

Greater Anglia introduces new measures to improve safety

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Greater Anglia is introducing transport safety officers (TSOs) as part of a joint project to enhance safety on the rail network in Essex.

Six TSOs will undertake patrols between Southend Victoria and Shenfield, Shenfield and Colchester, and Colchester and Clacton-on-Sea.

Developed in collaboration with Thurrock Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council, and Essex County Council, the pilot has received Department for Transport funding totalling £490,000.

The TSOs will work in close coordination with transport operators in Essex, including Greater Anglia, c2c, Ensign Buses, and other law enforcement agencies, including the British Transport Police and Essex Police. They will patrol targeted routes and locations, address anti-social behaviour, and promote safety for all passengers.

While their primary focus will be to engage and educate, the TSOs will also be given enforcement powers, including the authority to issue fixed penalty notices for specific anti-social behaviours.

Matt Wakefield, Greater Anglia's Head of Safety, Security and Sustainability, said:

"We are very pleased to welcome TSOs to our network. Although the railway is a safe place, we are always supportive of any initiative which further improves passengers' safety and overall journeys.

"TSOs are committed to reducing anti-social behaviour and Violence Against Women and Girls by working with other established agencies, fostering a safe, inclusive environment for all.

"The TSOs will work alongside our existing partners including land sheriffs and the rail pastors, who help vulnerable people during their time of need. They will patrol throughout the day and into the evening, visiting stations, boarding trains, and helping anyone who is vulnerable, distressed, or in need of some assistance."