

Location Area Risk Assessment



Conway House

Yearly Update: 14.03.23

Further Updated: August 2023.

Conway House

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Introduction

All children, whether they are Looked After by the state or their parents, need to feel safe in the area surrounding their home. Just as any parent would want their child to live in a safe area so too will a corporate parent who places children in a children's home. Recent public and media attention has focused on the physical environments of children's homes and the ever-changing risks associated with living in villages, towns and cities all round the UK. However, it is not always straightforward to define a 'safe' area. A place that was previously deemed safe can change rapidly and may cause a risk to vulnerable children in particular. Equally, in some individual cases, children may themselves heighten risks in an area if they have particularly risky behaviours and this is not managed appropriately.

A home may be located in an area with some local risks, and still be 'safe', if these are managed well, arrangements are made to keep children safe, and careful consideration is taken in particular around placement decisions. Risks associated with the location and the environment surrounding the home must always be considered along with the steps that should be taken to manage, limit, prevent and reduce to possibility of a young person be harmed whilst in a children's home and as mentioned previously, this puts additional emphasis on the placement decisions and in particular the providers matching process.

All Placing Authorities are equally as responsible for assessing local risks and making judgments about a location of a children's home before placing the child and in doing so should ensure that all relevant information about a young person has been shared with a provider to ensure that all risk factors have been considered and discussed. It is not only the risks that are considered when placing a young person in a certain location but also the accessibility for all young people to access external services such as education, health, EWMHS/Therapeutic services and age appropriate activities

Conway House is located in the town of Braintree, Essex.

Braintree is a town in Essex, England. The principal settlement of Braintree District, it is located 10 miles (16 km) northeast of Chelmsford and 15 miles (24 km) west of Colchester. Braintree still retains these excellent links to the coast, London and East Anglia via the A12, A120 and M11. With the addition of Stansted airport and trains that serve two stations in the town, at the end of the Braintree Branch Line

According to the last Census, the population of Braintree is over 155,000.

Braintree has grown contiguous with several surrounding settlements. Braintree lies on the River Brain and to the south of Stone Street, the Roman road from Braughing to Colchester, while Bocking lies on the River Blackwater and to the north of the road. The two are sometimes referred together as Braintree and Bocking and in April 1934 they formed the civil parish of that name, which is now unparished.

Role of the Provider

Regulation 46 of the *Children's Homes Regulations 2015* introduced a requirement in January 2014 for providers or managers to:

- Ensure that premises used for the purposes of a children's home are appropriately and suitably located so that children cared for by the home are: effectively safeguarded, & able to access services to meet the needs identified in their care or placement plans;
- Review the appropriateness and suitability of the location of the premises at least once in every calendar year. Taking into account the requirement in regulation 12(2)©

Although it's difficult to predict the ever-changing local environment and the associated risks that come with change, the homes management have a responsibility to assess all potential risks in the local area and implement strategies to limit, prevent and reduce the risk of a young person being harmed. The home's management implement a Location Risk Assessment which will be kept under review and amended periodically depending on changes to the local environment and taking into account any new risks as these are identified.

As part of the home's responsibility, ensuring that young people have the opportunity to share their views about the home's location, to establish whether they feel safe and to offer feedback on the quality of care and support that they are offered by not only the home but local services too.

It is important for the home's management to have a broad understanding of the area in which the home is located and the characteristics of the local environment.

When carrying out a Location Risk Assessment, the home management will need to take into account;

- Whether the location of the home potentially places an already vulnerable child in an area that could allow that young person vulnerable to harm such as being targeted for CSE/CCE and/or radicalisation
- Whether the location will allow young people to continue exhibiting offending and anti-social behaviour;
- The suitability of the local neighbourhood as a location to care for children who may have already been victims of abuse and neglect; and
- Whether there are environmental factors that would represent a hazard to children, such as locations near busy roads.

Location assessments should also take into account any positive features in a local community that would offer benefits to children living in a children's home. For example,

assessments could include evidence about opportunities for children to participate in leisure, sporting or cultural activities, or links with services that could support the child's ethnic or religious identity.

Popular attractions in the area include;

- Great Notley Country Park
- Braintree and Bocking public gardens
- Cressing Temple
- Freeport shopping village, Braintree
- Boydell Dairy Farm
- Marks Hall farm
- Sky ropes and sky ropes junior
- Cineworld Braintree
- Namco Funscape Braintree

Upon going further outside of Braintree we have access to places such as:

- Colchester Castle
- Colchester Zoo
- Rollerworld and Quaser
- Colchester and leisure world sports centre
- Riverside Ice rink
- Mountfitchet Castle
- Duxford

This is not an exhaustive list and further information of activities is held at the home.

Health Services located near Braintree:

Blandford medical centre
Mace Avenue
Braintree
Essex CM7 2AE
01376 347100

St Lawrence medical practice
Braintree College
Church lane
Braintree CM7 5SN
01376 552474

Dentist
Braintree dental centre
9c Coggeshall Road
Braintree
Essex CM7 9DB
01376 321061

Dentist
R Patel and associates
St Michael's house
St Michael's lane
Braintree
Essex
CM7 1EY
01376321789

Opticians
Specsavers Braintree
68-70
High street
Braintree
Essex
CM7 1JP
01376 5522

EWMHS
69 Duke Street
Chelmsford
Essex

CM1 1QH
0300 555 1200
EWMHS@nelft.nhs.uk

Community Sexual Health Moulsham Lodge Clinic

Description

Specialist nurses, doctors and support staff provide walk-in and appointment clinics for the following: contraception, sexually transmitted infection testing, chlamydia treatment, pregnancy testing and advice, cervical screening, referrals to other sexual health services, including termination of pregnancy. For appointments please call 0300 003 1212 between 9am - 7pm Monday to Friday. Monday Walk In 3.30 - 5pm. Appointments 6 - 9pm. Saturday Walk In 12 noon - 4pm. Friday Walk In 1.30 - 4.30pm. Appointments 9.30am - 12.30pm. (Tel 01245 318750 during service times only).

Location

Moulsham Lodge Clinic, Lilac Close, Chelmsford, CM2 9NY

Organisation

Provide

Telephone

0300 0031212

Email

provide.essexsexualhealthservice@nhs.net

Colchester General Hospital
Turner Road
Colchester
Essex
CO4 5JL
01206 747474

North Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Mental Health Services
Chelmsford
Essex
01245 546400
Open until 16:30

Broomfield hospital
Court road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 7ET

Key contacts, resources and services

The Children's home already has links within the local authority in order to consult about any local issues or individual issues with young people. The key links for local services is detailed below and their responses to consultation on the location report.

Local Service	Key Individual and contact details	Feedback for assessment
LADO	Essex Safeguarding Team – Essex County Council Essex Duty LADO number: 03330 139 79	LADO have been contacted and invited to the home to meet with the homes management to discuss the service and discuss how we as a home are going to work successfully with the local Safeguarding Teams to protect our young people
Offending & Missing Person's	missingpersonliaisonofficers@essex.pnn.police.uk Missing Person's Liaison Officer North Hub – Braintree Police Station 01245 504 202 / Essex Police – Andy Holmes Braintree & Uttlesford District Andrew.holmes@essex.pnn.police.uk	The local MPLO and Anti-Social behaviour officer have already visited Conway House and met with the management to discussed the homes service and how we are all going to work in collaboration to ensure the safety of our young people
Local Probation / YOT Services	Mid Essex Youth Offending Team Team Manager: Kate Hill Suite 2, Empire House Victoria Road, Chelmsford Essex. CM1 1PA Telephone: 03330 138932 Fax: 01245 358337 Email: yot.chelmsford.ecc@essex.gov.uk	Any young person that comes to the home that already has involvement with YOS and/or commits an offence whilst at Conway House will be support by the local YOS. The homes staff will work closely with the local YOS to ensure that any young person that must attend regular appointments and needs support in fulfilling any court order that's in place
EWMHS	www.nelft.nhs.uk/services-ewmhs Tel: 0300 300 1600	Referrals for local Mental Health services can be made via the website and telephone number provided and once a referral has been made, an officer will be allocated to consult with the relevant professionals and potentially support any young person that requires needs it
Local Health Services	Julie Docherty julie.docherty@hrcgcaregroup.com Julie Docherty Children in Care Specialist Nurse – Mid Essex Mid Quadrant	The homes manager has contacted the local LAC nurses, introduced himself and began building a working partnership that will support the home young people. Once the home is open, the LAC Nurse's have kindly stated that they will arrange a visit to meet the homes management, staff and potentially young people to again discuss how

	<p>Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service</p> <p>Service provided by HCRG Care Group in partnership with Barnardos</p> <p>T: 0300 2470014</p> <p>M: 07977510708</p> <p>(Leaving Care Nurse) 07831 644383</p>	<p>they can support the home and its young people.</p>
Residents		<p>As young people are accommodated at Conway House they will be offered the opportunity to contributed and share their views about the homes Location Risk Assessment.</p>

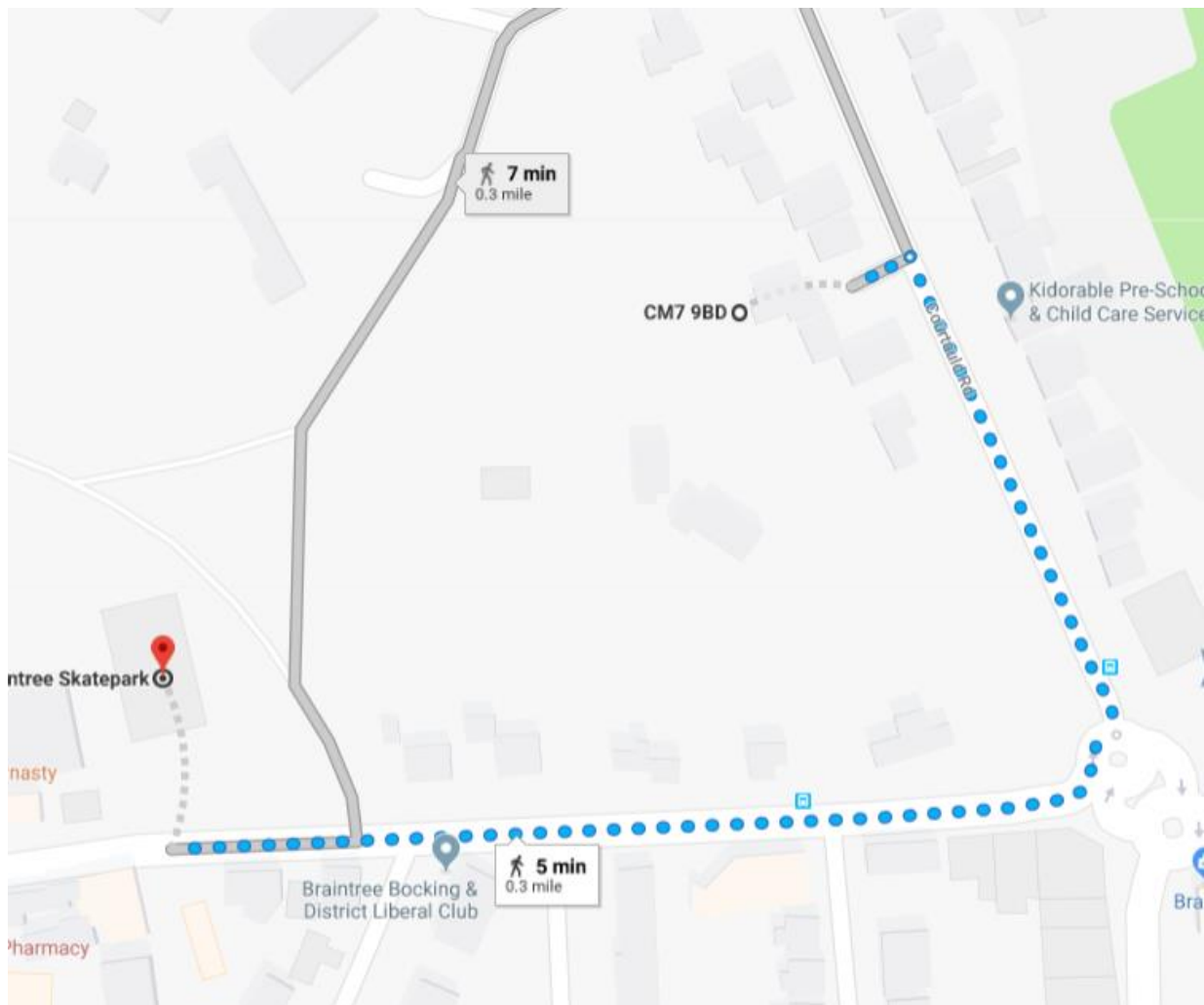
Potential Hotspots

(These will cross reference within each young Person's Individual community mapping information to ascertain any risk factor)

Braintree Skatepark

Braintree Skatepark, Coggeshall Rd, Braintree **CM7 9DB**

5 minute walk (0.3 miles) via Courtauld Road and Coggeshall Road/B1256

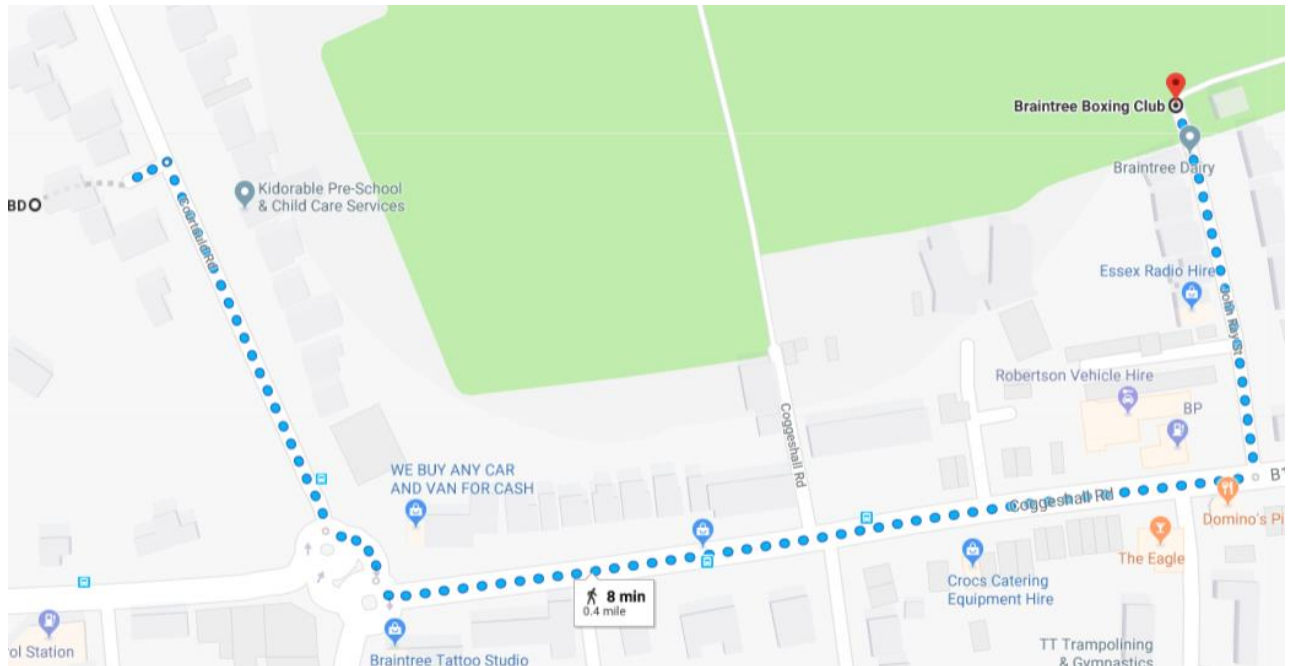


This backs onto the back of the home and there is a walkway through from the main road that leads onto here and is within easy access of the home

John Ray Recreation Ground (Braintree boxing club)

Braintree Boxing Club, John Ray Street, Recreation Ground, Braintree
CM7 9DZ

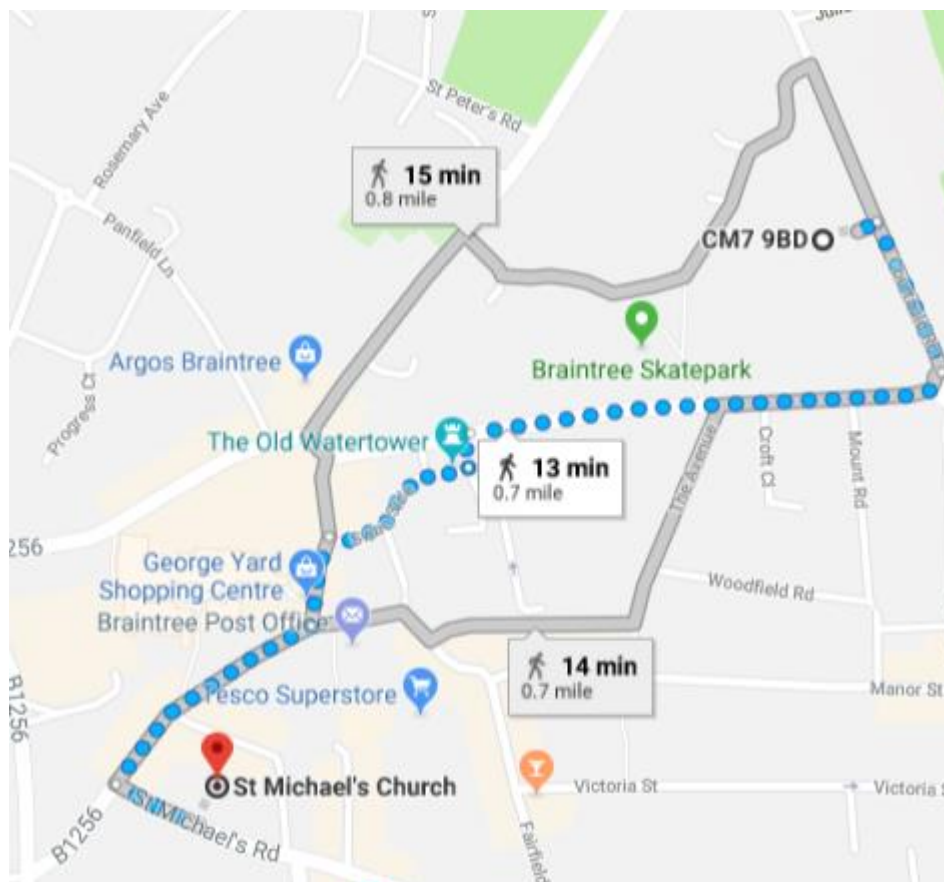
8 minute walk (0.4 miles) via Coggeshall Road/ B1256



ST. Michaels Church and Fountain

St Michael's Church, St Michael's Rd, Braintree CM7 1EY

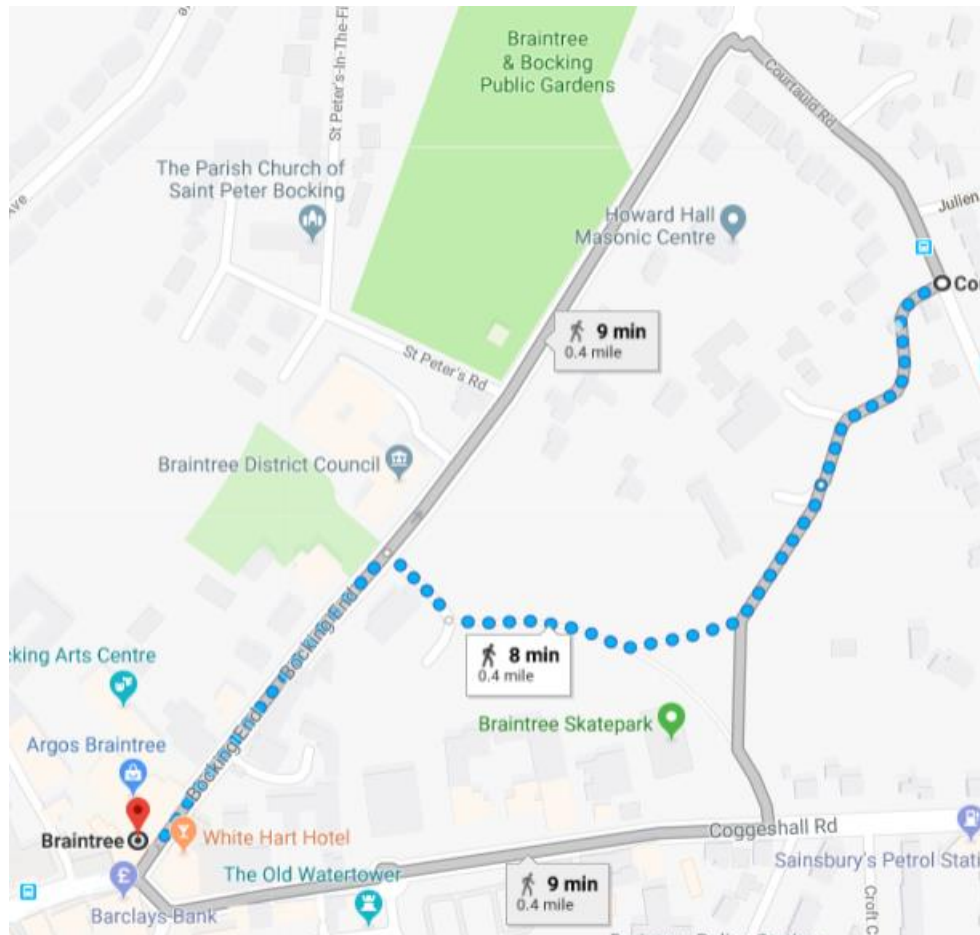
13 minute walk (0.7 miles) via Coggeshall Road/B1256



Braintree Town Centre

Braintree

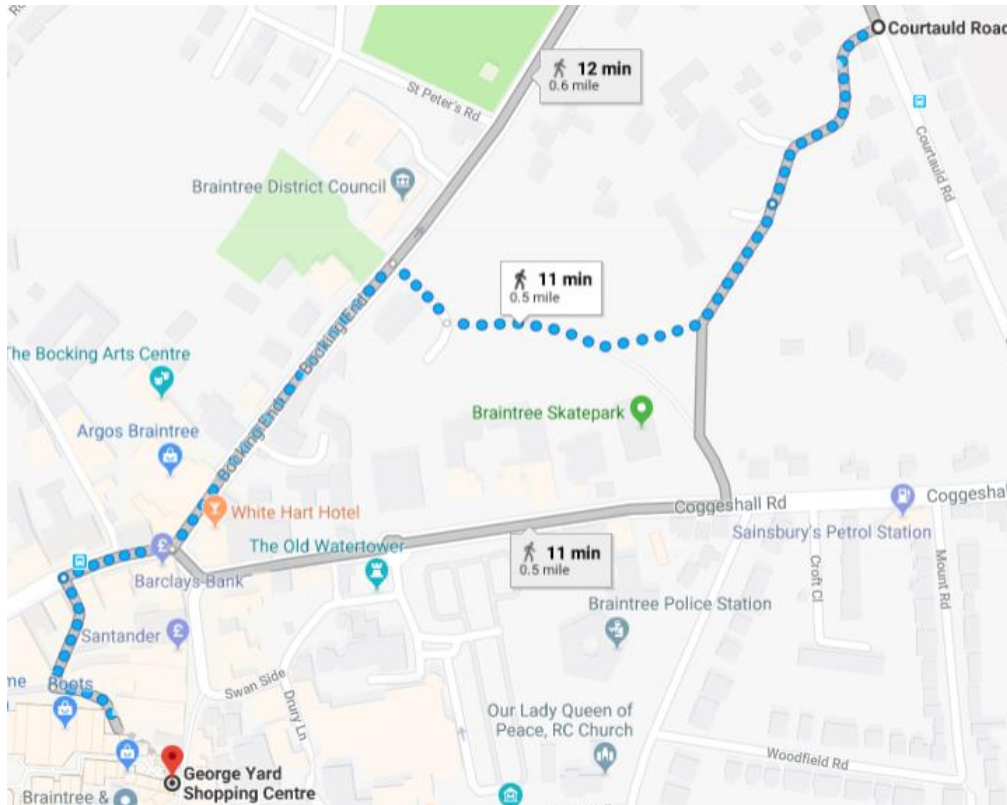
8 minute walk (0.4 miles) via Bocking End



George Yard Shopping Centre

George Yard Shopping Centre, George Yard, Braintree **CM7 1RB**

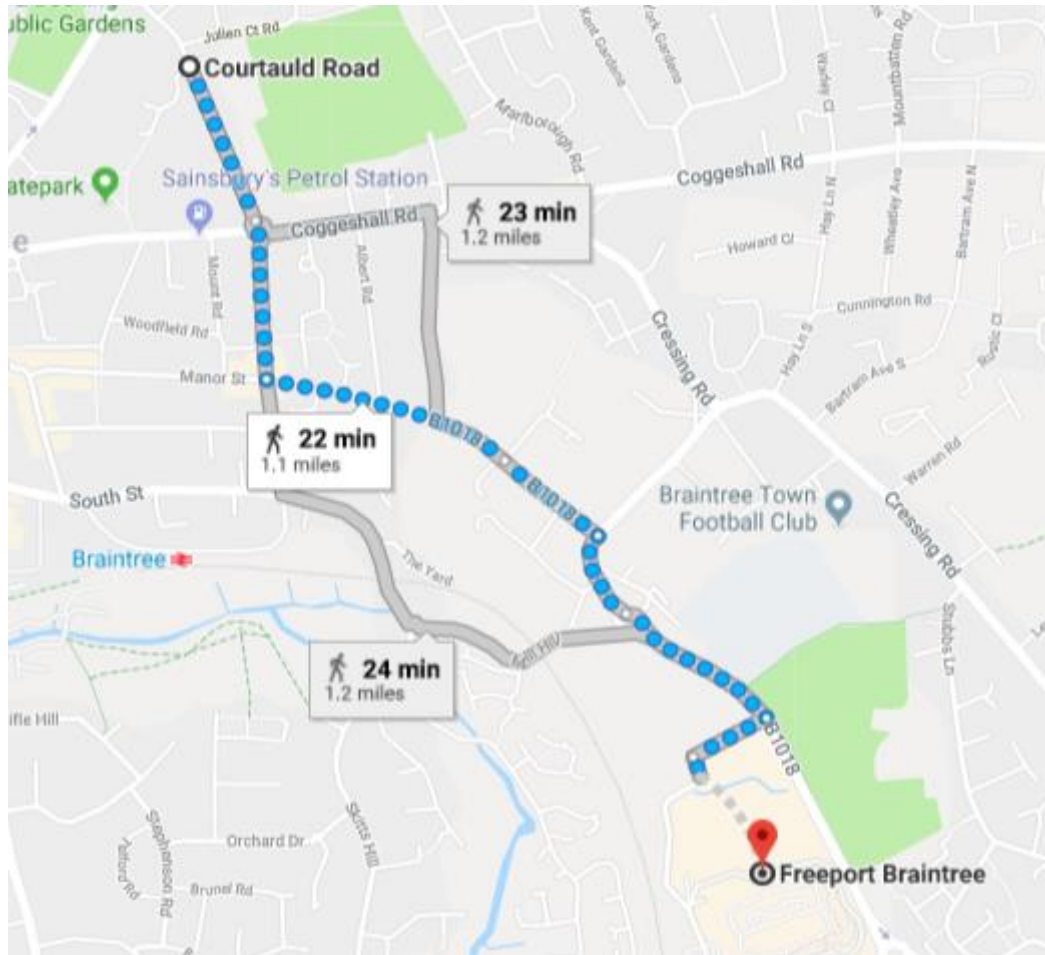
11 minute walk (0.5 miles) via Bocking End



Freeport Designer Village

Freeport Braintree, Charter Way, Chapel Hill, Braintree **CM77 8YH**

22 minute walk (1.1 miles) via B1018



Risk Assessment & Risk Management Strategies

Contents;

- **Road**
- **A120**
- **Local Transport Links**
- **Access to local villages and towns**
- **Railway Lines**

Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: ROAD

• Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
3			3			6

Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;*

Road;

The road directly in front of the home is a potential risk due to it being a busy road. The road is 30 MPH speed limit with no footpath on the side of the driveway that exits onto the road. It is also a potential risk due to the driveway being concealed and unable to see oncoming traffic.

Although the road is not always busy, it is a through road to Bocking, residential areas and through to the Town Centre. A map of the local area would clearly show that the home is located on a "through road" to gain easier and quicker access to other nearby villages and towns.

Whilst the road outside the home is not always busy, the risk of harm would still remain high if any young person were to attempt to access the road due to their not being a footpath on the side of driveway especially if their behaviour erratic and such that they were not using the road with safety in mind.

If any young person that were to access the road during the daylight hours, they would find that there was a foot path on the other side of the road, the road has a steady stream of traffic that could potentially be driving at speeds of up to 30 mph. At night there is the added safety of streetlights that go off at midnight. This may only be a risk if young people abscond after midnight and cannot see where they are going.

The home will potentially accommodate young people with a history of missing behaviour and emotional instability and on occasions this may cause them to possibility attempt to leave the premises on foot and access the road in order to abscond or have time and space away from the home. Any young people who are initially accommodated at Conway House are very likely to be unfamiliar with the local area and the risks associated with the local road (alley ways, no street lighting) and this would also increase the risk of harm caused by the location of the road.

Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: ROAD

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;*

Upon arrival to the home, each young person will have a Placement Planning Meeting (PPM) which will provide the homes management to provide a road safety booklet and give valuable information about the road, importance of ensuring the home electric gates remain closed when not in use and information concerning the local area and the risk of harm. As of the beginning of July 2021, Conway House have replaced the existing low level wooden gate with a taller metal framed electric gate which is operated via a fob key. This measure was implemented as a further preventive measure to further minimise the risk and enable the residents to safely access this busy road.

The young people will be given supervised access to the community in order to allow them to familiarise themselves with the local area. This also allows for staff to observe if young people are competent in road safety, stranger danger, and support them in these areas if necessary.

As part of the Induction Programme, each young person will be provided further literature and information in order to educate them on general road safety awareness, the importance of ensuring that the home gate remains closed at all times when not in use and finally will also be given clear information about what responses to expect from staff if they were to access the road and place themselves in danger. Staff will also remind young people that staff will have regular use of the homes vehicles so that young people can access the local community as per their individual risk assessment and in line with their care plans. If the young person is refusing to engage in the induction due to the time and circumstances of the admission, then staff will undertake the same procedure at the earliest opportunity and if the young person were to leave the home during this period, then the homes staff will follow the homes Missing Policy, Location Area Risk Assessment (LARA) and Missing Protocol. At the very least, staff will verbally warn each young person through the Placement Planning Meeting of the dangers of the local area which will include the road, and record that the young person has acknowledged this through the signing of the appropriate section of their induction programme.

Prior to accommodating any young person at Conway House, the Location Area Risk Assessment will be sent to the placing authority for review on all the potential risks with a particular emphasis taken to discussions around the risks of the local roads and the strategies that staff will use to manage this risk. As part of the homes robust matching process, the homes management will consult with the placing authority to access the possibility of a young person accessing the road to abscond and/or place themselves at risk by using the road in a way that would be deemed risky. The homes management will request any information about any historic concerns/incidents that would suggest that a young person would potentially place themselves at risk using the road and if there was any evidence that the young person had a good awareness of road safety. All the information gathered will contribute to any decisions around the refusal or acceptance of a referral.

If a young person were to leave the home without support and guidance from staff and attempt to access the road then staff will attempt to redirect the young person into the garden where it is safer and remind the young person of the risks associated with accessing the road. The home has a high fence at the back of the garden and hedges and trees around its perimeter to assist staff monitoring the young people and keeping them safe. The homes management will ensure that all new staff will read the homes Local Risk Assessment and acknowledge that they are aware of all the risks and responsibilities associated with the road through the homes staff induction process.

Accessing the road at any time during the day can be risky, there are some differing risks that need to be

considered during daylight and night-time hours. Although there will be obviously more passing traffic during the daylight hours, the fact young people and staff (when following) will be able to see clearly where they are going and that drivers will have a quicker response time to slow down and avoid any young person and staff in the road will certainly help to reduce the potential of any serious incident. With the home not securing its doors during the day, the likelihood of a young person having the opportunity to access the road will be higher than at night but this will also be during the hours where the staffing levels are higher meaning that there are more staff to work with, support and protect a young person from potentially placing themselves at risk. In the event of a young person attempting to go missing and/or access the road at night, staff will need to be prepared and mindful of the additional risks that are associated with accessing the road at night. Staff following any young person will also be equipped with a torch and florescent clothing and will use this to draw attention to themselves and any young person to reduce the risk of harm.

Each young person will have a Missing Protocol that staff will follow each time a young person is believed to be potentially engaging in risk taking and/or missing behaviour and will have instructions on how to manage the risk, work with their colleagues and any external services and aim to have the young person returned home safely at the earliest opportunity.

Any and every-time a young person attempts to access the road to engage in risk taking behaviour whether that be to go missing, cause disruption, self-harm or even exhibit extreme attention seeking behaviour, staff will follow on foot and/or in a company vehicle in order to minimise the risk and encourage the young person to return safely to the home.

If in extreme circumstances a young person is placing themselves and/or staff at risk then staff may have no option but to restrain them as a safety measure and/or contact the emergency services for additional safe support

Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: **A120**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2		3			5

Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;*

A120;

The A120 - With a high-speed Dual carriageway running close to the home, there are obvious high risks and concerns about the potential of harm if a young person was to access the A120 carriageway.

The A120 is an important trunk road in the East of England. It forms links to Stansted Airport, Colchester, port of Harwich and the vital M11 and A12. Heavy volumes of traffic travels along this road with up to 245,400 vehicles using it on a daily basis. The Galleys Corner and Marks Farm roundabouts in the west suffer from severe congestion, which is not only limited to peak periods.

If any young person that were to access the road during the daylight hours, they would see the access to the carriageway is restricted by fencing, barriers and hedges that surround roads.

The speed limit of the A120 is 60mph.

The home will potentially accommodate young people with a history of missing behaviour and emotional instability and on occasions this may cause them to possibility attempt to leave the premises on foot and access the road in order to abscond or have time and space away from the home. Any young people who are initially accommodated at Conway House are very likely to be unfamiliar with the local area and the risks associated with this busy road.

Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: **A120**

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;*

Although there are obvious risks of harm that must be considered with access to the A120 being reasonably close to the home, the access to the carriageway is restricted by fencing, barriers and hedges that surround roads.

Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: Local Transport Links

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;*

Local Transport Links;

There are local bus services and Train stations which go to London, Colchester, Chelmsford, Southend Stanstead airport that serves the local area.

Braintree train station and Freeport Train station are the closest to Conway House. Train Station is the closest railway line which is 0.6 miles away from Conway House and access' London Liverpool Street and Colchester Chelmsford Southend Stanstead airport.

Freeport train station is approximately 1.4 miles from Conway House and is also another link to London Liverpool Street, Colchester, Chelmsford, Southend and Stansted airport.

Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: Local Transport Links

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
		1			1	2

Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;*

Initiating SureCare's matching process and formulating an initial risk assessment in collaboration with the placing authority, family (if appropriate) and any other relevant professionals, will assist the homes manager in making an informed decision as to whether the homes location and transport links will be a significant enough deterrent and safeguarding measure to reduce a young person's missing behaviour. The homes staff will be fully aware of the local bus and train routes and the homes risk assessment and missing protocols will reflect the actions that staff will take if a young person were to attempt to access local transport. As mentioned previously, staff have company vehicles that will allow staff to follow any buses and attend any local train stations in attempt to prevent and reduce the chances of any harm coming to a young person.

The home has already established a good working relationship with the local Missing Person's Liaison Officer, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer through Essex Police and British Transport Police and will work closely in partnership with them to reduce the risk of any harm coming to our young people

Risk Levels **PRIOR** to Preventative Measures in place: Access to Towns, Villages & Hot Spot Areas

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;*

Access to Towns, Villages & Hot Spot Areas;

The home is situated near the main Braintree town. There is a through road that leads to the small village of Bocking and there are also small villages and towns that are situated close by. The home is situated nearby to Braintree Town Centre where there is access to a Sainsbury supermarket, a post office and Takeaway restaurants and many shops (Please see potential hotspots for Map)

Staff are aware that some young people may locate areas which could be deemed as inappropriate connections, such as where homelessness is apparent.

Young people that are placed at Conway House will be supported to maintain previous relationships/ friendships (if appropriate). Young people are encouraged to form positive relationships and networks to promote their social and emotional well-being. Young people are encouraged to access groups and youth clubs locally. Young people's friendships are monitored and the young people in our care's wellbeing is observed before and after any contact.

Young people that arrange to leave the home to meet friends are encouraged to remain in contact with the house and share who they are meeting and their location with staff. Before young people are granted permission from the home to access the local area independently. Permission must be sought from the local authority and where necessary parents/ families. Professionals and families must be satisfied that the young person has the ability to keep themselves safe and manage their behaviour. Young people must be supported to take age-appropriate risks in order to prepare them for future independence.

Staff will support young people to know where the safer areas are. Staff will link in with local community police and liaison officers to ensure safeguarding is stringent and always communicated as a multi-agency/joint network.

If Staff are attending any of the above areas to locate young people when missing, or behaving inappropriately, 2 staff may need to attend.

Essex Police are currently working towards reducing anti-social behaviour in the hot spot areas of Braintree and the surrounding areas where there are known hot spots for young people engaging in more frequent anti-social behaviour, as a result there is a higher Police presence and more frequent patrols through the night.

Staff will support any young people that leave the home without permission by safely following on foot and/or the homes vehicle to attempt to return the young person to the home in a safely without any significant incidents occurring. Staff that follow young people on foot will have access to a "Grab Bag" that will contain essential items and equipment that maybe needed to support staff in trying to minimise the risk of the young person coming to any harm.

If in extreme circumstances a young person is placing themselves and/or staff at risk then staff may have no option but to use physical intervention as a safety measure and/or contact the emergency services for assistance

Naturally, Conway House will have to consider that when conducting the initial matching process, that any concerns about a young person spending time in the local towns mentioned could be a risk. The risk of harm and exposure to negative influences will need to be considered prior to the commencement of the placement along with how the more time is spent in these areas may cause a young person to be exposed to crime, anti-social behaviour as well as potentially be groomed and/or subject to CSE or risk of involvement in County Lines activity.

Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: Access to Towns, Villages & Hot Spot Areas

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2				1	3

Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;*

The National crime agency intelligence Assessment 2018 states “The county lines offending model involves gangs and organised criminal networks moving drugs into one or more supply areas within the UK and using dedicated mobile phone lines, known as deal lines, to take orders. Although demand for and the supply of drugs underpins county lines offending, exploitation remains integral to the business model. Offenders continue to recruit, transport, and exploit vulnerable individuals, including children, to carry out low-level criminal activity essential to their operations”.

Statistics show that there are currently over 2000 ‘Lines throughout the UK with 134 being linked directly to the Essex area. In 2022, several Essex towns were among those with large numbers of links to county lines individuals – 43 individuals were linked to Colchester, 36 linked to Southend-on-Sea, and 27 linked to Clacton-on-Sea. Essex County Council has placed extra funding to tackle so-called county lines gangs to tackle this ongoing problem in the Essex County area.

The National crime agency intelligence Assessment 2018 also states “Children displaying vulnerabilities such as poverty, family breakdown and intervention by social services, looked after status, frequent missing episodes, behavioural and developmental disorders and exclusion from mainstream schooling are frequently targeted by county lines offenders. It is likely that children displaying such vulnerabilities are attracted by the sense of belonging, inclusion and structure offered by participation in an offending group.” Children placed within Conway House will fall under this vulnerability and therefore may be targeted.

There is also a risk that young people being placed within the home may have previously been exposed. Whilst maintaining a balance of encouraging social skills and educating young people on potential risks, the home will prior to any placement commencing have an initial Risk Assessment in place that outlines the potential risks and vulnerabilities of each young person.

Conway House staff will record and report in a timely manner any concerning patterns of behaviour, sudden changes to how a young person is presenting as well as any concerns around CSE, gangs/or radicalisation and any believed County Lines activity or involvement. The homes staff will work with all professionals and external services in order to protect a young person from harm and frequently consult with the relevant services to monitor any ongoing risks

Due to the nature and location of the service, it is very likely that any young people that are accommodated at Conway House will be initially on 1:1 supervision out in the community until such time that all the homes management, placing authority and family (where appropriate) are satisfied that a young person is able to be trusted to manage their behaviour out in the community on their own and not place themselves at risk of harm.

All arrangements for young people having "free time" away from the home will be discussed and agreed with all the professionals involved, with the family (where appropriate) and with the young person to ensure that the young person feels that they have contributed to the decision making, that they are aware of the expectations placed upon them and understand the reasons for certain decisions being made.

Once any arrangements are in place it will be the homes duty to frequently monitor the arrangements around a young person's unsupervised time and ensure that this "free time" is being used suitably and in a way that ensures that the young person remains safe from harm.

There are numerous non-invasive and intrusive monitoring strategies that the homes staff can use to monitor a young person's behaviour, safety and "free time" such as;

- Regular communication with a young person before, during and after any "free time" to monitor their movements
- Work closely with the young person's family, friends and any relevant people at clubs, schools and schemes to gather important information about how the young person is whilst away from the home
- Staff noticing a change in patterns of behaviour; for example, a young person begins returning home and not presenting as they usually do, that a young person has some new belongings that cannot be explained and sensitively exploring why a 10-minute train journey has taken 2 hours.

Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: County Lines Including Exploitation

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
3			3			6

Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;*

County Lines Including Exploitation

A robust matching procedure is in place within the home. The manager will carefully consider that matching needs due to the homes location and London being so easily accessible. The manager may consider young people from other areas within the country with a detailed risk assessment in place.

Staff in the home complete Safeguarding, Child protection and Exploitation training as part of their induction. Additional County Lines training is also in place to support staff to understand the risks, trends and indicators of Exploitation and County lines.

Staff will develop positive relationships with young people which will allow them to identify any changes

in presentation or behaviour.

Staff are aware that some young people may locate areas which could be deemed as inappropriate connections.

Young people that come in to Conway House will be supported to maintain previous relationships/ friendships (if appropriate). Young people are encouraged to form positive relationships and networks to promote their social and emotional well-being. Young people's friendships are monitored and the young people in our care's wellbeing is observed before and after any contact.

Young people that arrange to leave the home to meet friends are encouraged to remain in contact with the house and share who they are meeting and their location with staff. Before young people are granted permission from the home to access the local area independently. Permission must be sought from the local authority and where necessary parents/ families. Professionals and families must be satisfied that the young person has the ability to keep themselves safe and manage their behaviour. Young people must be supported to take age-appropriate risks in order to prepare them for future independence.

Staff will support any young people that leaves the home without permission by safely following on foot and/or the homes vehicle to attempt to return the young person to the home in a safely without any significant incidents occurring.

Young people at risk will be encouraged to join Essex's services for young people's 'reach out project' which provides great support for young people at risk of exploitation and enables young people to make informed, safe choices in forming and maintaining appropriate, healthy and safe relationships. In addition to one-to-one support, young people are encouraged to join in with group work projects, they are introduced to new friendship groups and new opportunities.

In the event that Staff suspect young people may be victims or involved in County lines or Exploitation a referral can be made to The Children's Society.

Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: County Lines Including Exploitation

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

Through consultation with the Essex Police Liaison Officer for the Braintree district, it has been identified that there are believed to be county lines activity but these have been reported as transit lines which run from Colchester to Sudbury and further into Suffolk. It has also been reported to the home that there is no county Line linked violence in the Braintree district, although there is data to indicate that drugs have been supplied in the Braintree area, however this is only believed to be mainly cannabis, but no identified risk around the home.

Hot spots areas of drug activity:

- the town centre
- train station.

Data received from Essex Police Liaison Officer has indicated that CSE activity is reported as very low in

the Braintree district the hotspots identified of possible areas of future CSE:

- Freeport/Galleys coroner (McDonalds etc)
- Braintree town centre (train station).

There are numerous non-invasive and intrusive monitoring strategies that the homes staff can use to monitor a young person's behaviour, safety and "free time" to minimise the risks of the above documented statistics concerning County Lines & CSE:

- Regular communication with a young person before, during and after any "free time" to monitor their movements
- Work closely with the young person's family, friends and any relevant people at clubs, schools and schemes to gather important information about how the young person is whilst away from the home

Staff noticing a change in patterns of behaviour; for example, a young person begins returning home and not presenting as they usually do, that a young person has some new belongings that cannot be explained and sensitively exploring any changes to the individual young person's demeanour, presentation or any changes in patterns of behaviour, safeguarding protocols will be considered should these risks be deemed high or confirmed.

Conway House will continue to liaise with Essex Police Liaison Officer to maintain up to date data concerning County lines or CSE activities within the local and surrounding areas.

(PLEASE SEE CURRENT CRIME STATISTICS BELOW)

Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: Railway Lines

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2		3			5

Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;*

Railway Lines;

There is a railway line 0.6 miles away from the home.

This railway line can be accessed easily on foot and if a young person was determined enough to access the railway lines, they potential could do so through the local railway station 0.6 and 1.4 miles away

Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: Railways Lines

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;*

With the railway station being situated within walking distance, staff will support any young person that leaves the home by safely following on foot and/or the homes vehicle to attempt to return the young person to the home in a safely without any significant incidents occurring. Staff that following young people on foot will have access to a "Grab Bag" that will contain essential items and equipment that maybe needed to support staff in trying to minimise the risk of the young person coming to any harm.

If in extreme circumstances a young person is placing themselves and/or staff at risk then staff may have no option but to restrain a young person as a safety measure and/or contact the emergency services for assistance.

Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: Electricity Substation

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
3			3			6

Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;*

There is a electrical substation next to Conway House which is down a small path situated between the home and a neighbouring home.

A substation is a part of an **electrical generation, transmission, and distribution system**. Substations transform voltage from high to low, or the reverse, or perform any of several other important functions. Between the generating station and consumer, electric power may flow through several substations at different voltage levels.

Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: Electrical Substation

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2		3			5

Risk Assessment - *Potential risk factors due to the location of the home and the environment surrounding the home;*

The Substation has wooden fencing around this and also has gates to the front. This is also hidden away due to overhanging trees and hedges that surround the home.

There are also danger warning signs on the substation should anyone attempt to access this.

Staff to be vigilant of young people should they walk out to the front of the home or outside of the house. Should this be the case then staff will follow the young people as stated previously in this LARA.

Risk Levels PRIOR to Preventative Measures in place: Trees

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;*

A tree preservation order is a part of town and country planning in the United Kingdom. A TPO is made by a local planning authority to protect specific trees or a particular area, group or woodland from deliberate damage and destruction. TPOs can prevent the felling, lopping, topping, uprooting or otherwise wilful damaging of trees without the permission of the local planning authority, although different TPOs have different degrees of protection.

A dangerous tree is one that is likely to cause serious damage to property or injury to people. Many trees become unstable when entering the latter stages of disease – though perfectly healthy, young trees can also become a danger if damaged by severe weather.

One of the most obvious tree dangers is dead wood that can fall. You can spot dead wood easily: dead

branches have leaves that are completely brown or there won't be any leaves at all.

There is also risk of potentially the young people trying to climb the trees that are situated in the garden.

Risk Levels POST to Preventative Measures in place: Trees

Probability of risk occurring			Severity of possible injury/harm			Total Risk
High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	High=3	Moderate=2	Low=1	
	2			2		4

Risk Management – *Strategies, actions and protective factors that the home will undertake to manage, limit and prevent the risk of harm to its young people;*

Staff to be vigilant when the young people access the garden, ensuring that no young people attempt to climb the trees.

Professional tree surgeons to cut back trees and branches.

Created by: Kevin Dobson

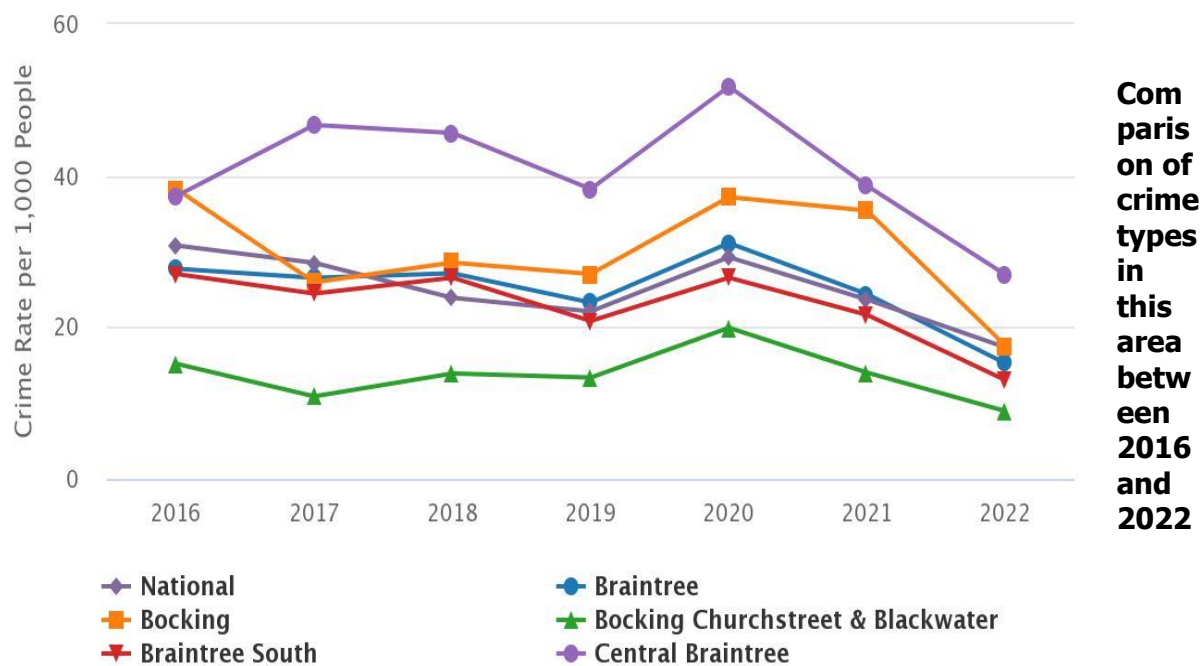
Signed: K Dobson

To be reviewed: March 2024 **(will be sooner if there are any significant changes/events)**

Comparison of crime types in this area between 2016 and 2022

Anti-social behaviour in Braintree's neighbourhoods over time

Source: <https://crimerate.co.uk/essex/braintree>



CrimeRate.co.uk

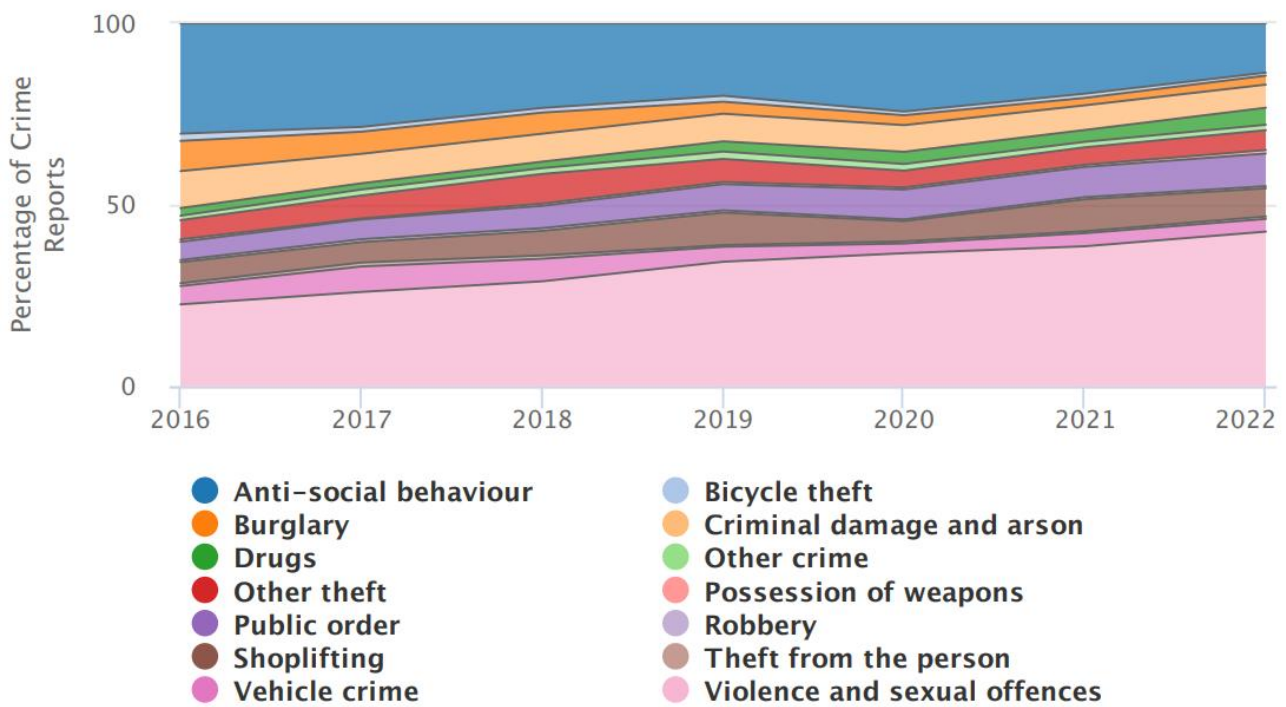
Recent Crimes in Braintree

These are the top 20 most recent crime reports in Braintree.

Date	Crime Type	Location
May 2023	Public order	On or near Skitts Hill
May 2023	Violence and sexual offences	On or near Hardy Close
May 2023	Drugs	On or near Croft Close
May 2023	Violence and sexual offences	On or near Parking Area
May 2023	Public order	On or near Parking Area
May 2023	Drugs	On or near Parking Area
May 2023	Criminal damage and arson	On or near Parking Area
May 2023	Violence and sexual offences	On or near Knights Road
May 2023	Public order	On or near Knights Road
May 2023	Other theft	On or near Marks Gardens
May 2023	Violence and sexual offences	On or near Achilles Way
May 2023	Criminal damage and arson	On or near Brandon Road
May 2023	Violence and sexual offences	On or near Greene View
May 2023	Violence and sexual offences	On or near Cathcart Close
May 2023	Vehicle crime	On or near Gilchrist Way
May 2023	Violence and sexual offences	On or near Charter Way
May 2023	Shoplifting	On or near Charter Way
May 2023	Public order	On or near Charter Way
May 2023	Violence and sexual offences	On or near Rifle Hill
May 2023	Criminal damage and arson	On or near Sheene Grove

Braintree Crime Type Distribution

Source: <https://crimerate.co.uk/essex/braintree>



CrimeRate.co.uk

Summary of Crimes in Braintree This Year (2023)

Crime	Braintree	
	Count	Rate
Anti-Social Behaviour	687	15.24
Bicycle Theft	42	0.93
Burglary	125	2.77
Criminal Damage and Arson	322	7.15

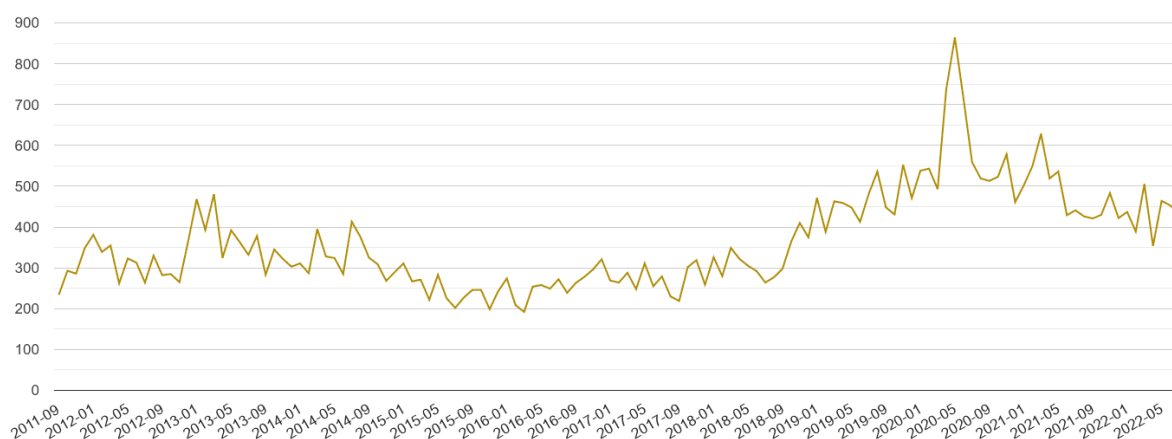
	Braintree	
Crime	Count	Rate
Drugs	237	5.26
Other Crime	76	1.69
Other Theft	276	6.12
Possession of Weapons	49	1.09
Public Order	455	10.10
Robbery	30	0.67
Shoplifting	392	8.70
Theft From the Person	34	0.75
Vehicle Crime	177	3.93
Violence and Sexual Offences	2,155	47.82

Braintree Neighbourhood Crime Breakdown (2023)

Crime Type	Safest Neighbourhood	Most Dangerous Neighbourhood
Anti-Social Behaviour	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (83)	Central Braintree (255)
Bicycle Theft	Bocking (2)	Central Braintree (24)
Burglary	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (21)	Central Braintree (38)
Criminal Damage and Arson	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (38)	Central Braintree (112)
Drugs	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (9)	Central Braintree (115)
Other Crime	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (12)	Braintree South (23)
Other Theft	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (29)	Bocking (79)
Possession of Weapons	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (3)	Central Braintree (15)
Public Order	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (43)	Central Braintree (183)
Robbery (inc. mugging)	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (2)	Central Braintree (18)
Shoplifting	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (10)	Central Braintree (201)
Theft From the Person (inc. pickpocketing)	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (1)	Central Braintree (18)
Vehicle Crime	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (20)	Bocking (33)
Violence and Sexual Offences	Bocking Churchstreet & Blackwater (230)	Central Braintree (709)

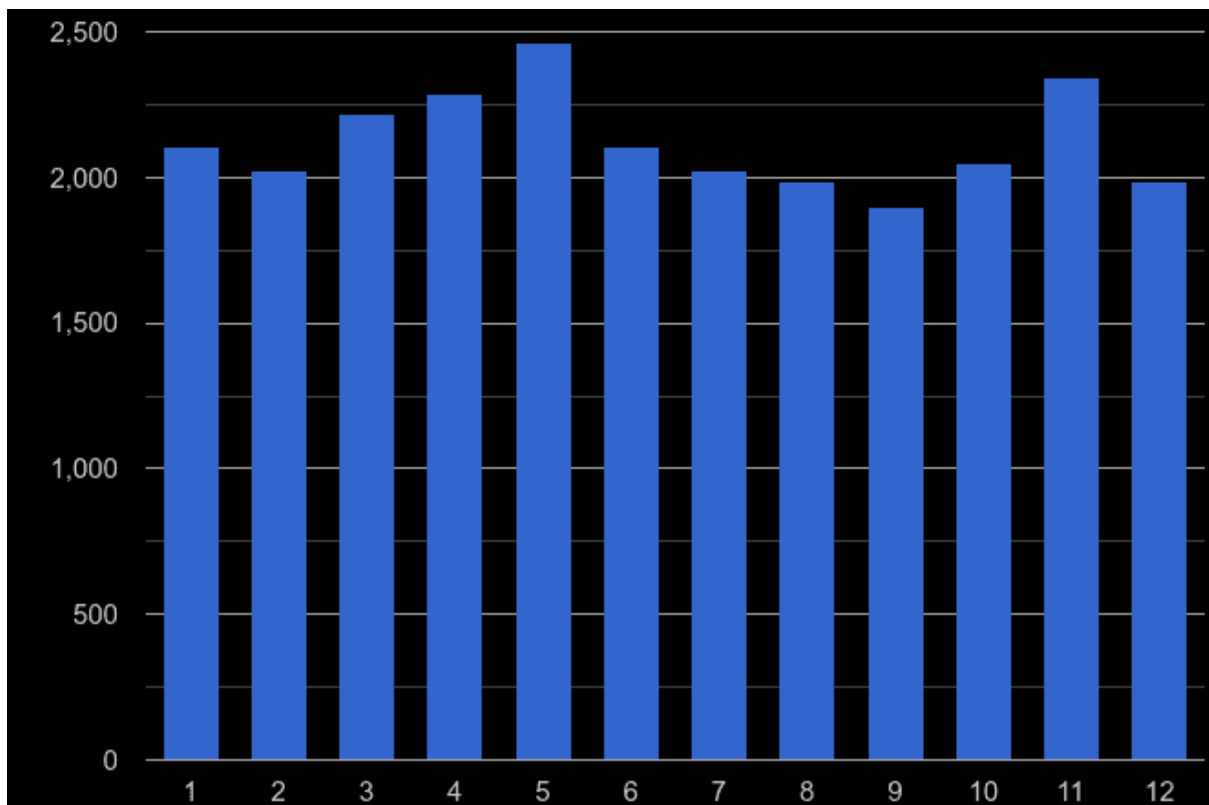
Essex drugs crime volume

Crime volume by month.



Essex drugs crime seasonality

Total number of crimes reported in a given calendar month (1 = January ... 12 = December) in the previous five years, i.e. from 2017 till 2022



Essex drugs crime rate compared to other counties

The total number of "drugs crime" is 5.2k, and this number has decreased by 15.8% when compared year-over-year in the period of August 2021 - July 2022. In the graph below, county are compared by crime rate and crime rate percentage change. Crime rate percentage change compares the county crime rate between August 2021 - July 2022 to the county crime rate in the previous 12 months. The size of the circle reflects the number of total crimes reported. The bigger the circle, the higher the number of crimes reported in the county.

-15.8%

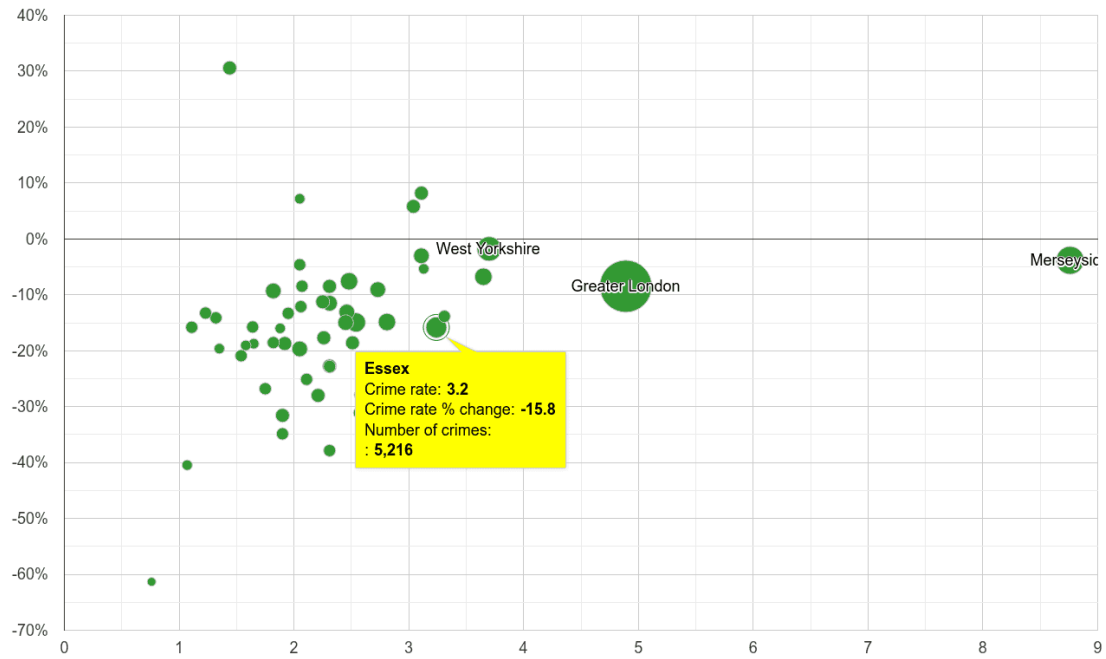
annual change

3.2

annual crime rate per 1k workday people

5.2k

crimes report



Updated stats found during August 2023 review:

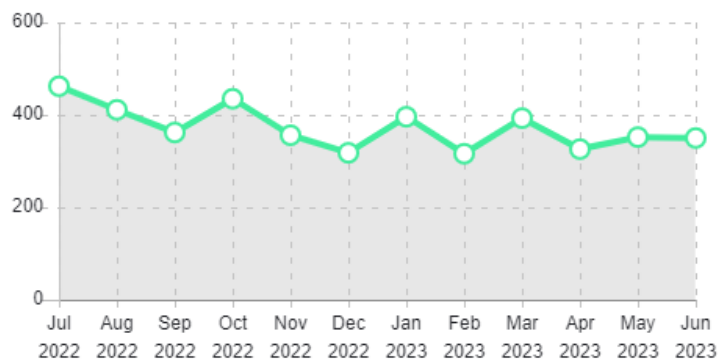
Crime levels overview

for the last 12 months (from Jul 2022 to Jun 2023)

Last 12 months

Last 3 years

Crime per Month



[View as a list](#)



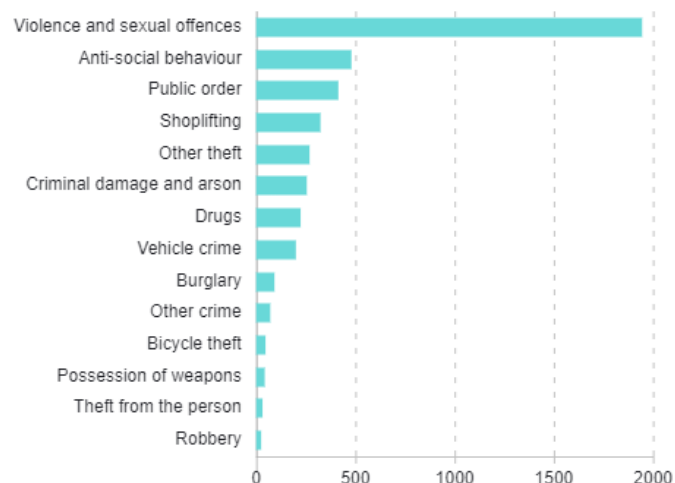
Crime types description

for the last 12 months (from Jul 2022 to Jun 2023)

Latest month

Last 12 months

Last 3 years



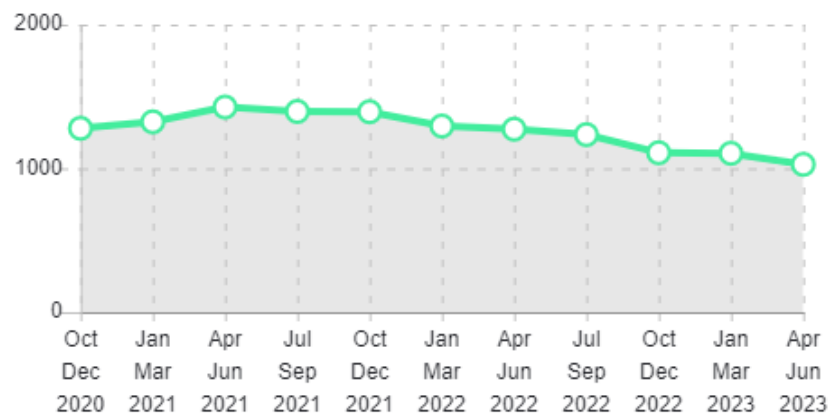
Crime levels overview

for the last 3 years (from Oct 2020 to Jun 2023)

Last 12 months

Last 3 years

Crime per Quarter



The graph above demonstrates that over the last few years crime levels have reduced.