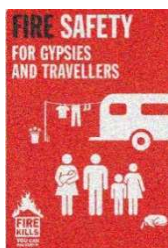


ESSEX COUNTYWIDE TRAVELLER UNIT: Operations/Performance Update – 15th November 2017



Current performance against strategy / action plan

Fire Safety



The updated “Fire Safety for Gypsies and Travellers” is being well distributed and well received by the Traveller Community.



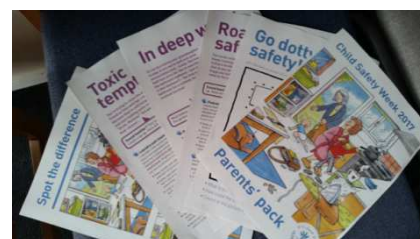
This is being utilised at the site and health and safety days, all ECC owned/managed sites, and as part of the outreach tool kit on all private site visits to specific families, along with the Flip presentation prepared as part of the new fire training received.

On site health and safety days



Fire safety was a key focus of the events this year. They provided the ideal opportunity for overall fire safety advice, and individual Home Fire Safety Visits.

Also the colouring in packs for the children contained a selection of hazard spotting pictures and danger signs for fire safety which was a conversation starter with the children



regarding safety. The above graph depicts the numbers involved in receiving specific fire safety advice.


Data

We are continuing with the process of providing all the data recorded to EFRS for recording centrally. This includes all Home Fire Safety and Site Fire Safety visits – including access measurements for appliances, plus the smoke alarms issued.




Gearing up for Christmas

As the Traveller Community are keen users on external Christmas decorations lighting and internal candles, we will be carrying out a “Stay Safe at Christmas” campaign across the sites.

Stay Safe with Christmas Decorations and have a safe & Happy Christmas



- Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard. Always use an RCD on outdoor electrical equipment (an RCD is a safety device that can save lives by instantly switching off the power).
- Never place candles near your Christmas tree or furnishings. Don't leave them burning unattended.
- Make sure your family and visitors staying for the festive period know what to do in an emergency. Practice a fire escape plan.
- Decorations can burn easily. Don't attach them to lights or heaters.
- Switch off electrical appliances when not in use, unless they're designed to stay on. Take special care with Christmas lights. Always switch off and unplug Christmas lights before you go to bed.
- Celebrate Christmas and New Year safely. The risk of accidents, especially in the kitchen, is greater when alcohol is consumed.
- Most fires start in the kitchen - never leave cooking unattended.
- If you are planning to celebrate with fireworks, store them in a metal box, read the instructions, never go back to a lit firework and keep a bucket of water nearby.
- Make sure all cigarettes and cigars are completely extinguished.
- Check the battery in your smoke alarm every week and use Christmas as a reminder to clean it and remove dust.
- Keep candles, lighters and matches out of reach of children.
- Take the time to check on elderly relatives and neighbours this Christmas - make sure they are fire safe.



Site fly tip cleared

The Felsted site, in Uttlesford has long been a concern for the Fire Service, due to vacant area being used for fly tipping. There was a previous attempt to block this area with shipping containers, but this had limited success, as the containers were subsequently breached, and tipped in. However, this area has now been completely cleared of all waste/containers, and to date, the area has remained clear. We are attempting to get planning permission to construct 2 new pitches in the space to provide a longer term solution



Before



After

Fire Safety – Data

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%	June 17 to Oct 17	75%	75%	May 17
Smoke Alarms issue	Approx 400 homes plus roadside	% of complete HFSV	75%	June 17 to Oct 17	73%	75%	May 17
Site Fire Safety Visits	Approx 241 Sites*	% of total sites	75%	June 17 to Oct 17	77%	78%	May 17
Provide settled sites data Sheets	Approx 241 Sites*	% of total sites	50%	June 17 to Oct 17	80%	56% see * below	May 17
No campaigns this period	County wide	% of total Homes		June 17 to Oct 17			Ongoing
* Site count increase from 174 to 241 following including of latest GTAA data							

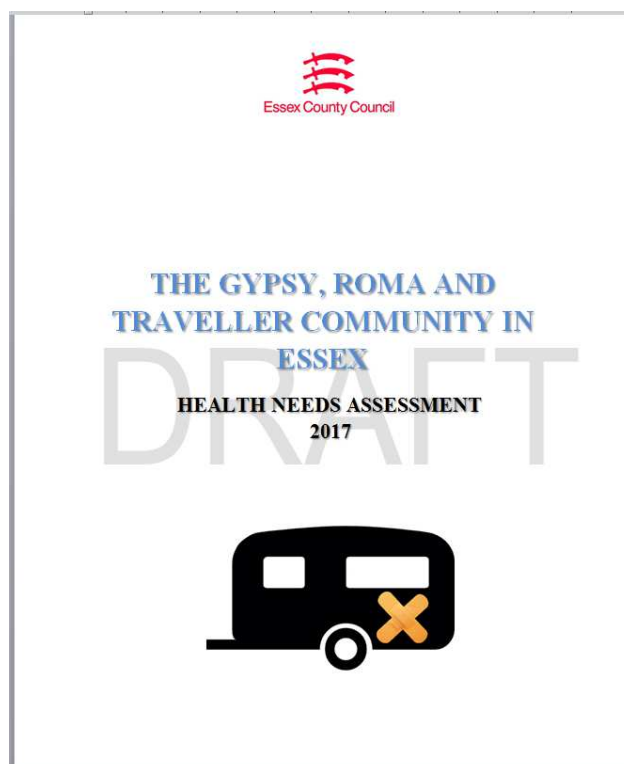
Fire Safety – Data

	Visits – smoke alarms issued pre current reporting period	Timescale / Report period	Data for Report period	Comments	
Home fire safety Visit	288	June 17 to Oct 17	36	Total	324
Smoke Alarms issue	367	June 17 to Oct 17	45	Total	384
Site Fire Safety Visits	134	June 17 to Oct 17	54	Total	188
Provide settled sites data Sheets	95	June 17 to Oct 17	0	Total	112
Access measurements	0	June 17 to Oct 17	0	Total	46
Dynamic updates on high risk encampments	ongoing	June 17 to Oct 17	ongoing		

Public Health

Essex Traveller Health Needs Assessment

The document is nearing completion of the first draft.



Extract from executive summary

“Essex has significant number of travellers compared to its neighbours in the region, and although the overall numbers are a small percentage of the population they often present complex health needs which will need significant public resources.

Current national policy has highlighted the need to help the most vulnerable members of society access the services they require, and travellers are often included in this category.”

The final document – in excess of 90 pages, will inform the future strategy/action plan for Public Health/ECTU in working with/supporting the community.

Health days 2017

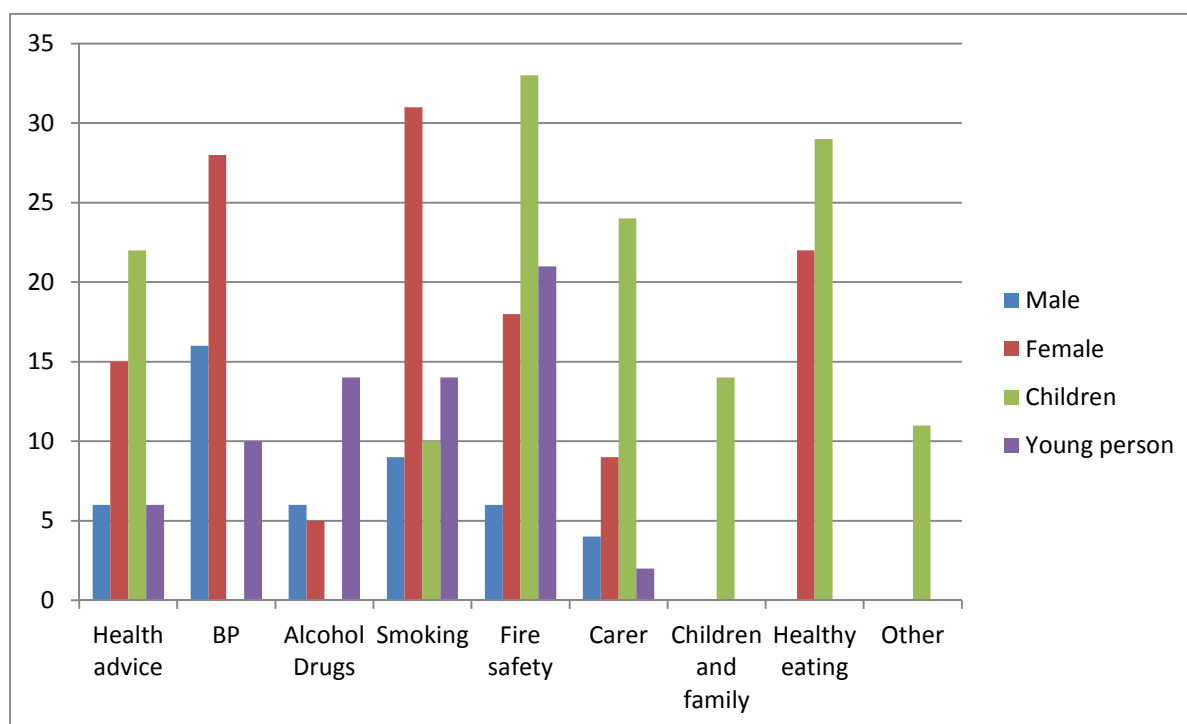
There were 8 events booked between June and September, 7 events took place 1 was cancelled.

The main aim of these events is to establish better health and wellbeing relationships with the GRT communities in an environment they feel comfortable.

The events aims are to offer basic health and wellbeing services including;

1. Health/lifestyle advice /Light touch advice tailored to them
2. Blood pressure monitoring
3. Alcohol and Drugs
4. Smoking cessation
5. Fire safety
6. Identifying carers to offer advice and support
7. Children and families
8. Healthy eating
9. Other

Outcomes for this year's program



Health/lifestyle advice /Light touch advice tailored to them

The children colouring packs that include information on many topics was a great conversation starter and once the children were talking the Adults joined in.

This included general discussions about lifestyle including exercise, good food, small changes that can make a big difference.

Some conversations around mental health, depression and anxiety took place, questions were asked around stress management.

Also discussions about how to keep children safe in the hot weather proved popular and involved people not drinking enough water and chatting about why this is important.



Blood pressure monitoring

Blood pressure checking was most popular with females but we still had a good representation of men considering they would normally have been at work or not interested. Young people appear to be taking a bigger interest in health and wellbeing so having their BP checked and asking questions around why this is important and how to keep an healthy BP was encouraging.

Alcohol and Drugs

There was not an emphasis on Drugs and Alcohol this year however young people very much enjoyed attempting tasks using the beer goggles, which generated informative conversations around the effects of being intoxicated.

Smoking cessation

A total of 64 light touch interventions took place for stop smoking, this was the second highest number out of all interventions on offer. The jam jar filled with tar was a good tool for talking with the children and young people to show what the effects of smoking are on the lungs. From 31 females who used the carbon monoxide test the majority of them expressed a wish to look to giving up some time in the future 7 referrals (one pregnant) were made to Provide's stop smoking service.

Fire safety

Fire safety was a focus of the events this year, as the ECTU staff had recently received updated training, and were armed with smoke alarms to distribute – see main Fire Safety section of this report.

Identifying carers to offer advice and support

Having an AFFC staff member at all events this year proved very successful, she was able to talk and interact with the children asking about who they live with and who helps who. At least 4 people received a 1:1 discussion with 3 additional appointments made.

Children and families

Barnardo's were able to attend two events this year, giving them the opportunity to engage with children from families they do not have regular contact with, and in their home environment. The children engaged with the workers. Comments from one of the workers was "Being able to work with hard to reach family children in a non-official way was very helpful" "Would love to do more events especially in term time"

Healthy eating

In addition to the health and lifestyle advice and support on offer, we had strawberry and tomato plants, and cress heads to give to the children to grow their own food. This went down very well indeed; the children loved drawing pictures of faces on planting cups and using the instructions, planted cress seed to make hair that would grow. Also we gave out approx. 80 strawberry plants and 40 tomato plants with compost and make shift grow bags. This was a great way to talk about healthy eating and lots of PHE sugar swap cards and stickers were given out as well as other change 4 life information.



Cancer outreach

The team receive recent training from cancer research around addressing potential cancer issues with the community and checks which can/should be carried out.

These skills will be taken forward in promoting the



Utilising the graphic based promotional materials provided.

ECTU designed – Traveller friendly

ECTU continue to develop bespoke materials to promote key health issues. This example is in response to the increased evidence of use of Nitrous Oxide gas



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	Jun 17 to Oct 17	36	4	May 17	Total 40
Facilitated to receive the flu jabs		Unknown	No.	150	Jun 17 to Oct 17	198	18	May 17	Total 216
Report known pregnancies on site and link to anti natal , stop smoking etc		Unknown	na	na	Jun 17 to Oct 17	9	0	Ongoing	Total 9
Identified Long Term Condition		Unknown	No.	25	Jun 17 to Oct 17	19	3	May 17	Total 22

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	Jun 17 to Oct 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	Jun 17 to Oct 17	5	6	May 17	Total 11
	Temporary		No.	na		0	0	May 17	
Health Checks Facilitated		Unknown	No.	25	Jun 17 to Oct 17	4	11	Nov 16	Total 15
Number referred to stop smoking/alcohol and healthy eating, and Child Safety etc		Unknown	No.	50	Jun 17 to Oct 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

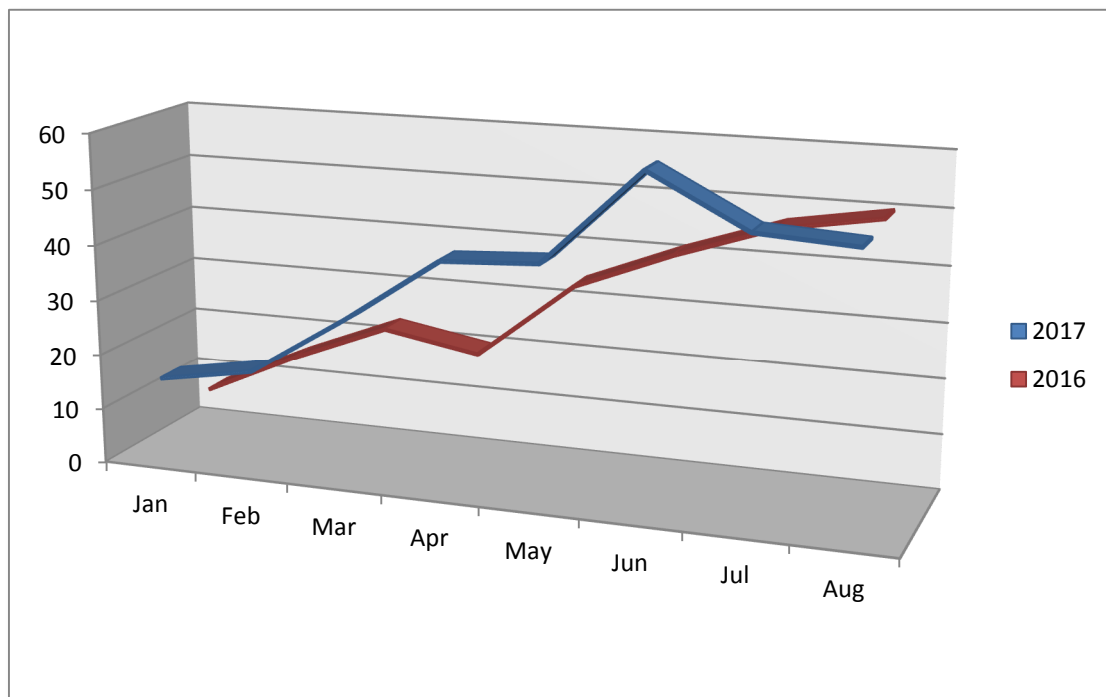


Education								
Objectives	Scope	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance at previous reporting period	Performance for Report period	Time scale	Comments
Number of Children supported into pre-school /school 2 – 16	unknown	No.	150	Jun 17 to Oct 17	94	95	May 17	Total 189
Number of children transferring from primary to secondary	unknown	No.	15	Jun 17 to Oct 17	12	2	May 17	Total 14
Number of young adults supported into further education	unknown	No.	15	Jun 17 to Oct 17	1	6	May 17	Total 7
Number of transport applications Supported	unknown	No.	40	Jun 17 to Oct 17	26	39	May 17	Total 65
Number of 2 year olds funded applications supported	unknown	No.	40	Jun 17 to Oct 17	5	3	May 17	Total 85

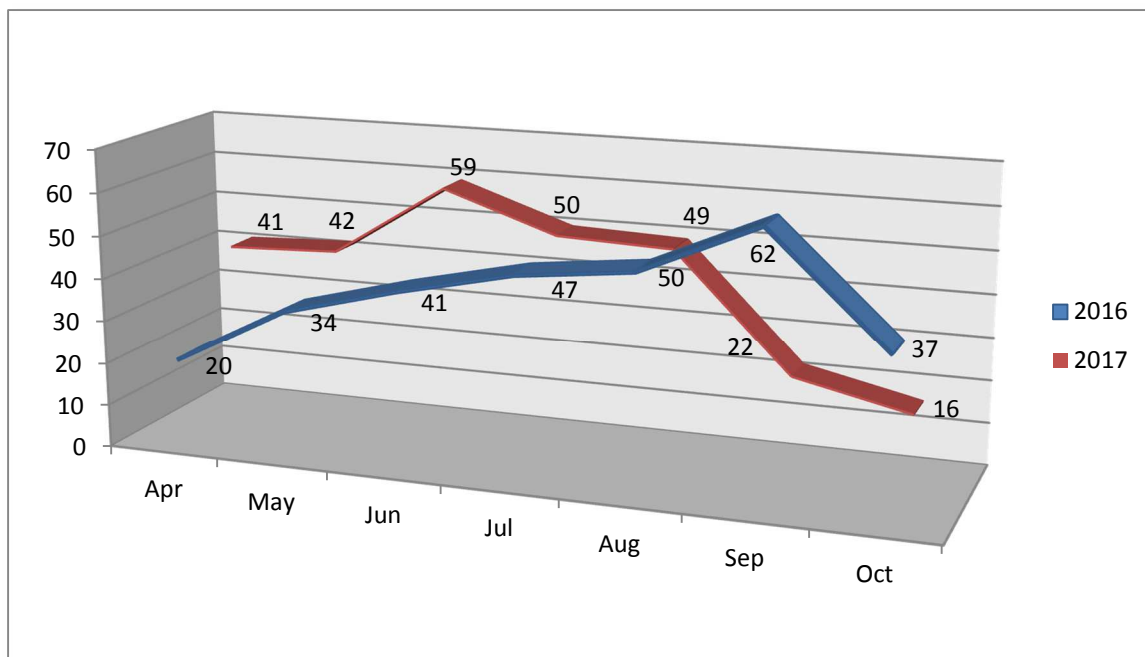
There is a lot of additional work that goes on around education in terms of supporting meetings at schools, supporting with uniform issues, bullying issues, attendance meetings and home education.

Unauthorised encampments

As expected the first half of the year showed the traditional increase up to the Summer peak around the school holiday period of July and August. This was a marginally lower than the previous year, but in terms of the overall figures, from January to August, it looked as though we were in for another record year with 303 reported encampments as opposed to 239 for the same period the previous year.



However, we have since experienced a quicker drop off coming into the autumn and winter. This could be due to one of the more problematic groups moving out of Essex, and another going to ground.



We have had some high profile/large number encampments in the summer period including Highland Park, and Pollards Green in Chelmsford, and encampment making the national press.

We have also experienced some significant fly tipping incidents, from groups known to be high risk tippers – the S and W's.



The Police and Crime Commissioner - “single protocol” - how the Police and ECTU or the Police and non-partner authorities will work together in the management of unauthorised encampments.

A request has been forwarded for the specific inclusion of sharing of s61 rational with ECTU/Partners.

The steering group are still meeting regularly re progress, but the still implementation will be linked to the completion of the new Police Team with Traveller responsibility. This will be covered later in the meeting.

Fly Tipping/Anti Social Behaviour/Environmental Health issues – At ECC’s full council meeting on the 10th October, Cllr Lissimore put forward a motion re increased partnership working in the management of UE’s.

“This Council therefore calls upon all Essex District, Borough and City Authorities to work together with Essex County Council and Essex Police to identify and act on the root causes of this increase for the benefit of both local residents and Traveller communities. In the meantime, this Council urges all Essex District, Borough and City Authorities to treat unauthorised encampments in the same way as they would treat any other unauthorised incursion on to their land and work to minimise the disruption that unauthorised encampments can cause.”

By default, this will include appropriate action being taken to address the likes of fly tipping, environmental health issues, parking violations etc around UE’s.

Injunctions – Harlow DC were successful in the award of an extension to their existing injunction by 3 years. This included additional names being added, and against the background of 2015/16 – 13 and 2016/17 - 15 reported encampments, all short term as in breach of the previous injunction.

Basildon BC are also seeking an injunction on the regularly targeted industrial estates in the borough. The hearing for the temporary injunction is scheduled for the 6th November. This was initially understood to be repeat offenders, but have been extended to “persons unknown” covering the area.

Thurrock are also considering an injunction against named individuals/targeted areas. The M family, who were repeat offenders over a number of years, are no longer active, but Thurrock numbers have remained high.

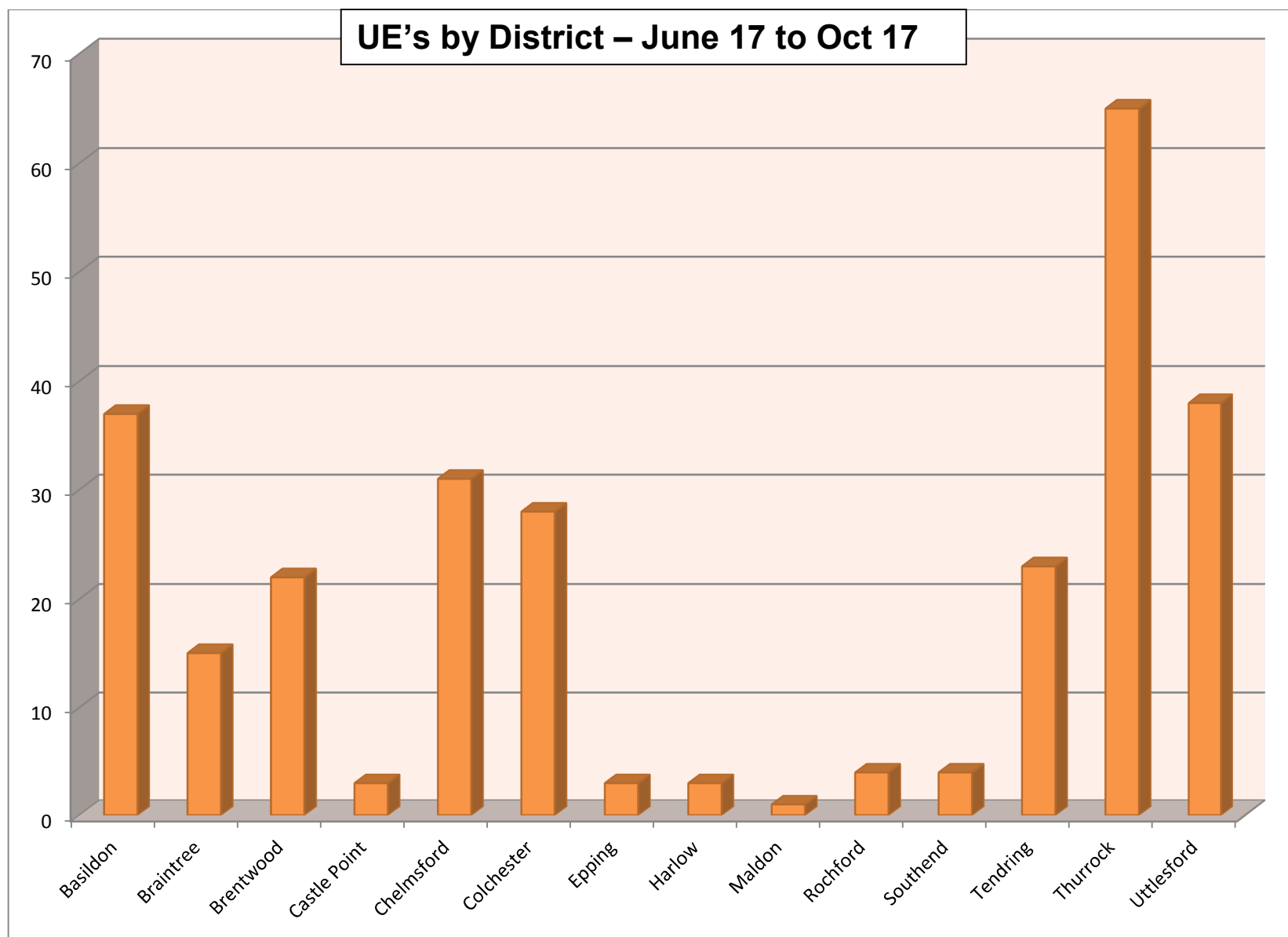
Partners need to be aware that, as per the Harlow action, injunction can often displace the offending groups, hence the success of any Basildon or Thurrock action could displace the groups to another authority in Essex.

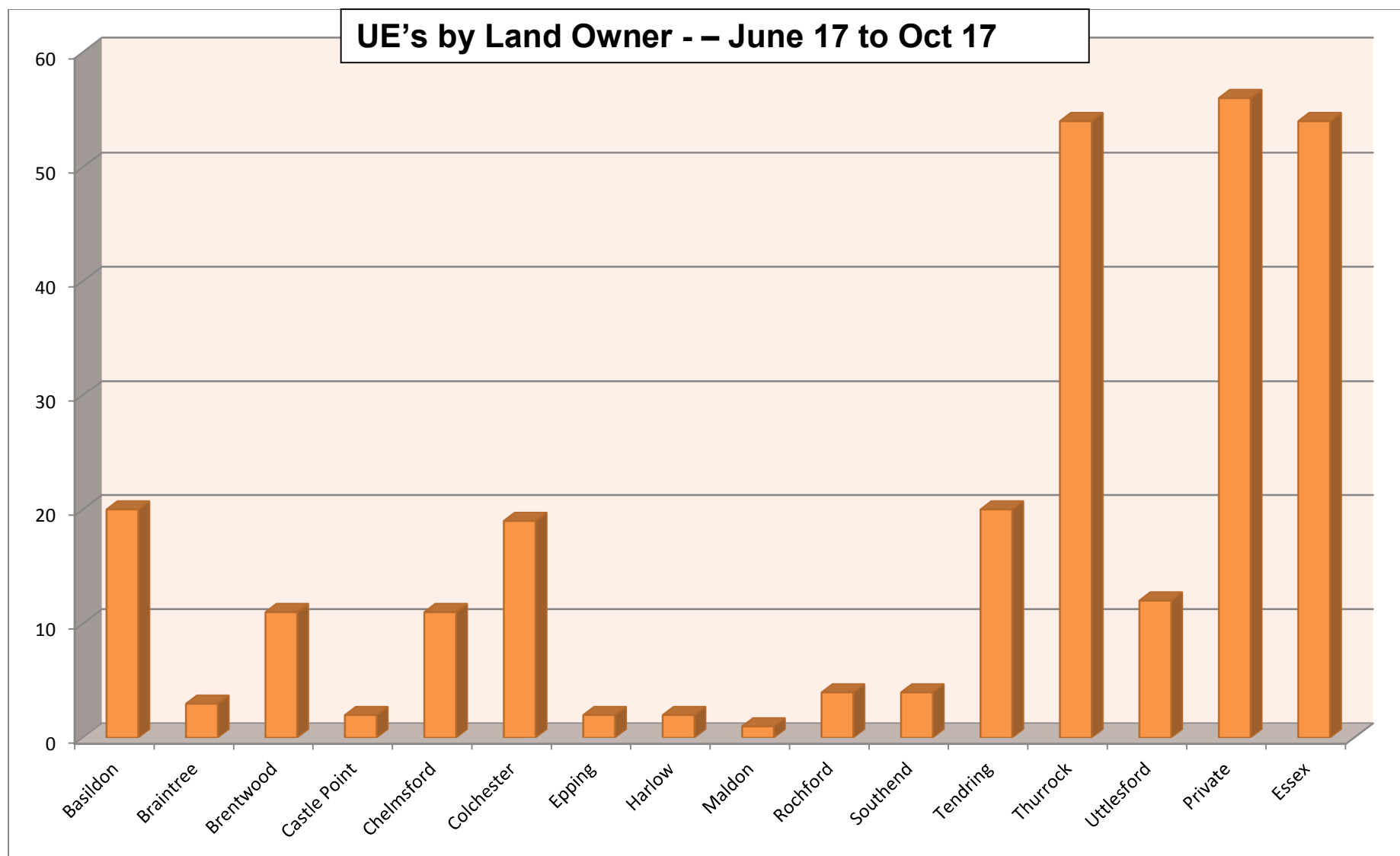
Unauthorised Encampments - Performance

Objective	Sub Division	Target measure	Target	Timescale / Report period	Performance for Report period	Comments
UE visited within 1 working day		%	97%	Jun 17 to Oct 17	99%	Based on current volumes this is an exceptional performance
Number of encampments resolved through	negotiated departure	%	40%	Jun 17 to Oct 17	29%	Low performance as majority of court cases are with the persistent groups
	Court enforcement	%	60%	Jun 17 to Oct 17	55%	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.	83 0 24 44	Jun 17 to Oct 17	Data only	
s77's complete within 10 working days		%	98%	Jun 17 to Oct 17	100%	Exceeding target
s77's complete within 7 working days		%	95%	Jun 17 to Oct 17	90%	Impacted by sheer volume

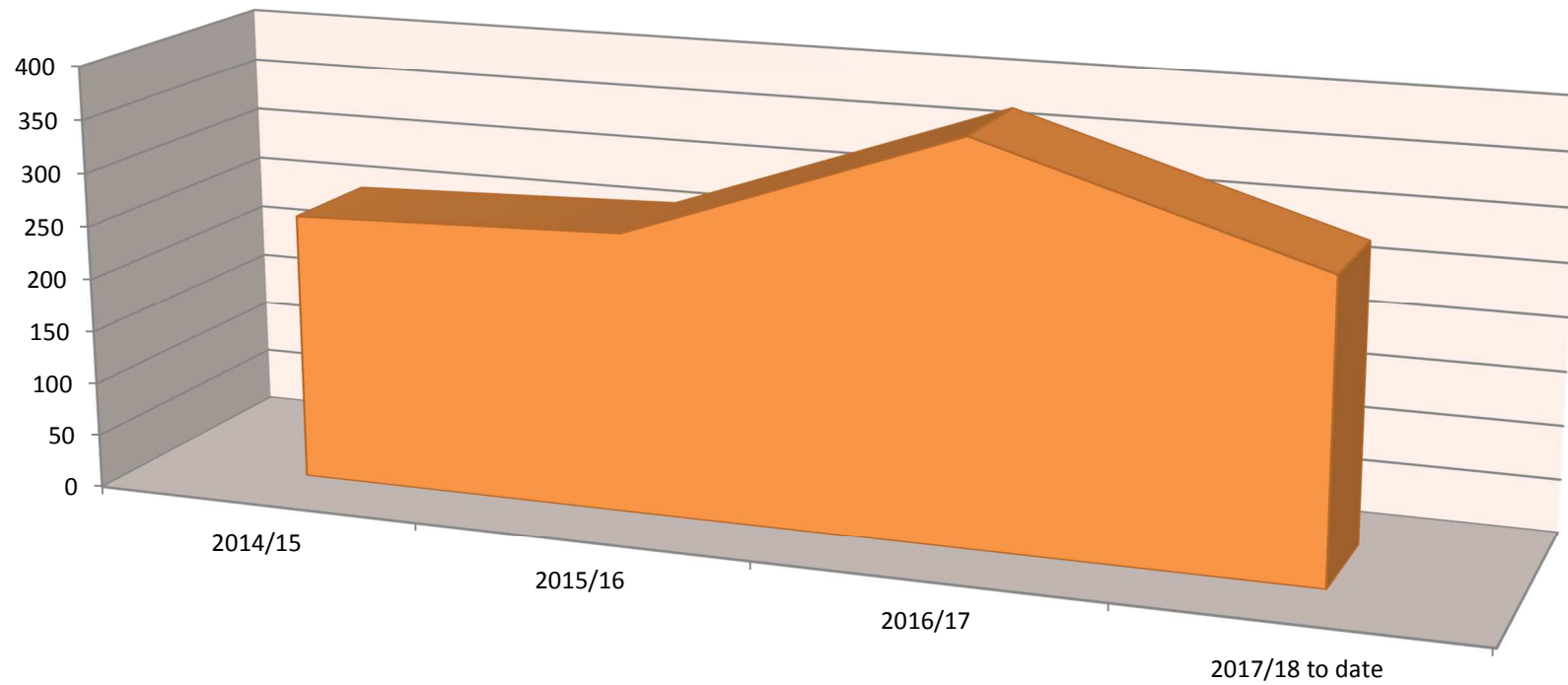
Unauthorised Encampments - data

Sub Division		Timescale / Report period	Data for Report period	Comments
% of encampments where ECTU are involved		Jun 17 to Oct 17	77%	Increase from last period of 22%
Number of encampments	Partner	Jun 17 to Oct 17	151	
	Non-partner	Jun 17 to Oct 17	9	Non-partners may not share all of their encampment details.
	Private	Jun 17 to Oct 17	40	





Essex UE's - 4 year Cycle



	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 to date
Series1	252	262	374	279

Ongoing structure/sustainability of the enforcement aspect of the Unit

As stated at the last meeting, 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, but 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.

The request to increase member contributions in year was requested at the Joint Committee in June requesting responses/confirmation by September. At the time of writing this report, 2 responses had been received.

Police

Sgt Paul Downes is gathering his new Gypsy/Traveller liaison team 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:-



Sgt Paul Downes

PC Matt Harkness

PC Adrian Ranson

PC A N other? To commence in December, plus the option to call on

PC ??? from Rural Crime if additional resource needed.

The intention is that the team will divided Essex up between them, but will still work across all areas when required or to cover shift patterns. The intention is that this team will operate on a 7 day a week, 8am to 10pm, and will attend all reported encampments. In addition to other works with Gypsy/Traveller and rural communities.

Communications plan – for review - ongoing

External – we have experience 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. It remains a challenge to attract any publicity for the positive works carried out by the unit, whereas the minutiae of low impact encampments are reported in some areas.



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 – We are still seeking to produce a stand-alone dynamic website dependent on available funding. This has not been progressed since the last meeting due to operational requirements.

Transit Sites

Update to be provided by Paul Ashworth.



Training

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 – we now have a series booked for the remainder the year/early next.
- Chelmsford – 2 x training sessions to approx 60 officers booked and delivered in October
- Society of Local Council Clerks – Officers training day
- Rochford – initial member session booked for November but rescheduled to the new year
- Initial meeting with Basildon Hospital is going to extend to a formal training session for front line staff.
- Culture training delivered to Clergy and Helpers at Basildon Hospital October 2017 by Outreach.
- Requests for Adult Social Care for sessions for frontline officers.
- Training scheduled in November for **MARAC**