



Essex County Council

Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee

14:00	Monday, 31 October 2022	Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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For information about the meeting please ask for:

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		Pages
1	Membership, Apologies, Declarations of Interest	4 - 4
2	Minutes of 10 June 2022 and matters arising from that meeting not covered in agenda.	5 - 9
3	Finance Update To receive an update from Kathryn Long - Financial Controller, ECC.	10 - 14
4	Rural Engagement Team Update To receive a report from Sgt Paul Brady, Essex Police.	15 - 15
5	Operations Performance Update which includes:	
5.1	Outreach Report To receive an update from Susan Enwere - ECTU Outreach Officer, ECC and Nicola Coates - ECTU Outreach Officer, ECC.	16 - 18
5.2	Education Project Report To receive an update from Chante Adjei - ECTU Outreach Worker, ECC.	19 - 24

- 5.3 Unauthorised Encampment Report** **25 - 33**
To receive an update from Alec Baker - ECTU Officer, ECC.
- 6 Date of Next Meeting**
To consider future meeting dates in 2022/23.
- 7 Urgent Business**
To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

- 8 Urgent Exempt Business**
To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Committee: Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee

Enquiries to: Freddey Ayres, Democratic Services Officer

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership

(Quorum: 4)

Councillor Mark Durham (Chairman)
Councillor Jane Fleming
Councillor Robert Gledhill
Councillor Paul Honeywood
Councillor Godfrey Isaacs (Vice Chairman)
Councillor George Jeffery
Councillor Anthony McQuiggan
Councillor Keith Parker
Councillor Wendy Schmitt
Councillor Jannetta Sosin
Councillor Maggie Sutton
Councillor Arthur Williams
Councillor Julie Young
Chief Inspector Terry Balding

Minutes of the meeting of the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Joint Committee, held at 10am on Friday, 10 June 2022

Present:

Cllr Mark Durham	Essex County Council
Cllr Jane Fleming	Maldon District Council
Cllr Paul Honeywood	Tendring District Council
Cllr Godfrey Isaacs	Castle Point District Council
Cllr George Jeffrey	Basildon Borough Council
Cllr Anthony McQuiggan	Essex County Council
Cllr Keith Parker	Brentwood Borough Council
Cllr Jannetta Sosin	Chelmsford City Council
Cllr Maggie Sutton	Uttlesford District Council
Cllr Richard van Dulken	Braintree District Council

Also present:

Chante Adjei	Essex County Council
Paul Ashworth	Essex County Council
Freddey Ayres (Clerk)	Essex County Council
Alec Baker	Essex County Council
Gemma Bint	Essex County Council
Sgt Paul Brady	Essex Police
Nicola Coates	Essex County Council
Susan Enwere	Essex County Council
Carron Nason	Essex County Council
Donna Norman	Essex County Council
Damian Williams	Tendring District Council

1 Welcome, Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The clerk opened the meeting. The membership as presented in the agenda papers was noted:

Apologies had been received from the following:

- Councillors Robert Gledhill; Thurrock Council
- Councillor Wendy Schmitt; Braintree District Council
- Councillor Arthur Williams; Rochford District Council
- Councillor Julie Young; Colchester Borough Council
- Adrian Coggins; Essex County Council
- Jane Gardener; Deputy Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
- Will Newman; Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Election of Chairman

In response to the clerk inviting nominations for Chairman for the municipal year, Councillor Isaacs nominated Councillor Durham, which was seconded by Councillor Jeffrey. No other nominations were received and by general consent Councillor Durham was elected as Chairman of the Committee and invited to take the chair.

3 Election of Vice Chairman

The Chairman invited nominations to serve as Vice Chairman for the municipal year and he nominated Councillor Isaacs, which was seconded by Councillor McQuiggan. There being no further nominations, and by general consent, Councillor Isaacs was elected Vice Chairman.

4. Minutes of 23 November 2021 and matters arising from that meeting not covered in agenda.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 November 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

5. Operations Performance Update

Outreach Report

The Committee received a report from Susan Enwere - ECTU Outreach Officer, ECC and Nicola Coates - ECTU Outreach Officer, ECC. A verbal update was provided from Paul Ashworth - Wellbeing, Place & Communities Lead.

Post-COVID outreach visits had been gradually increasing but are not yet at the same levels as pre-COVID visits. Families are happy with interactions using phones, WhatsApp and Emails etc. Support with various services were on-going.

Health and Wellbeing: Joint visits with Health-visitors are ongoing. ECTU had been assisting with the Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnerships inequality workshops, also Suffolk NHS inequality workshop. Plans are being arranged for collaborative work with the Local Delivery Physical pilot project, which works to improve activity levels and health outcomes, a progress report will be given at the November meeting. There is a joint project run by the council and NHS to allow younger persons voices to be heard in relation to healthcare services. It was also expressed that discussions had been held with women of the GRT communities to feedback research to develop workshops and initiatives against the risks of domestic violence.

Education: The Outreach Team had been assisting with attendance appeals. They were continuing work on an Education project with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to try and help GRT communities access education, including work on raising the number of GRT pupils transferring from Year 6 into Year 7.

Projects: As addition to the projects in the report it was also explained that the mobile library and outreach service are keen to start work on providing reading materials to GRT communities with help from donations from members of the public and other bodies. The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had planned to visit Essex as part of the grant funding given for the Education Project this was to be undertaken on the 23rd of June so that they could attend the Health Day and visit Crays Hill Primary School in one visit.

Health Days: Ten Health Days will be undertaken; these will be on-site multi-agency visits throughout the months of June to October around Essex. One session is being held on the 23rd of June at Oak Lane, Basildon (a non-ECC site). A health bus attends sites to perform health and wellbeing checks. There had been some engagement with the Essex Youth Service including the providing of fire safety advice. The Papyrus trust has also been talking with members of the GRT community to address mental health issues and suicide prevention.

E-Learning: The Outreach Team had also developed an e-learning package in respect of cultural awareness, this had gone to GRT families for feedback before being distributed to schools and organisations.

Challenges: In relation to education there were issues around the access to distance learning which correlates to challenges in behaviour and attendance. The school/college application process can be difficult for GRT families, and the outreach team have been trying to assist with this as much as possible. It was also reported that there were high levels of poor mental health, and the issues of support are due to long waiting lists and reluctance to talk about how they are feeling.

In response to questioning it was shared that data on the accurate figures of those in the GRT community that are attending secondary school are not easy to attain due to issues with communication and engagement. The outreach officers are trying to encourage attendance but it is not always a success but there have been some successes and that is a positive. The young people are more inclined to want to return to school for years 10 & 11.

There was also a discussion held around college entry requirements being lowered to support those in GRT communities, it was revealed that some colleges had lowered the entry requirements but have since raised the criteria. Young GRT men seem to want to take courses relating to a trade but are then discouraged when they are required to undertake a foundation year first.

A question was asked around the accessibility of online applications and whether this was an issue for members of the GRT community, it was shared that the issue is not always around not having the devices available for the application but also issues around literacy and the outreach team are doing what they can to assist with this.

It was asked whether detailed figures of GRT children of school to college age could be supplied to the committee and whether bullying and discrimination towards GRT children was also an issue in schools. It was shared that this figure is hard to accurately gather due to the nature of GRT communities and that bullying and racist incidents are common and hard to tackle in a school setting. Awareness training and education would be beneficial for schools, and this is being developed.

A question was asked about how ECTU perform in relation to other Counties it was stated that although there is not any data on this ECTU had attempted some work with National Association of Gypsy Traveller Officers (NAGTO) to work more closely across the authorities and Paul Ashworth, Wellbeing, Place & Communities Lead is to report back to this committee.

Unauthorised Encampments Report

The Committee received an update from Alec Baker, ECTU Officer, Essex County Council.

It was reported that the 2021/22 figures are in line with previous years as in 2018/19.

The comparison between the November and May periods in 2021 and in 2022 showed that there was not much correlation between the encampments, the only similarities were in November and May August for both years. There had been a reduction in the number of unauthorised encampments this year, down to single digits in the winter months of 2022.

The current trend data in relation to previous years showed a marked reduction of unauthorised encampments within Essex. The main reason for the reduction was likely that since ECTU had been established, there are fewer regular travelling families travelling to Essex. Other reasons include past injunction legacy, police engagement, cost of living and the after effect of COVID-19.

In terms of Unauthorised Encampments, the three main places that were targeted between November 2021 and May 2022 were Chelmsford, Tendring and Uttlesford.

An update in relation to an injunction appeal from Thurrock Council that took place at the end of May 2022 will be shared at the next meeting.

From questioning it was shared that members would like to receive a regular email update on the statistics of unauthorised encampments prior to each meeting.

Rural Engagement Team Update

The Committee received a presentation from Sgt Paul Brady, Essex Police.

Key changes to legislation:

- Creation of new offence (S60c 2022 Act)
- S60c 2022 will be for more serious incidents
- S61 adds damage, disruption or distress and no longer needs to be "significant"
- Police can now make the request to leave S60c
- Highways now covered under S61

Sgt Paul Brady attempted to answer the questions asked but the overall response was that more will be known once the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) guidance has been released and once there is more case law in relation to the new statutory changes to set a precedent.

Members were advised to contact Sgt Brady by email to arrange for presentations to be delivered to local authorities and parish councils.

6. Finance Update

The Committee received a report from Carron Nason, Management Accountant, Essex County Council.

Key information provided included:

- (i) **2021/22 Final Outturn Position as at 31st March 2022.** The final outturn position as at 31 March 2022 was a net surplus £136,712.
- (ii) **Budget/Actuals for 2021/22 and agreed Budget for future years.** The assumptions around the 2022/23 agreed budget were outlined which included a 3.25% increase for Employee budgets (2% staffing and 1.25% NI Uplift) and a 4.1% RPI increase for Supplies & Services and Transport budgets.
- (iii) **2022/23 Membership Fees.** This report was summarised.
- (iv) **Balance Sheet - Reserves –** This report was summarised.

It was **AGREED** by general consent to note:

- the 2021/22 financial position
- the budget for 2022/23 and to note the proposed budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25
- the 2022/23 Membership Fee
- the Balance Sheet Reserves

7 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be arranged for November and the agreed date would be circulated in due course

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:44am.

Chairman

Essex County Wide Traveller Unit Operations Board 21st October 2022

Report by Donna Norman, Assistant Accountant

Finance Report for the Essex County Wide Traveller Unit

**Enquiries to Donna Norman,
ECC Finance Assistant Accountant
Tel: 03330 131902**

Purpose	
1.	To note the financial update for the six months to 30 th September 2022
2.	To note the proposed budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 (subject to Decision at Joint Committee meeting to be held on 31 st October 2022)
3.	To note the proposed 2023/24 Membership Fees (subject to Joint committee decision)
4.	To note the Balance Sheet Reserves (subject to Joint Committee decision).

1. 2022/23 Outturn Position as at 30th September 2022

	2022/23 Budget	Actuals to 30th September 2022	Outturn	Variance
<u>Expenditure:</u>				
Employees	£307,217	£163,140	£307,217	£0
Premises	£0	£0	£0	£0
Supplies & Services	£66,966	£46,691	£66,966	£0
Transport & Mileage	£15,615	£8,340	£15,615	£0
Third Party Payments	£0	£0	£0	£0
Transfer Payments	£0	£0	£0	£0
Legal	£19,779	£5,437	£19,779	£0
Gross Expenditure	£409,577	£223,609	£409,577	£0
<u>Income:</u>				
Partner Contributions (inc ECC)	(£409,577)	(£237,892)	(£413,547)	(£3,970)
Gross Income	(£409,577)	(£237,892)	(£413,547)	(£3,970)
Forecast Surplus	£0	(£14,283)	(£3,970)	(£3,970)

The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit 2022/23 forecast outturn position is a net underspend position of (£3,970), giving a variance compared to budget of (£3,970).

To Note:

1. Essex County Councils contribution to the ECTU for 2022/23 is £310,115 across internal partners. Which is 75% of the total overall contribution received.
2. This position assumes that legal fees and bailiff costs are similar to 2021/22 spend.
3. The 2022/23 budget was based on approved District/Borough Fees of £8,312 from 2022/23.
4. Invoices to all members will be raised during November/December 2022.
5. The opening reserve at 1st April 2022 was a surplus of £321,980. If all things remain equal the reserve balance is anticipated to be £325,950 at the end of the financial year (this figure could fluctuate depending on uncontrollable costs).

2. Budget for 2022/23 & 2023/24 and proposed budget for future years

	2021/22	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Budget Agreed	Draft Budget	Draft Budget
Expenditure:						
Employees	£297,547	£275,833	£307,217	£317,202	£327,511	£338,155
Supplies & Services	£70,000	£26,218	£66,966	£55,743	£57,304	£59,023
Legal	£15,000	£23,167	£19,779	£20,471	£21,044	£21,676
Transport & Mileage	£19,000	£14,643	£15,615	£16,162	£16,614	£17,112
Third Party Payments	£0	(£63,824)	£0			
Gross Expenditure	£401,547	£276,036	£409,577	£409,577	£422,473	£435,966
Income:						
Partner Contributions	(£401,547)	(£412,750)	(£409,577)	(£409,577)	(£413,547)	(£413,547)
Draw from Reserves					(£8,926)	(£22,419)
Gross Income	(£401,547)	(£412,750)	(£409,577)	(£409,577)	(£422,473)	(£435,966)
Net Expenditure (Surplus) / Deficit	£0	(£136,713)	£0	£0	(£0)	(£0)

The 2024/25 proposed draft budget assumes the following:

- No increases to membership fees (subject to Joint Committee decision). As detailed in 'Proposed 2023/24 Membership Fees' this is due to the current level in reserves. The budget has increased to reflect the full amount of fees from both ECC and its internal and external partners.
- 3.25% increase for Employee budgets (2% Staffing and 1.25% NI Uplift).
- 2.8% RPI increase for Supplies & Services and Transport budgets.
- 2024/25 budgets (excluding membership contributions) have all been increased by the RPI figure which is currently 3.0% as per the latest information available.
- A draw from reserves will be required if the costs exceed the budget.

3. Proposed 2023/24 Membership Fees

The table below presents 3 options for members to consider in respect of membership contributions.

Option 1: A 1% increase and results in an increase of per District / Borough member of £83

Option 2: No increase, due to there being a reserve balance of £321,980, which is more than 3 months operational costs. (Preferred option).

Option 3: A 4.1% RPI increase and results in an increase per District / Borough member of £341

A decision is required from the Joint Committee to approve the membership fees for 2023/24.

Organisation	2022/23 Fee (Approved at the November 2021 Joint Committee meeting)	OPTION 1 2023/24 Fee (1% Increase)	OPTION 2 Proposed 2023/24 Fee (No Increase)	OPTION 3 2023/24 Fee (4.1% Increase RPI)
Essex County Council:				
ECC - Gypsy & Traveller	£221,268	£221,268	£221,268	£221,268
ECC - Highways	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Public Health	£63,911	£64,550	£63,911	£66,531
Essex Property & Facilities	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Country Parks	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Total ECC	£310,115	£311,003	£310,115	£313,758
Essex Fire and Rescue	£12,000	£12,120	£12,000	£12,492
Districts / Boroughs & Unitary:				
Uttlesford District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Thurrock Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Rochford District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Maldon District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Colchester Borough Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Tendring District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Basildon Borough Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Castlepoint Borough Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Braintree District Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Brentwood Borough Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Chelmsford City Council	£8,312	£8,395	£8,312	£8,653
Total Districts/Boroughs/Unitary	£91,432	£92,346	£91,432	£95,180
Total Subscriptions	£413,547	£415,470	£413,547	£421,430

4. Balance Sheet – Reserves

Balance Sheet: General Balance	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Opening Balance (Surplus)	(£66,798)	£26,462	(£24,927)	(£78,355)	(£143,103)	(£185,268)	(£321,980)	(£325,950)
Current Year Net Expenditure (Surplus)	£93,260	(£51,389)	(£53,428)	(£64,748)	(£42,166)	(£136,712)	(£3,970)	£0
Closing Balance (Surplus) / Deficit	£26,462	(£24,927)	(£78,355)	(£143,103)	(£185,268)	(£321,980)	(£325,950)	(£325,950)

Essex Police – Update for ECTU

In 12 months to October 2022 there were 70 unauthorised encampments. 28% (20) resulted in police powers of eviction being used. In the previous 12 months there were 170 unauthorised encampments. 10% resulted in the use of police powers (17) This has seen a substantial decrease of 51% year on year.

In comparing the time period since the legislation was changed (June 24th – October 17th) over this year and last year:

- 2022 saw 32 unauthorised encampments with 37% evictions (12)
- 2021 saw 49 unauthorised encampments with 8% evictions (4)

At this stage it appears to be consistent with the general decline in unauthorised encampments within Essex and an increase in the use of police powers. Whilst this has a limited data sample it does give early indications that since the legislation changes this has resulted in more use of police powers.

Within the evictions listed above, 2 occasions resulted in the use of the new policing powers in the conduct displayed was considered 'significant'. It's worth noting that the majority of times where the new policing power is used it will also be an offence under the previous S61 legislation.

The below table shows the geographic breakdown by district across the county.

Area	Number of UE's
North	45
Braintree	9
Brentwood	1
Chelmsford	8
Colchester	9
Maldon	2
Tendring	8
Uttlesford	8
South	10
Basildon	3
Castle Point	2
Southend	5
West	15
Brentwood	3
Castle Point	1
Epping Forest	9
Harlow	1
Southend	1
Grand Total	70

Overall, this has been a significant reduction across Essex for another year.

Report from May 2022 up till Now.

We been very busy supporting with Mid-year applications to primary and secondary schools and support individual pupils to engage in secondary schools, we have discussed with parents of some year 6 student options for year 7 to find out more about the barriers and one of the barriers is lack of single sex schooling. The health days have been successful in building engagement with families, engagement with other agencies has also improved for example, the Craig Tyler Trust who were part of the health days are continuing with the piece of work at Oak Lane independently. most travellers were interested in getting their blood pressure checked, talked about health issues / concerns, babies / toddlers were weighed, opportunity to speak about Mental health issues, Support in filling Gp forms, benefit forms, dental forms and getting access to basic medical care. With the help and support of other multi-agencies like Provide, Craig Tyler trust, Health Watch Essex the travellers community are fast becoming more engaged in all our successful health days below.

Date	Site	Area
21/06/2022	Oak Lane	Basildon
28/06/2022	Hovefield Avenue	Basildon
05/07/2022	Meadow Lane	Runwell / Chelmsford
12/07/2022	Severalls Lane	Colchester
02/08/2022	Hovefield Avenue ECC Site	Basildon
09/08/2022	Wood Corner	Maldon
20/09/2022	Oak Lane	Basildon
27/09/2022	Hovefield Avenue	Basildon
04/10/2022	Meadow Lane	Runwell / Chelmsford

We have designed and produce Gp Registration cards to support families registering with GP Services, these specifies that GP Surgeries can't refuse to register on the bases on having no ID or evidence of address.

We are supporting a small project instigated by two young people from the traveller community to enable traveller families and children access age-appropriate books. This is in its early stages at its development. we will continue to support through

home visit, liaise with schools and work with other multi-agencies to achieve positive outcome for members of traveller's communities.

We have introduced mobile outreach Library bus to Oak Lane site, Hovefield Avenue site, and at Crays hill primary school where the children came into the bus to have a book each to read which they enjoyed and were all happy to see the mobile outreach library bus.

With the progress that was made, we will continue with the visits to schools and site more frequently as the children engage much better.

In collaboration with the staffs from the Mobile Outreach Library Bus, below are details of our plans in future.

- ☐ We will be look at promoting E-books, E-magazines, audio books, reference books and learning books for home educated children.
- ☐ We will be hosting a rhyme time /story time at the bus and give the older children or adults a chance to talk about borrowing, setting up an account etc.
- ☐ By June 2023 - Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month and set up a stand of books written by GRT community, get in authors
- ☐ When out on outreach bus, we will bring leaflets for key events or classes, such as computer literacy, story time, social events.
- ☐ There are plans for visits to 6 traveller sites from now till December.

Our October Plans to visit Crays Hill Primary school visit was successful and we would be looking at a longer-term plan; comment from one of the teachers; it was a pleasure to meet you and the children were really excited about their books. thank you

We continued to support with various range of services such as.

- School Applications
- Nursery Places
- Access to FSM Vouchers
- Tracing missing pupils
- GP registrations/ Dental services
- Referrals to housing support services

- Referrals to domestic violence services
- Applications to colleges
- Support with benefits/ Forms

We continue to make referrals to specialist agencies to ensure families get the best services e.g., Peabody, Compass, Counselling services, Families and focus, SENDIASS.

Once a referral is made families can struggle to continue access the service, so we often support with on-going engagement.

We work with other agencies such as.
Health and Wellbeing

For example: We carry out joint visits with Health-visitors.

- We feed into Mid and South Essex Health and Care Partnerships inequality workshops, also Suffolk NHS inequality workshop.
- We also planning to work in collaboration with the Local Delivery Physical pilot project to improve activity level and health outcomes.
- We are also supporting with enabling young people and children voices to be heard regarding healthcare delivery and services. This a joint project run by the council and NHS. (Mid and South Essex Partnership).
- We have designed and are planning to distribute GP registration cards; basically, trying to facilitate families from the GRT Communities registering with GP.

Education Project Overview:

Traveller children feel 'unwanted' in education system, says Irish Times (2021). Which highlights why it was imperative for our council to implement a project that showed the GRT community we directly wanted to support them through educational hardships.

This Project focused on supporting pupils from the GRT communities in year 6 across Essex to raise transfer rates to year 7, by the provision of a dedicated secondary development worker who will work with parents and schools and support with school applications.

The transition support segment of the project was implanted help improve transfer rates to year 7 by the provision of a dedicated secondary development worker who worked with parents and schools to support with applications.

83 secondary schools were contacted, and we worked with a total of 35 families from a variety of schools within the secondary cohort. This area of the project had a massive impact on the community as transfer rates increased. Students are staying in school, and this was measured through constant check ins with families and schools.

The transition support was a massive success in the project as we supported families along the way. Parents had stated "They have never received such a helpful hand". We supported with school applications, transport and school meals but decreased the families worries and negative ideals associated with secondary school. This made the experience so much easier for parents and helped the pupils with any anxieties and discomforts.

We supported a child with support transition into secondary where there were mixed feelings amongst parents regarding attendance but whilst supporting, we have built a healthy relationship between mum and the school as we have

Education Project Overview:

a staff member that his mum feels comfortable with confiding in, and they support with transition.

In addition to this 3 young people were supported into college by supporting with applications and attending introductory day, we are keeping in touch with the families to monitor progress. Even though college students were not target for transition support, they were the older siblings of the year 5/6 families we supported.

Originally the NEET Programme was implemented in the project to provide a six-week- programme in areas, Basildon, and Braintree. That was planned to provide career and education advice, alongside accredited courses that are in high demand within the GRT community such as Hair and Beauty.

The Drop-in sessions were in conjunction with the Youth service to support GRT young people into education, training, or employment. Within helping with training, the sessions were planned to help young people sign up for the NEET Programme. 20 sessions were commissioned between Wickford and Braintree youth centres from October 2021 to October 2022. However due to the lack of engagement in drop-in sessions we were unable to sign up enough young people to carry out the remove the NEET Programme. So, we removed the programme and merge our services with the health days. They massively improved community engagement and our transition report rate. At the beginning of the project, due to the low engagement we only worked with a total of 3 families but once we moved to engaging on site, we worked with 15 families which is a massive improvement.

In total, during support transition we worked with a total of 50 families. 35/50 were from the secondary schools we contacted who had pupils transitioning to secondary school and needed support, this also includes the 3 young people that were supported into college. 15/50 were from face-to-face engagement

Education Project Overview:

when we attended the health days and families had young children that needed help with transition.

The drop ins were unsuccessful due to one; the community had no knowledge of the sessions so were unable to attend. In addition to this weather conditions and COVID restrictions. Families were worried about risking the health of their loved ones, which stopped them from leaving the house. To help with engagement we distributed flyers and put adverts out to let the community and schools know what we were offering.

10 Health Days were conducted where we had external agencies such as health visitors, the local delivery physical pilot project and West Essex CCG to follow us to our sites to support the community with health and education.

Community members were able to learn about fire safety, receive support with school applications, receive GP registration cards, children were given books and they were able to get their blood pressure checked. This was a massive turnover, and they were massively grateful for it. We were able to connect to the families and support them with not only secondary support but health and wellbeing too. We offered support regarding attendance issues and school-based meetings regarding the child's behaviour and engagement.

Also, we informed them on courses and educational programmes. Being able to build those connections with the families makes it easier for them to reach out for help and that has really improved the engagement of the project. What we learned from moving the drop-in sessions to health days was that the community feel more comfortable with us coming to them as if they feel safe and in their own comfort.

In addition to this we learned that promotion is very effective as this was a very key aspect of the project that went well and helped with results. For instance, the flyers for transition and cultural awareness session were put on

Education Project Overview:

the Essex Newsletter and drastically improved the number of schools we had signed up for the session.

We were commissioned to deliver Gypsy Roma Traveller awareness sessions for up to 30 staff members within 20 secondary schools in Essex. Provided by the Friends and Family of Travellers, it discussed the cultural issues and barriers faced when accessing education and how the community may feel when in education. To form the sessions curriculum, we asked parents from the GRT community what they thought schools needed to improve on and be aware of. This helped shape what the sessions would be based on and demonstrated to the community that we are here to support and hear their concerns.

In the beginning booking up the slots for the sessions were hard as some schools did not respond but once we put the flyer on the Essex Newsletter. The slots immediately started filling up and we were pleasantly surprised at the number of different service providers and primary schools wanting to engage in the sessions which was an amazing turnout. We had a 14/20 schools sign up for the sessions with 3 different service providers. So overall we filled 17/20 of the cultural awareness sessions. The 14 schools that completed sessions were:

1. Beauchamps
2. Bromfords
3. Basildon Lower Academy
4. The Ursuline
5. Ongar Academy
6. Helena Romanes School
7. Hylands
8. Sandon
9. Chelmer Valley High

Education Project Overview:

10. The Plume
11. Alec Hunter
12. Burnt Mills
13. Passmores
14. Phillip Morant

A school commented “This session was amazing; I feel so much more aware of the educational biases the GRT experience in school now”. This just demonstrates how positively impactful the project was and conversations are being put in place with FFT to continue these sessions for schools and services in following years.

One thing that could have improved the outcome of this project is if we had a set number of schools, we worked with instead of reaching out to schools on the data system. Therefore, we could have an easier way of tracking progress. It would be more consistent than sporadic. This way we could open our support to other schools through promotional elements rather than trying to build completely new relationships that may not work.

Employing a Secondary Development Worker worked out well as it encouraged delivery, new ideas and helped carry out the project. However, this could be more successful completed in a team. The more hands-on deck, the more ideas can be shared, and resources can be used.

Another issue was Parents and Pupils from the GRT community don’t want to go to secondary school due to cultural reasons such as sex education, mixed boys and girls, boys going to work, bullying and lack of understanding of culture. In addition to this, travelling can make it hard to keep in contact with families and with transition support. However, there are many families that appreciate and need the help which is why it is important to keep reaching out.

Education Project Overview:

In addition to the above, another challenge was keeping the parents engaged, sometimes due to lack of accessibility to cars and internet it's been hard to meet with the parents to do the applications and they do not have the facilities to apply online, so that has been a challenge. Which explains why we started going onto site to meet the families and offer support where they felt most comfortable and that helped our turn around.

Overall, the project was a success, sections had to be adjusted or removed but the turnover was still a success. An important take away would be giving our schools the opportunity to learn more about the communities' biases for them to improve the experience of GRT children in the educational system.



The Essex Countywide Traveller Unit Unauthorised encampment report covering period from June 2022 to October 2022 (End)

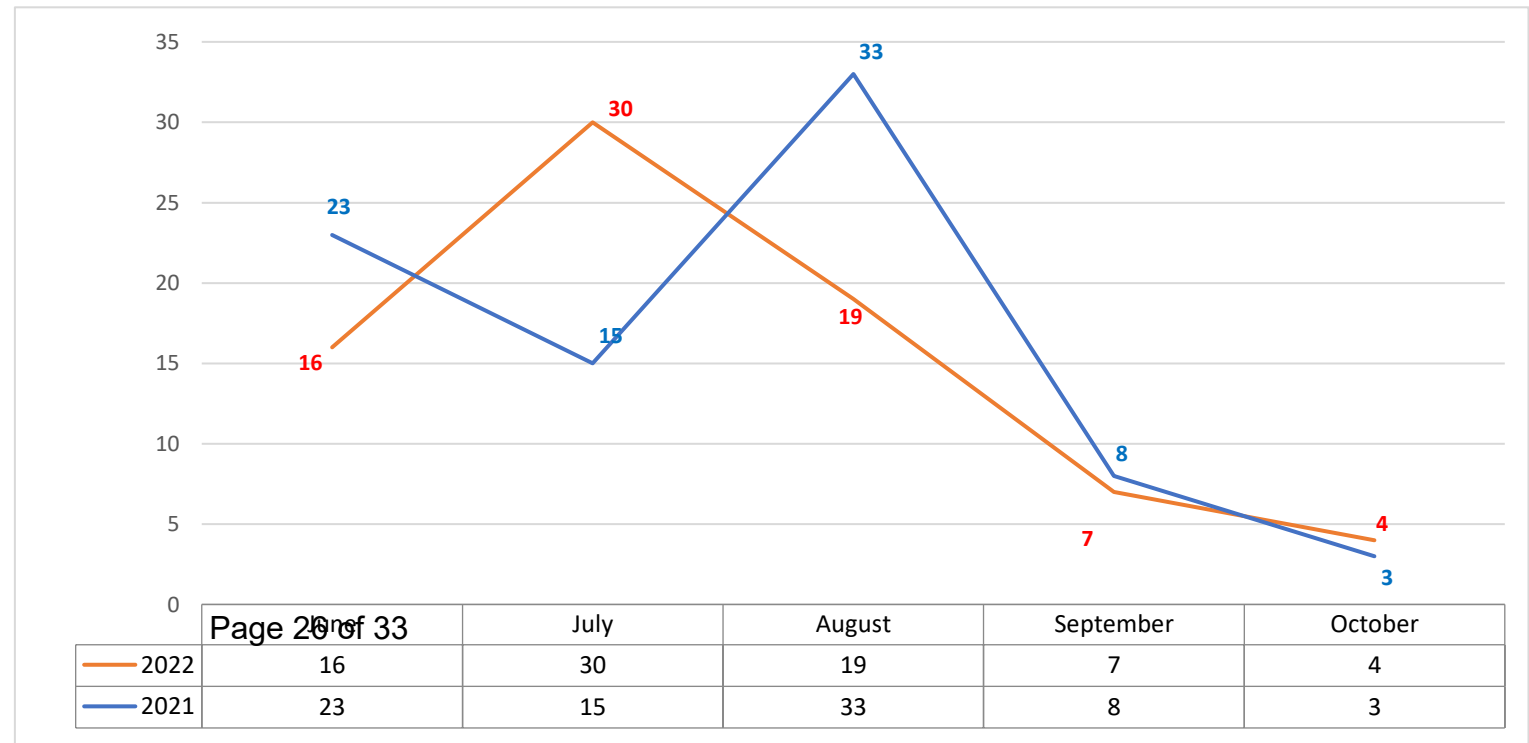
Presented by Alec Baker (Enforcement Lead)

ECTU Operations Board - 21 October 2022 11:00-12:00

ECTU Joint Committee - 31 October 2022 12:00-17:00

Figure 1 - Comparison between June to October (2021 & 2022) of all encampments recorded by the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit

- ONLY THE MONTHS SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER MIRROR EACH OTHER
- THE MAIN MONTHS OF SUMMER (JUNE TO AUGUST) WERE SIMILAR IN NUMBER BUT DIFFERENT PERIODS COMPARED TO EACH OTHER
- CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AMOUNT OF ENCAMPMENTS FOR BOTH YEARS WITH 2021 RECORDING 82 INCURSIONS AND 2022 HITTING A TOTAL 76.



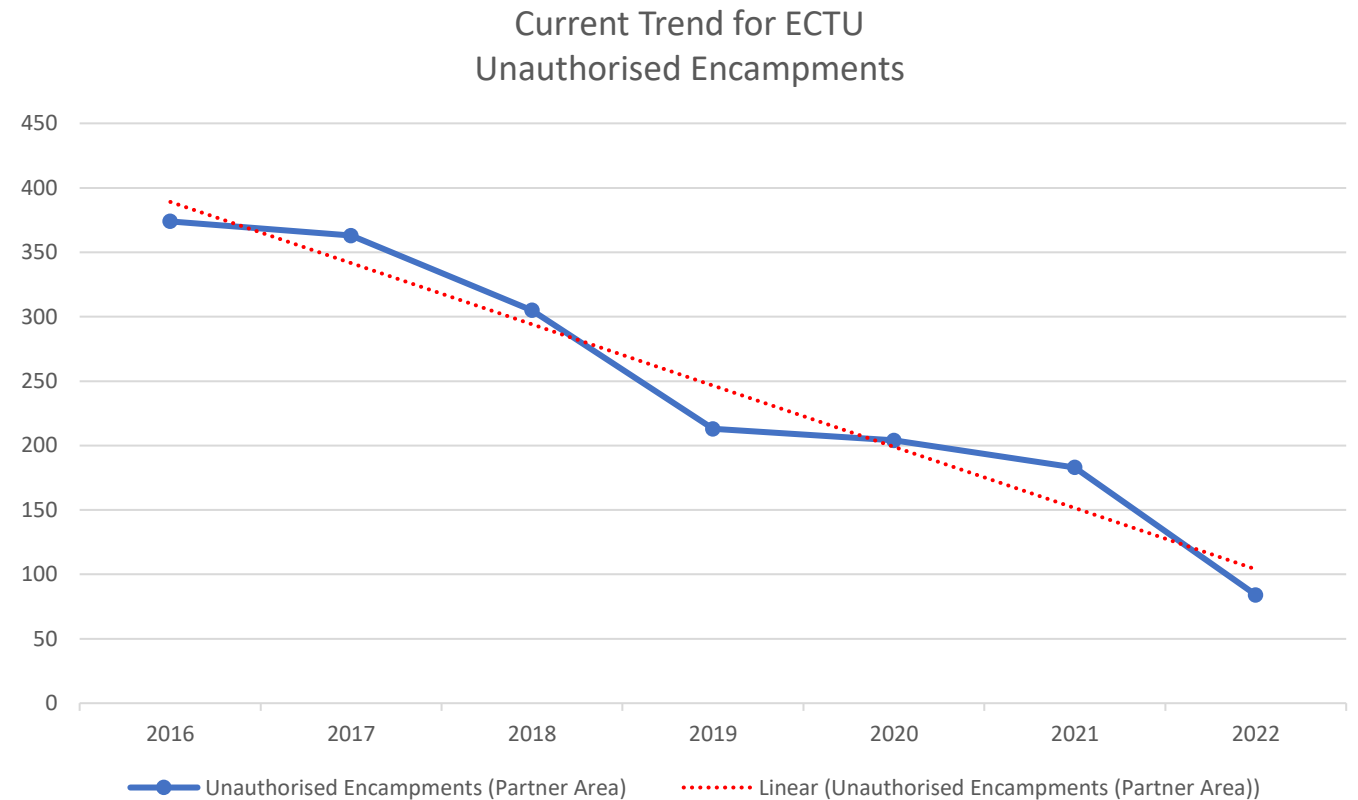
Cont. Figure 1 – historically comparison for information.

	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
■ 2020	31	26	30	27	12
■ 2019	34	35	22	15	16

	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19
■ May 19 to Oct 19	34	35	22	15	15
■ May 18 to Oct 18	48	54	47	16	12

- Overall the reduction in Unauthorised Encampments continues year on year. However as proved July 2022 (30 UEs), the unit does still experience a high volume that we can compare to previous larger numbers.

Figure 2 – Current 6 year Trend for Unauthorised Encampments in Essex (Partner Areas)



- The continued trend shows that Essex County are now showing the lowest amount of reported encampments (84 reported from January to Date) since the inception of the ECTU.
- If we factor in the non partner reported encampments, then we actually meet the Red Linear tend line (totally 108 reported encampments).

Figure 3. Unauthorised Encampments in Essex (including non partner) by District/Brough- June 2022 to Date.

Stats by District	Abr	JUN - OCT 2022
Basildon	BAS	1
Braintree	BRA	7
Brentwood	BRE	5
Castle Point	CPT	6
Chelmsford	CHE	8
Colchester	COL	8
Epping	EPP	9
Harlow	HAR	4
Maldon	MAL	0
Rochford	ROC	4
Southend	SOS	7
Tendring	TEN	7
Thurrock	THU	4
Uttlesford	UTT	6
Private	PVT	0
ECC	ECTU	0
Sec 77		27
Sec 61		11
Total		76

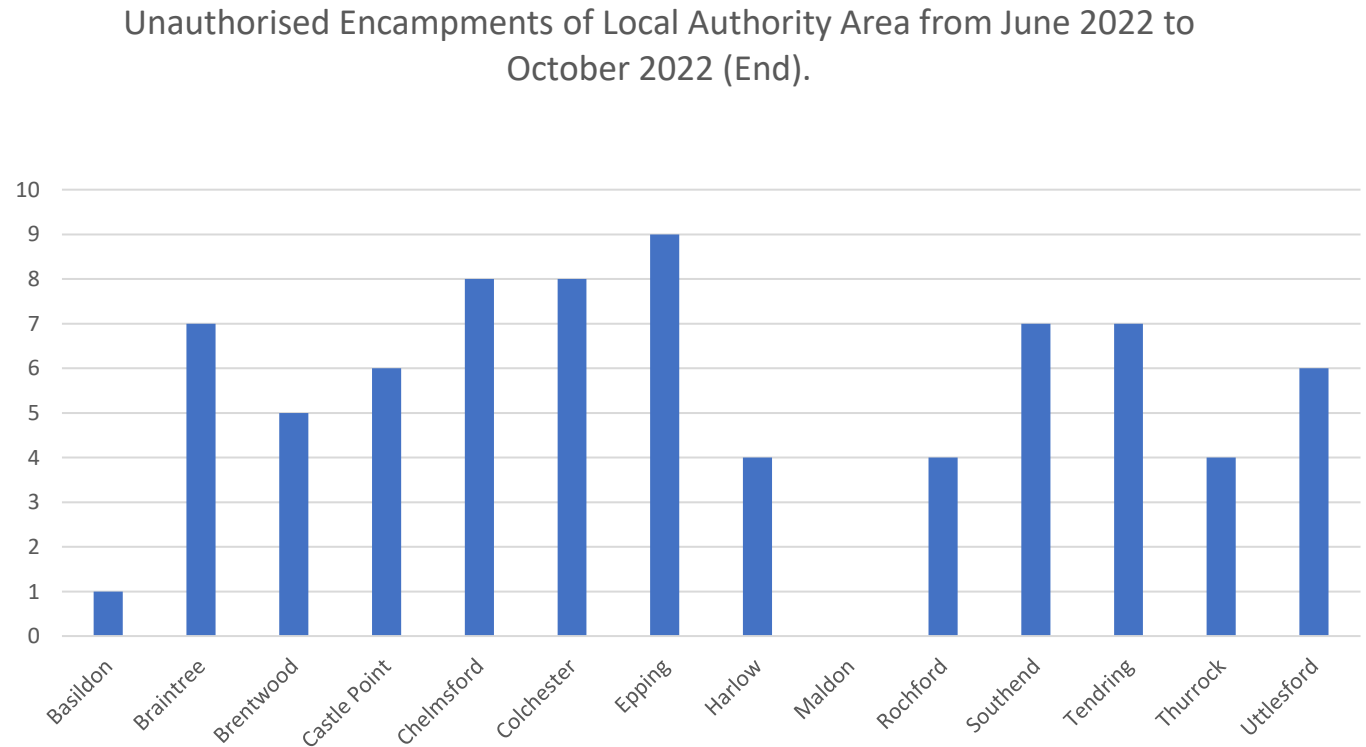
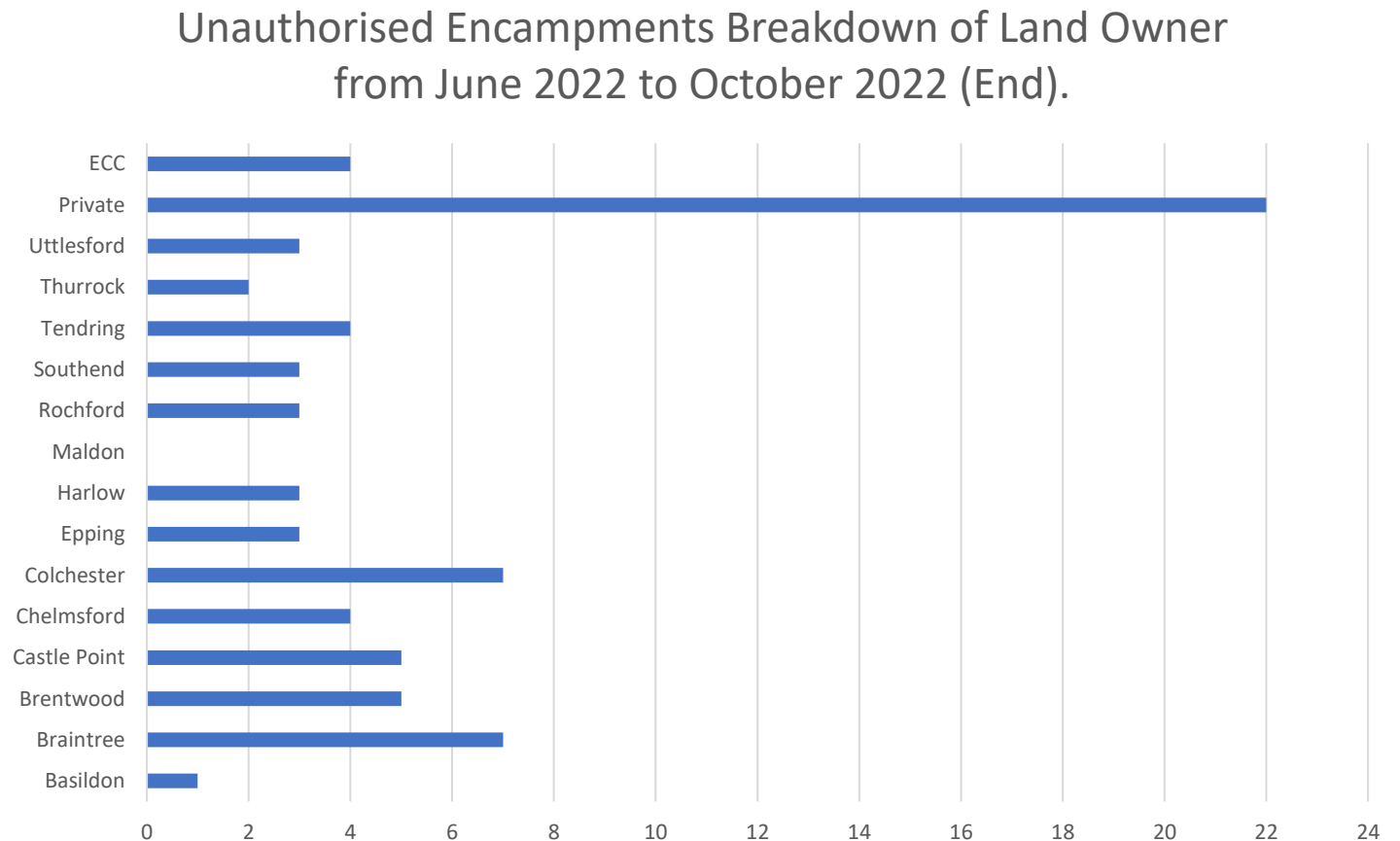


Figure 4. Breakdown of Unauthorised Encampment by Landowner - June 2022 to Date (including non partner area).

Stats by District	Abr	JUN - OCT 2022
Basildon	BAS	1
Braintree	BRA	7
Brentwood	BRE	5
Castle Point	CPT	5
Chelmsford	CHE	4
Colchester	COL	7
Epping	EPP	3
Harlow	HAR	3
Maldon	MAL	0
Rochford	ROC	3
Southend	SOS	3
Tendring	TEN	4
Thurrock	THU	2
Uttlesford	UTT	3
Private	PVT	22
ECC	ECTU	4
Total		76



Other Points

- Overnight Stays seems to on the increase of 1 day or less – during this period ECTU have recorded 37 days stops (all Counties, including non partner).
- Travellers still seem to target Weekends as their landing day. ECTU registered x18 weekend reports for this period.
- Reiteration that Camper Vans seems to be the in vogue for travellers now, which is a change from the vehicle with caravan. ECTU are receiving more reports like this and a good percentage are gypsy/travellers.
- Essex Counties do not seem to have any live injunctions currently.

Figure 5 – ECTU Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Unauthorised Encampments.

Unauthorised Encampments – Performance June 2022 to October 2022 (End)						
Objective	sub	Measure	Target	Timescale	Outcome	Comments
UE visited within 1 working day		%	97%	June 2022 – October 2022	100.00%	All visited within one day (including Weekend Visits).
ECTU led Encampments resolved through	Negotiated/Other	%	40%		70 %	Last meetings results: 35%
	Courts	%	60%		30%	Last meetings results: 65%
Totals	Section 77/8 Part 55 Section 61 Negotiated Other	8 0 11 19 5	Data Only			
s77's complete within 10 working days		%	100%		100.00%	
s77's complete within 7 working days		%	90%		100.00%	Last meetings results: 88.00% No issues with Legal and Magistrates' courts.
% of encampments where ECTU are involved		%	NA		57.00%	Last meetings results: 51.00%
Number of encampments	Partner	43	NA			
	Non-partner	11	NA			
	Private	18	NA			
	ECC	9	NA			

THAT CONCLUDES THE PRESENTATION FOR UNAUTHROSIED
ENCAMPMENTS.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING AND RETURN TO CHAIR TO
DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS/COMMENTS