



**BRAINTREE DISTRICT
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
MEMBERS GUIDE**

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Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Members' Guide was designed by Contact Media Services 07749 877744.

Printed by KempCo Limited 01376 518000 / www.kempcoprinting.com

COVER PHOTO: Paul Starr for Braintree District Council



WELCOME TO THE FIRST BRAINTREE DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBERS GUIDE

I am delighted that Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch can now provide a Members Guide to everyone who would like to know what Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch is all about, and would also like to know about our community partners whom we all work with to help reduce the opportunity of crime. It is an excellent effort throughout the District as by being part of this team, together we can reduce crime and make Braintree District safer.

We have regular meetings and communications with our community partners, including Braintree District Council, who have provided us with funding to help raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch, and whose Safer Streets campaign (covering Braintree, Witham and Halstead) we have been involved with at all times. Braintree Police also support Neighbourhood Watch by attending the Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group meetings, which is very much appreciated.

WHAT DOES BRAINTREE DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH DO?

But what is Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch all about, you may ask? The main activity of Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch is to distribute information from reliable



sources, including Essex Police, Essex Fire & Rescue Service, Crimestoppers, and Victim Support, advising on local crimes (although not necessarily on everyone's doorstep). We also give crime prevention advice; we do not give our own advice, rather we publish what is sent to us.

Each week, Co-ordinators and Members receive the Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter - now in its 16th year - and also there is a six monthly newsletter too which includes special articles from Essex Police. Members also receive a number of free Neighbourhood Watch items, which not only include window stickers, wheelie bin stickers, "No Cold Caller" stickers and promotional

pens, but also 24 hour timers, purse bells and chains, and many other crime prevention items.

The Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group has been in existence for over 35 years, and bearing in mind that Neighbourhood Watch was formed in the UK in 1982, this is a great example of the support by so many living in the District. The Steering group comprises of a number of Area Co-ordinators who have been involved with Neighbourhood Watch for over 30 years, so they are very experienced in the knowledge of Neighbourhood Watch.

We always welcome anyone who wants to receive Neighbourhood Watch information, but on occasions there are those who want to have more responsibility and become a local Co-ordinator- see page 6 for more details.

I would like to take the opportunity thank the Police Fire & Crime Commissioner's Office for the generous funding over many years, which has helped tremendously in covering expenditure of the six monthly newsletters and also all the purchases of Neighbourhood Watch items.

In addition, special thanks go to Essex Community Foundation, Braintree District Council, Braintree Community Safety Partnership, Halstead Town Council. and many Parish Councils for their funds too. It is very much appreciated

Finally I would like to thank the members of the Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group, comprising the Deputy



Chairman and Secretary, and the many members whom have been involved with Neighbourhood Watch for over thirty years. I really do appreciate them all, for attending meetings and managing their own areas. Finally, thanks to everyone living in Braintree District who want to part of Neighbourhood Watch, and for encouraging their neighbours to join too.

**CLIVE STEWART, Chairman
Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch
Steering Group**

Email: braintreenwsg@btinternet.com
Tel: 0750 8057636



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

Neighbourhood Watch aims to build safer, stronger and more resilient communities.

To further these aims and to ensure public confidence in Neighbourhood Watch, members should adhere to the following ethics, standards of behaviour and policies adopted by the Neighbourhood Watch Network.

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY: You are truthful, honest, and trustworthy and will act with integrity. You will:-

- Not offer or accept gifts, hospitality or services which could imply an improper obligation.
- Avoid any situation where a conflict of interest may arise or exist between you and/or other parties and/or Neighbourhood Watch.
- Operate in a financially responsible and transparent manner, ensuring that records are kept of any expenses, fees, costs, gifts, and gratuities relating to Neighbourhood Watch.

FAIRNESS, RESPECT, AND COURTESY: You treat everybody with respect and courtesy and act with fairness and impartiality. You will deal with other Neighbourhood Watch members, the public and other organisations in an honest, fair, and respectful manner.

CONFIDENTIALITY: You treat information with respect and in accordance with the law. You will:-

- Respect other people's privacy.
- Ensure that you use personal information in compliance with Data Protection legislation.

SELFLESSNESS: You act in the interest of your local community.

LEADERSHIP, OBJECTIVITY, AND

OPENNESS: You show empathy and encouragement and give direction and support to others. You make choices based on facts and are open and transparent in your actions and decisions.

CONDUCT: You behave in a manner which does not bring discredit upon Neighbourhood Watch or Neighbourhood Watch partners or undermine public confidence.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

You are visible within, and supportive of your community, helping to build resilience and trust. You take responsibility for your decisions, actions, and omissions. You will challenge, and where necessary report, unlawful or otherwise unfair or discriminatory behaviour or practice or other breaches of the Code of Ethics by Neighbourhood Watch members.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY: You do not discriminate unlawfully or unfairly. You will:-

- Treat people fairly and with respect regardless of race, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital or civil partnership, pregnancy, maternity or paternity, religion or belief, age or disability.
- Respect the rights of all individuals and make reasonable adjustments to ensure
- Neighbourhood Watch activity is inclusive for all members of their local community.



BECOMING A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH LOCAL CO-ORDINATOR



The role of **Neighbourhood Watch Local Co-ordinator** should be considered like a 'job', as it has a number of important responsibilities.

Their main duty is to keep in touch with as many of their Scheme/Group members as often as possible with up-to-date Neighbourhood Watch information. Regular communication with everyone is important, especially with those who are without a computer or have no need for the internet.

A Co-ordinator also needs to keep their local database updated, and in accordance to the Neighbourhood Watch Code of Ethics (see page 5), as well as the Data Protection Act.

Co-ordinators should have a good general knowledge of what Neighbourhood Watch is all about; having some years' experience as a member is therefore very useful. This is because at times they may be asked questions on simple problems that need to be resolved and this can only be achieved if the person has had a number of years experience with Neighbourhood Watch.

When recruiting a Co-ordinator, the Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group first check the person's contact details, such as their telephone number, as good communication is key, as they could be called or emailed at any time and replying within a reasonable period - or immediately if it is urgent - is essential. They also check their address to see if we already have a Co-ordinator covering that area; sometimes people decide they want to be a Co-ordinator but only for their own house and the whole street/road area. The Steering Group then asks the candidate how much time they have in their busy lives to take on such responsibility.

When interviewing, the Steering Group prefer to meet the proposed Co-ordinators in person, but in these times this is not always possible so they try to have an opportunity to speak to them via a video call.

Once approved, new Co-ordinators must sign an appropriate form to abide by the Neighbourhood Watch Safe Guarding Policy.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES OF A LOCAL COORDINATOR

- They must be trustworthy and honest. Ideally, they are acknowledged by local Police and their Parish Council as a good person.
- They must not use the Neighbourhood Watch database to promote themselves in any way but only to send out Neighbourhood Watch information from reliable sources.
- They must be able to communicate on local crime without giving a fear of crime.
- They must be willing to abide by the Code of Ethics and ensure all their Scheme/Group members do as well.
- They must be willing to give references if requested.
- They must know that Neighbourhood Watch is non-political.
- They should be well organised.
- They need to be well thought of and known in the local community as a dedicated person to keep society safe from crime .
- They must accept that they are accountable for their actions to their local District Co-ordinator at all times.
- They should have some experience of Neighbourhood Watch. They cannot be a Co-ordinator unless they know the basics of what's involved.
- They should have lived in their area for more than twelve months at least.





NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK

The **Neighbourhood Watch Network** is the national umbrella organisation that supports all Neighbourhood Watch members throughout England and Wales. They provide services in helping to create schemes and workshops with respect to crime prevention advice which is of paramount importance in managing Neighbourhood Watch in Essex. They are always available to offer advice and guidance on any Neighbourhood Watch matters, across a number of areas:

MEMBERSHIP:

They work with Associations to understand their support needs and to determine how this can best be provided for. They have developed a self-assessment tool for Associations to make their own assessment of their support needs. Resources are limited, so local improvement support is carefully prioritised to ensure it is effective and delivered where it is of most benefit. Where there is no Association in place, or an Association needs significant support they run and/or fund re-invigoration and acceleration programmes that help with improvements by the Association or identify new Neighbourhood Watch models that may work in particular areas.

RESOURCES:

They develop toolkits and resources for members to use for local campaigns, fundraising, crime prevention activity and projects. They focus on issues that align to their strategic plan and reflect areas of concern nationally to the members, the police and other partners including Government. They develop how effective practice by groups and individuals can be identified, captured and shared across the movement.

STRATEGY:

The Network's Board of Trustees work alongside its Central Support Team to set their strategic direction. They develop and deliver the strategic delivery plan and run regular national events to update members on progress against the action and involve them in new developments.

PROJECTS:

They develop national partnerships to: identify upcoming issues and shared agendas, and scope ideas and joint projects to broaden the reach, diversity and impact of the movement. Working with Associations and local partners they pilot new ideas and projects to understand the movement's role

THE CENTRAL SUPPORT TEAM

On a national level, the Neighbourhood Watch provides a Central Support Team (CST) which supports Associations, groups and members to grow, diversify and develop the Neighbourhood Watch movement. This includes the provision of guidance and crime prevention toolkits, national liaison with key partners to support the growth of the movement and sharing effective practice by local areas.



in raising public awareness of how to prevent a broad range of criminal activity and support vulnerable people. They provide tools to assist Associations to develop and understand the impact of their local activity, offer advice about starting new projects and establishing local partnerships that support our strategic plan.

RESEARCH:

They commission academic research and analysis to help identify and target the practical activities that will help to grow, develop and diversify the movement and develop tools that will assist Neighbourhood Watch to understand, articulate and measure its impact.

COMMUNICATION:

They act as the voice of the movement, leveraging the brand and capitalising on its national role and extended public reach to raise its profile and influence partners and other stakeholders. They identify and develop press opportunities where they have relevance and it adds value to national debate and campaign activity. They keep its supporters up to date with relevant national developments in crime trends and prevention advice and share local successes through its newsletter and regular news articles on its website. They regularly share partners' campaign material that is relevant and useful to our membership and develop their own campaigns.

FUNDING:

They research national funding opportunities that align to Neighbourhood Watch priorities and prepare funding bids to support both core funding and specific project work against these priorities. They provide advice to Associations to assist them to identify local relevant funding channels and run workshops and give general advice to members about how to prepare their bids. They also publish fundraising guidance and templates to assist local Neighbourhood Watch areas with their own funding bids.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

They manage telephone enquiries and emails received from Neighbourhood Watch members and the public. Local issues are then referred to Association Leads for them to deal with. They analyse all enquiries to identify the most frequently asked questions and publish guidance and advice on these issues or troubleshoot regularly recurring problems.

TECHNOLOGY:

They provide the national IT infrastructure for the Neighbourhood Watch membership and lead improvements to its website. They assist Associations to use the membership database by ensuring Multi Scheme Administrators (MSAs) have access to training and advice appropriate to their role, often provided locally, and resolving technical problems in liaison with the system provider.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING IN ACTION: SUPPORTING SAFER COMMUNITIES

Essex Police is proud to serve the communities of Braintree through a dedicated and growing Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT). With a recent uplift in officer numbers, the team now includes 55 officers across the Braintree and Uttlesford Policing District, enabling us to provide a more visible and responsive

presence across the district. We now have three dedicated Town Centre Teams within the Braintree District working in Witham, Braintree, and most recently Halstead. These teams focus on tackling anti-social behaviour, engaging with local businesses and residents, and responding to the specific crime needs of each town. Their presence is already making a positive impact on community confidence and importantly safety for the communities and businesses alike.

Neighbourhood Watch remains one of our most valued partners. We work closely with local coordinators and members, attending regular meetings, responding to concerns, and sharing timely updates. This two-way communication helps us stay informed about what matters most to residents and ensures that our policing is shaped by local priorities.

We also involve Neighbourhood Watch in the strategic planning and delivery of key community safety projects. One example is the Safer Streets initiative, which has brought additional funding to areas including Witham, Halstead, and more recently Braintree.



These projects have delivered real improvements such as upgraded street lighting, enhanced CCTV coverage, and environmental changes designed to reduce crime and improve feelings of safety.

Making communities feel safer isn't just the role of the police, it's rooted in partnership working. We collaborate daily with members of the Community Safety Partnership, which includes Braintree District Council, and a wide range of services including social care, mental health teams, housing providers, and local charities. These partnerships allow us to take a holistic approach to community safety — not just responding to incidents, but working to address the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour.

We also support and encourage community-led initiatives that empower residents to take an active role in keeping their neighbourhoods safe. This includes Community Speed Watch, where trained volunteers monitor speeding in problem areas, and our growing network of Volunteer Police Cadets, who gain valuable life skills while contributing positively to their communities.

Volunteers are at the heart of our work. We are proud to work alongside Active Citizens and Special Constables, including two teams of Community Special Constables based in Witham and Halstead.

These volunteers give their time to support patrols, attend community events, and help us maintain a strong and approachable presence in our towns and villages. Whether it's through Neighbourhood Watch, volunteering, or simply staying informed, there are many ways to get involved and help make your community safer. If you'd like to learn more or get involved, visit: www.essex.police.uk

District Commander
Chief Inspector Martin Richards



CHIEF CONSTABLE RACHEL NOLAN

Chief Constable Rachel Nolan

joined Essex Police in 1998 as a PC serving Canvey Island and Rayleigh. Over the past 27 years, she has held a variety of roles that have shaped her leadership and approach to policing.

After promotion to Sergeant, she worked in Benfleet and Rochford before joining the Neighbourhood Policing Project Team, delivering a new model of community policing. In 2006, she visited South Africa and Lesotho to study policing in different countries, an experience that continues to influence her perspective today.

As an Inspector, she served as the Chief Constable's Staff Officer and worked closely with communities in Tilbury. In 2008, she became Chief Inspector, spending six years as District Commander for Thurrock and Basildon, and overseeing Roads Policing and the Dog Section.

In 2014, she was promoted to Superintendent, leading the Criminal Justice Command and managing custody and prosecution processes. Two years later, as Chief Superintendent within Operational Policing Command, she led



specialist teams including firearms, dogs, and roads policing, coordinating major operations and developing collaborative firearms training across seven forces.

Between 2018 and 2020, she was seconded to the National Police Coordination Centre, coordinating the national policing response to EU Exit preparations. After completing the Strategic Command Course in 2020, she was appointed Assistant Chief Constable, leading contact management and operational policing teams, the frontline of our service. In January 2025, she became Deputy Chief Constable of Essex Police.

Her focus remains on delivering outstanding policing, supporting our people, and working closely with partners to keep the communities of Essex safe.

POLICE, FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER ROGER HIRST

Neighbourhood Watch has always appreciated the support of **Police Fire & Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst** - and Jane Gardner, the Deputy Police Fire & Crime Commissioner (retired December 2025) - for their support for Neighbourhood Watch including funding each Neighbourhood Watch District. The funds have been vitally important to help not only reduce the opportunity of crime but also the fear of crime within all communities keeping Essex safe.



The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is responsible for the non-operational aspects of policing and the fire and rescue service, including setting the budgets for both services and monitoring their performance. The duties of the PFCC include:

- Setting the priorities for Essex Police and Essex County Fire & Rescue Service
- Setting budgets and council tax precepts
- Appointing and dismissing the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer
- Holding the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer to account for their services' performance
- Regularly engaging with the public and local communities
- Allocating grants through the Community Safety Development Fund and commissioning local services
- Bringing together community safety partners to reduce crime, support victims of crime and keep people across Essex safe from harm

Roger Hirst was first elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex in May 2016 and has since been elected for a third term in May 2024. He became the first Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner in the country in October 2017.

Roger's core belief that safe and secure communities are the bedrock on which we build well-being and prosperity for all, remains central to his vision for making Essex safer. A strong advocate of prevention, partnership and people, Roger has worked hard to build a foundation of collaborative working between emergency services, local authorities, councils, the voluntary sector and communities in Essex, believing we can do more and achieve more together.

A long-standing member of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner's Board and Finance Lead for Police and Crime Commissioner's nationally, Roger led the successful campaign to secure additional funding for policing and achieved the target of recruiting an additional 905 Essex Police officers in March 2023, making the force the biggest in its 185-year history.



SCAMS GUIDE



Scams affect the lives of millions of people across the UK. People who are scammed often experience shame and social isolation as a result.

Friends Against Scams is a National Trading Standards (NTS) Scams Team initiative, which aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering people to take a stand against scams.

Why do people respond to scams?

To get people hooked and responding to scams, sometimes criminals rely on loneliness, vulnerability and social isolation.

Many people are living with some form of cognitive decline, such as dementia, that may impact their ability to distinguish scams from legitimate opportunities.

Others may be lonely or socially isolated so do not have anyone to turn to for a second opinion on whether an offer is genuine.

Once someone has responded to a scam, their personal details are perpetually shared and sold on to other criminals who will use this information to relentlessly target them with either scam mail, multiple phone calls, or repeat home visits in order to con, mislead, intimidate and bully the person into parting with their life savings.



What are scams?

SCAMS ARE FRAUD AND FRAUD IS A CRIME!

Scams make people part with their money and personal details by intimidating them or promising cash, prizes, services and fictitious high returns on investment.

Their aim is to get people to reveal their personal details, steal their information or even get them to willingly make a payment or hand over cash.

Scam facts

£5-10 BILLION A YEAR

Scams cost the UK economy
£5-10 Billion a year

53%

of people aged 65
or over have been
targeted by a scam

5%

of scam victims
report the matter
to law enforcement

**Anyone can be a victim of a scam
no matter what their background.**

**The people behind scams are
ruthless predatory criminals.**

Do you know how to spot a scam?

Not all communications that contain the items below are scams, but if you do receive something telling you to carry out one of these actions, you should be wary and get a second opinion from a trusted friend or relative:

Things to look out for

- The person contacting you is asking you for money to access your winnings.
- Too good to be true offers such as guaranteed lottery winnings.
- Pressure to respond quickly, "limited offer respond now, don't delay."
- Encouraged to keep communication secret from family or friends.
- Told to send money abroad or move your money into someone else's bank account.
- Encouraged to click on links or open attachments in emails.
- Phone calls that come from unknown or foreign phone numbers.



What are the different types of scams?

MAIL SCAMS



Common types of postal scams include fake lotteries and prize draws, offers of investments, inheritance windfalls, health cures and clairvoyant letters.

TELEPHONE SCAMS



Common telephone scams include investment, pension or computer support scams.

The person calling is often extremely professional and may pretend to be from a trusted organisation such as your bank, the police or another company you recognise. The caller may have some of your information to make them seem genuine.

DOORSTEP SCAMS



Criminals pose as legitimate business people selling goods or services that are faulty, unnecessary, overpriced, poor quality or non-existent.

INTERNET SCAMS



An email may be disguised to appear to be from your bank or other company in order to trick you into revealing personal details.

You may be asked to click on a link which takes you to a fake website where you will be prompted to enter your details.

How to protect yourself and others

- Say 'No' to unwanted, uninvited callers.
- If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- Don't feel pressured to make a decision, take your time and seek advice.
- Be wise to postal scams, no genuine company will ask for money to claim a prize.
- Keep your personal details safe, always make sure the person you are talking to is genuine and from a legitimate company.
- Be online savvy, criminals can replicate genuine companies, if you're unsure, don't open links or attachments in emails.
- Talk to someone you trust if you're suspicious.
- Anyone can be a scam victim. If you spot a scam, always report it.

For more information

Visit
www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk/become-a-friend/essex

Report:
contact **Action Fraud** on 0300 123 2040

Advice:
contact **Citizens Advice** on 0808 223 1133



CrimeStoppers.

Speak up. Stay safe.

CRIMESTOPPERS IN ESSEX

Crime can be worrying. Everyone has the right to feel safe from crime, wherever they live, but some people feel unable to speak to authorities, for a host of reasons - from fear of retribution to cultural expectations.

Crimestoppers in Essex is part of a national, independent charity that gives people the power to speak up and stop crime – 100 per cent anonymously.

Crimestoppers is trusted by hundreds of thousands of people a year who safely passed on information about crime. Everyday people across the UK, whose voices and crucial information would otherwise not be heard, contact Crimestoppers. Information is passed to police and it's all 100 per cent anonymous so there's no police contact, no witness statements, no courts.

Crime reports from Essex go to a professionally staffed UK contact centre which is open 24/7, 365 days a year and is available by phone on **0800 555 111** or online at **www.crimestoppers-uk.org**

The number of crime reports given to Crimestoppers in Essex has been increasing during the past few years along with arrests and charges. The latest yearly figures show there were nearly 7,500 reports to the end of March 2025. These include big increases for drugs and driving offences, wanted persons, possession of weapons, theft, burglary and assault.

Crimestoppers partners with business and industry to combat crime and wrongdoing within organisations. This protects reputation,

staff, consumers and the wider community. These include the Environment Agency, the Post Office and the Electoral Commission.

Crimestoppers also has a service for young people – **Fearless.org** – an online resource which offers non-judgemental advice about crimes that affect young people and how they can pass on information about what they know if they have worries about crime. The charity's website has a Most Wanted section, where people can view images of criminals on the run and pass on vital information about their whereabouts.

Crimestoppers is supported by a network of volunteers throughout the UK. Volunteers in Essex work with a number of partners including Neighbourhood Watch and runs campaigns to encourage people to speak up about crime and stay safe.

There is also a Community Ambassadors Programme designed to increase awareness of Crimestoppers through partnerships with businesses, public authorities, charities and other agencies. The role of an Ambassador is to promote Crimestoppers whether it be to employees, contractors, clients, service users, partner agencies or other stakeholders. They spread the word about how Crimestoppers can help protect the people, places and communities that matter to you.

If you are interested in volunteering for Crimestoppers in Essex or becoming an Ambassador, visit the website: **www.crimestoppers-uk.org**



Essex County
Fire & Rescue Service

Book a free Home Safety Visit

We'll provide personalised fire safety advice and fit new smoke alarms for anyone living in Essex.



Book today

Web: essex-fire.gov.uk/book

Email: home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk

Call: 0300 303 0088





WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a joint responsibility upon specific agencies and other partners within the community to develop and implement strategies to protect their communities from crime and help people feel safe. The **Braintree District Community Safety Partnership** (CSP) brings together key organisations and agencies to make the Braintree District a safer place to live, work, and visit.

The Responsible Authority Group is the strategic group of the Braintree District CSP and consists of strategic and operational Officers who are collectively responsible for addressing crime, disorder and community safety across the Braintree District. The group consists of Braintree District Council, Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, NHS Mid & South Essex Integrated Care Board, National Probation Service, Eastlight Community Homes, and Essex County Council (Education).

The CSP is required to produce an annual report about crime and disorder levels in its area. The results of this are used by the Partnership to identify priorities for the coming year, and use them to guide the projects and community engagement work of the CSP. The Strategic Priorities for 2025-26 are:

- Protect the vulnerable
- Promote healthy relationships
- Promote online safety
- Build community resilience
- Promote safety in our communities

The Partnership produces an annual Action Plan which describes how it will deliver on the

identified priorities. The current CSP Action Plan can be found on the Braintree District Council website.

FUNDING

The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (OPFCC) allocated grants from its 2025-26 Community Safety Fund to all Community Safety Partnerships across the county. The allocation of funding is determined by a formula that takes into account population size, levels of deprivation and crime rates. For the fiscal year 2025-26, The Braintree District CSP received a funding allocation of £14,111.

SUPPORTING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch plays a vital role in community safety. The CSP support local groups by:

- Sharing crime prevention resources and campaign materials to help residents stay informed and vigilant.
- Providing training opportunities, such as J9 Domestic Abuse Awareness and Fraud Prevention sessions to equip volunteers with the knowledge to identify and respond to risks.
- Connecting groups with Essex Police and other agencies for expert advice, problem-solving and collaborative action on local issues.
- Promoting community events and initiatives that strengthen neighbourhood networks, encourage reporting and build trust between residents and authorities.

PROMINENT PROJECTS 2024-2025

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CSP and partners attended over 50 community events, including:

- Wealth and Health Fairs in Braintree, Witham, and Halstead
- Outreach visits to villages, skate parks, and schools

Topics covered ranged from personal safety, VAWG, anti-drink spiking, PSPO awareness, and cost-of-living support. Practical resources like anti-theft purse bells, card defender pouches, and reflective wristbands were also distributed to residents.

OPERATION HENDERSON

A countywide campaign to protect young people from exploitation on public transport. Activities included:

- Raising awareness among the public and transport staff about risks of child sexual and criminal exploitation
- Partnering with British Transport Police, Essex Police and Braintree District Council Community Service Officers to safeguard vulnerable young people

999 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

An annual event engaging Year 8 students from six schools (76 participants).

- Promoted youth engagement and safety awareness
- Included discussions on child exploitation risks and how to seek help
- Gathered valuable feedback on young people's feelings of safety in their communities

FRAUD PREVENTION

Essex Police's Fraud Prevention Coordinator provided vital support to victims and raised awareness by:

- Attending 26 community events, reaching 1,176 residents
- Delivering fraud prevention talks and distributing deterrent items
- Working with Neighbourhood Watch and housing associations to spread awareness across rural and urban areas

CRUCIAL CREW

A major educational event attended by 492 Year 6 pupils from across the Braintree District. Children learned about:

- Personal safety
- Healthy relationships
- Internet safety
- Exploitation and road safety

The event encouraged pupils to share feelings, identify unsafe situations, and develop strategies to stay safe.

SAFER STREETS HALSTEAD

Home Office Safer Streets funding was secured to improve safety in Halstead, focusing on reducing violence against women and girls (VAWG), neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour. Key actions of this project included:

- Extra police patrols and a dedicated Street Warden
- CCTV network expansion in key areas
- Free self-defence classes for women and girls
- Youth outreach sports programme (over 500 activities, more than 2,800 attendees) offering boxing, football, drama workshops, and more
- Specialist counselling sessions for victims of sexual violence (811 sessions delivered)

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN BRAINTREE

WHAT IS ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR?

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is defined in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 as:

- Conduct that has caused, or is likely to cause, harassment, alarm, or distress to any person;
- Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance to a person in relation to that person's occupation of residential premises; or
- Conduct capable of causing housing-related nuisance or annoyance to any person.

It can affect anyone and encompasses a range of behaviours, including but not limited to:

- Neighbours shouting, swearing, or noise
- Playing music at disruptive volumes
- Persistent noise including dog barking
- Fly-tipping and littering
- Dog fouling
- Graffiti
- Accumulation of waste

- Abandoned vehicles
- Excessive vehicle noise
- Noise in public or open spaces
- Dangerous or uncontrolled dogs
- Aggressive begging
- Nuisance bonfires

Please note that the following behaviours and situations do not fall under the definition of anti-social behaviour and will not be investigated as such by the Council:

- Children playing in the street or communal areas
- Young people gathering socially
- Babies crying
- Normal use of domestic appliances (e.g. vacuuming, washing machines)
- Civil disputes between neighbours (e.g. disagreements over shared driveways, fences, or hedges)
- Inability to park directly outside your home

REPORTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Whether you have experienced or witnessed anti-social behaviour, there are a number of support services and agencies available. To ensure that your complaint is handled appropriately and efficiently, it is important to report the matter to the correct lead agency.

For more details, visit: www.braintree.gov.uk/community-health-wellbeing/antisocial-behaviour



REPORTING EMERGENCY & NON-EMERGENCY CRIME

IS IT AN EMERGENCY?

Call 999 in emergency situations like these:

- There is an immediate danger to life
- Someone is using violence or is threatening to be violent
- A crime is happening right now, like a house burglary or a theft
- The suspect is still at the scene

HEARING OR SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS

If you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service, use the textphone service 18000 or text on 999.

Call 999 BSL to use a British Sign Language interpreter.

IF IT'S NOT AN EMERGENCY

If you've witnessed or been the victim of crime that isn't an emergency, please report it to Essex Police. Your report will be sent direct to Essex Police control room.

You can report it:

- Online - visit www.essex.police.uk
- by calling 101

REPORT ANONYMOUSLY

You can report anonymously via the Crimestoppers website or by calling 0800 555 111. See page 17 for more information about Crimestoppers.



My local Neighbourhood Watch Contact Details:

