

ESSEX COUNTYWIDE TRAVELLER UNIT: Operations/Performance Update – 9th May 2018



Current performance against strategy / action plan

Fire Safety

This is a sample of the ongoing activities carried out on behalf of EFRS.

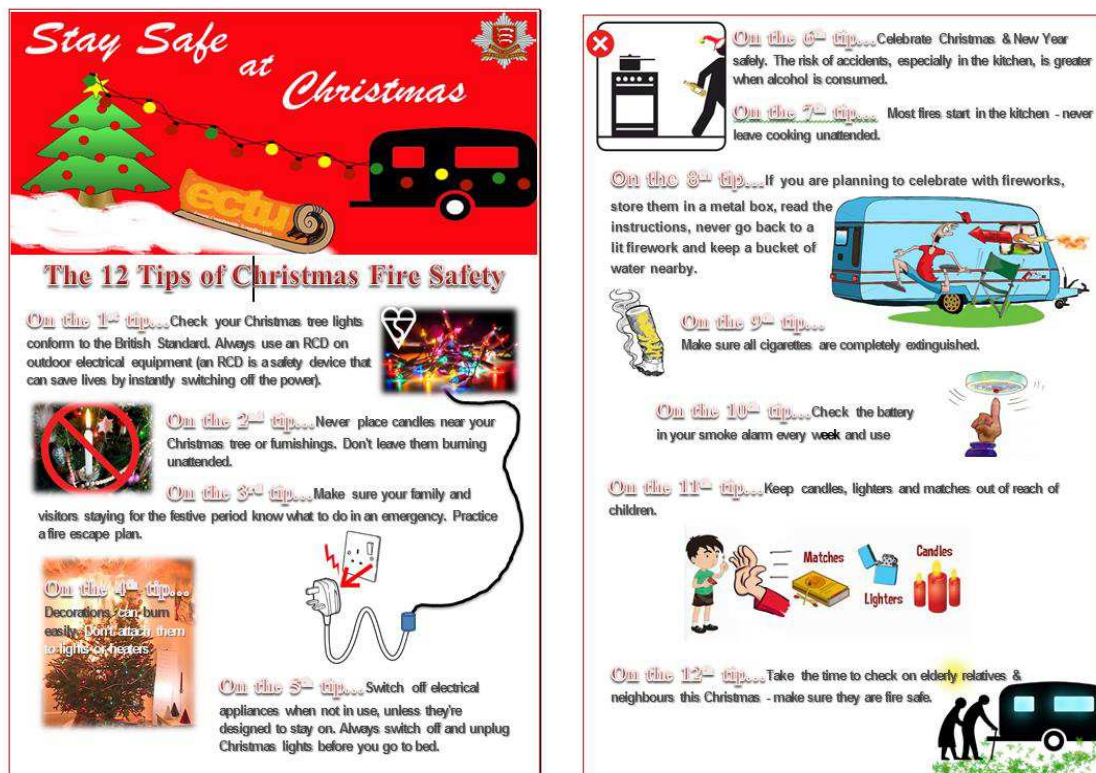


Stay safe at Christmas

The Traveller Community are keen exponents of external Christmas decorations /lighting and internal lighting including naked flame candles. This can represent a very high risk in the caravan site environment. We therefor took the base message for Stay Safe at Christmas from the EFRS web site to generate a Traveller Friendly awareness promotion – The 12 tips of Christmas Fire Safety. This is graphically led to address the literacy issues in the community, was posted in site offices as an A3 poster -



And handed out as a double sided A4 flyer.



This poster was circulated to all site offices and over 250 families were in receipt of the A4 leaflet.

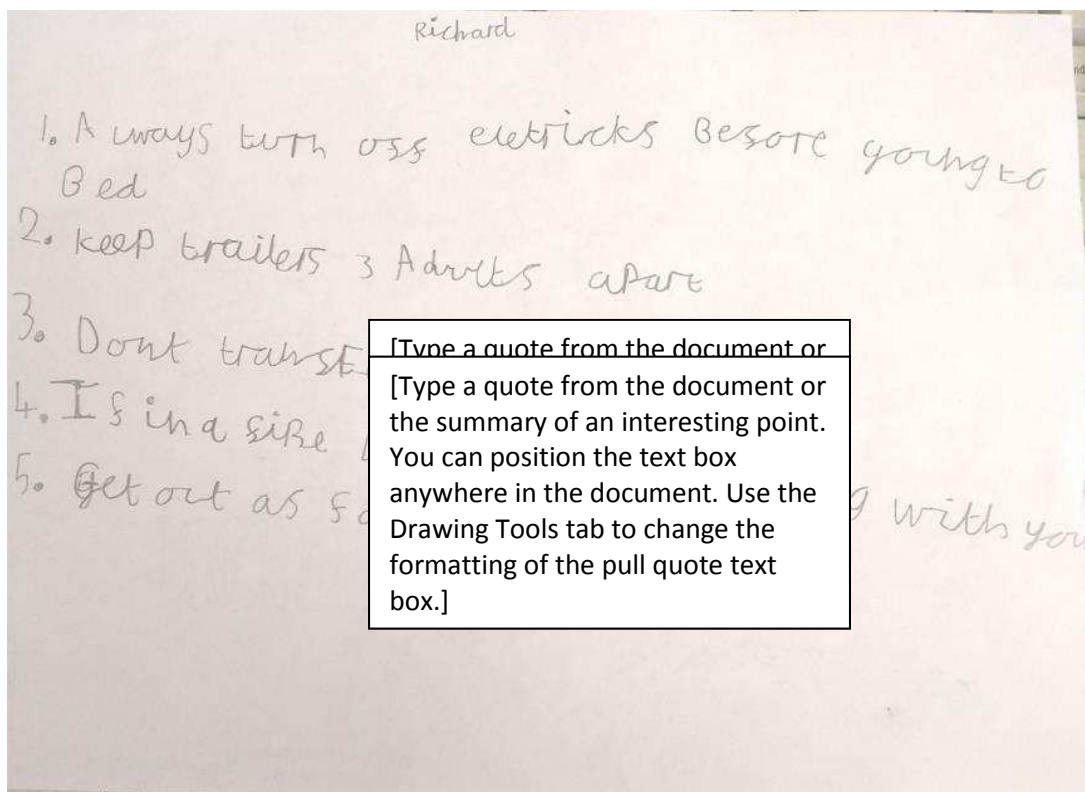
Fire safety awareness training in schools – Crays Hill Primary

Members of the outreach team delivered a fire safety awareness day/training to all of the children at the school. The children are almost exclusively Irish Traveller Children from the Oak Lane/Dale Farm sites.

The training was delivered in such a way as to make it interactive and fun for the children. With the help of the teaching staff, they brought the fire distance illustration to life.



At the end of the session, the children were given some picture to colour in, and then to write on the back some of the key things they had been taught.



There was an unhealthy interest from the older children on the issues of playing with fireworks, which will be referred back EFRS for some follow up training.

We are also in the process of finalising the dates / locations for the Health and Fire Safety Days on site. This continues to be popular with the Travelling community, and an ideal vehicle to deliver key messages to the community reference their health and safety.

Site	District	Date
Hovefields	Basildon	Wednesday 23 rd May 2018
Elizabeth Way	Harlow	Wednesday 30 th May 2018
Oak Lane	Basildon	Wednesday 20 th June 2018
Severalls	Colchester	Wednesday 27 th June 2018
Meadgate – Nazing	Epping Forest	Wednesday 4 th July 2018
Fernhill	Harlow	Thursday 12 th July 2018

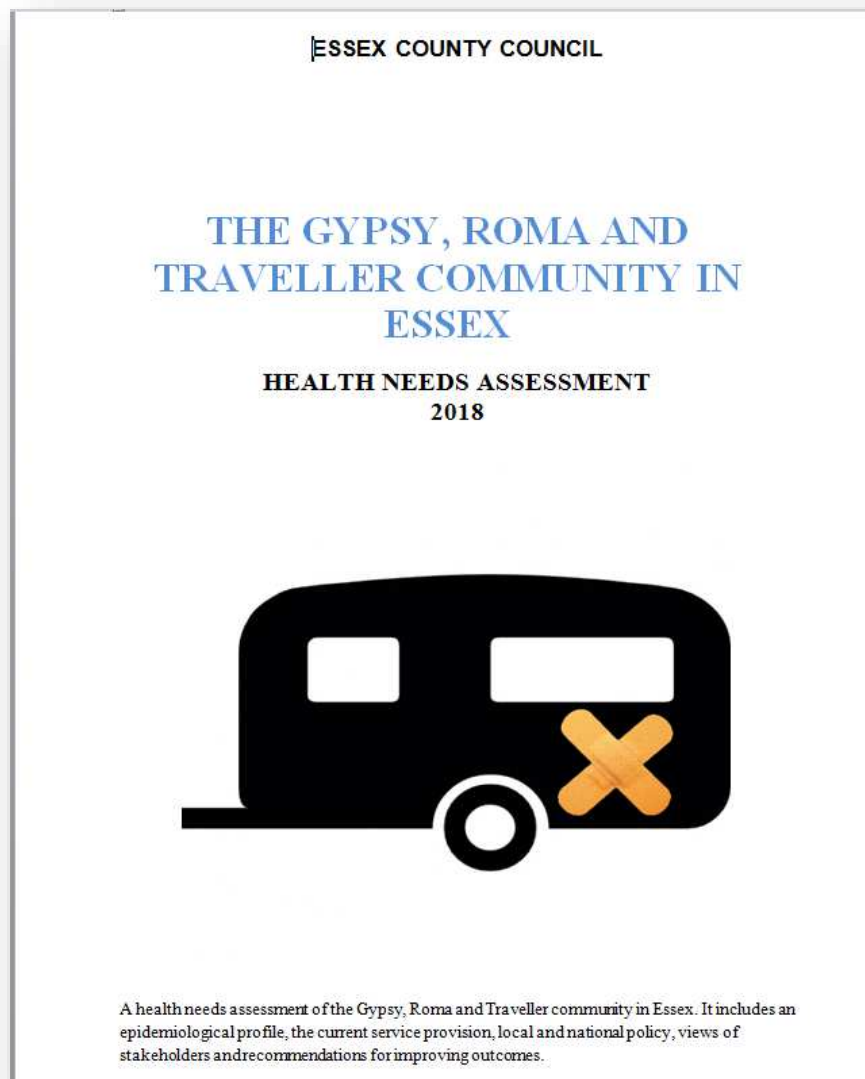
Fire Safety - Performance

Objective	Scope	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Total for report period	Performance for Report period	Time scale
Home fire safety Visit	Approx 400 homes	% of total homes	70%	June 17 to March 18	94	75%	Mar 18
Smoke Alarms issue	Approx 400 homes plus roadside	% of complete HFSV	70%	June 17 to March 18	40	75%	Mar 18
Site Fire Safety Visits	<i>Approx 241 Sites*</i>	% of total sites	75%	June 17 to March 18	47	78%	Mar 18
Provide settled sites data Sheets	<i>Approx 241 Sites*</i>	% of total sites	50%	June 17 to March 18	127	53%	Mar 18
No campaigns this period	County wide	% of total Homes	50%	June 17 to March 18	1 campaign	62%	Ongoing
* Site count increase from 174 to 241 following including of latest GTAA data							

Public Health

Essex Traveller Health Needs Assessment

The final document has now been published



This 97 page document was published in February 2018 following extensive works/consultation in 2017.

The primary recommendations arising are

- Increased awareness around a healthy lifestyle and preventing ill health should be encouraged further and expanded. For example preventing smoking harm and cessation advice should be focussed goals. Similar associations can be made between poor lifestyle habits and long term health. Some of this could potentially be facilitated by members of the Traveller community. It is important to make it positive and proactive; and consider women an important group to recruit first.
- Consider ways to provide easy to access and accurate information on health conditions and common illnesses to help Travellers look after themselves and their families, and to access the services they are entitled to.
- Encourage the use of general NHS services such as 111. Providing information about social and health services available to reduce the reliance on GPs or A&E.
- Consider ways to focus on the health needs of Traveller children, and helping them understand the value of preventative measures in improving and maintaining good health. A good way to do this might be via primary schools.
- Encourage increased awareness and collaboration between professionals and organisations that work with Travellers, eg local authority site managers, health visitors and primary care staff.
- Raising the priority of good health for Travellers amongst groups that are involved with these communities, for example, Essex County Council and local CCG's.
- Develop a strategic and systematic Traveller health and healthcare outcomes work strand for ECTU to implement, with help from the various other key local stakeholders.

New strategy / targets for ECTU to be developed as a result. Until implemented, the statistics in this report will continue with the existing parameters.

Additional campaigns

In addition to the one to one outreach work, we adopted 2 x campaigns for delivery to the Traveller Community.



**A smear test
lasts 5 minutes.**

The impact of cervical cancer

2 Women lose their lives to the disease every day

9 Women diagnosed with cervical cancer every day

75% can be prevented by cervical screening

Call our helpline:
0808 802 8000

**Smear test overdue?
Book yours today**

Find us online:
jostrust.org.uk

29-28 J...
Cervical Cancer Preven...
Jostr...

ectv
East of Cheshire Traveller Unit



**THERE'S NEVER BEEN
A BETTER TIME TO
STOP SMOKING**

For free advice and support,
on stopping smoking,
search 'Smokefree'.
or go to
www.nhs.uk/smokefree

**BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY
ONE YOU**

Public Health
England

ectv
East of Cheshire Traveller Unit

Health									
Objective	Sub objective	Scope	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance at previous reporting period	Performance for Report period	Time scale	Comments
Facilitated to received primary Immunisation		Unknown	No.	50	Nov 17 to March 18	40	0	Mar 18	Total 40
Facilitated to receive the flu jabs		Unknown	No.	150	Nov 17 to March 18	216	0	Mar 18	Total 216
Report known pregnancies on site and link to anti natal , stop smoking etc		Unknown	na	na	Nov 17 to March 18	9	6	Ongoing	Total 15
Identified Long Term Condition		Unknown	No.	25	Nov 17 to March 18	22	3	Mar 18	Total 25

Health cont.

Objective	Sub objective	Scope	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance at previous reporting period	Performance for Report period	Time scale	Comments
Number confirmed/assisted to register with GP	Permanent	Unknown	No	40	Nov 17 to March 18	134	52	Mar 18	Total 186
	Temporary	Unknown	No	na	March 18	6	0	Mar 18	Total 6
Number confirmed/assisted to register with Dentist	Permanent	Unknown	No.	50	Nov 17 to March 18	11	18	Mar 18	Total 29
	Temporary		No.	na	March 18	0	0	Mar 18	
Number referred to stop smoking/alcohol and healthy eating, and Child Safety etc		Unknown	No.	50	Nov 17 to March 18	86	37	Mar 18	Total 123
Ad hoc Campaigns – Mouth cancer		Unknown	No.	50	Nov 17 to March 18	0	100	Mar 18	Total 100
Cervical Smear		Unknown	No.	30	March 18	0	30	Mar 18	Total 30

There is a lot of support/signposting carried out by the outreach team which is not reflected in the above reporting, including direct support to Health Visitors, referrals for specialist support ie Speech and Language , direct support in making and attending medical appointments, mental health referrals, support in obtaining disability aids etc.



Education

Traditionally, the work around education is through supporting members of the Traveller community in accessing/maintaining education from pre-school through to vocational training/apprenticeships and adult learning.

This is reported in statistical terms, which does not reflect the levels on of work/input required from the unit. The following case studies go some way to giving a better indication of the work involved:-

Case study 1 - working with a family regarding withdrawal of EHCP (education health care plan), which would have resulted in a year 10 girl having her one to one tuition withdrawn or considerably reduced hence impacting on her ability to continue successfully with her GSCE's. We have worked with school and SEND together with the family and also referred for support to families in focus, to support in appeal. We coordinated a meeting in school prior to appeal and following this SEND overturned its decision prior to appeal, resulting in support being continued at the same level.

Case study 2 – A family new to the area, we made applications to primary for four children, they started but after only one day, there appeared to be problems, the mother withdrew the children because of an apparent break down in relationship with the school. We liaised between the family and the school, and the family after travelling for a short time, returned to the area and the mother agreed to try again with sending the children into the school. We have liaised with the school to arrange to attend and discuss any issues going forward.

Case study 3 - currently working to get one young person into college for September. He has learning difficulties and we have had to liaise with SEND as his statement was never transferred onto an EHCP, I am hoping to support the family in reapplying for EHCP so that he can attend the course, he has been out of formal education since year 10.

Case study 4 – we are supporting a year 11 pupil who has been home educated and has special educational needs, to make application to college for September to study hair and beauty, I have liaised with SEND and will be arranging to accompany the young person to any appointments re admission and discussing provision for her needs.

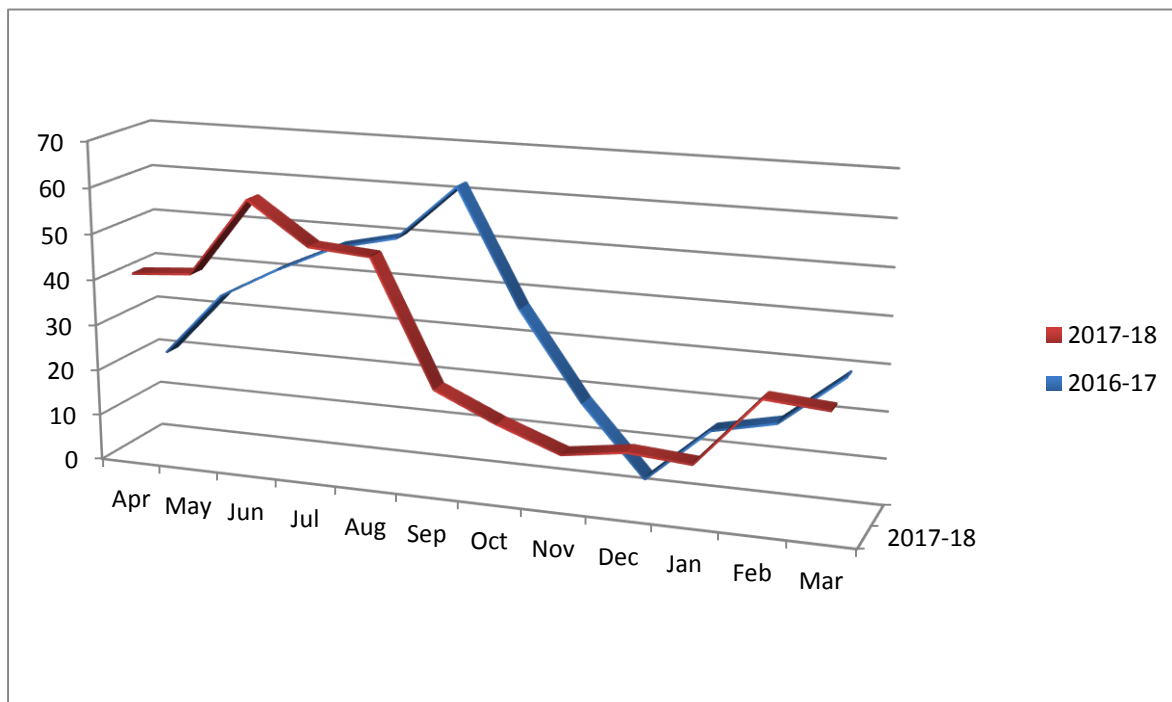
Education

Education								
Objectives	Scope	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance at previous reporting period	Performance for Report period	Time scale	Comments
Number of Children supported into pre-school /school 2 – 16	unknown	No.	150	Nov 17 to March 18	189	99	Mar 18	Total 288
Number of children transferring from primary to secondary	unknown	No.	15	Nov 17 to March 18	14	0	Mar 18	Total 14
Number of young adults supported into further education	unknown	No.	15	Nov 17 to March 18	7	2	Mar 18	Total 9
Number of transport applications Supported	unknown	No.	40	Nov 17 to March 18	65	22	Mar 18	Total 87
Number of 2 year olds funded applications supported	unknown	No.	40	Nov 17 to March 18	85	3	Mar 18	Total 88

There is a lot of additional work that goes on around education in terms of supporting meetings at schools, supporting with uniform issues, bullying issues, attendance meetings and home education.

Unauthorised encampments

Although the number of encampments took an earlier seasonal dip from Sept 2017 through to November 2017, the dip did not continue to previous years' level and has picked up to more seasonal levels. This has resulted on an annual total of 361 – just 13 short of the previous years' total.

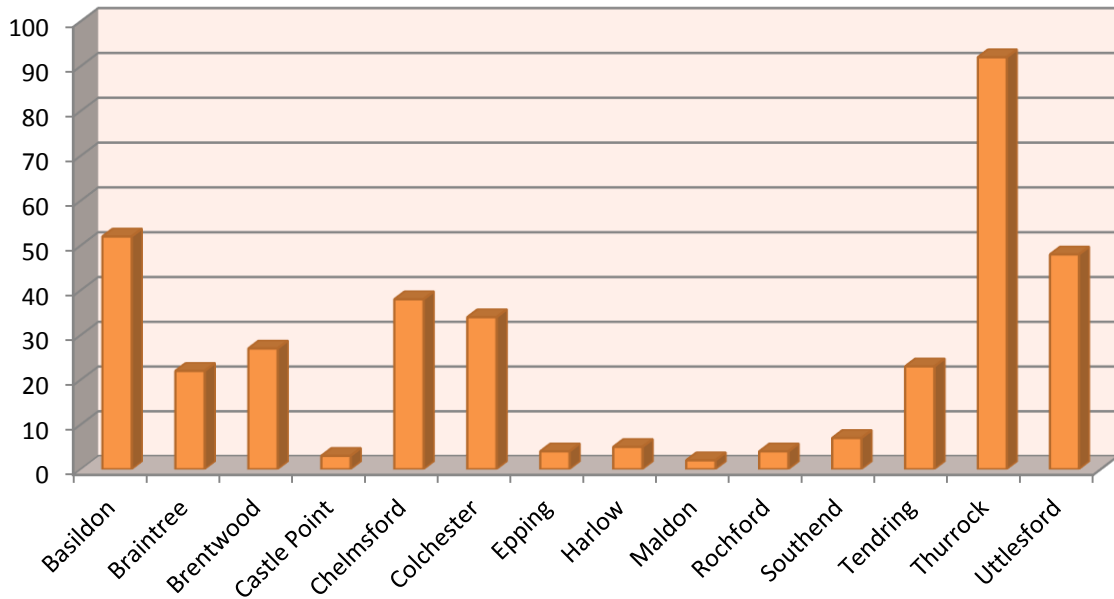


The temporary injunction issued to Basildon does not appear to have impacted on the overall numbers in the Essex at this point.

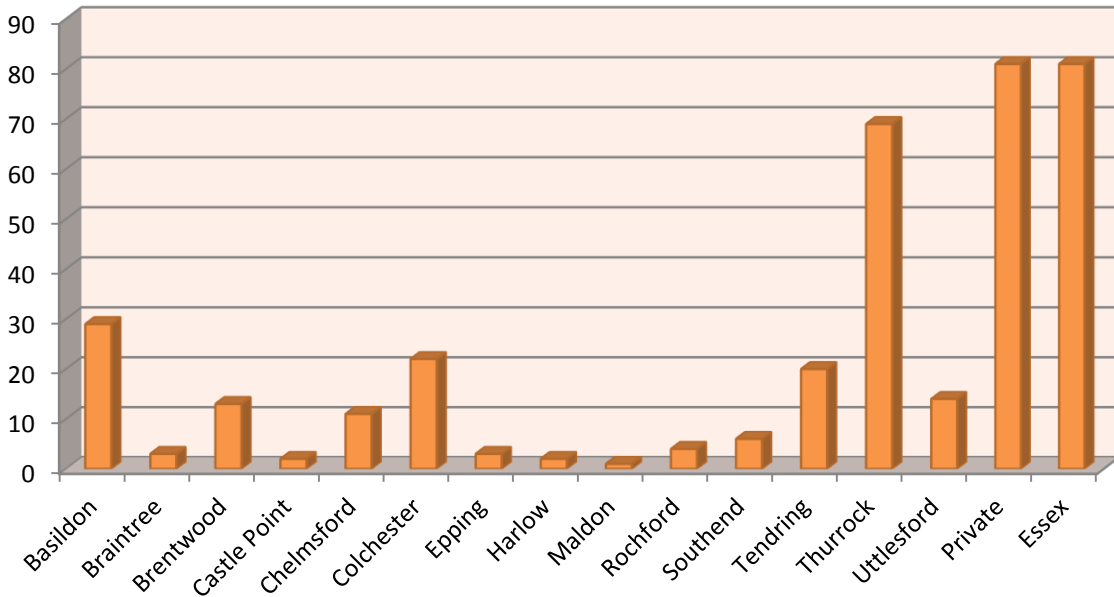
Over this 2017/18 period, we have experienced resource issues with a long term sickness impacting on the enforcement team, however we have been able to maintain performance levels by utilising external resource, but obviously this has resulted in budget pressures.

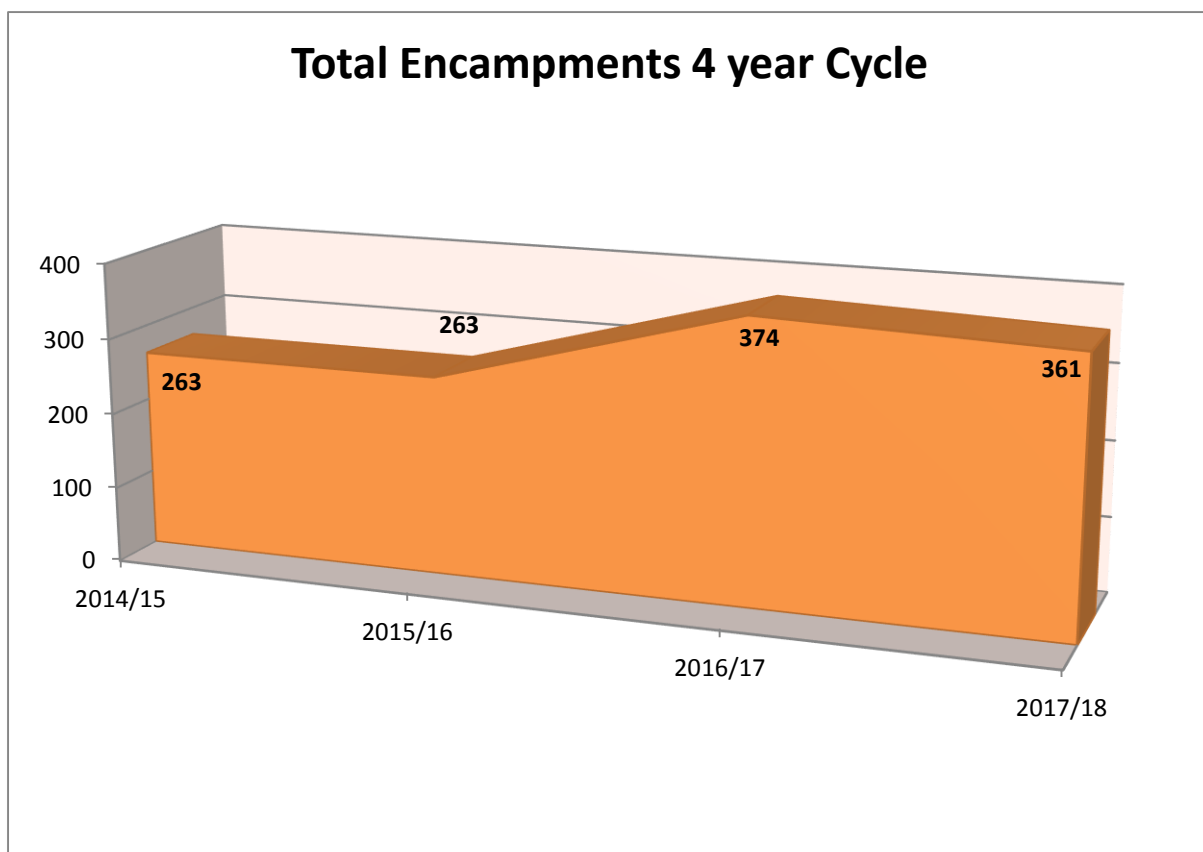
The following charts show UE activity by district – hence numbers will include Highways and Private, and by Land Owner.

No. of Encampments by District 2017/18



No. of Encampments by Land Owner 2017/18





The groups travelling have included the W's who are renowned for their fly tipping activities, which were witnessed again on one encampment in Thurrock, but there were issues with resource availability (not ECTU) to take direct action at the time.

Unauthorised Encampments - Performance						
Objective	sub	Measure	Target	Timescale	Outcome	Comments
UE visited within 1 working day		%	97%	Nov 17 to March 18	96%	2 of the 48 encampments fell outside of target over Christmas.
Encampments resolved through	Negotiated	%	40%		46%	
	Courts	%	60%		46%	
Totals	Section 77/8 Part 55 Section 61 Negotiated	25. 0 12 11	Data Only			
s77's complete within 10 working days		%	100%		100%	
s77's complete within 7 working days		%	90%		100%	
% of encampments where ECTU are involved		%	NA		54%	
Number of encampments	Partner	60	NA			
	Non-partner	2.	NA			
	Private	27.	NA			

Process/Timings

There has been discussion reference the time frame/targets in managing encampment/repossessing the land.

The current target of 7 working days is driven by:-

- Ensuring a consistent/robust procedure - *hence not exposing the authorities to legal challenge*
- The requirement of the courts/court availability – *this build 3 working days, 1 working day from the issues of the DTL to the ability to apply for a court date, 2 working days from the serving of a summons to the court appearance.*
- The ECTU resource based in the geographic area covered – *the unit resource is based on a shared risk basis, covering the majority of Essex, and this model keeps costs to individual partners at a low level. Any changes to the above which requires greater resource input to the process/or district, will result in a reduction in service levels for other partner area unless resource is increased.*
- *If it were* an option re reduce the turnaround from 7 to 6 working days, it would often create more problems than realise benefits:
 - If a group is remaining in a specific district, they would create 5 encampments a month, as opposed to 4, hence bringing the associate issues to group of the local populous would not have been impacted
 - Increase in the costs of management, potential of a max increase of 12 encampments per group per annum
 - Groups could be moved on to less appropriate stopping places

In all cases, we ensure that we complete the enforcement process as quickly as possible.

Communications/SPOCS

The original structure of the ECTU based on resource, and effective maintenance of communications/links resulted in the SPOC structure, in that the main route of information sharing between ECTU and partners is through the nominated SPOC – single point of contact, who would then share the information internally as required.

This is not only ensure we do not have to maintain lengthy contacts lists for partner areas, but also to ensure a single clear message/pathway to eliminate duplication, multiple/conflicting directions, queries as a result of lack of knowledge of process etc.

Over a period of time, this process has broken down in some areas with requests for multiple partner contacts on the circulation lists. We will be reviewing the lists and seeking to reduce them to a max of 2 contacts per partner to reinstate the agreed structure.

Website

Long term we will still be seeking an independent web presence. However, we have carried out some base line updates to the existing web site, and we are able to publish two variations of a short URL to give direct access:-

www.essex.gov.uk/traveller

www.essex.gov.uk/travellers

Either option will take you directly to the relevant ECTU pages on the ECC site

The screenshot shows the Essex County Council website. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "I'm looking for..." and a magnifying glass icon. To the right of the search bar is a blue button that says "KEEP ME POSTED" with a sub-link "> Sign up to e-alerts". Further right is the Essex County Council logo, which consists of three red curved lines above the text "Essex County Council". Below the header is a navigation bar with four tabs: "Residents" (highlighted in red), "Business", "Your Council", and "News desk". Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Environment and Planning > Environmental issues > Local environment > Gypsies and Travellers". The main content area has a heading "Essex Countywide Traveller Unit (ECTU) and Essex County Council (ECC) site management" in blue. To the left of this heading is a sidebar with a red header "Gypsies and Travellers" and several links: "Essex County Council permanent sites", "Unauthorised encampments", "Code for unauthorised encampments in Essex", "Gypsy and Traveller Education", "Gypsy and Traveller Fire Safety", and "Gypsy and Traveller Healthcare". The main content area contains a date "10 April 2018" and two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph states: "It's the aim of Essex County Council to ensure all residents of Essex, whether living in settled or transitory communities, are treated equally and with respect." The second paragraph states: "ECTU is a partnership operation between 11 Essex District, Borough, City and Unitary councils, Essex County Council including education and public health, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Police." The third paragraph states: "The unit seeks to provide support to the community in accessing key services across Essex. This includes providing site and home fire safety visits, supporting children into school/further education, ensuring that communities have the necessary access to health services, managing unauthorised encampments (trespass) on all partner land and managing the 12 permanent local authority caravan sites. This support and information is for both the settled community and Gypsy/Travellers."

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit (ECTU) and Essex County Council (ECC) site management

10 April 2018

It's the aim of Essex County Council to ensure all residents of Essex, whether living in settled or transitory communities, are treated equally and with respect.

ECTU is a partnership operation between 11 Essex District, Borough, City and Unitary councils, Essex County Council including education and public health, Essex Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Police.

The unit seeks to provide support to the community in accessing key services across Essex. This includes providing site and home fire safety visits, supporting children into school/further education, ensuring that communities have the necessary access to health services, managing unauthorised encampments (trespass) on all partner land and managing the 12 permanent local authority caravan sites. This support and information is for both the settled community and Gypsy/Travellers.

Training

Training packages delivered by ECTU promoting cultural understanding, and awareness of the Unit and it's work. Since the November meeting we have

- Complete 5 x officer training sessions for Maldon District council from November 17 through to March 18.



- Presenting to the Essex Addiction Recovery group – 3rd sector organisations supporting drug and alcohol issues for Public Health in March 2018



- Presenting at the Integrated Childrens Event organised by ECC at Chelmsford CC in April

- Delivering Gypsy/Traveller Training module for the pilot Essex Police Training program on Domestic Violence.

Police GTRET Report



GTRET are a single point of contact for both Essex Police and other forces in relation to Gypsy and Traveller matters.

We recently assisted Staffordshire police execute a search warrant at an unauthorised encampment in the Thurrock area in relation to a murder investigation. The encampment was on the highway and therefore not subject to S61. We also assisted local police at the same encampment when suspects were identified in relation to burglary offences.

We assisted community policing teams in a search for wanted persons at a Traveller site in the Dunmow area and in doing so discovered a cannabis grow in a garden shed.

We are actively involved in the disruption of hare coursing and on the 25th of March arrested seven men and seized their cars. Other persons have been dealt with and vehicles seized for hare coursing over the last few months.

We recovered a vehicle from a Traveller site in the Dunmow area when the occupant ran from police and discovered stolen property within the vehicle. The male has been identified and work is on-going to locate him.

Most of the team are now CAA qualified drone pilots and have been assisting local authorities and police operations in relation to both Traveller sites and hare coursing. We have provided footage to a local authority regarding illegal waste disposal at a Traveller site north of the county. We have secured funding for a drone for the team which means that one will be available when required.

We are consistently applying section 61 powers in relation to unauthorised encampments and served on the same encampment on four different occasions in just over a week. They continued to display anti-social behaviour at the various sites they visited in Southend, Rochford and Colchester.

At another encampment a GTRET officer arrested two suspects for causing damage to gain entry to the land as there was evidence to identify the persons responsible.

Other areas of policing are not ignored by the team and an officer arrested a lady for illegal entry to the UK and fraud. She had been working in a care home under a false name for several years. This followed on from a simple stop check for a minor motoring offence.

ECTU Consultation – shaping the future

At the time of writing this report, we have received responses from:-

Essex Fire and Rescue Service
Braintree Rochford
Castle Point Tendring
Chelmsford Uttlesford
Colchester

There has been no response from:-

Essex Police/PFCC
Thurrock Brentwood
Basildon Maldon
Public Health

The core questions were grouped under:-

- Service delivery
- Resourcing/contribution
- Communications
- Co-ordination Role
- External/other opportunities.

A preliminary review suggests there is minimal requirement for significant change to the existing operational set up. A full report will be delivered at the meeting.

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit – shaping for the future
A consultation for the future operation of ECTU
Author: Steve Andrews, ECTU Manager 22nd January 2018

In answering the questions below, can you please bear in mind that the benefits to your authority/agency are likely to be over and above your direct interest in the unit

ECTU Consultation question 1 – service delivery

What do you consider to be the key services/expectations of the ECTU (the unit)?

Are there any new services you would like the unit to deliver?

Are there any services you would like the unit to stop delivering

Are there any enhancements to existing services you would like the unit to deliver?

Do you think the current services should remain at existing levels