

ESSEX COUNTYWIDE TRAVELLER UNIT: Operations/Performance Update – 15th June 2017



Current performance against strategy / action plan

Unauthorised encampments



The second half of the year saw no reduction in the number of encampments, as we continue to see the pattern remain of increased numbers and year round encampments. A prominent family group displaced by the Harlow injunction, continue to heavily impact on encampment numbers in Basildon and Harlow.

More recently two family groups, who were also named persons on the Harlow injunction, but initially moved out of Essex for some 3 years, have now started to re-appear following an interim injunction awarded against them by the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

The Police and Crime Commissioners round table meeting for all Chief Execs, Authority Leaders, MP's and senior Police officers - progress against initial objectives:-

1. **Managing illegal encampments** - Learning from Best Practice - Northamptonshire CC, Developing common protocols, Development of a guidance note for Councillors, ECTU Member Training Programme Roll Out

A draft "single protocol" which is predominantly how the Police and ECTU or the Police and non-partner authorities will work together. The draft protocol will be share/discussed at the joint committee meeting.

We have developed a "guidance note for Councillors" appendix II – this includes "non-encampments" as discussed at the last ops board. This has yet to be shared by PCC's office, but we can still circulate under the ECTU banner.

It has not been possible to combine the ECTU and Police codes for UE's at this stage.

Training – this is available to all partners officers/members.

2. **Legislative Changes** The Harlow Proposition , Opportunities for Civil Action

It was generally agreed that there would be little opportunity of Parliamentary

time, and at this stage. There has been some local discussion with Basildon and Mark Francois MP reference this issues. ECTU to participate if opportunity continues post-election.

3. **Transit Site Provision, Potential locations, requirements & costs for establishing a transit site**

There is no progress in this area outside of what has been discussed previously re ECC's work in this area.

4. **Communications - Agenda for next 'Full' Roundtable Quarterly Liaison Meeting**

No noted progress

Fly Tipping – is becoming an increasing concern around encampments most notably around two family groups displaced by a recent injunction in Barking and Dagenham. This is outside of the ECTU remit in terms of direct action, but there is often confusion amongst the members of the public and members as to where this falls in terms of jurisdiction/powers, and can often be assumed Gypsy/Traveller as under ECTU or the Police.

This should normally fall to the Environmental Health teams in the partner authorities. It may be useful if we could develop a simple guide to Fly Tipping in terms of depts responsible, powers/evidence which can be shared with our members, and used to inform members of the public.

It has previously been proposed a more joined up approach to Fly Tipping be adopted, but has not been progressed at this stage due to lack of additional funding although is something that may merit further consideration/proposals.

Injunctions – Harlow DC are applying for the existing injunction, which expires in July this year, to be extended – I believe indefinitely. This injunction has impacted on the remainder of Essex, with Chelmsford and Basildon mainly effected with part of the group displaced from Harlow targeting their industrial estates. And now we have another part of the displaced Harlow group returning to Essex. The hearing is scheduled for 14th June.

Basildon BC are also seeking an injunction on the targeted industrial estates in the borough.

It was raised at the Operations board, whether the Joint Committee would want to consider a joint county wide injunction on the key named family groups responsible for a large proportion of the encampments/issues being faced in Essex.

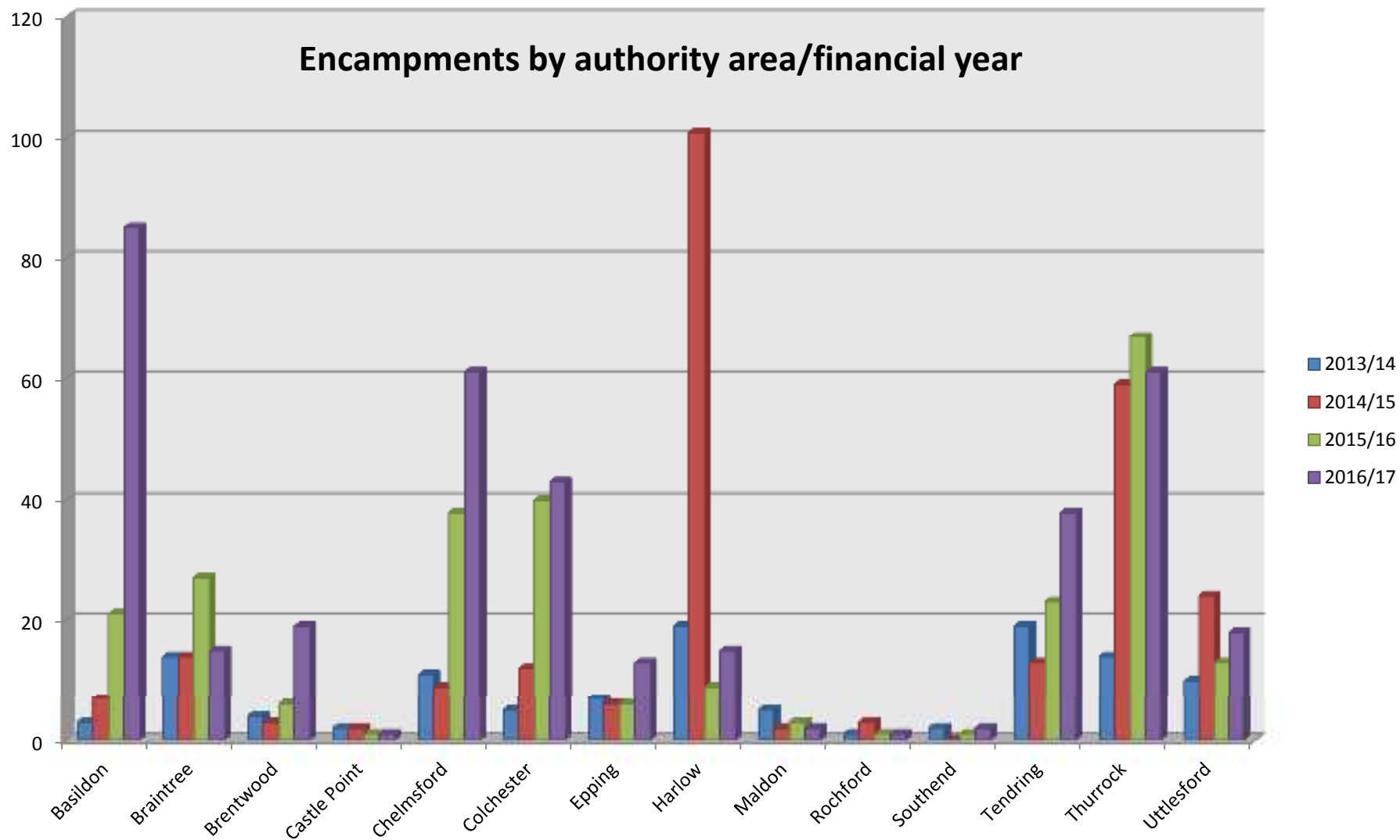
Unauthorised Encampments - Performance

Objective	Sub Division	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance for Report period	Comments
UE visited within 1 working day		%	97%	Nov 16 to Apr 17	100%	Based on current volumes this is an exceptional performance
Number of encampments resolved through	negotiated departure	%	40%	Nov 16 to Apr 17	41%	Low performance as majority of court cases are with the persistent groups
	Court enforcement	%	60%	Nov 16 to Apr 17	46%	Exceeding target in percentage terms, although volumes are driving up the cost
Total	Section 77/8 Part 55 Section 61 Negotiated	No. No. No. No.	53 0 12 47	Nov 16 to Apr 17	Data only	
s77's complete within 10 working days		%	98%	Nov 16 to Apr 17	100%	Exceeding target
s77's complete within 7 working days		%	95%	Nov 16 to Apr 17	90%	Impacted by sheer volume

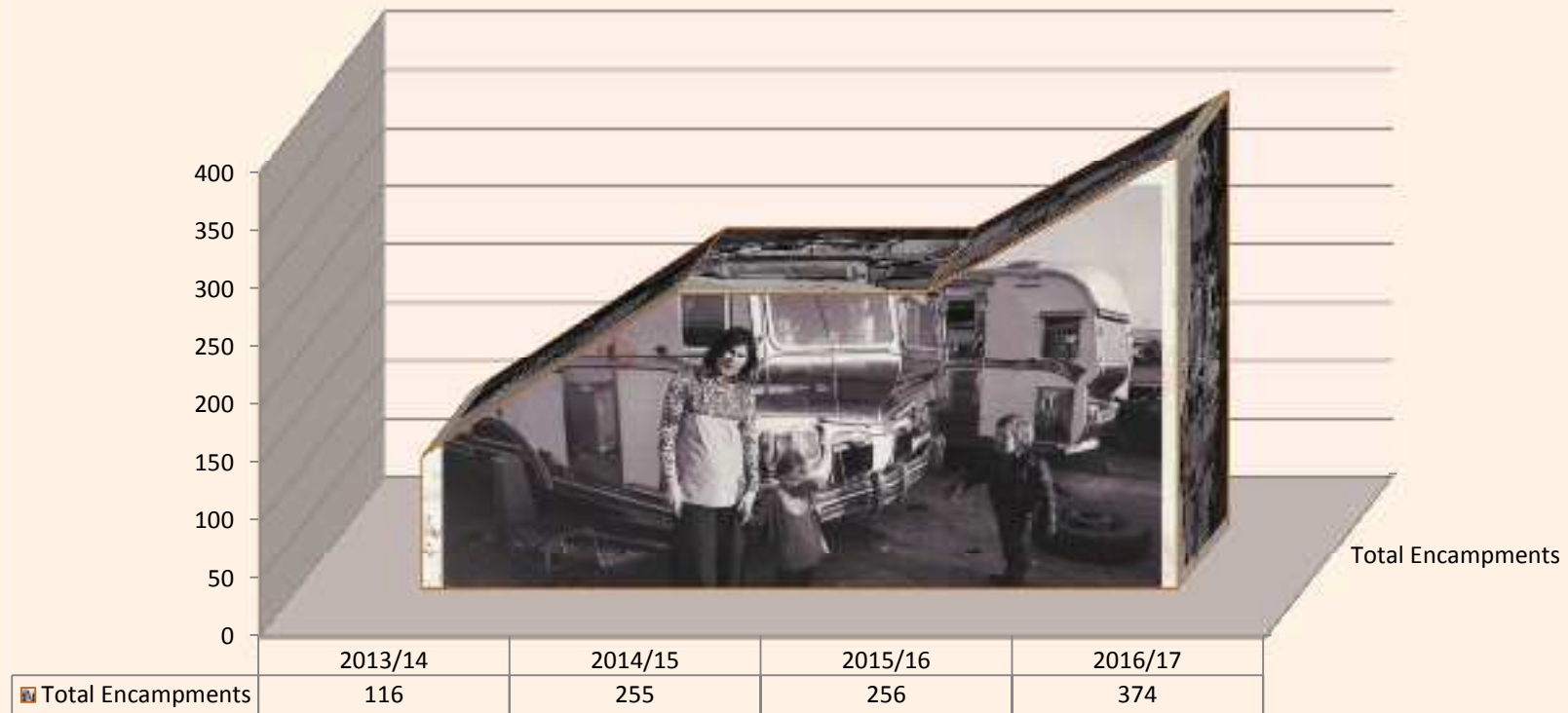
Unauthorised Encampments - data

Sub Division		Timescale / Report period	Data for Report period	Comments
% of encampments where ECTU are involved		Nov 16 to Apr 17	82%	Increase from last period of 22%
Number of encampments	Partner	Nov 16 to Apr 17	88	
	Non-partner	Nov 16 to Apr 17	5	Non-partners may not share all of their encampment details.
	Private	Nov 16 to Apr 17	22	

Encampments by authority area/financial year



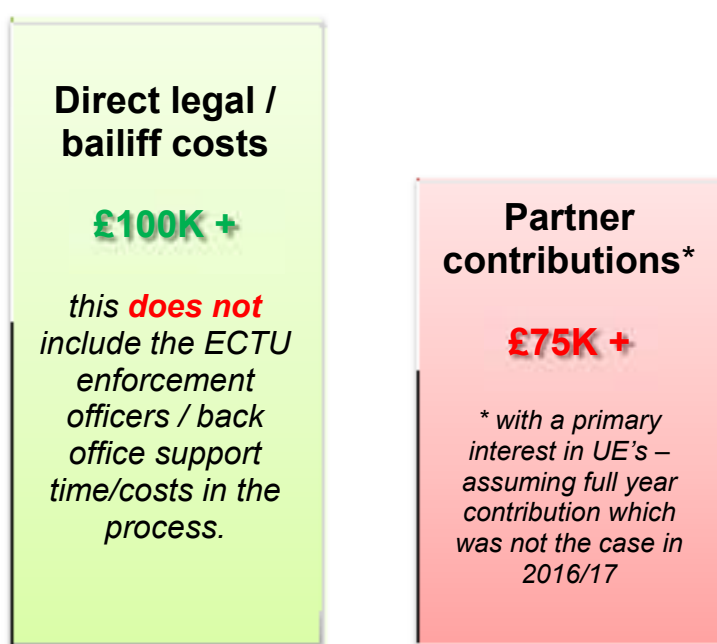
Total Encampments



Ongoing structure/sustainability of the enforcement aspect of the Unit

As has been stated in the finance report, the original structure/funding model for the unit was based on the known encampment levels in 2012. It has been well reported re: the step changes in numbers, and we have been trying to operate with the same resources and a reduced partner contribution – due to higher early reserve levels. To date, the 200% increase in demand and the resulting pressure on resources and significant increases in legal/bailiff costs etc has been offset, to a degree, through reserves. However, this last year has proved that something has got to give and we have utilised all of the remaining reserves to deliver the service.

In simple terms, in 2016/17 –



In order to maintain the unit as it stands based on current demands, we will need to look at the ongoing funding structure with significant changes in ECC /district /borough/city/unitary partners with an interest in the encampment service, and their contributions in order to support this increase in demand for the current duration. Any accepted increase will be to meet the current demands, and can be reviewed periodically.

Fire Safety



We are in the process of implementing improvements/changes to the Fire Safety services delivered on behalf of/in partnership with Essex Fire and Rescue Services (EFRS).

We have been working to the training / report formats and objectives originally set at the launch on the unit in 2012, but with changes in the EFRS team supporting the unit, we have taken advantage of a very successful day of refresher training, plus a review of materials, reporting content / formats, and an exciting opportunity of centralised data recording to ensure maximum benefit to EFRS, and the Traveller Community.

In addition to the above training/outcomes included:-

- Sensory Loss and Effective Communication
- Revisions to Home Fire Safety Visit forms/process
- Revisions to Site Fire Safety visit forms/process
- Update of the Fire Safety for Gypsy/Travellers (see above) leaflet
- On site message delivery aids
- Discussions on future aids to promote the fire safety message to Gypsy/Traveller ie DVD.

On site health and safety days

There was an early opportunity to implement our newly enhanced knowledge at the first of this year's site health and safety days. We target both Adults and Children on the sites on a number of key health, general safety/wellbeing and fire safety issues, and utilised the new information flip folder, as well as interactive events for the children. A particular favourite was the "hook a duck" game. Each duck had a number which corresponded to a Fire Safety topic which the child could then interact with our officers on.



Data

We are in the process of providing all data recorded since the inception of ECTU, to EFRS to be recorded centrally . This will include all Home Fire Safety and Site Fire Safety visits plus the smoke alarms issued.



We have started to laser measure/record site entrances to ensure sufficient access for appliances.

Fire Safety – Data for full Joint Committee report

Objective	Scope	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance at previous reporting period	Performance for Report period	Time scale
Home fire safety Visit	Approx 400 homes	% of total homes	70%	Nov 16 to May 17	75%	75%	May 17
Smoke Alarms issue	Approx 400 homes plus roadside	% of complete HFSV	75%	Nov 16 to May 17	73%	75%	May 17
Site Fire Safety Visits	Approx 174 Sites	% of total sites	75%	Nov 16 to May 17	77%	80%	May 17
Provide settled sites data Sheets	Approx 174 Sites	% of total sites	50%	Nov 16 to May 17	71% available	80%	May 17
No campaigns this period	County wide	% of total Homes		Nov 16 to May 17			Ongoing

Fire Safety – Data for full Joint Committee report

	Visits – smoke alarms issued pre current reporting period	Timescale / Report period	Data for Report period	Comments	
Home fire safety Visit	288	Nov 16 to May 17	3	Total	291
Smoke Alarms issue	367	Nov 16 to May 17	17	Total	384
Site Fire Safety Visits	134	Nov 16 to May 17	54	Total	188
Provide settled sites data Sheets	95	Nov 16 to May 17	17	Total	112
Access measurements	0	Nov 16 to May 17	46	Total	46
Dynamic updates on high risk encampments	ongoing	Nov 16 to May 17	ongoing		

Since the last report, we developed with our Public Health partner a Traveller friendly questionnaire to carry out a health needs assessment for the Essex Traveller community.



The “quality” of this document has been recognised by colleagues outside of Essex, who asked to see a copy, and then adopted “as is” for their own project. Not sure where we stand with copyright here?

Health & Wellbeing questionnaire 2019

The Public Health Team at the Royal Gloucestershire and Thornbury District Hospital is keen to find out more about your health and how you are getting on, with a questionnaire that you can fill in at home. It is only 10 minutes to complete and you can return it to us when you are ready.

This questionnaire is a survey and is not done as part of a clinical assessment. It will not be used to make any decisions about your care or treatment. It will be used to help us understand what our patients think and how we can improve our services.

What is your name?

Do you own your site, or is it rented?

Is owned, do you have planning in place?

What year do you live in?

How many people live in your home?

What is your age?

What is your gender?

What is your ethnicity?

What is your religion?

What is your marital status?

What is your occupation?

What is your highest level of education?

What is your current health status?

What is your current mental health status?

What is your current physical health status?

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Long Term Conditions

Do you have any long term conditions?

If yes, which one of the family is it?

Do you have any other long term conditions?

Are you receiving adequate care and support for your condition? Do you have any medical history information or a support plan or advice here...

What are the most common factors which lead to a long term condition?

	Yes	No	Yes	No
High smoking			Alcohol consumption	
High eating			Childhood overweight	
High drinking			Genetics	
High stress			Long term illness	
High anxiety			Genetics	
High depression			Genetics	
High blood pressure			Genetics	
High cholesterol			Genetics	
High diabetes			Genetics	
High asthma			Genetics	
High arthritis			Genetics	
High cancer			Genetics	
High heart disease			Genetics	
High kidney disease			Genetics	
High liver disease			Genetics	
High lung disease			Genetics	
High mental health			Genetics	
High physical health			Genetics	

YOUR PHYSICAL HEALTH

YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

This was taken out by ECTU outreach and site management teams to the Essex Traveller population, with a result of 112 families completing / responding. As per above, although there has to be some text, hence support of officers was often needed to complete, we have tried to include as much graphic content to make it more open, and less intimidating for those with literacy issues. There is a 3rd page to this document which is not shown here.

Our public health colleagues are in the process of pulling together the final report based on responses, which will feed into the work of ECTU going forwards. There were over 120 Families responding.

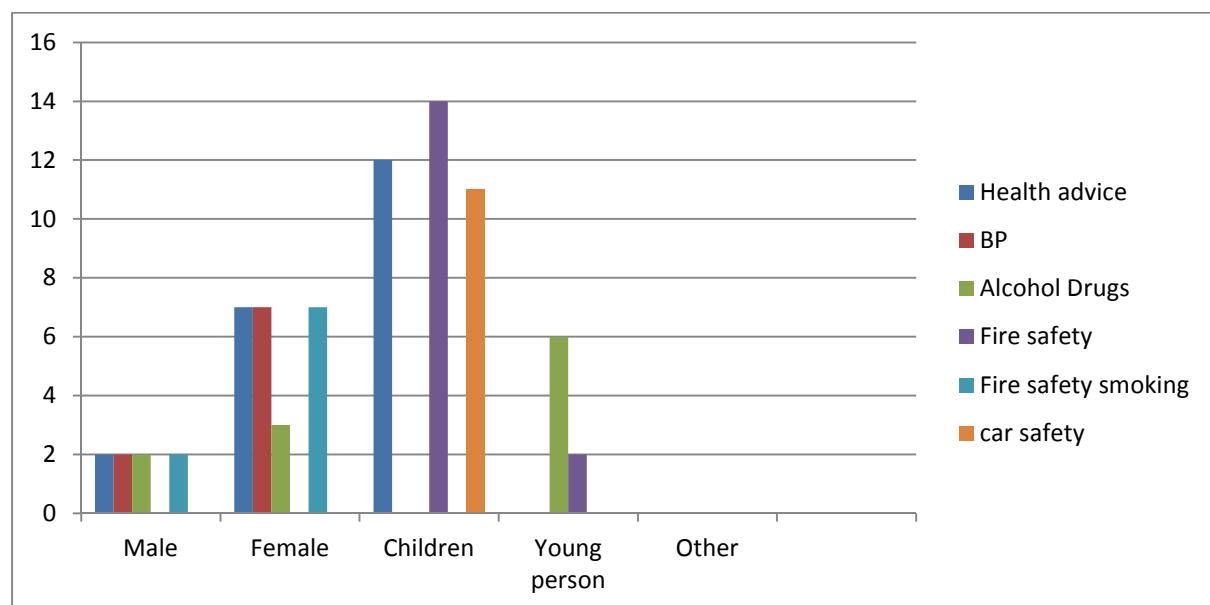
Health days

We have, once again commenced our Health and Safety/Wellbeing days on site across Essex. We have a full season planned, which commenced on Wood Corner Caravan site in Maldon on Wednesday 24th May.

As always we target, adults, teens and children alike to deliver key messages and this year we are targeting healthy eating, families & carers and fire safety.

As mentioned in the fire safety report – the “hook a duck” game was used to promote fire safety. Healthy eating was promoted through growing “cress heads” and leading into discussions on healthy eating, weight management etc.

This was in addition to the usual health advice, blood pressure checks, stop smoking advice etc.



Other agencies supporting on this event included

Provide - offering Blood Pressure monitoring, smoking advice, healthy lifestyle advice

AFFC - offering Adult carer support

Barnardo's - Children and family service offering support and advice

Current performance data will be added for the final joint committee report.

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 16 to May 17	28	8	May 17	Total 36
Facilitated to receive the flu jabs		Unknown	No.	150	Nov 16 to May 17	192	6	May 17	Total 198
Report known pregnancies on site and link to anti natal , stop smoking etc		Unknown	na	na	Nov 16 to May 17	3	6	Ongoing	Total 9
Identified Long Term Condition		Unknown	No.	25	Nov 16 to May 17	8	12	May 17	Total 19

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 16 to May 17	21	113	May 17	Total 134
	Temporary	Unknown	No	na		6	0	May 17	Total 6
Number confirmed/assisted to register with Dentist	Permanent	Unknown	No.	50	Nov 16 to May 17	5	6	May 17	Total 11
	Temporary		No.	na		0	0	May 17	
Health Checks Facilitated		Unknown	No.	25	Nov 16 to May 17	4	11	Nov 16	Total 15
Number referred to stop smoking/alcohol and healthy eating, and Child Safety etc		Unknown	No.	50	Nov 16 to May 17	76	11	Nov 16	Total 86

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 – data to be complete for final JC report

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 16 to May 17	54	40	May 17	Total 94
Number of children transferring from primary to secondary	unknown	No.	15	Nov 16 to May 17	10	2	May 17	Total 12
Number of young adults supported into further education	unknown	No.	15	Nov 16 to May 17	0	1	May 17	Total 1
Number of transport applications Supported	unknown	No.	40	Nov 16 to May 17	22	4	May 17	Total 26
Number of 2 year olds funded applications supported	unknown	No.	40	Nov 16 to May 17	3	2	May 17	Total 5

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.

Police

Sgt Paul Downes is confirmed as remaining as the Gypsy/Traveller liaison officer for Essex Police. In conjunction with the single protocol being developed via the PCC, the Traveller section at Essex Police is being expanded to 4 x officers. 1 x sergeant (in post), and 3 x constables. The intention is that this team will operate on a 7 day a week, 8am to 10pm.



Communications plan – for review - ongoing

External – we have experienced some misleading reporting on a number of issues, which we seek to correct if the opportunity arises. However, as we do not necessarily see all press reports, this is not comprehensive.

Internal – we are starting to experience a number of issues in duplication/confusion re comms within the unit. For example, we are getting requests for additional members to be put onto the daily/weekly circulation lists of unauthorised encampments. This is resulting in multiple queries coming back in for a single authority on the same encampment. The setup of the unit was intended as the SPOC/Joint Committee member being conduits for the respective partners. Can we please discuss and agree the way forwards, as we have limited resource which can be overwhelmed where we have controversial encampments. Member awareness training – mentioned below, might head off some of the queries being raised.



Websites – There is an obvious, and acknowledged need for a dedicated and dynamic web presence for ECTU to be able to promote the positive activities /outcomes of the unit, be a conduit for members of the Gypsy/Traveller community to access services/support and also for dynamic reporting of encampments to enable members of the public to report new, or view those currently being managed, hence avoid duplication of calls, and to give some reassurance that we are aware, and what stage we are at in the repossession process.

As with all such things, there is a budget needed for development, and the recent high level of activity has not allowed consideration for such a development within the current funding structure. If we are to cost such a project, it would currently be on the understanding the partners would contribute to its development – which in line with earlier requests, may not be practicable. If that is the case, we will either have to wait until capacity allows, or seek external funding opportunities.

Transit Sites

Update to be provided by Paul Ashworth.

Training

This remains on the agenda for the PCC's single protocol. The following sessions have been delivered in the last 6 to 12 months:-

- Brentwood DC – to members, as a pre cursor to sign up to the unit.
- Colchester DC – to cabinet
- Basildon BC – to members
- Maldon DC – to officers
- Society of Local Council Clerks – Officers training day



We have prepared a draft “Member Fact Sheet” and submitted it to the PCC’s office as requested, but I am not aware of it progressing further – attached for your comments.

