



Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

Public Meeting – Braintree District

Public Information Pack

Essex Police

District Profile

Braintree District is one part of the Uttlesford and Braintree District Policing Area (DPA) which comprises two of England's largest districts, covering 484 square miles. To compare the county of Bedfordshire is 460 square miles but has more than 1,100 police officers.

The District Policing Area consists of five growing market towns at Braintree, Witham, Halstead, Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow and the surrounding rural areas. The population of the DPA is increasing and is currently estimated to comprise of more than 224,042 residents and 93,300 households. The DPA presents a challenging mix of urban and rural policing. Stretching from the middle of the county to the borders with Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, it is split into 124 parishes with 107 parish councils and four town councils.

The M11, A120, A12, A130 and A131 run through the DPA and the DPA is linked to London by two separate railway lines, with stops in Braintree, Kelvedon, Witham and Hatfield Peverel and Great Chesterford, Wendons Ambo, Newport, Elsenham and Stansted Mountfitchet.

The rail and road links to London allow a high proportion of the population to commute to work. These links also make cross-border travelling more viable for criminals.

The Braintree District covers 236 square miles and has a population of 151,193.

It is predicted that by 2025, the overall population of Braintree District will grow by 8.39% to 164,451 residents.

Comparing census information for Braintree District from 2001 & 2011 shows us that: -

- The population has grown by 10% or 14,905 people
- There are 3% fewer residents classed as "White British", 1% more residents classed as "White" other, and other ethnic groups increasing by 2%
- 19.7% of residents are aged 0-15
- 10% of residents are aged 16-24
- 53.6% of residents are aged 25-64
- 16.6% of residents are aged 65+

- 93.15% define their ethnicity as White British
- 2.65% define their ethnicity as White Other
- Other ethnic groups make up 4.2% of the population

- 51% of residents are Female, 49% are Male

- 61.27% of residents define their religion as Christian
- 29.99% have no religion
- 0.47% are Muslim
- 0.3% are Hindu
- 0.24% are Buddhist
- 0.14% are Jewish
- 0.06% are Sikh
- 0.4% follow other religions
- 7.14% are unknown

Policing Structure and Resources

The Uttlesford and Braintree DPA is part of the North Local Policing Area (LPA).

The DPA is run by one District Commander, who has one Community Policing Team Inspector and three Local Policing Team Inspectors.

The DPA has two operating bases, Braintree Police Station and The Lodge Police Base in Saffron Walden. The DPA is covered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by the Local Policing Teams (LPTs) operating from these two bases.

The LPT has an establishment of three Inspectors, 12 Sergeants and 78 Constables. These resources are split across the two operating bases with two Inspectors, six Sergeants and 54 Constables deploying from Braintree, while one Inspector, six Sergeants and 24 Constables are stationed at Saffron Walden.

Braintree and Uttlesford have separate District Councils and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) but the DPA has one Community Policing Team (CPT) to serve them. The Community Policing Team has an establishment of one Inspector, two Sergeants, eleven Police Constables and eleven Police Community Support Officers (two funded by Uttlesford District Council). These are split across the two districts with one Sergeant, seven Constables and eight PCSO's working directly from Braintree Police station covering Braintree Witham and Halstead.

There is a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) based at Braintree Police Station.

The custody suite at Braintree has closed and so all prisoners from the DPA must be taken to the nearest custody suite with available cells - usually Colchester, Chelmsford or Harlow.

There are two police front counters within the DPA that are open to the public.

Braintree Police Station is open between 9am and 5pm, seven days a week and a police front counter facility is maintained from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, within the reception at Uttlesford District Council, Saffron Walden.

The DPA is supported by a cadre of Special Constables, consisting of one Special Inspector, three Special Sergeants and 40 Special Constables. The Special Constables support both the LPTs and the CPTs as well as running policing events and operations.

The DPA is further supported by a growing number of volunteers including Active Citizens, Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch.

Essex Police run a successful Volunteer Police Cadet unit in Witham for young people aged between 13 and 18 years from a range of backgrounds. The Cadets benefit from the

opportunities offered by the programme and deliver volunteering hours in support of local policing initiatives.

Community Concerns and Media

Unauthorised Encampments – During the summer months there have been a number of Unauthorised Encampments in the district. All of these cases have been subject to appropriate Police monitoring and activity and have followed national protocol, Essex Police policy and the law. Both Essex Police through its Gypsy Traveller & Rural Engagement Team (GTRET) and Uttlesford District Council work with the Essex County Traveller Unit and Braintree District Council pays towards the Essex County Traveller Unit service.

Cash machine thefts – During the past year the District has suffered a number of ATM thefts from garages, small shops and building societies. These are being investigated at a regional level by officers from the Serious Crime Directorate (SCD).

Police Visibility and Police Station Closures – Although it has been several years since the closure of Witham & Halstead police stations, local residents remain concerned with the perceived level of visibility. The DPA runs an extensive engagement programme which include a number of initiatives detailed below.

Local Community Meetings are usually well attended. Sixty residents went along to a recent event in Halstead where the feedback to local officers was well received. Social & traditional media engagements have increased with the local policing team's Facebook page seeing a significant rise in followers over the last six months. The team also communicates messages via leaflet drops and parish council publications.

The DPA also continues to expand its use of volunteers such as Active Citizens and Volunteer Police Cadets to deliver targeted engagement. The message to communities is that police officers are tasked and deployed to locations and incidents where crime and anti-social behaviour are assessed to pose a substantial threat, harm or risk and we continue to look to our volunteers and partners to help us to provide engagement and problem solving in areas of low risk or concern.

Officers from the Community Policing Team have been allocated areas of responsibility in order to bring about a culture of ownership, pride, identifying and understanding local issues early, signposting to the correct agency and having better engagement with residents.

Details of these designated officers have been communicated to local parishes and town councils and are listed below.

Halstead	Braintree	Witham
PC 3655 Craig Wheeler	PC 74665 Clare Bailey	PC 73298 Caroline Marsay
PC 2547 Paul Norman	PC 2812 James Draper	PC 74271 Andy Crow
PC 2613 Andy Pilgrim	PCSO 70255 Sally Milton	PCSO 70666 Dave Endersby
PCSO 70714 John Thorne	PCSO 73377 Jo Macmillan	PCSO 8350 Stuart Stranger
PCSO 70955 Joanne Cooper		

Witham Town Council has funded three Community Special Constables and is planning to increase this to five. This initiative has been hugely successful and the Specials have fitted in well within the Community policing Team. This success has led to Halstead Town Council also signing up to the scheme.

Media – The DPA provides the local media with a detailed weekly partnership document as well as responding to media enquiries through Essex Police’s Press Office. This partnership document is also provided to our Community Safety Partners, Parish and Town Councils.

Many of the DPAs Officers are active on social media and our CPTs Twitter and Facebook accounts are linked to our webpage (<https://www.essex.police.uk/your-area/braintree-uttlesford/>) so residents don’t need a Twitter or Facebook account to read our latest news, information and advice.

Examples of Problem Solving Initiatives –

1. Op Interact – Homeless Initiative: Officers from the Braintree Community Policing Team have spent the last few weeks working with a member of the Braintree District Council’s Housing Options Team to identify people who are homeless, check their welfare and offer them support. The officers and partners carryout foot patrols in the town centres and surrounding locations looking for anyone who appears to be sleeping rough to see how they could help them and signpost them to support available in the area. Officers are working closely with partners to actively support some of the most vulnerable people to help them get their lives on track and help them into housing.
2. Youth Engagement: Following reports of increased anti-social behaviour in Halstead local officers have been working in partnership with the Community Safety Partnership, Restorative Justice Manager, the East of England Co-operative Engagement Team, local schools and youth clubs in order to identify the issues being raises as complaints. The team is looking to identify the causes, engage with local youths and tackle ASB & low level crime through targeted patrols.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Data

The table below sets out the crime figures for Braintree, comparing reports for 1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018 with 1st October 2016 to 30th September 2017 for the Braintree district and the Force.

Areas of note for Braintree District:

- All Crime has increased by 23.4% (1811 more offences).
- Violence without Injury has increased by 47.7% (404 more offences).
- Stalking and Harassment has increased by 82.8% (533 more offences).
- Other Theft has increased by 30.5% (250 more offences).
- Sexual Offences have decreased by 6.1% (18 fewer offences).
- Dwelling Burglary (pre-Apr 17 def.) has decreased by 7.0% (29 fewer offences).
- Theft of Pedal Cycles has decreased by 29.3% (44 fewer offences).
- Reported ASB Incidents have decreased by 0.3% (nine fewer incidents).

Crime/Incident Type	# offence		# diff	% diff	District vs Force % pt diff	Per 1000 Pop.*	District vs Force Per Pop* diff	# offences		# diff	% diff	Per 1000 Pop.*
	Braintree 12M							Force				
	2017	2018						2017	2018			
ALL CRIME	7751	9562	1811	23.4	11.4	63.3	-16.6	128706	144053	15347	11.9	79.9
Violence with Injury	742	945	203	27.4	24.4	6.3	-1.4	13433	13835	402	3.0	7.7
Violence without Injury	847	1251	404	47.7	24.2	8.3	-2.2	15274	18862	3588	23.5	10.5
Stalking and Harassment	644	1177	533	82.8	9.4	7.8	-0.8	8914	15450	6536	73.3	8.6
Sexual Offences	293	275	-18	-6.1	-20.6	1.8	-0.3	3379	3867	488	14.4	2.1
Robbery	77	66	-11	-14.3	-24.0	0.4	-0.4	1426	1564	138	9.7	0.9
Residential Burglary	-	600				9.8	-2.4	-	8810			12.3
Business and Community Burglary	-	300				2.0	0.0	-	3555			2.0
Dwelling Burglary (pre-Apr 17 definition)	412	383	-29	-7.0	2.1	6.3	-2.6	7053	6409	-644	-9.1	8.9
Other Burglary (pre-Apr 17 definition)	493	517	24	4.9	7.3	3.4	0.1	6102	5956	-146	-2.4	3.3
Theft from a Vehicle	531	570	39	7.3	8.5	3.8	-0.7	8078	7984	-94	-1.2	4.4
Theft of a Vehicle	210	231	21	10.0	-3.0	1.5	-1.1	4231	4781	550	13.0	2.7
Theft from the Person	70	98	28	40.0	26.1	0.6	-0.2	1403	1598	195	13.9	0.9
Theft of Pedal Cycles	150	106	-44	-29.3	-10.5	0.7	-0.5	2741	2226	-515	-18.8	1.2
Shoplifting	445	492	47	10.6	7.1	3.3	-2.4	9868	10208	340	3.4	5.7
Other Theft	819	1069	250	30.5	27.7	7.1	-0.2	12838	13204	366	2.9	7.3
Criminal Damage (incl. arson)	1004	1057	53	5.3	3.0	7.0	-1.8	15513	15871	358	2.3	8.8
Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	3124	3115	-9	-0.3	3.3	20.6	-6.3	50363	48565	-1798	-3.6	26.9

*Residential and Dwelling Burglary per 1000 Households

Other districts – All Crime offences and per 1000 population:

District	ALL CRIME	
	Offences	Per 1000 Pop.
Basildon	16765	91.4
Braintree	9562	63.3
Brentwood	4908	64.2
Castle Point	5452	60.8
Chelmsford	13550	77.8
Colchester	16294	87.3
Epping Forest	10718	82.3
Harlow	8341	97.0
Maldon	2850	45.0
Rochford	3929	45.8
Southend-on-sea	17745	98.7
Stansted	1703	
Tendring	12806	89.8
Thurrock	15216	91.1
Uttlesford	4214	48.9

Overall reported crime has increased by 23.4% (1811 more offences) in the Braintree District and much of this is within the **Violence without Injury** category which has increased by 47.7% (404 more offences).

Some of this increase is as a result of changes to the National Crime Recording Standards counting rules. Violence without Injury offences have increased nationally due to changes in the recording process, previous unrecorded crime of harassment and malicious communications are now both recorded for a single incident.

Increases are also attributable to positively encouraged reporting and recording of domestic abuse. There has been an increase of 58.1% (575 more offences) in reported domestic abuse

Operation Juno is one of Essex Police responses to tackling domestic abuse. The DPA is served by a team of Operation Juno officers at Chelmsford Police Station who are dedicated to investigating domestic abuse related offences and offenders.

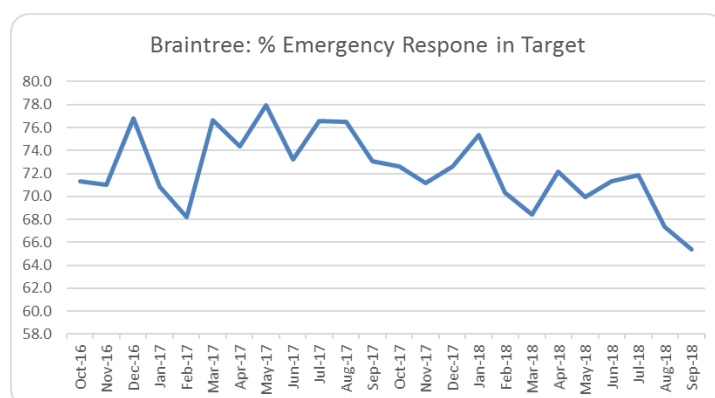
All uniformed officers are equipped with state of the art body worn video cameras which is providing a better service to victims of domestic violence and securing convictions against offenders.

Braintree does not have a significant night-time economy (NTE), but the DPA's licensing officer, CPT and partners are active in ensuring that the district's licensees maintain a safe NTE, with a particularly well supported and effective Pubwatch and a 'Behave or Be Banned' scheme in the main towns and surrounding villages.

Dwelling Burglary (Pre-Apr 17 definition) has decreased by 7.0% (29 fewer offences) and this is due to effective and intensive joint work between CID, CPT and the Integrated Offender Management Team (IOM), whose targeting of key offenders led to the disruption of their offending and their imprisonment or diversion away from offending.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents in Braintree District have decreased marginally, however through joint working with the Community Safety Partnership, local town and parish councils, local businesses and schools, areas of significant concern are being targeted.

Response Times



Braintree LPA	2016/17	2017/18	Braintree	2016/17	2017/18
Yes	2686	3031	Yes	647	761
Total	3626	4296	Total	770	955
% in Time	74.1%	70.6%	% in Time	84.0%	79.7%

Halstead	2016/17	2017/18	Witham	2016/17	2017/18
Yes	170	228	Yes	511	532
Total	241	305	Total	689	745
% in Time	70.5%	74.8%	% in Time	74.2%	71.4%

Based on neighbourhoods: Braintree South and Town; Witham North and South.

2016/17 is from October 2016 to September 17

2017/18 is from October 2017 to September 18

Updates from the Serious Crime Directorate

Man jailed for eight years after woman was raped in Braintree last summer

A MAN who raped a young woman as she walked home has been jailed for eight years. Wojciech Pietrzyk, 42, was jailed on Wednesday October 3 by Chelmsford Crown Court after he pleaded guilty to two counts of rape and a further charge of sexual assault by penetration at an earlier hearing. The court heard the victim, a woman in her 20s, had enjoyed a night out with friends in Braintree when the attack happened at around 3.45am on Sunday June 10.

Pietrzyk, was also on a night out alone in Braintree. The court heard CCTV footage showed him watching the victim from afar as she enjoyed herself with friends. During the night he is captured on several occasions moving around the nightspot to watch the woman.

When the woman left the nightspot to go home Pietrzyk followed her.

He waited until she reached the alleyway in Riverside Place in St John's Avenue Pietrzyk before violently attacking her. He pushed her to the ground, punched and slapped her before raping and sexually assaulting her.

The victim managed to escape and raise the alarm and police were called. Detectives launched an investigation, with officers working around the clock, and Pietrzyk was arrested four days later. DNA evidence recovered from the victim provided a match for the suspect. Pietrzyk of Wickham Crescent, Braintree was charged with two counts of rape and a further charge of sexual assault by penetration. He admitted the charges when he appeared at Chelmsford Crown Court in July.

The court heard the victim has been unable to sleep since the attack, suffers from anxiety and is struggling to cope with what happened to her.

In her Victim Impact Statement she said: "I cannot get to sleep as every noise makes me paranoid. I never walk home alone anymore which has taken away some of my independence. I believe I will forever feel disgusted and vulnerable."

Speaking after the sentencing Senior Investigating Officer DCI Stephen Jennings of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate said: "Pietrzyk is a callous, cowardly sexual predator who stalked his victim throughout the night before seizing an opportunity to attack her as she walked home alone.

"Thankfully today she can take some small shred of comfort from the fact that Pietrzyk is behind bars for a significant number of years. But the victim in this case - as with all those who are subjected to sexual offences - will live with what happened to her for the rest of her life. She is extremely brave both in reporting the offence to Essex Police and in supporting our investigation to ensure a dangerous and violent sexual predator is put behind bars where he belongs."

Detectives continue to investigate following attempted rape of a woman in Witham in January

A 33-year-old man, arrested in connection with the attempted rape of a woman in Witham, has been released with no further action. The man was arrested on Tuesday January 30, in Witham has now been eliminated from our enquiries.

Detectives are continuing to investigate the incident which happened at around 8.45am on Wednesday January 3. As the victim, a woman in her 20s, walked along a pathway in Powers Hall End and Bluebell Close/Bramble Road, Witham, she was attacked by a man. The victim managed to fight him off and got away. The man is described as white, just under 6ft tall, of large build, with dark bushy eyebrows, green eyes and short, shaved dark hair. He was seen wearing a black puffed jacket with a hood and bright blue denim jeans and was carrying a grey and black backpack. The man is believed to have spoken with a foreign accent.

Anybody with information can contact the Stanway Major Investigation Team on 101 or email scd.appeals.essex@essex.pnn.police.uk