

# PFCC Weekly Newsletter 24th January 2025

24-01-2025

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**PFCC**  
**POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME**  
**COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX**



**Latest news from the PFCC - 24th January 2025**

## Demolition work set to begin on site of new purpose-built police station in Dovercourt



Demolition of the former fire station commander's house at the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) site in Fronks Road, Dovercourt, is due to begin this Monday (27th January).

The demolition is in preparation for a new purpose-built, standalone, two-storey police station to be constructed later this year, which is only 1.5 miles from Essex Police's current police station in Harwich.

The planning application for the new police station was approved in October 2023. The police station will be an operational policing base for Essex Police officers with no public front counter.

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, said: "I'm very pleased work on a new Essex Police base in Harwich is underway, on the same site as an Essex County Fire and Rescue Service station."

[Read more here](#)

## Residents and businesses invited to annual PFCC Harlow district Public Meeting

The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) for Essex is inviting residents from across the Harlow district to attend a public meeting to learn more about crime and community safety in their area.



The meeting will take place on **Thursday 13th February 2025** from 7pm till 8pm at St. Johns Arts & Recreation Centre, St John S Walk, Market Street, Old Harlow, CM17 0AJ.

PFCC Roger Hirst will be joined by panel members from Essex Police, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Harlow Council.

“Being able to hear directly from local communities is essential,” said Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

[Read more here](#)

## Experience of online violence by young people sought by survey

The PFCC-backed Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VVU) is asking young people to complete an online survey and is also asking youth groups to share the survey with young people.



The unit wants to know more about young people's online experiences of violence and anyone who completes the short survey could win a £50 Amazon voucher. Young people must be aged 18 and under to answer this questionnaire, and live in Essex.

Find the survey at [www.essexvvu.co.uk/violence](http://www.essexvvu.co.uk/violence) or use the link below.

[Read more here](#)



## Have your say on the future of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) has launched a consultation on its draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), which outlines its key priorities for protecting lives, property, and the environment.

The consultation, which runs from 8 January 2025 to 19 February 2025, offers everyone in Essex the chance to shape a plan that will guide the Service's work over the coming years.

This consultation follows a similar process that took place last year, when Essex residents were asked to comment on proposed priorities. The results from that initial consultation have shaped this draft CRMP and priorities.

[Read more here](#)

## Upcoming Events

Harlow District Meeting - Thursday 13th February 2025 - 7pm till 8pm - St. Johns Arts & Recreation Centre, Downloads, St John S Arc, St John S Walk, Market Street, Old, Harlow, CM17 0AJ

## Violence and Vulnerability Unit Newsletter

28-01-2025



## Violence and Vulnerability Unit Newsletter

Issue 106.

28 January 2025



### Respect Project

The VVU joined [Essex Boys and Girls Clubs](#) last Thursday, at First Site in Colchester, for the presentation evening of the Respect Project.

The Respect Project is an early intervention programme for 13-14 year olds, run by Essex Boys and Girls Clubs and funded by the VVU. It's designed to help Y9's who are struggling in school to re-engage with their education, give coping skills to deal with life's problems, build their mental resilience, self-confidence and improve their mental wellbeing.

The young people take part in an eight-week life skills project and then participate in a week long residential in the Lake District before the programme ends with a celebratory presentation evening.

The young people at Thursday's event were the Colchester cohort and having seen the young people at the start of their Respect journey the difference in them all was incredible.

82% of the young people reported much better mental wellbeing scores, they also individually talked about improved confidence, making friends, becoming less anxious. The young people were so positive about the experience of being in the Lake District – climbing mountains, sleeping out under the stars and working as a team - although they were much less enthusiastic about having to do the washing up themselves!

One young person summed up the experience by saying: "If I can climb a mountain, then I can put my hand up in class." Another said: "It has made me think I can achieve things if I put my mind to it."

Well done to all the young people who were part of this experience and we look forward to hearing how the Harlow, Chelmsford and Basildon cohorts got on.

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## Check in on 2024 community grants

Funding from our 2024 Community Grants Programme is well underway, and as part of our monitoring, we've been doing some work to find out how young people view the support they are currently receiving from the funded projects and interventions they attend.

Across the grants projects we ask a sample of young people to complete an anonymous online survey on their experiences of the project they attend. In total 111 young people from all 17 projects took part.

The feedback we have received has been very positive. When asked about their experience of the youth project or service they attend:

90 percent said it enables them to build connections with trusted adults

82 percent said it has a positive impact on their mental / emotional wellbeing

83 percent said it helps them feel safer

We know from all of our research, and research from other external trusted organisations, as well as through our [Listening Projects](#) that it is so important our young people have places to go where they feel safe, with people around them that they feel safe with.

In the survey the young people expand on this by saying how the projects and trusted adults have meant they have improved employability due to gaining key skills and confidence; they have improved mental health due to the acceptance received and the counselling provided, and their risk of exploitation is reduced due to being in a safe space and the project keeping them off the street.

A range of other information, in addition to these surveys, is also collated through our quarterly monitoring. We look forward to sharing more about the grants projects from these later in the year.

Thank you to all our 2024 funded projects for the wonderful work you are doing to support our young people and our Essex communities.





## 2025 Listening Project early insight

The listening workshops for the ECVYS/VVU 2025 Listening Project are well underway and we've enjoyed having a sneaky preview at what some of the participating groups are currently talking about!

For those who are unsure The Listening Project asks young people a series of questions about how safe they feel in their community, and what could be improved in their immediate surrounding areas to help them feel safer.

The Church Langley Rangers (Girlguiding for age 14-18) recently completed their Listening session and have since taken their feedback one step further. In a follow up session, they did a "design a new part of town activity" using craft materials and they came up with a redesign for Harlow Bus Station as it is one of the areas in town they currently feel less safe.

We love the creativity of pom pom beads as lighting, pipe cleaners signifying the spacious roof and lots of comfy benches and greenery made from cotton wool and feathers! All feedback will be shared with decision makers once the full Listening Report is published – and while we can't promise pom poms we are sure that this feedback will be appreciated!

While all the Listening Sessions are now booked in, we are still asking for the help of young people to help us better understand the violence they encounter online.

We are asking young people to help us by completing a short questionnaire, which will give us valuable insights to what content they are seeing on social media or other online platforms.

All answers will be used to give extra detail to the 2025 Listening Project. Responses remain anonymous and no identifying details are linked to the answers.

If you work in a youth setting or have a young person that you can share the link below with, we would be grateful for your support. We would like to reach as many Essex young people as possible.

Young people who complete the questionnaire can enter a prize draw for a chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher. To enter the prize draw an email address is needed but this will remain confidential and only be used to contact the winner.

To complete the questionnaire you must be aged 18 or under and live in Essex.

Visit [www.essexvvu.co.uk/violence](http://www.essexvvu.co.uk/violence) to get started.

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## Prevent Training for Essex based youth organisations

Safer Essex and the Active Essex Foundation are currently running two Prevent sessions, designed for staff/volunteers working in Essex based youth organisations to improve their understanding of the issues of terrorism and how we can work collectively to safeguard individuals and protect them from being radicalised.

Prevent is at the heart of safeguarding children and adults. It aims to provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from being drawn into terrorist activity.

The first session is the Enhanced Awareness Session which will cover:



- **Background:** An overview of CONTEST, The Prevent Duty and why it is important for Essex and an understanding of Terrorism legislation.
- **Ideologies:** What is meant by an extremist ideology, how antisemitism and conspiracy theories are linked to extremist ideologies, 'pilling' language and an overview of the ideologies behind, and some of the symbols used by, Islamist Extremists, Far Right Extremists, Left-Wing, Anarchist & Single Issue Extremists and Incels.
- **Understanding Radicalisation:** Four stages of radicalisation, influencing factors, what to look out for, online radicalisation, the 'notice check share procedure' and what happens when someone is referred to Prevent.

The second session Online Radicalisation will cover:

- **The Online World** Key terms and definitions, the eco system in which extremism exists online and how the dark web operates.
- **Understanding Online Radicalisation:** How extremists use the online world and the process of online radicalisation.
- **Platforms Used:** An overview of the main social media and gaming adjacent platforms used by extremists and some of the methods used by radicalisers.
- **Harmful Online Communities:** An overview of some of the other online communities that have links to extremism.

A good understanding of Prevent, and the ideologies present within the UK is required before attending the Online Radicalisation training, as this will not be covered in the session so it is recommended you attend the Enhanced Awareness Session first, or do the [Home Office online course](#).

Enhanced Awareness sessions are available on: Tuesday 11 March 13:00 – 15:00 and Friday 28 March 10:00 – 12noon

Online Radicalisation sessions are available on: Wednesday 23 April, 10:00-11:30 and Thursday 8 May, 10:00-11:30

All sessions are held via MS Teams and calendar invite with the joining link will be sent to you upon registration. Due to the content of the training, it is advised that you book onto a session at a time when you can join from a private space.

You can register onto one or both of the sessions via the [registration form](#).

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If you would like to find out more about any of the items in this newsletter please get in touch [katie.canning@essex.police.uk](mailto:katie.canning@essex.police.uk) Visit our website [www.essexvvu.co.uk](http://www.essexvvu.co.uk) or follow us on Instagram: @EssexVVU or Facebook: Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit

## PFCC Weekly Newsletter 31st January 2025

31-01-2025

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**PFCC**  
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX





## PFCC Essex causes change - government announces extra £100m for policing in the UK



Today the Government has announced the final police funding settlement which includes an **extra £100m** for policing nationwide.

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, said: "As PFCC for Essex and the joint national finance lead of all police and crime commissioners in the UK, we appreciate the government has listened to concerns from police forces across the UK and we welcome the announcement of additional funding.

[Read more here](#)



## Essex County Fire and Rescue Service precept proposal commits to keeping Essex residents safe

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, has proposed a budget to the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel that will raise the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service precept by **£4.95 a year, or 9p a week**, a 5.99% increase for a Band D property taking the yearly total to **£87.57, or £1.68p a week**.

The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel meets on Tuesday 4th February to consider Mr Hirst's proposed precept for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS).

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, said: "This budget recognises the challenging financial environment we face and at the same time acknowledges the importance of delivering on objectives included within the Fire and Rescue Plan 2024-2028.

[Read more here](#)

## New campaign to scrap fly tipping in Essex

## Let's SCRAP Fly Tipping in Essex

Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is supporting a new campaign to educate Essex households on the blight of fly tipping in the county.

At our public meetings, community forums and correspondence to the office, the public tell us time and again how much the fly tips littering our roads and countryside concerns them.

This is why we're supporting the SCRAP Fly Tipping campaign, led by Essex County Council in partnership with district, city and borough councils in Essex and the Environment Agency.

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst said: "Fly-tipping is a serious issue that blights our communities, harms our environment and poses risks to public health and safety. It is crucial that we work together in partnership to tackle this problem head-on."



[Read more here](#)

## Government launches new push to raise awareness of Victims' Code

The Ministry of Justice is launching a campaign to raise awareness of the Victims Code, so victims have a better understanding of their rights.

The [Victims' Code](#) clearly sets out what victims can expect from the criminal justice system, including the level of support they are entitled to.

Research shows that while young adults are more likely to be victims of violent crime, too many are unaware of their rights, with just one in five victims having heard of the Victims' Code.



[Read more here](#)

## Upcoming Events

**Harlow District Meeting due to take place on Feb 13th has been postponed - new date to follow.**

Basildon District Meeting - Tuesday 25th February 2025 - 7pm till 8pm - Barleylands Farm Park, Barleylands Road, Billericay CM11 2UD

Chelmsford District Meeting - Monday 3rd March 2025 - 7pm till 8pm - Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1JE



# PFCC Weekly Newsletter 7th of February 2025

07-02-2025

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**Latest news from the PFCC - 7th February 2025**

## PFCC announces plan to save Essex PCSOs after additional funding



A plan to save all Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) roles in Essex is being put forward thanks to robust intervention and lobbying of the Government by Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst and Essex MPs and Councillors, the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Panel heard today.

Speaking at the panel meeting today, Mr Hirst revealed he had spent a hectic week outlining the Essex Police funding settlement shortfall to ministers, MPs and the public, details which created consternation among county residents.

On Friday the Government provided £100m of extra funding for policing nationally and Essex Police's share of this funding, £2.3 million, along with other measures, will help bridge the £5.3m shortfall announced last week. A new budget has now been put together which is designed to retain PCSOs in Essex.

Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex, said: "As PFCC for Essex and the joint national finance lead for the police and crime commissioners in England and Wales, we appreciate the government listened to concerns from the policing sector and we welcomed the extra funding announced on Friday."

[Read more here](#)



## Essex Police working with partners to support people impacted by sexual violence

"Our focus is totally on the survivor, helping them in any way they need."

Essex-based Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Caroline Woodcock works closely with people who have been impacted by sexual violence.

She shared the vital work of the county's specialised services teams as part of the national [Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week](#) (Feb 3-9).

Working for CARA (Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse) which covers Mid and North Essex and Uttlesford and is part of the Synergy Essex\* partnership, Caroline supports people in a number of ways, always ensuring their needs are at the heart of the service.

[Read more here](#)

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Find the survey at [www.essexvvu.co.uk/violence](http://www.essexvvu.co.uk/violence) or use the link below.

[Read more here](#)

## Last days to have your say on the future of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service



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Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex

Victims of crime can access support [here](#)  
Book your free Home Fire Safety Visit [here](#)



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