossing the southern portion of the district are the two main arterial roads of Essex, the A12 and the A120 which provide the area with quick access to the rest of the county, London and Stansted Airport.

Braintree District has been one of the fastest growing areas in the country over the past decade. The population is projected to increase from 150,700 people (in 2014) to 175,600 people by 2035.

### 3.2 Population information

Data Source: Office for National Statistics - Mid-point report produced in 2016 as the most recent data source.

The population of Braintree District is 150,999 as per the mid-2016 estimates, and home to 10% of Essex residents. In terms of population density, there are 247 people per square km. The median age of the population of Braintree is 43 years old; this is higher than the United Kingdom median age of 40 years old.





## 4 HEALTH

### 4.1 Health Profile

Source: Essex County Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Based on 2016 population projections, there are an estimated 335.6 people aged 65+ per 1000 working age people in Essex. This is higher than the England rate of 286.8. This demonstrates a potential vulnerable population requiring support and advice.

In 2018 there were 1.08 rough sleepers per 10,000 households in the county. This was nearly half the national average of 2.01 and considerably below the regional average of 1.88 per 10,000 households.

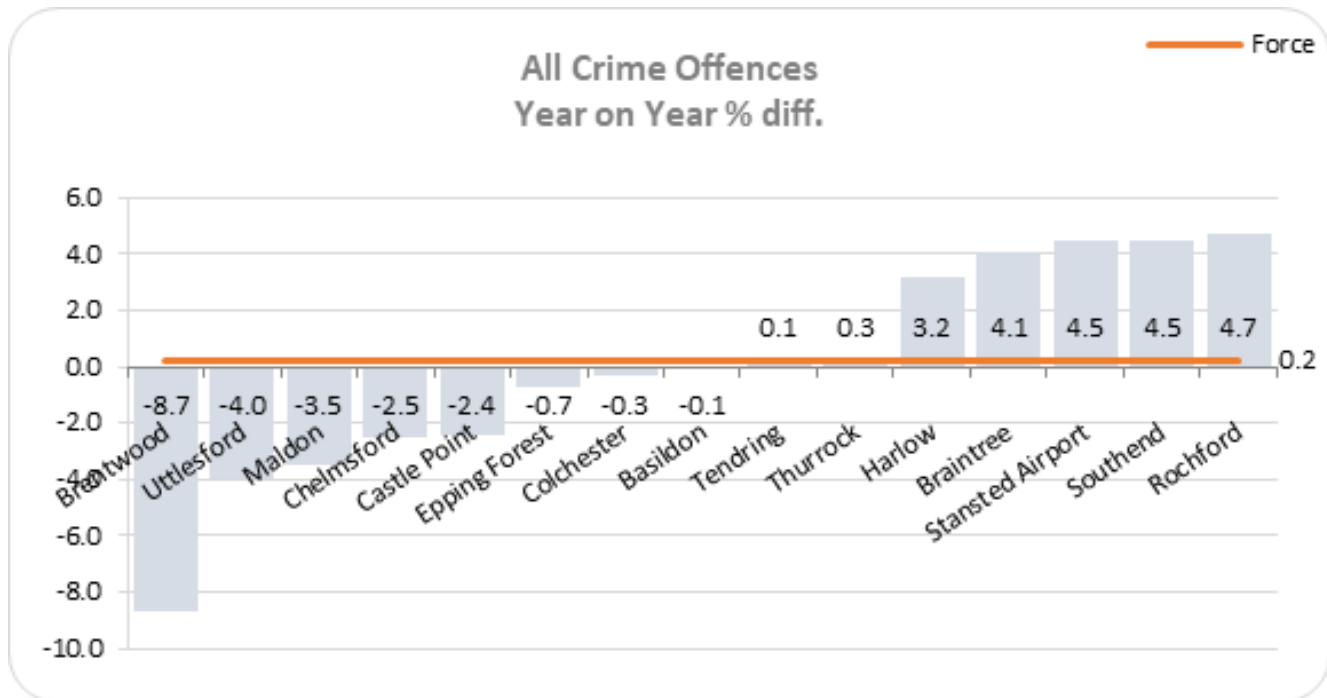
Alcohol related measures for Essex reflected figures below the national average per 100,000 population in 2017/18. Hospital admissions across Essex were 1935.7, considerably lower than the national average of 2224.8 and alcohol-related mortality was estimated to be 41.90, lower than the England average of 46.15.

The age-standardised mortality rate from drug misuse per 100,000 population across Essex was 3.63 over the period of 2015 – 2017 compared to the England rate of 4.33.

## 5 CRIME

### 5.1 Force Level All Crime Police Data – District comparison

Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit.



### 5.2 District Level Police Data

Source: Essex Police Performance Analysis Unit.

Crime Type			Offences			
	DA	% DA 2021	2020	2021	# diff.	% diff.
Anti-Social Behaviour (incidents)	-	-	3357	2994	-363	-10.8
All Crime (excl. Action (NFIB) Fraud)	2224	20.0	10675	11110	435	4.1
Violence Against the Person	1711	34.6	4740	4943	203	4.3
Sexual Offences	136	28.7	336	474	138	41.1
- Rape	100	51.0	121	196	75	62.0
- Other Sexual Offences	36	12.9	215	278	63	29.3
Robbery	4	7.8	50	51	1	2.0
- Robbery of business property	0	0.0	8	8	0	0.0
- Robbery of Personal Property	4	9.3	42	43	1	2.4
Theft Offences	78	2.8	2634	2789	155	5.9
- Burglary	11	2.7	598	406	-192	-32.1
- Burglary Residential	11	3.8	422	286	-136	-32.2
- Burglary Business & Community	0	0.0	176	120	-56	-31.8
- Vehicle Offences (incl. Interference)	6	0.8	656	758	102	15.5
- Theft from a Vehicle	0	0.0	365	381	16	4.4
- Theft of a Vehicle	6	2.2	177	275	98	55.4

OFFICIAL

- <i>Vehicle Interference</i>	0	0.0	114	102	-12	-10.5
- <b>Theft</b>	61	3.8	1380	1625	245	17.8
<b>Criminal Damage inc. Arson</b>	126	12.9	1072	979	-93	-8.7
- <i>Criminal Damage</i>	125	13.3	1014	938	-76	-7.5
- <i>Arson</i>	1	2.4	58	41	-17	-29.3
<b>Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences</b>	3	4.2	93	72	-21	-22.6
<b>Hate Crime HO Definition</b>	17	7.7	197	221	24	12.2
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	2224	100.0	2216	2224	8	0.4
- <i>High Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	206	100.0	126	206	80	63.5
- <i>Medium Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	268	100.0	300	268	-32	-10.7
- <i>Standard Risk Domestic Abuse</i>	1632	100.0	1690	1632	-58	-3.4
- <i>No Risk Assessment</i>	118	100.0	100	118	18	18.0
<b>Drug Offences</b>	0	0.0	409	361	-48	-11.7
- <i>Trafficking of Drugs</i>	0	0.0	57	86	29	50.9
- <i>Possession of Drugs</i>	0	0.0	352	275	-77	-21.9
<b>Possession of Weapons</b>	1	1.3	76	78	2	2.6
<b>Public Order</b>	132	10.9	1130	1213	83	7.3

## 6 PARTNERSHIP DATA

### 6.1 Crime Prevention

Source: Essex Police Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025

Policing has seen significant changes over the last decade; the landscape of crime has shifted and our response has evolved to address this. Over the last year, significant global events have required us to change how and where we work, flex, learn and improve. Society has changed, we face a tough recovery from Covid but in every recovery there is opportunity to do things differently and this is what this new Crime Prevention Strategy presents: a new whole system approach to preventing and reducing the harm caused by crime.

The new strategy builds on the success of its predecessor and uses intelligence and evidence to predict our future challenges forecast over the next five years, and prepares us for the anticipated increase in volume and complexity of crime within a significant political, economic and community recovery period post-Covid.

Essex Police have identified 14 thematic strands which not only pose the greatest potential threat, harm and risk to our people and communities, but also present the greatest opportunity for prevention. These are:

Knife Crime	Rape	Night-Time Economy
Child Abuse / Child Sexual Exploitation	Domestic Abuse	Drugs & Alcohol
Mental Health	County Lines / Exploitation	Serious Organised Crime
Cybercrime & Fraud	Places	Burglary / Robbery
Prevent	Hate Crime	

The full Strategy can be viewed online at [www.essex.pfcc.police.uk](http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk) Search 'Crime Prevention Strategy 2021-2025'.

## 6.2 ECFRS

Source: Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

At Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) we are committed to improving the overall safety of our public, our people and environment by preventing fires and other emergencies from occurring in the first place. By doing this, we can make Essex a safe place to live, work and travel.

We focus our efforts on helping people to live safe, be road safe, be water safe and safeguard by targeting our prevention activities at the most vulnerable to manage risk under pinning our strategy, we have developed Operational delivery Plans and introduced our new Pillars for prevention Live Safe, Be Road Safe, Be Water safe and Safeguarding.

### Number of incidents by District

District	Number of Incidents	Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)	ADF Fatalities	ADF Injuries	Road Traffic Collision Attendances	Special Services Attendances	False Alarms Attendances
Basildon	1703	180	0	101	85	467	725
<b>Braintree</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>428</b>
Brentwood	689	64	0	46	65	169	294
Castle Point	551	70	2	52	53	159	174
Chelmsford	1452	141	0	128	103	309	700
Colchester	1403	163	1	97	113	380	580
Epping Forest	1271	150	0	116	158	299	491
Harlow	1035	72	0	55	35	271	500
Maldon	478	64	0	29	44	90	233
Rochford	503	54	0	41	40	110	233
Southend	1891	182	1	106	69	561	893
Tendring	1556	136	1	110	89	376	709
Thurrock	1545	178	0	89	112	339	600
Uttlesford	736	105	1	55	63	186	302

## 7 APPENDIX – RISK MATRIX

Crime header	Total	Rank
Violence against the person		
Homicide	10	9
Violence with injury	19	<b>3</b>
Death or Serious Injury caused by unlawful driving	10	9
Violence without injury	8	11
Stalking and Harassment	12	7
Sexual Offences		
Rape	22	<b>1</b>
Other Sexual Offences	19	<b>3</b>
Robbery		
Robbery - Business	8	11
Robbery - Personal	17	4
Burglary		
Burglary - Residential	14	5
Burglary - Business And Community	8	11
Vehicle offences		
Theft From a Motor Vehicle	9	10
Theft Of a Motor Vehicle	10	9
Vehicle Interference	1	16
Theft		
Theft from the Person	5	14
Theft of Pedal Cycle	6	13
Shoplifting	4	15
Other Theft	7	12
Criminal Damage	8	11
Arson	8	11
Domestic Abuse	21	<b>2</b>
Racial/Religiously Aggravated Offences	17	4
Hate Crime HO Definition	19	<b>3</b>
Anti-Social Behaviour (incidents)	12	7
Drug Offences		
Trafficking of Drugs	19	<b>3</b>
Possession of Drugs	11	8
Possession of Weapons	13	6
Public Order	7	12

To ensure partnership data is managed in a consistent way, and that the right priorities are identified, a Risk Matrix was completed. This process assists the CSP with justification as to why an issue is, or is not, included as a strategic priority.

The completion of a Risk Matrix is a method used as part of a risk assessment process to be able to define the level of risk associated to multiple factors, against a range of criteria.

The categories assessed and scored were: Performance, Harm, National Priority, Cost Impact, PFCC Priority, Local priority, Community Priority, Harm to Property, Physical Harm to People, Psychological Harm to People, Risk to Vulnerable Groups, Hidden Crime, and Is a CSP Approach of Benefit?

The scores are then totalled and ranked (as depicted in the table to the left).