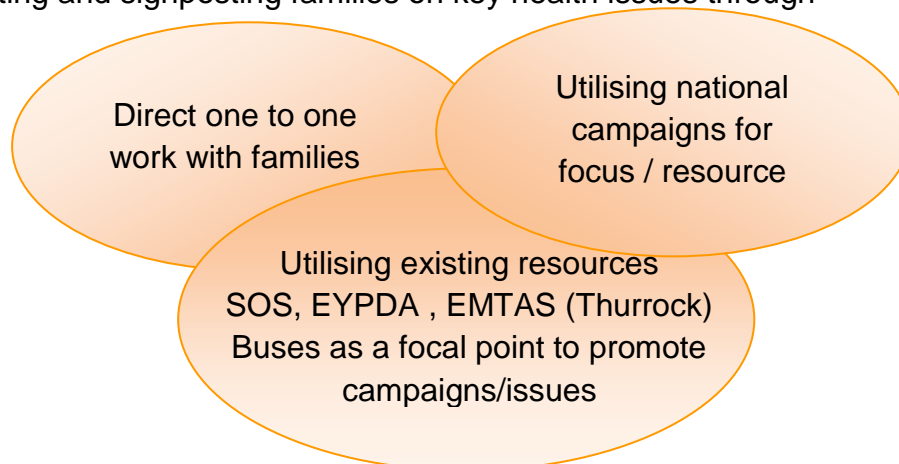


## **Joint Committee Report – 12th December 2014**

The following report covers ECTU operations to date, including the updated position from the last joint committee presentation in June 2014.

### **Health**

Supporting and signposting families on key health issues through



#### Inoculations/Immunisations (June 2014 reported figure in brackets)

- MMR outreach to 273 (218) families
- Flu – outreach to over 40 sites, 402 (364) Families - 9 people had already been facilitated to have the jabs including a pregnant mother. Many others said that would consider getting protected including another pregnant mother

#### GP / Dentist Registrations (June 14 reported figure in brackets)

- 216 (185) families have been confirmed registered with GP
- 57 (48) new registrations
- 11 (8) families referred to Health Visitors re health and ante natal care issues
- 15 (9) new families registered to dentists including 3 emergency dental treatments

#### Long Term Conditions

89 (86) identified to date with LTCs including diabetics, asthmatics, arthritics, heart, cancer etc. There are high levels of stress/depression in the community, although these figures only identify more extreme cases.

Stop Smoking – Stoptober – 82 (19) families supported / signposted re stop smoking through general request, and as part of the Stoptober campaign.

Reduction in childhood accidents – 54 families directly supported with information/guidance on reducing childhood accidents.

Diabetes awareness – 56 families' directly supported/provided information/sign posted re diabetes awareness/treatment.

Men's health – 22 men approached/supported with specific information/material relating to men's health/improvement/self checking etc.

First Aid training – promoted to 20 families.

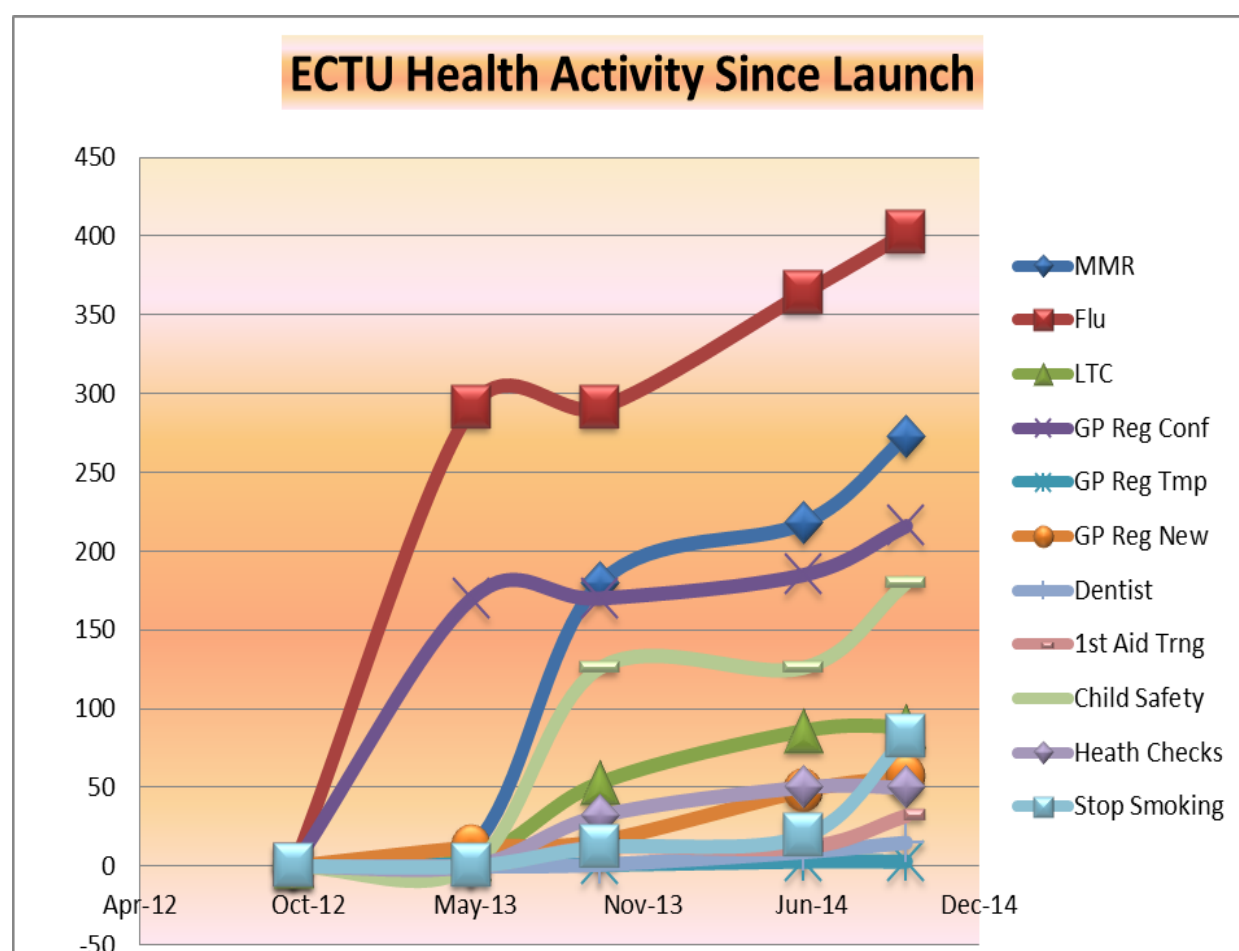
Healthy eating - Promoted/support 58 (7) families in the form of specialised materials and support.

6 (5) families refereed to food bank

Health – other

General support with Health Visitors 49 families escaping violence

Supporting 10 (9) families re mental health issues



**Case Study 1 – Health Case Study one**

We were approached by a man's wife who was worried by his Diabetes. She was frightened by the fact that he was overweight, smoked and was frightened by the doctor, who had told them that the outlook was bleak if he didn't do something about it. They were also not sure if they had seen the diabetes nurse. We contacted the surgery and were able to support the family to understand who they had seen and what they needed to do to help themselves.

**Case Study 2 – Health Case Study two.**

While covering for a colleague I was asked to deal with a man with mental health problems who had rung the office for help. I phoned the man who told me he wanted to go in the loft and hang himself. Everything was too much for him and he was alone in the house. I spoke to him for some time and tried to encourage him to have more positive thoughts. He explained to me a lot of what had been going on. Family arrived back at the house and I spoke to his mother who told me more of the story. I was able to give her telephone numbers of people that may be able to help. My colleagues continued with support.

Indicator	Sub Division	May 13	Oct 13	May 14	Oct 14	Total
Facilitated to received primary Immunisation		50	130	38	53	271
	Through domiciliary team	11*	20	0	0	31
Facilitated to receive the flu jabs		291	n/a	73	38	402
Pregnant women facilitated to access Ante-Natal	Under 12 weeks	Not reported	0	1	0	1
	Over 12 weeks	Not reported	4	16	1	21
Identified as having Long Term condition (LTC)		8	45	33	3	86
LTC's receiving flu jab		5	n/a	n/a	0	5
Number assisted to register with GP	Permanent	13	3	32	9	57
	Temporary	1	0	2	0	3
Health checks facilitated		Not reported	26	0	0	26
Number referred to stop smoking		Not reported	6	14	63	83
	Pregnant		0	0	0	0
	* 11 referred to domiciliary, but were unable to fulfil due to lack of availability of domiciliary service					

## Education (June 2014 reported figure in brackets)

Education is cyclical, in that there are certain time frames for completing various school applications. In addition to the main figures below, work is carried out around school appeals, working with Educational Welfare Officers around attendance issues and child protections issues

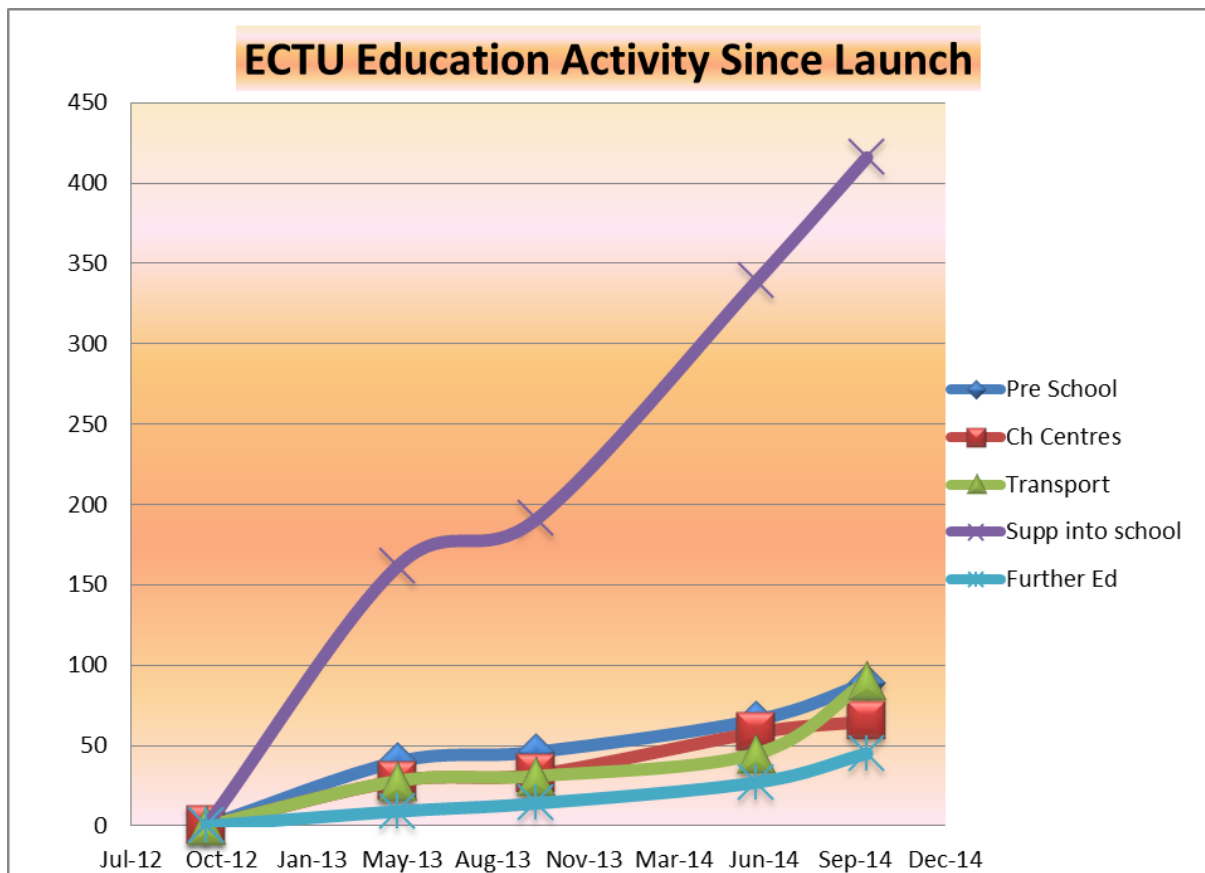
416 (339) children supported into school

89 (66) 2yr olds funded and placed in pre school

65 (58) new families register with Childrens Centres

90 (45) School Transport applications

45 (27) young people supported into further education/apprenticeship



## Home Education Data

HES/EMTAS stats 01/09/2013 to 09/05/2014

Number of children referred to HES during the above period	Number of children	% of total
Total new referrals	258	
1 Gypsy / Roma (WROM)	8	3.11
2 Traveller of Irish Heritage (WIRT)	1	0.39
3 Referral from EMTAS no ethnicity recorded	0	0.42
4 Total 1,2,3	9	3.49

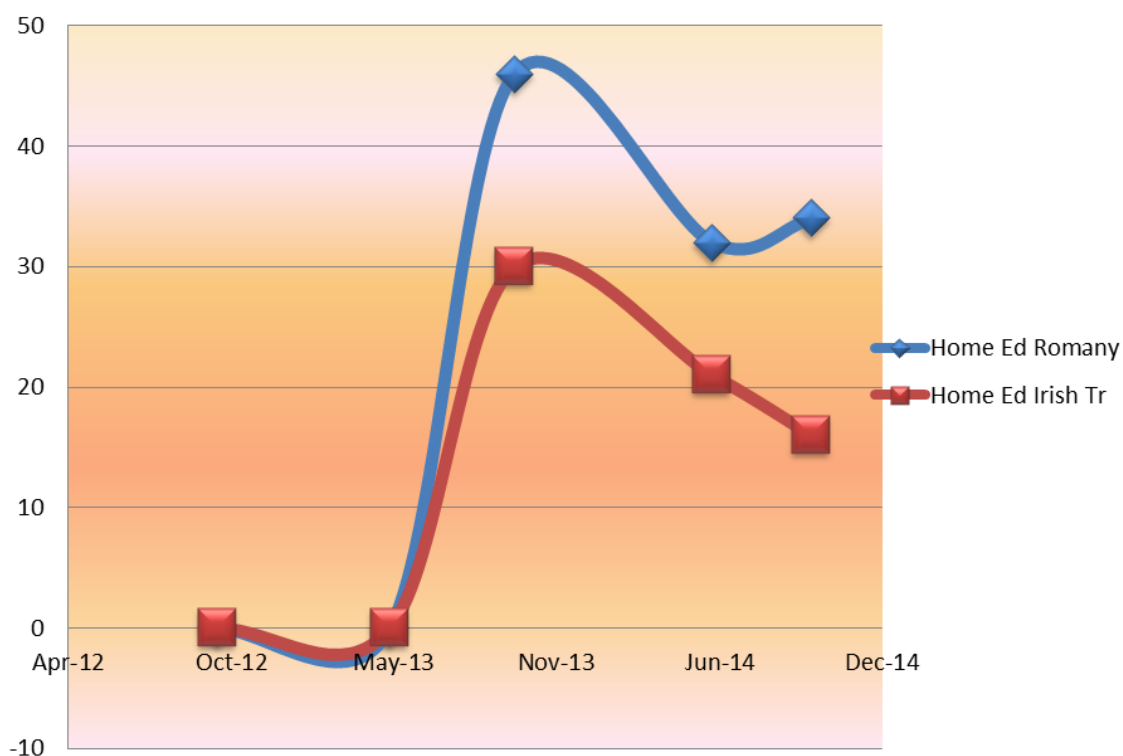
Number of children registered as Home Educated on 20/10/2014

	Number of children	% of total
Total number of children	738	
1 Gypsy / Roma (WROM)	34	4.61
2 Traveller of Irish Heritage (WIRT)	16	2.17
3 Referral from EMTAS no ethnicity recorded	3	0.41
4 Total 1,2,3	53	7.18

In addition to the 53 noted above there are an additional 27 children who are very likely Traveller children but ethnicity is not recorded. Often these children are referred to as "Travellers" but not specifically Irish so may be Gypsy. These children have been identified as part of another enquiry but have only been identified by local knowledge of the families and the addresses where they live.

It is preferable for Gypsy/Traveller to attend schools in terms of receiving appropriate level of education, and integration. Home education is often not the ideal solution as parents may not be literate themselves, hence low rates are preferable.

### ECTU Home Education Activity Since Launch



Indicator	Sub Division	May 13	Oct 13	May 14	Oct 14	Total
Number of Children accessing pre-school /school 2 – 16		162	29	148	99	438
Number of children transferring from primary to secondary		n/a	33	n/a*	tba	**
Number of young adults accessing further education		9	5	13	18	45
Number/% of children referred to Home Education		0	76 (7%)	28 (6%)	53 (7%)	

\*number of ascribed GRT students currently in secondary education 41

#### Case study 1

The 6 children currently attending in year 6 at Cray's Hill School from Oak lane have **all** applied for places at Secondary with ECTU support. None of the parents had engaged with the Cray's Hill Primary School regarding secondary, even though the school had tried. We spent 2 days doing home visits and talking to all the parents with the result that they have **all** applied – this is an unprecedented level of success in achieving 100% success in secondary applications .

## **Case study 2**

### **Parent and Preschool group**

#### **Joint work with Children's Centre**

Worked with Children's Centre Outreach to set up and run 5 weekly sessions for parents to attend from a Chelmsford based site.

- Parents undertook activities with their children together with ECTU and CC Outreach workers.
- Soft play – children were able to climb/explore and use large apparatus with parents assisting.
- Messy Play – It was!
- Healthy eating – discussed this – healthy snacks and also child safety packs.
- Parents were able to speak with Staff from the attached Pre School.

#### **Outcomes:-**

- Parents built stronger links with the Children's Centre.
- Parents were able to talk about pre-school and speak with members of the local pre-school staff, which resulted in a rise in pre-school age children attending the setting.
- Increased awareness of parents/carers re imaginative play and interaction with the children.
- A desire of parents to develop the sessions and to be involved in steering them.

This was the first time we had organised sessions for parents to attend with their children away from site. This is something that we hope to build on, parents have asked to have more sessions and we are hoping to organise some for after the Christmas break.

## Fire Safety (June 14 reported figure in brackets)

This has been a quiet period in terms of Fire Safety checks, as has previously been reported, Spring and Summer require resource to be directed to the enforcement area, hence these numbers will pick up considerably over the Autumn, Winter period. We are still showing the general upward trend.

### Home Fire Safety Visits

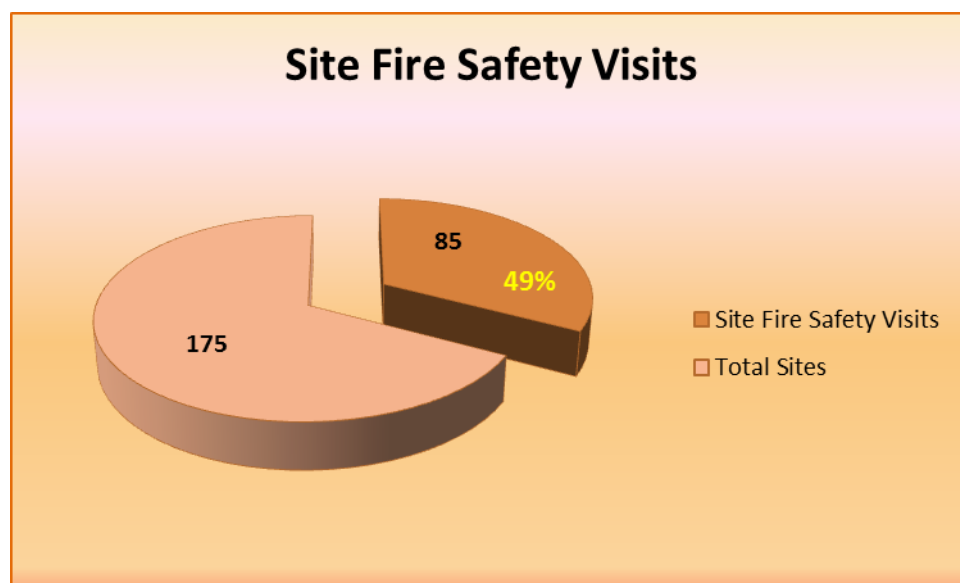
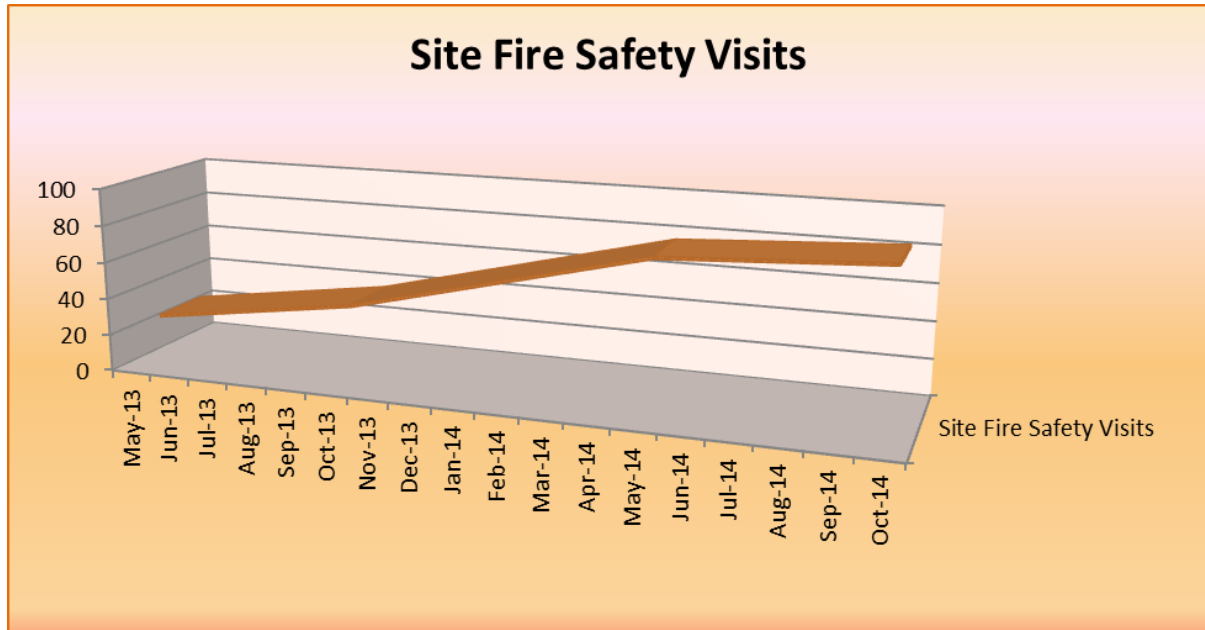
- 173 (164) Home Fire Safety visits completed across 32 sites.
- 191 (174) smoke alarms issued



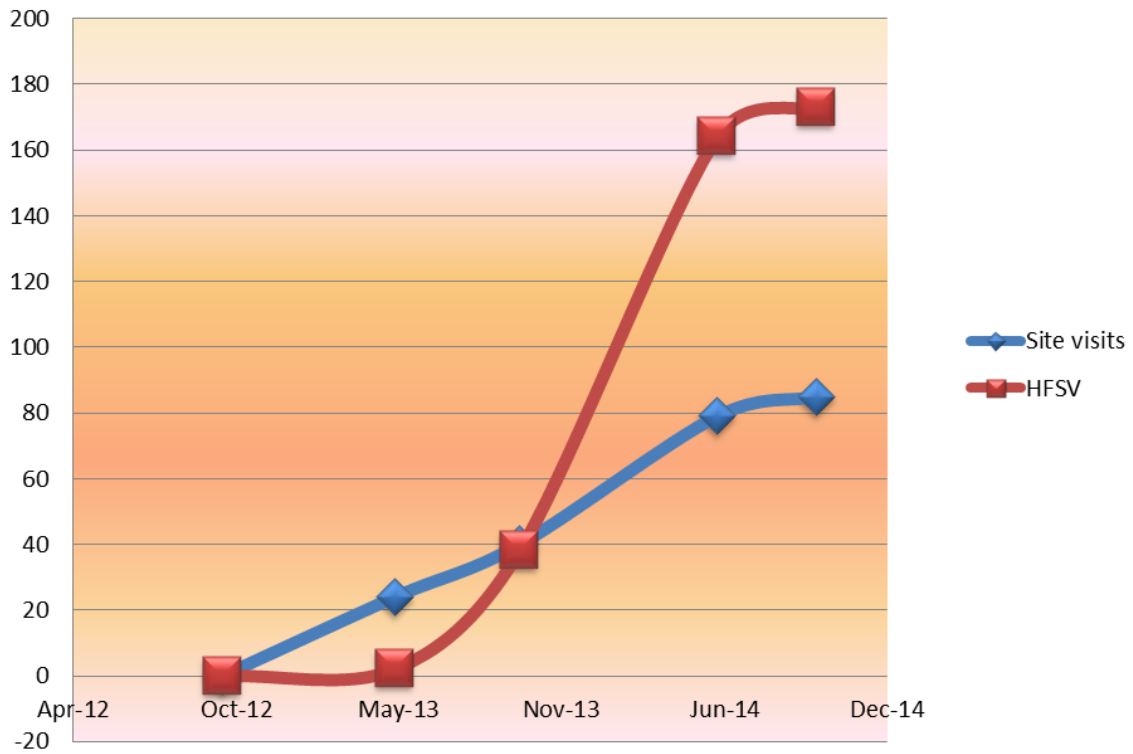


## Site Fire Safety Inspections

- 85 (79) Site Fire Safety checks carried out of 175 known sites



### ECTU Fire Safety Activity Since Launch



Indicator	Sub Division	May 13	Oct 13	May 14	Oct 14	Total
Home fire safety Visit	by ECTU	2	36	126	9	173
	Referred to ECFRS	0	1	10	0	11
Smoke alarms issued						191
Site Fire Safety Visits incl. access, water supply, spacing, Gas Cylinder storage, Hazardous Materials	by ECTU	24	16	39	6	85
	Referred to ECFRS	n/a	24	0	0	24
Note: Referrals are all concerns over location of/distance to nearest hydrant.						

**Paul Downes**, the new seconded Police Constable – commenced with the Unit on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014. The following is Paul's summary of his initial months in the role.

*Since starting I have been mostly dealing with or advising on unauthorised encampments throughout the county. There have been 110 reported encampments since I started, and there may have been more which did not get reported through our office.*

*I have been starting to engage with the Travellers on our many permanent sites visiting both alone and with local officers.*

*I have been promoting Essex Police and giving out Crime Stoppers leaflets to Travellers on both U/E and permanent sites, explaining the benefits of using Crime Stoppers.*

*I have identified areas to improve upon within our organisation, in particular the way we record our information in relation to U/E's and we are currently looking at ways to develop this.*

*I have met with several local authorities to explore better ways of management of U/E's in particular waste management taking into account the welfare needs of Travellers. As a result of a recent visit to Castle Point where Angela Slater (ECTU Officer) accompanied me we now have interest of a potential new partner for ECTU. I am continuing to promote the ECTU to other non-partner authorities.*

*I have recently been in touch with the Environment Agency in relation to the fly tipping issue at Thurrock and they are currently looking at the problem and ways to detect and prosecute offenders. We will be working closely on this issue, through the provision of photographic evidence gathered during site visits and aerial photography through our air support unit. I am keeping local command and Thurrock Council informed of the progress. The main suspects for the tipping are Travellers who were on the land without permission.*

*Harlow has been of particular interest this summer and high profile. I have engaged with the Travellers there and have built up a good relationship with them. Following Mr Donovan's (one of the Travellers from the encampment) engagement with the local community at the PCC's meeting I enquired into whether he would consider participating in the Essex Police Independent Advisory Group (IAG). I supported him with the completion and submissions of his application and he is now a member of the strategic IAG.*

*I continue to work with local officers offering advice and ensuring that they have the ability to deal with U/E's in line with the law, Essex Police policy and ACPO guidelines.*

*I attended other meetings within the Police service whenever a Traveller issue has been raised. I have gathered information in relation to Traveller issues and where appropriate shared that information with other departments to ensure the safety and welfare of all.*

*I have attended a rural crime meeting recently at the PCC's office and listened to the concerns of farmers and other land owners. I put forward our position and explained how an unauthorised encampment would be dealt with offering advice and answering questions. One item that came up was a lack of information for land owners and as a result I have drafted a leaflet explaining the law, ACPO guidelines and how to deal with the U/E in simple terms. It is currently with our media department to be processed. As a result of this meeting I have been invited to the farmers NAP and hope to have the leaflets available by then.*

*I have identified a training need within Essex police in relation to dealing with U/E and both PS Mills and I are currently looking at ways to deliver this training.*

*I am currently working on a Gypsy/Traveller information pack to be passed out to Police division offices containing guidance for officers, the necessary paperwork and a booklet to be given to travellers containing vital information, such as locations of doctors, dentists, local amenity sites, crime stoppers information, and the codes of conduct. The pack out will also be used by outreach team, as it will reflect the partnership working approach and can be used to circulate information relevant to Health, Fire Safety and service access aspect of our work.*

*Finally, following a dog biting incident on an unauthorised encampment in Thurrock, I have researched potential deterrents used within Essex Police, and identified "Bite Back" as a non-chemical, environmentally friendly and safe option. This will be rolled out to our outreach workers.*

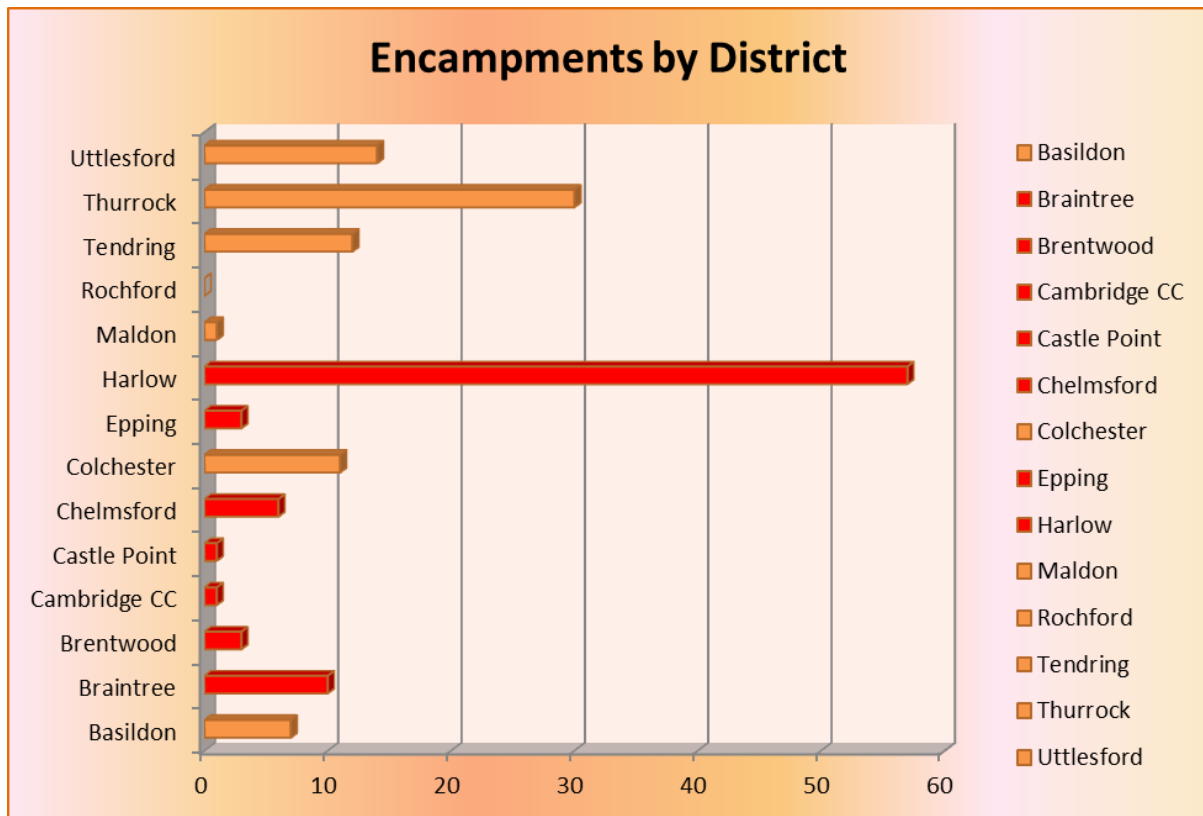
Indicator	Sub Division	October 13	May 14	Oct 14	Total
Increased knowledge and understanding of Gypsy/Traveller Communities	N/A	Qualitative data previously reported. Plus 10 sessions of cultural awareness have been held	No report	New officer to be reported next meeting	N/A
	Number of hate crimes reported by Gypsy/Traveller community	1	23	9	24
Number of UE's recorded	S61 applied	21	2	17*	23

\* 10 issued in Harlow

## Unauthorised Encampments

Reporting on unauthorised encampments from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 to current date for partner and ECC land, plus some non-partner/private land where we have been made aware, and/or have made a provisional visit to establish location.

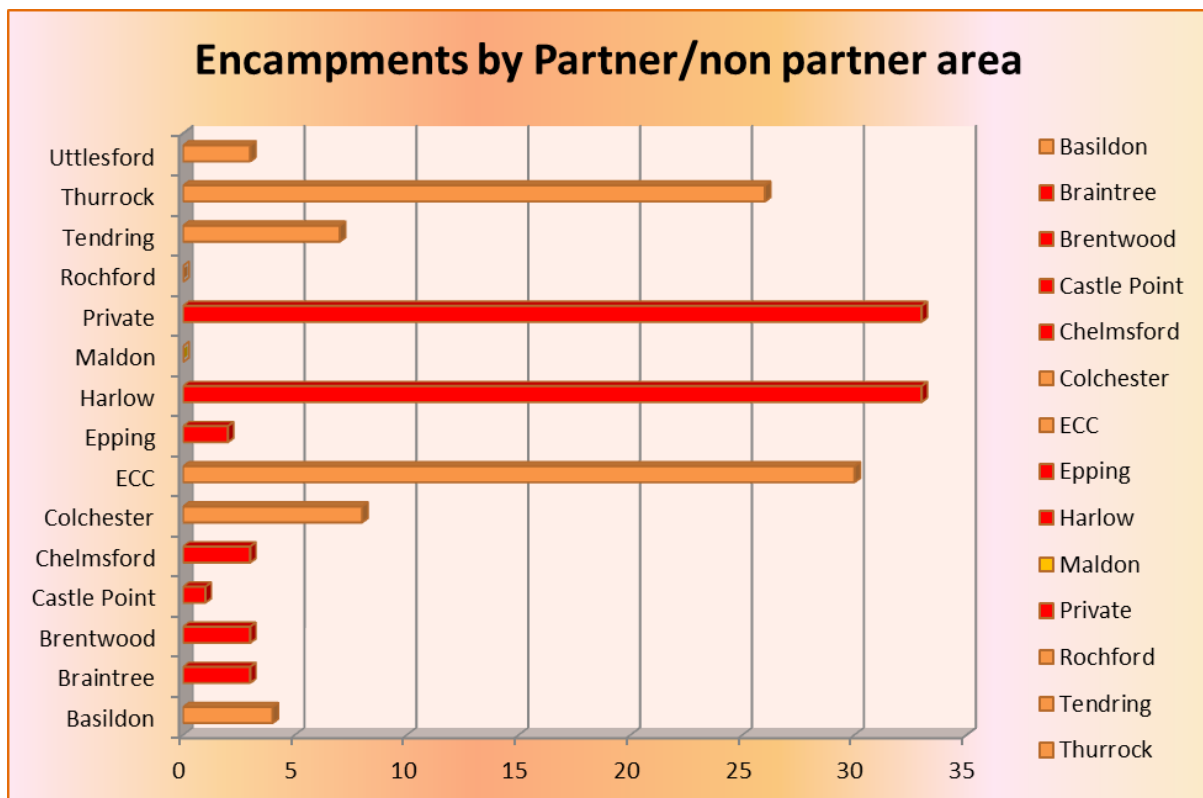
Encampments have been managed across a number of partner areas, with the two hotspots remaining in Harlow and Thurrock. There have now been 155 encampments in total, with 57 in Harlow, and 30 in Thurrock.



The chart above incorporates all reported encampments by District, hence private and highways are shown in their respective districts. Non partner districts are flagged red.

The following chart reflects the same figures, but displayed by partner area. Again non partners are flagged in red. As always, non partner and private could be understated, as there is no obligation to report them to the ECTU except for information purposes.

The bulk of the ECC encampments indicated as ECC are ECC highways in Harlow (18 of the 30).



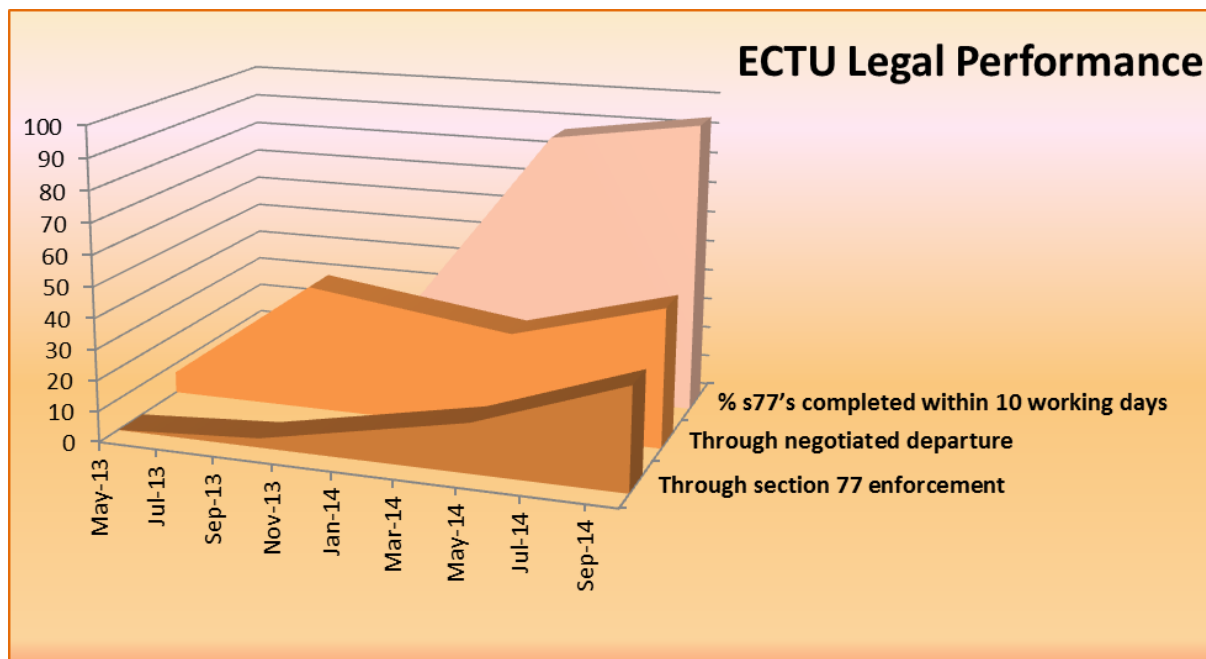
After a series of “misleading” information as to why the core group remain in Harlow, it has come to light that they have land in Epping which they failed to get planning permission on. They had returned to the land last year not realising there was an injunction in place to re-apply for permission, and some of the men were imprisoned as a result.

They are now staying in Harlow as there are lots of places to stop. Initially they requested that land be identified which they could purchase/get planning permission on. This has recently changed to requiring plots to rent. Numbers in Harlow have fluctuated as new groups have come and gone.

Thurrock equally has a core group who have been in the area since February, and have local connections. However, numbers have fluctuated with other Travellers coming into the area, not associated with the group, and there have been significant Fly Tipping problems on at least 2 locations associated to the Travellers stopping there, specifically associated with one group. There have been some discussions between the unit's Police officer and the Environment Agency, due to volume, and seeking their involvement to prosecute.

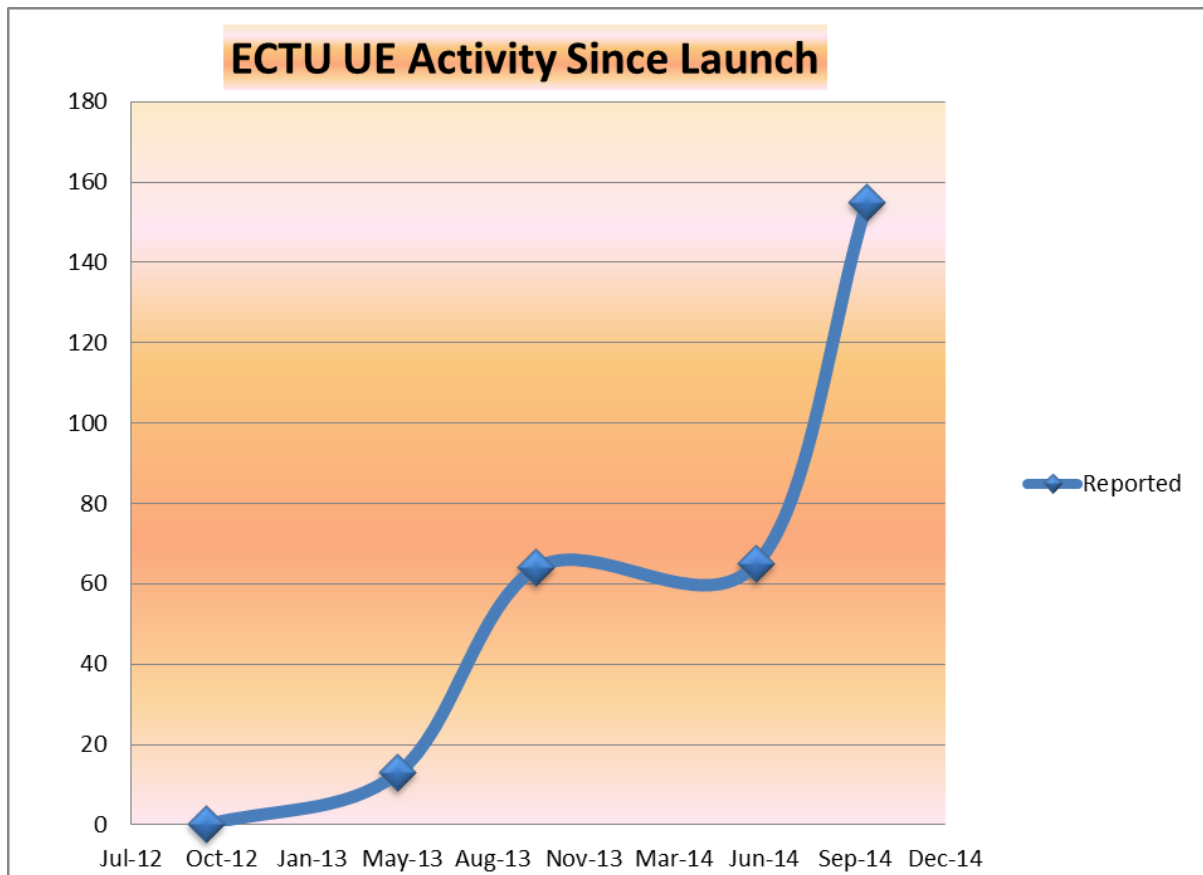
**ECTU performance** – there has been a significant increase in the number of encampments requiring court action to take repossession. In addition to the increase in the physical workload on the ECTU team, it also increases the pressure on the court system to facilitate the hearings and issue of court order. Despite this, ECTU are showing an improvement on the performance target of getting the court order

within 10 working days from 87 to 94%. In fact 90% of our cases have been 7 days or less.



There were 2 x encampments falling outside the 10 day target. One was an operational decision to leave an encampment for a few days longer, and the other was where a non-partner incorrectly served papers on ECTU land, resulting in the encampment staying an additional 4 days.

**Waste pick up** – we always try to encourage the use of black bags by Travellers on Unauthorised Encampments. Although this is often complied with, there is sometimes reluctance by street collections teams to pick this up until the encampment has departed – there was a recent example where Travellers actually asked for the waste that they had bagged and put by the roadside, to be collected. Failure to collect on an ongoing basis, results in the impression that the encampment has been left in a mess, when it is domestic waste awaiting collection. Can we agree an Essex wide approach on this, as it will reduce the tensions around encampments, and meet health requirement.



Indicator	Sub Division	May 13	Oct 13	May 14	Oct 14	Total
% of encampments where ECTU are involved		54%	66%	77%	50%	n/a
% visited within 1 working day		100%	97%	96%	95%	n/a
Number of encampments	Partner land	7	44	50	78	179
	Non-partner land	2	15	10	45	72
	Private	4	5	5	32	46
Number of encampments resolved	Through negotiated departure	7	41	32	45	125
	Through section 77 enforcement	0	3	16	33	52
% s77's completed within 10 working days		n/a	n/a	87%*	94%*	n/a
Number of part 55's issued		0	0	0	0	0

\* 2 encampments exceeded 10 days – one where a management decision was made to give an encampment more time, and one where a non-partner incorrectly served papers on ECTU land resulting in the encampment staying 4 days longer.



**Horse policy** – currently sourcing information to establish whether a need exists. Should there be an agreed requirement, we can access the work completed in this area in Norfolk and Suffolk to inform an Essex policy/procedure

**Fly Tipping** – there are always issues around Travellers, Traveller sites and tipping. Some of this will be the Travellers; some will be others using the proximity of Travellers to shift the blame. As your Environmental Health teams will agree, it is difficult to get sufficient evidence to take direct action, as the fact the tipping may be all around an encampment doesn't enable prosecution without hard evidence of who put it there. Is there interest in developing an ECTU policy/partnership on Fly Tipping around Traveller Sites/Encampments which could involve shared resource/equipment to target threatened areas?

**Site licencing** – discussions still ongoing with Epping with reference to Site Licence monitoring/enforcement, which may be of interest to our other partners

**Renewal of Joint Committee Agreement** – Briefing notes were sent to all partners in September reference the requirement to renew the Joint Committee Agreement as of October 2015. We will be looking to commit to a second 3 year term (or longer?) to continue the work or the unit across all partner areas. Indication of intentions will be appreciated to enable us to plan for 2015 onwards.