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Effective from: April 2026

Review date: April 2027

Purpose

Bridge 2 Education and Employment have a well-equipped team to make judgments about local risks, manage challenging behaviour, and keep children safe is an important element. Staff training, support and knowledge is therefore critical to this success – with staffing ratio levels being appropriate and proportionate.

It is acknowledged that there are limitations of mapping in capturing a 'dynamic picture' but considers that such mapping could play a useful part in the wider assessments of risk. B2EE location assessment should be kept under review and amended to consider any new risks as these are identified. The annual update will need to be proportionate and will not usually need to be carried out at the level of the initial assessment.

Location assessments will need to address two issues:

1. Safeguarding concerns
2. Accessibility of local services

The organisations Leadership team has a broad understanding of the characteristics of the area where the site is located. The team has an in-depth understanding of potential influences for an already vulnerable child to be a victim of crime, such as being targeted for sexual exploitation.

- Whether there is a likelihood of children placed at B2EE becoming drawn into gang crime or anti-social behaviour in the local area.
- 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 also consider any positive features in a local community that would offer benefits to children attending Bridge 2 Education & Employment. 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 or work experience placements in the locality.

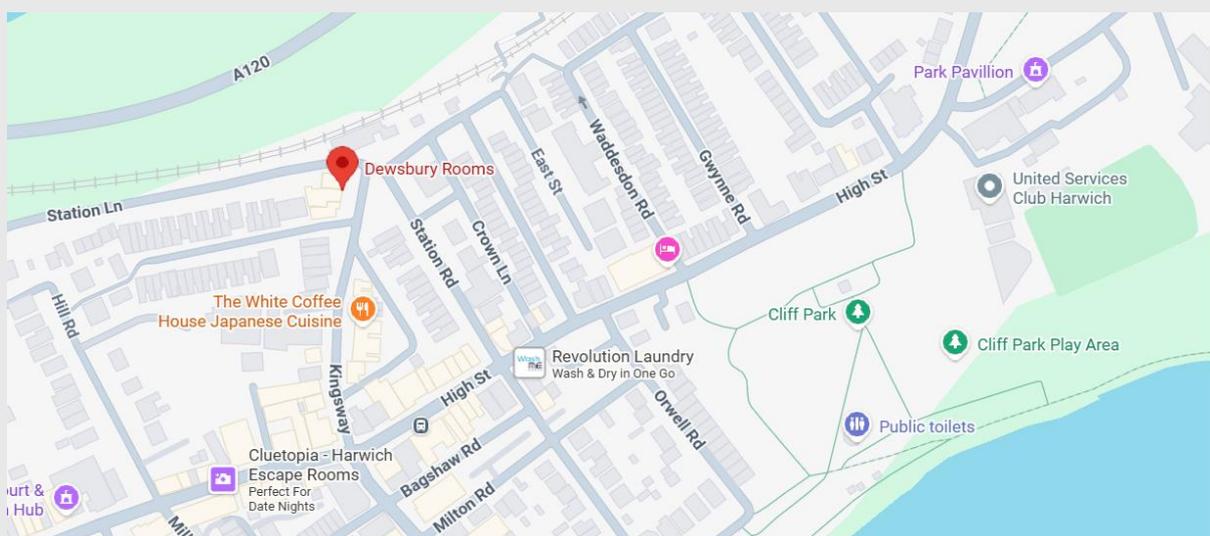
Accessibility of Local Services

Bridge 2 Education & Employment is located within the town of Harwich, Essex, approximately 0.1 miles walk from the centre of town. Harwich is originally an old market town and has lots of history. The town itself is not very affluent; it does however have train links to both London and Ipswich.

The town has some opportunities to offer, with an array of shops, clubs, and some social activities, Harwich hosts a local sports centre with a public swimming pool, gym and an assortment of other fitness facilities.

Approximately 0.5 miles walk from B2EE there is a town park, which is opposite Dovercourt Seafront. The park includes Basketball court, an adventure playground, and a young children's play area. There is also a band stand within the field/park. The field caters for a travelling circus/fairground at certain times of the year.

The local train station is approximately 20 steps away from B2EE, with direct links to London and Ipswich. The building to B2EE is fobbed meaning people are unable to walk in to gain direct access to the building.



Popular attractions in the areas:

- Cliff parks play area – 0.3 mile from venue
- Park Pavilion – 0.3 mile from venue
- Beacon Hill Fort – 0.5 mile from venue
- Harwich Pier – 0.8 miles from venue
- Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles – 1 mile from venue
- Blue Flag café – 0.8 mile from venue
- Skate Park – 1 mile from venue

Bridge 2 Education & Employment is positioned just off Kingsway Road in Harwich Town, to the left before Dovercourt Train station. Kingsway Road is a busy commuter road with a high level of traffic; however this is often slow-moving due to traffic control and pedestrian crossing. The road is situated adjacent to residential housing, shops, and small businesses. Due to this the road has a 30 mile an hour speed limit. The road is sometimes congested, with slow moving traffic.

Services located near Bridge 2 Education & Employment

- Harwich Police Station – 0.4 mile from venue
- Fryatt Hospital – 1 mile from venue
- Harwich Fire & Rescue – 1.3 miles from venue
- Harwich Ambulance station – 2.2 miles from venue
- Harwich & Dovercourt School – 1.3 miles from venue
- Harwich & Dovercourt Rugby Club – 1.2 miles from venue

Consultation with Appropriate Local Services

Bridge 2 Education & Employment already has links within the local authority to consult about any local issues or individual circumstances with pupils.

The key links for local services are detailed below and their responses to consultation on the location report.

Local Service	Key Individual and contact details	Feedback for assessment
Safeguarding (including Missing, CSE)	88 Main Road, Harwich, Essex, CO12 3LW Telephone: 01255 241312 (Harwich Police station) for non-urgent enquiries.	If any concerns are raised about a pupil or about a location the Senior Tutor/DSL ensures this is passed on where appropriate through the correct channels.

	101/999	
Crime	As above	B2EE will have regular visits by appropriate services to conduct presentations on crime/knife crime and drugs. These will be undertaken annually.
Local Probation / YOT	Essex YOT North Essex Youth Justice Team Address: Stanwell House, Stanwell Street, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7DL Telephone: 03330 139 943	Where Young Person will have a named YOT worker from their funding authority with whom B2EE will work with to reduce anti-social behaviour.

Safeguarding Concerns

There are no major concerns about the location in which Bridge 2 Education & Employment is located. There are low levels (if any) of crime, and the area is not highlighted by the local neighbourhood team as an area of concern.

Based on data from late 2025 and early 2026, Harwich, Essex, has experienced a higher-than-average crime rate compared to similar-sized towns in the region. Key concerns in the area, particularly within the Tendring district, focus on violence, antisocial behaviour, and theft.

Crime Overview and Trends (2025-2026)

- **Overall Crime Rate:** In 2025, the overall crime rate was approximately 83 crimes per 1,000 people, which is around 20% higher than the general Essex rate.
- **Most Common Offences:** The highest volume of reported crimes includes violence and sexual offences (875 offences in 2025), criminal damage and arson, shoplifting, and anti-social behaviour.
- **Violent Crime Concerns:** Residents have expressed significant concern regarding violent crime, including domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in town centres and, during summer months, holiday parks.

- **Specific Incidents:** Recent reports have highlighted serious incidents, including armed robbery attempts and shoplifting, particularly in areas like Dovercourt.

Key Areas of Concern

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):** Reports indicate issues with ASB involving young people, causing nuisance and intimidation, particularly around public spaces in Harwich and Dovercourt.
- **Drug-Related Crime:** Police investigations have targeted "county lines" drug networks operating from London to Harwich, with recent convictions in 2025 resulting from violence associated with heroin and crack cocaine supply.
- **Theft and Burglary:** Residents and businesses are concerned about a rise in shoplifting and burglaries, which prompted increased patrols in retail areas and town centres.
- **Vehicle Crime:** Reports suggest ongoing issues with vehicle theft and damage, causing financial and emotional distress to residents.

Police and Council Action

- **Targeted Patrols:** Essex Police have deployed high-visibility patrols in identified hotspots, particularly in town centres and areas with high incidences of violent crime and ASB.
- **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs):** These are in place to address street drinking and other nuisance behaviour.
- **Technology and Support:** Police are using live facial recognition to identify suspects and working with the Tendring District Council to address safety concerns.
- **Community Safety:** Harwich Town Council contributes to community safety by part-funding a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for the area and maintaining CCTV at locations like the skatepark.

The main identified risk would appear to be pupils absconding from the site. The area can be busy with accessible travel links. Therefore, the staff would be vigilant of this behaviour with appropriate staffing ratios, monitoring in place and risk assessments completed for individual pupils attending the site. Although this risk has been minimised with the use of fobbed system, where you can only gain access building if you have a fob.

Risk Assessment & Risk Management Strategies

Risk Risk factors Risk heightening factors	Risk management strategies Protective factors	Probability of harm occurring (1-3)	Extent of current harm / hazard (1-3)	Overall risk rating (1-9) 1-3 low 3-5 med 6-9 High
<p>Roads</p> <p>Crossing the road may be a risk to young people if they do not cross safely.</p> <p>The road in front of the provision can be a busy road.</p>	<p>Pupils are competent to cross the road and can go out independently and the road does not pose any additional risk to their day-to-day activities.</p>	1	2	3
<p>Local Shops</p> <p>CSE, Anti-social behaviour</p> <p>May be identified as venues where grooming and exploitation can occur.</p> <p>Local shops are also areas where anti-social behaviour can occur.</p>	<p>Pupils to be aware of the appropriate use of language and expected behaviour when out in the community.</p> <p>Staff Supervision will be 1:1</p> <p>Pupils will receive lessons on keeping themselves safe in the local area and this will include some age-appropriate training and input from local police.</p>	1	2	3
<p>Absconding by train</p>	<p>Dovercourt train station can be a busy, station which has one main entrance.</p> <p>Any pupil with a history of missing behaviour attending B2EE with have an individual risk assessment which will include the proximity of the train station to the venue.</p> <p>All pupils' behaviour will be managed in line with their own individual risk assessments and management plans.</p>	1	1	2
<p>Local park</p>	<p>Staff will all be aware of that although the local park is safe and a quiet environment</p>	1	1	2

	during the day staff monitoring will be on a weekly/ daily basis as occasionally there can be events such as festivals and fairs visiting. During these times, the provision will be vigilant, additional risk assessments will be drafted or amended to highlight risks associated with these events.			
The Beach Access points are situated just past the main town of Harwich	The beach itself is quite busy with a well-maintained public footpath adjacent to it. All young people will be spoken to and have understanding on the risks of unsafe behaviour near waterways. Staff will be clear on what to do in the event of a pupil going into the sea.	1	3	4
A120 road links Harwich is accessed by the A120. This road leads to the A12 which takes you to Colchester	Staff are all aware of the position of the A120 and how it could be accessed by walking in the direction of the main road taking you out of Harwich for 1 hour 30 minutes from the venue.	1	1	2
Local housing estates B2EE building is situated near a residential homes/road.	To date there are no concerns regarding the residential houses. Staff are always aware of the pupil's whereabouts.	1	1	2

Policy Approval

Policy Owner: Bridge 2 Education and Employment

Approved by: Director of Operations

Date Approved: April 2026

Next Review Date: April 2027