



## Operational Report – November 2020

Due to the initial lockdown, and subsequent restrictions, this has significantly impacted on our ability to deliver the usual services which require close contact/home visits. This report summarises some of the activities where we have been able to deliver remotely. There is no statistical data – with the exception of Unauthorised encampments - as the work does not reflect the normal operations and targets. The intention is to give an overall flavour of what *is* happening during the COVID 19 restrictions.

### Outreach including Health, Education and Fire Services

#### Education

We have continued to remotely work with/support families with school and transport applications, including mid term applications, and ensuring September intake, and awareness of start dates/uniform requirements etc. We have also worked closely with schools and the families in overcoming the fears of the full time return to school in September/October, which there was some wide spread reluctance to initially.

Supporting/Referrals to alternative education scheme, further education and college

Supported schools and parents with access to the free school meal vouchers during lockdown.

We have started work with a local preschool re engaging young Traveller people, aged 11-16 to actively work in/help out the pre school classes which will benefit those people in experiencing the work environment, and the children at the pre school who enjoy and respond well to older children.

#### Health and Welfare

We have continued to remotely support some GTs with health conditions get the correct support and benefits (if needed) as well as their carers' and families and generally getting access to health services.

We have experienced a lot more engagement from GT men, who have been unable to get work during the lockdown/restrictions and needed support.

We are now actively working with MARAC - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference - to help support GT victims of domestic violence.

We continue to work with/support other agencies in working with the GT community, including health workers, Essex Family Wellbeing, Children Missing Education and Social Worker etc.

Supported with Domestic Abuse cases x 4

Made a number of food bank referrals

Carried out training/presentation session via teams for safeguarding nurses meeting via teams,

### COVID related

Our officers were part of a big team at ECC who worked together to get a Testing bus onto Oak lane site and test 79 residents for COVID and helped ensure that information was relayed to the local school.

Texting/Whatsapp'ing GT families to encourage/ensure that they still use the appropriate health services if needed.



### The Wellbeing Bus for improving access to the community

This project is still ongoing, and we have been working with multi agencies in the preparation of the bid for the necessary funding. Once submitted, it could take 3 to 6 month before the outcome is known. Hopefully this will tie in with some form of normality post COVID.



### Case studies

*“Supported with Essex CC social care case, supporting parent to undergo parenting assessment, helping with reading through and explaining questions, being present for all Teams and WhatsApp sessions with the social worker to successfully complete the assessment. I have supported with linking up with relevant support in out of County area parent is now living in.”*

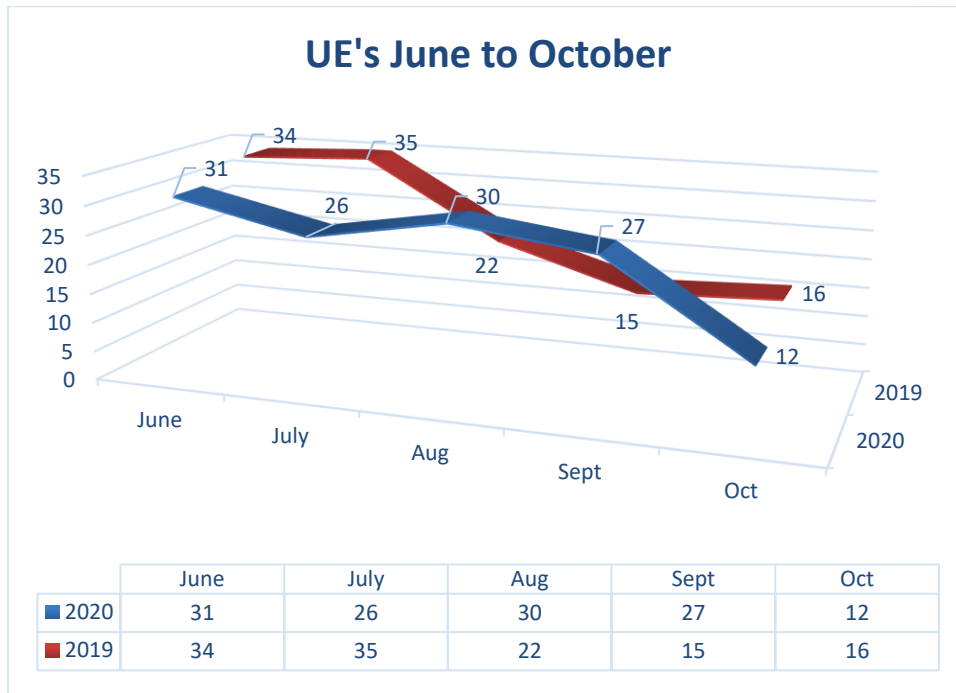
*“Supported family re housing (inadequate accommodation,) but through this contact, became aware of young person in the household who had mental health issues. I built up a rapport with her and discussed college application, supported with her admission to course (she has been out of education for 5 years). I also referred her to EWMHS for support and will be supporting with accessing support sessions through the college. The young person has said that she is really looking forward to going back to college again after half term, she is quite isolated at home.”*

### Fire

We have been unable to complete home fire safety visits due to the need to enter individual caravans/a very enclosed environment, hence with lockdown / restrictions, and the community’s fears over COVID our officers are not going onto private sites for any visits.

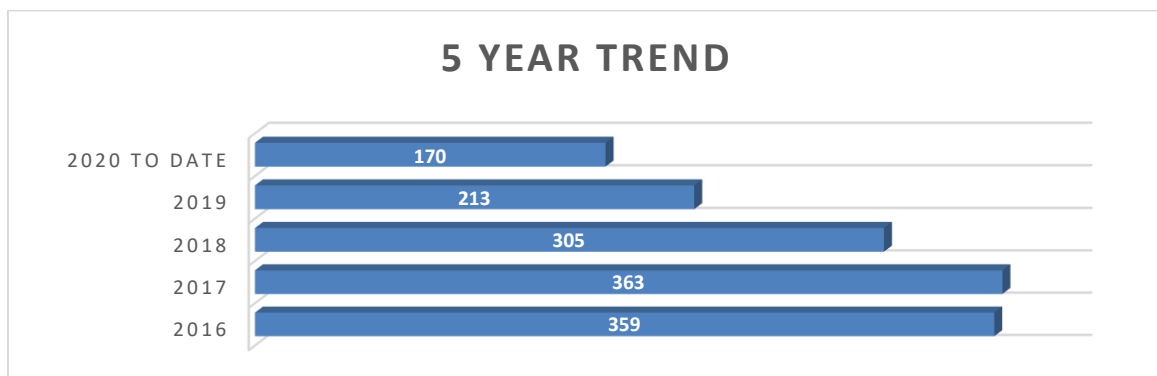
## Unauthorised encampments

Encampments from June 2020 to October 2020



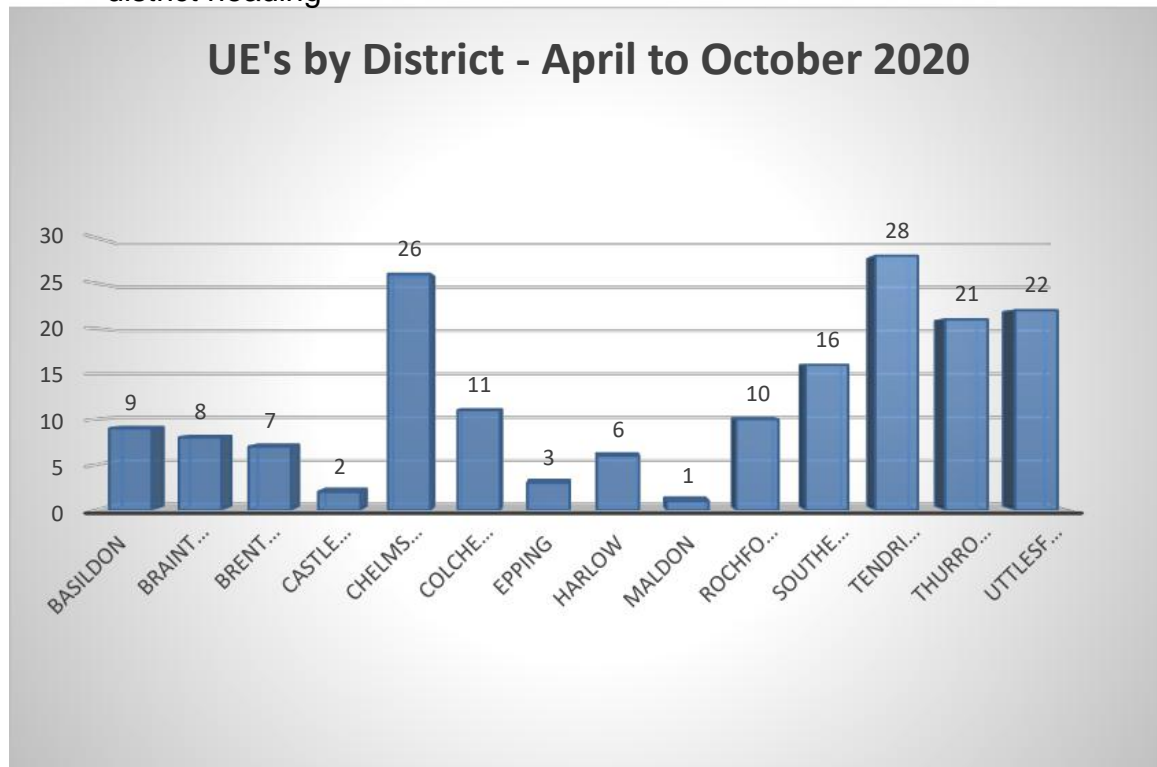
There was a slower start to the summer period following the lock down restricting movement etc, and June/July were slightly lower compare to the same period last year, but thing picked up in August / September with reduced restrictions, and exceeded last year's numbers.

The restrictions earlier this year would have impacted on the overall numbers, so the 5 year trend is showing that 2020 is likely to show a continued decline in the number of encampments, whereas in reality, it would probably have finished at similar levels to 2019.

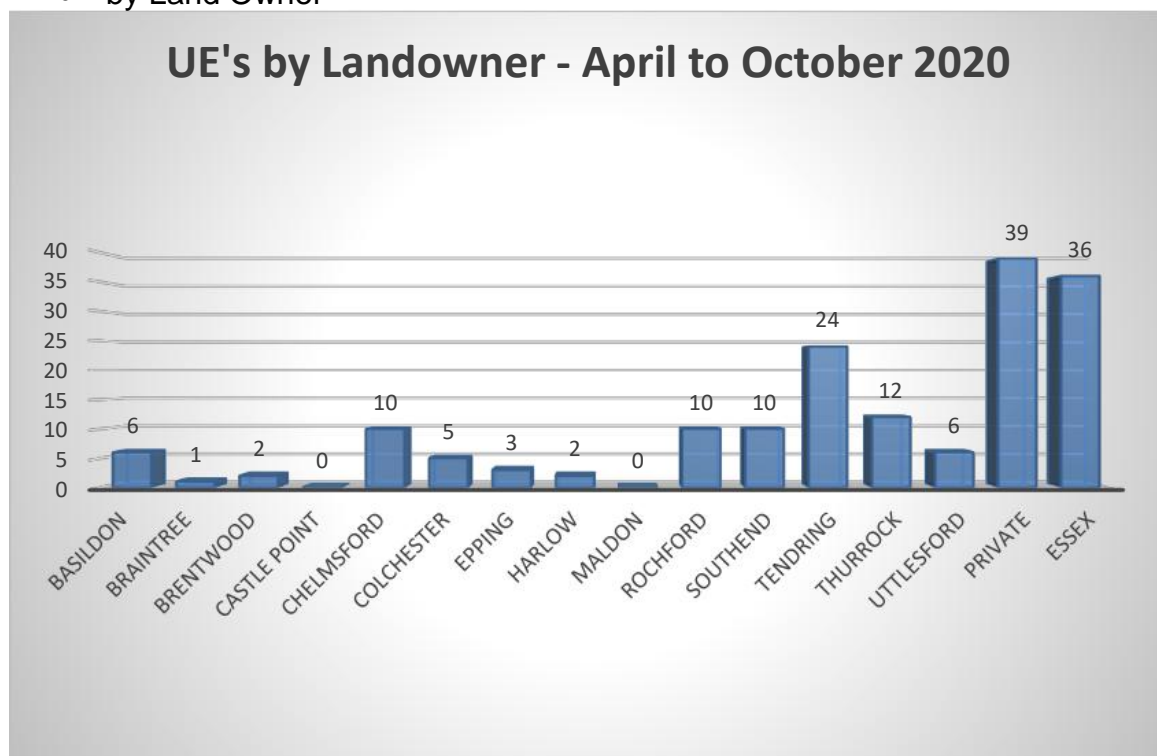


The following charts show UE activity: -

- by district which will include Highways & Private encampments under the district heading



- by Land Owner





## **Injunctions**

**Basildon** – was the interim injunction ever extended to the full injunction?

**Harlow** - withdrew the extension application. They have experienced a small number of encampments since, but not the feared influx

**Thurrock** - are still on the interim injunction. Is there an intention to extend to the full injunction?

It would appear that, following legal challenge of the Bromley injunction, the days of blanket injunctions on persons unknown many become a thing of the past.

## **Government Policy**

Reference was previously made by Priti Patel that there would be some movement/announcement re the consultation/proposal to make trespass a criminal offence, but to date there has been nothing forthcoming.

### Unauthorised Encampments - Performance

| Objective                                | sub   | Measure             | Target    | Timescale        | Outcome | Comments |
|--|---|---------------------|-----------|------------------|---------|----------|
| UE visited within 1 working day          |   | %                   | 97%       | May 19 to Oct 19 | 98%     |          |
| Encampments resolved through             | Negotiated/Other  | %                   | 40%       |                  | 58%     |          |
|  | Courts  | %                   | 60%       |                  | 34%     |          |
| <b>Totals</b>                            | Section 77/8<br>Part 55<br>Section 61<br>Negotiated/other | 48<br>0<br>17<br>83 | Data Only |                  |         |          |
| s77's complete within 10 working days    |   | %                   | 100%      |                  | 100%    |          |
| s77's complete within 7 working days     |   | %                   | 90%       |                  | 98%     |          |
| % of encampments where ECTU are involved |   | %                   | NA        |                  | 45%     |          |
| Number of encampments                    | Partner   | 103                 | NA        |                  |         |          |
|  | Non-partner   | 6                   | NA        |                  |         |          |
|  | Private   | 34                  | NA        |                  |         |          |

