



# Young Colchester: Life Chances, Assets and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

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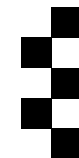
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Catalyst Conference 26 June 2019 #UoECatalystConf

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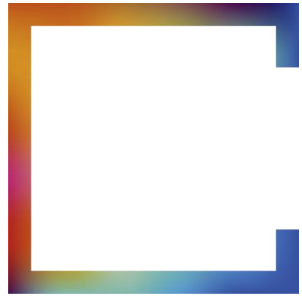


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# Outline of Presentation

- Brief introduction
- Overview of criminological explanations on ASB
- Profile of Colchester Youth
- Project Scope
- Evaluation Case Study (Youth S)
- Brief findings
- Key issues highlighted
- Recommendations



# Colchester Borough Council Safer Colchester Partnership

## Rationale for commissioning of project

Opportunity arose in November 2018 to look in depth at how alienated and marginalised young people, who engage in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), might subsequently be excluded from education and training (self or imposed) and thereby deprive the communities in which they live of access to a range of much needed skills... leading subsequently to a negative impact on economic growth and prosperity.

In order to ensure the highest level of partnership working, Colchester Borough Council (CBC) and UoE held conversations with key agencies including Essex Youth Services (EYS), Essex Police Community Policing Team (CPT) and Essex Youth Offending Team (YOT) leading to an overall 'Young Colchester' project plan being agreed; its activities were sub-divided into four processes:

**To engage in a desk research based exercise to understand what work has already been done in this area**

*Research to scope young people's life chances, assets and levels/locations of ASB.*

**To shape a set of interventions in Colchester communities to understand why young people engage in ASB and what impact this has on their education, training, skills and job opportunities**

*'Detached youth work' project (considered an ideal way to engage with young people out in the community) delivered by EYS into 2 'hotspot' locations (identified as areas experiencing higher levels of youth ASB), these being Castle Ward (Town Centre) and New Town Ward, over the period February – July 2018.*

**To evaluate the findings from the above and produce recommendations**

*Evaluation carried out July 2018. UoE produced Young Colchester Report, which contained 8 multi-agency recommendations.*

**To test the findings amongst a group of stakeholders**

*Young Colchester Conference was held on 7th November 2018 to share the report, its findings and recommendations. Further joint work to take place between CBC, UoE, EYS, Essex Police CPT and other relevant youth focussed organisations to come together to form a Young Colchester Working group, with the focus of providing a coordinated approach to tackling youth issues.*

# Overview of criminological explanations on ASB

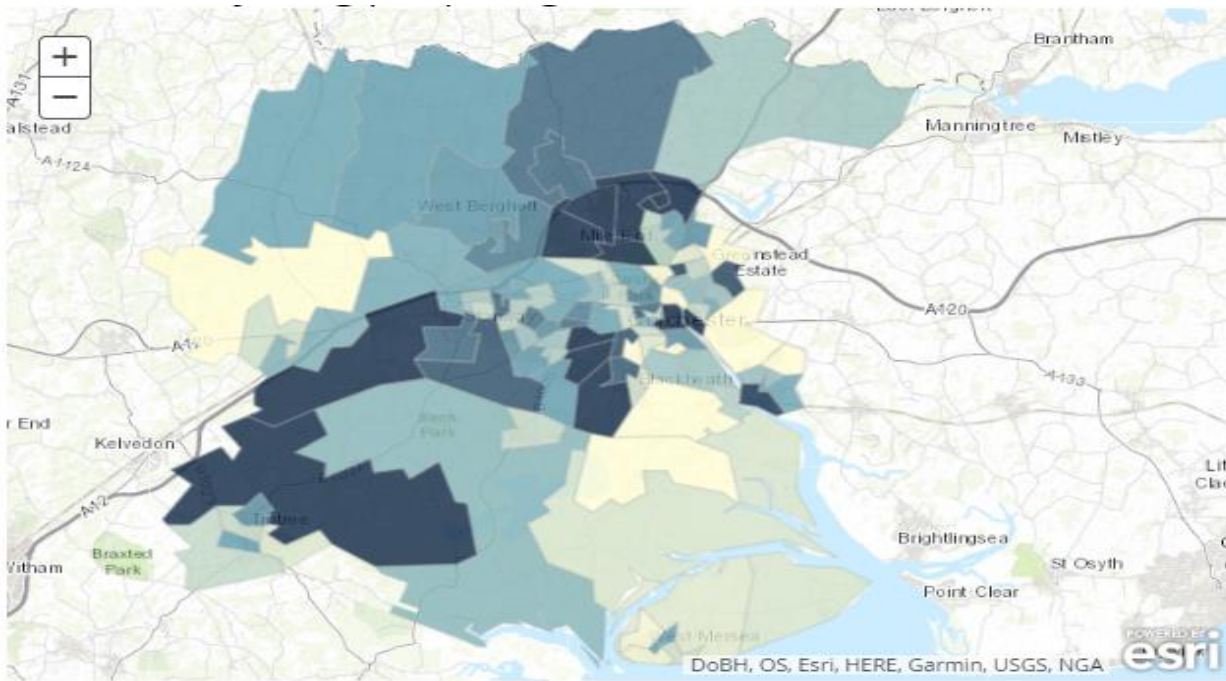


Recent research indicates that

- NEET or otherwise marginalised youth are **more likely to engage in ASB and other forms of youth crime** (Muncie, 2014; Goldson and Muncie, 2015).
- **(Re)accessing education/employment, by (re)building esteem-based relationships and maintaining youth-focused community assets** have positive influence (Laub and Sampson, 2001; Kazemian, 2014).
- Initiatives that encourage the development of **‘collective efficacy’ – or higher levels of trust between residents enable greater willingness among them to act as ‘capable guardians’ at key times** can be effective.
- Neighbourhoods with **higher levels of trust** are more likely to create and maintain a safe environment (Sampson, Raudenbush and Earls, 1997; Odgers et al, 2009).

# Profile of Young people in Colchester

## Demographics - Map 1



Age 11-19\_LSOA



## One of Britain's fastest growing towns.

- Colchester's population was estimated at 186,635 in mid-2016.
  - **High proportion of yp and low proportion of over-65s** relative to comparable towns.
  - **In mid-2016** = 0-19 years was estimated at **44,132 (23.6%)** of total population.
  - 51.4% (22,667) were male and 48.6% (21,465) female
- (Colchester Borough Council, 2018; Office for National Statistics, 2017).

# Profile of Young people in Colchester

c90% of young people in Colchester and Tendring are 'In Learning' in line with the county average (Essex YOT, June 2018).

80% of schools rated good or outstanding but still lower than 84.3% across county

1/5th of Colchester's schools rated less than good

both temporary and permanent exclusions are relatively rare but increasing.

15.0% of all children in Colchester live in low-income families – 1/5th in Essex but below the national figure of 18%



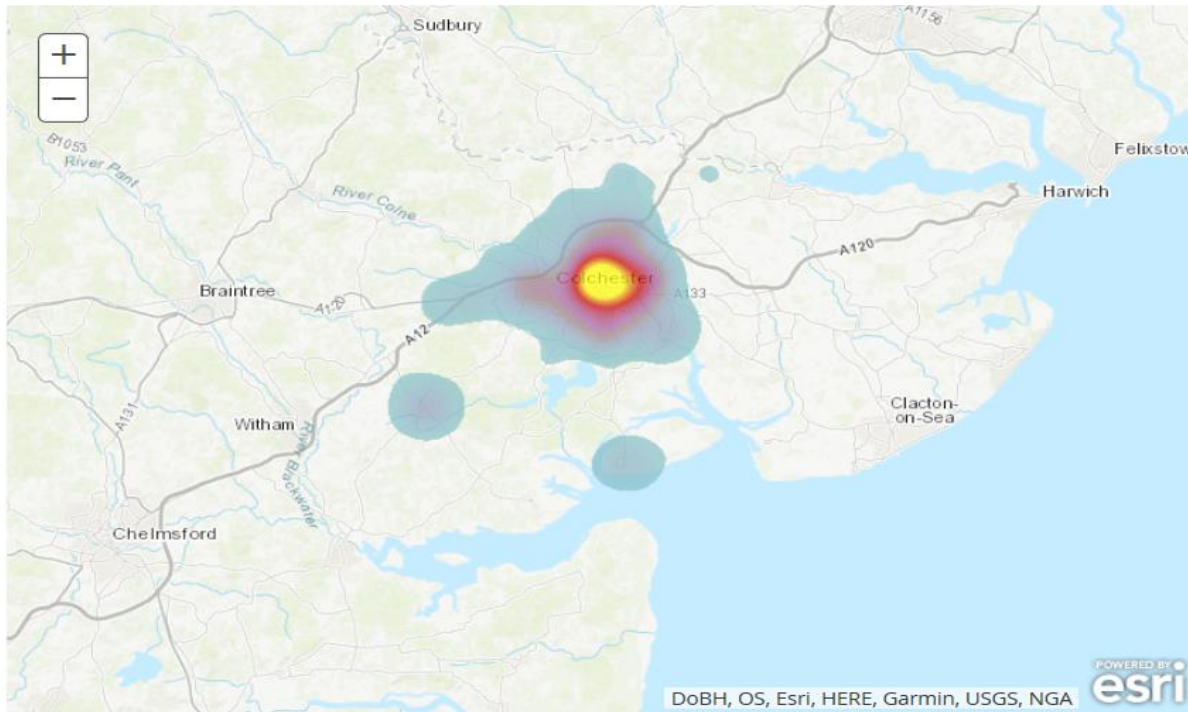


# Evaluation Case Study: Detached Youth Work



# Findings

Map 2: ASB hotspots in Colchester, based on police data, Dec 2016 - Nov 2017



ASB Colchester Dec16Nov17



## 1. Significant reduction in reported ASB activities in both wards

**Castle ward: decline** from 44 reported incidents (Oct 2017) 14 (March 2018) and no reported incidents in May 2018 [*Police data*]

**New Town ward: decline** from 11 reported incidents (Oct 2017) 5 (Jan 2018) and 1 in May 2018 [*Police data*].

- Detached youth project workers found very little evidence of ASB activities.



# Possible explanations for decline in ASB

**The Acting Inspector and officers from the Community Policing team reported:**

1. an **increase in police visibility and disruption tactics** within the town centre.

2. **given rise to displacement** of ASB:

New hotspots areas were reportedly emerging in Shrub End, Stanway and the Boada Skatepark

# Findings: Who is involve in ASB?

**Younger teenagers** congregating in large groups in the town centre and around Castle Park and Firstsite **may be perceived as threatening** by the wider public but may not be involved in formal ASB.

**Young adults** (aged 18-24) may be **perceived by the wider public to be younger** than they are.



May be that **Castle and New Town wards have relatively high levels of collective efficacy**. Residents may be more willing than those in other areas to report ASB.

As a result, **these areas may have episodic and periodic higher levels** of reported ASB.

# Findings: Who is involve in ASB?



**Substantial proportion** of reported ASB and criminal activities committed by those **aged 18 years** and older.

**11-17 year olds** responsible for **small minority**.

This fact was **further corroborated by detached youth workers** - informed by **local businesses** that much of ASB affecting them seemed to be committed by 18-24 year olds and adults.

			Month/Year Offence Recorded	Arson and criminal damage	Burglary	Drug offences	Miscellaneous crimes against society	Possession of weapons	Public Order	Robbery	Sexual offences	Theft	Vehicle offences	Violence against the person	Grand Total	
	<b>CASTLE WARD</b>	<b>2017</b>	July	1		1	1		1	2		5		10	21	
			August			1				4		2	5	1	6	19
			September	2		5	1			4	1	1	3		7	24
			October	2		7		1		4		1	4		12	31
			November	4	2	2				4		1	7	1	10	31
			December	1		3		1	1	1	1		6		4	17
		<b>2018</b>	January	1		3		1	1			2	5		12	25
			February	1						1		2	7		7	18
			March			5		1	3	1	1	8	2	7	28	
			April		1	1				3	4	3	8		7	27
			May	4		3				2	1	3	4		14	31
			June	1						4	2	2	5		8	22
			<b>Total Offences</b>	17	3	31	2	4	32	12	18	67	4	104	294	
			<b>Youth(s) investigated</b>													
			<b>All Crime Total</b>	387	177	125	43	31	308	51	135	1168	111	1203	3739	
			<b>Proportion of All Crime with Youth</b>	4%	2%	25%	5%	13%	10%	24%	13%	6%	4%	9%	8%	

# What Next?

## CBC SCP, Essex Youth Service (EYS) and partners to



### CBC SCP's input here

- Many of the recommendations are **'business as usual'** for the partner agencies (i.e. youth consultations/asset mapping)
- Need to be **realistic on achievable actions**... many need a joint working approach to share resources/expertise/funding
- **Young Colchester Group** to be formed to provide a coordinated approach to tackling youth issues by identifying vulnerable and 'at risk' young people, their requirements, gaps (hence not duplicating).

### Research team

- develop a **strategic vision for 'Young Colchester'** to enhance local life chances, reduce local inequalities and encourage inclusive local economic growth.
- develop **new public communication strategies to encourage more positive perceptions of children and young people** in Colchester whilst taking proper account of public anxiety around ASB and crime.
- **make more effective use of crime and asset mapping** in developing targeted and flexible responses to ASB



# Housing perspective

Karen Loweman – Director of Housing  
Colchester Borough Homes





## Colchester Borough Homes – about us

- Arms Length Management Organisation since 2003
- Managing 6,000 housing stock
- 1,000 leased properties
- Private sector leasing; Tenant matching for landlords with an incentive payment – Home step
- Our own Direct labour force, and work with local suppliers and trades
- Corporate facilities management – Town Hall, Leisure World, Mercury Theatre
- Housing Options – Advice and Homelessness

Did you know that you can follow us on social media for the latest news and



@ColBoroughHomes



Colchester Borough Homes



Colchester Borough Homes



# Our Community Plan

We know that the housing that we manage makes a significant impact on its local community.

We want to support our residents to contribute to their neighbourhoods and to look after themselves and their family

We will develop our services to make them simple to understand and access. Using our resources (money and people) we will deliver positive outcomes to local people





## Six strands of work

- Employment & Training
- Digital Inclusion
- Health & Well being
- Financial resilience
- Environmental improvements
- Community development

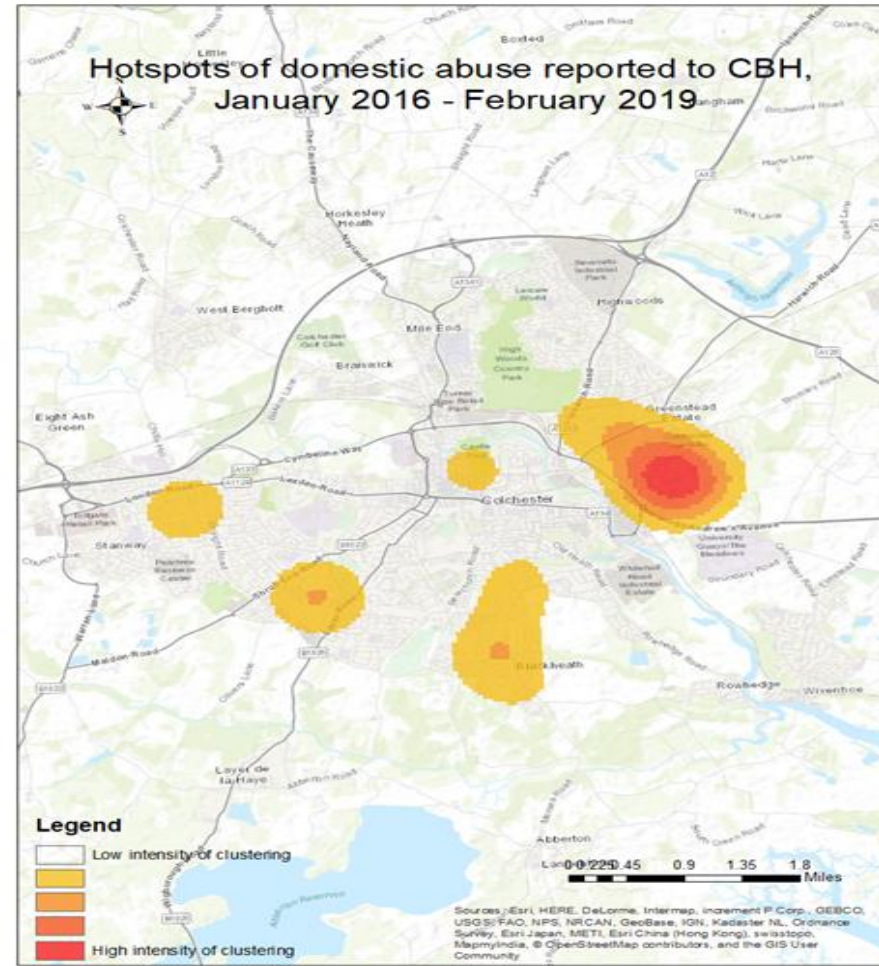


## Whats happened so far

- Smoking cessation programme with PROVIDE
- Dementia Champion and Friends
- Diabetes support groups
- Rough sleeper support groups and volunteers
- i-tea events; and IT training course
- First Aid training delivered in Communities
- Staff volunteering and donations to support local community projects
- Community Making a Difference days
- Community grants to support local groups
- Sport leader and activities to reduce youth nuisance and develop ambition

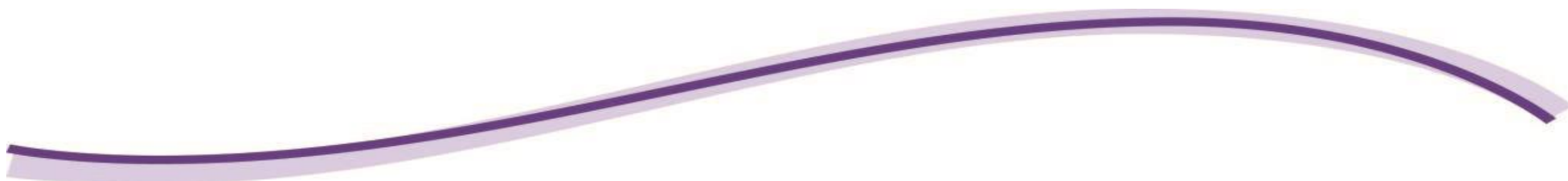
# Understanding vs Reaction

- Commissioned research with Ruth Weir to:
  - Increase CBH's understanding of their ASB cases
  - Identify the geographical concentration of ASB cases
  - Identify hotspots in the different categories of ASB (including domestic abuse).
  - Identify the risk factors present in areas where victimisation is highest.
  - Identify individual characteristics of those most at risk of ASB and Domestic Abuse



# What next

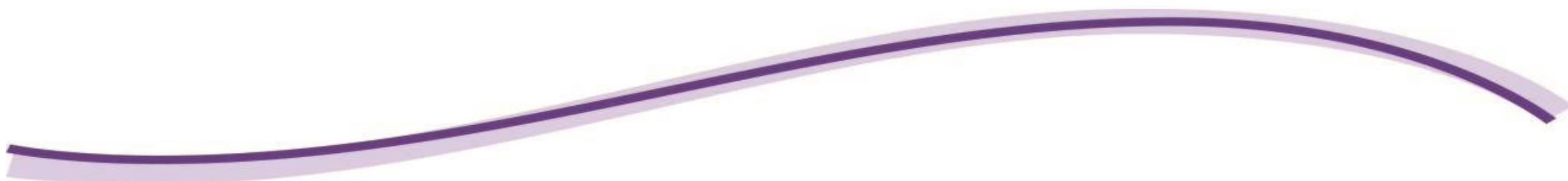
- Develop reporting and monitoring
- Develop most appropriate resource and Community support in areas where incidents most likely to occur
- Mapping Community assets – Where or Who will be most important to help us make a difference
- Working differently



# Research findings – Ruth Weir

[Storymap:](#)

- <http://arcg.is/1jfyju>





# Select references

- Butterworth, G (2017) Profile of Victim Needs and Services in Essex. A report for the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Colchester Borough Council (January 2018) Population Estimates Colchester Report prepared by the Research & Engagement Team.
- Essex Safeguarding Children Board (2016)
- Goldson, B and Muncie, J (2015) *Youth crime and justice*. London: Sage (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)
- Green, GP and Haines, A (2015) *Asset Building and Community Development*. London: Sage
- JSNA (2016) Essex Local Authority Portraits: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): Essex County Council: Organisational Intelligence.



## Evaluation

Empowering public services to evaluate the impact of their work

## Risk Stratification

Using predictive analytics to anticipate those at risk and to better target resources

## Essex Volunteering Hub

Providing benefits to local community and students through volunteering

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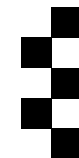
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