

ECC Report December 2023

Launch of EssexAir website.

A new website has been launched to raise awareness of air pollution. [EssexAir](#) highlights simple actions people can take to reduce emissions.

We have created the website on behalf of the Essex Air Quality Consortium. This is a partnership of the 12 district, borough and city councils in Essex, as well as the county council and two unitary councils.

The website features:

- a dedicated school zone with resources, activities and games
- an air pollution map
- tips to reduce your exposure to air pollution
- advice on changing travel habits to lesson exposure to pollution

Air pollution is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. It is linked to up to 36,000 deaths each year. It can cause cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and lung cancer. It can also exacerbate existing health conditions, such as asthma. In Essex almost 900 deaths in 2021 were attributable to air pollution.

The new Essex Air website was funded through The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Air Quality Grant scheme.

Find out more at the [EssexAir website](#).

£135,000 awarded to support public health projects.

The first organisations to benefit from our our Public Health Accelerator Bids (PHAB) small grants programme have been announced.

A range of organisations will benefit from a total of £136,366. This will be used to support a variety of projects aimed at improving the physical and mental health of residents across the county.

The first successful organisations are:

- UTurn4Support: to launch a project combining sporting activity and theoretical mentoring to achieve positive health and social outcomes for young people.
- The Art Ministry: to run twice weekly creative sessions over two years for people with mental health issues as well as disadvantaged and disabled residents.

- SEND the Right Message Charity (STRM): to employ a community engagement officer working with residents in Canvey, Benfleet, Hadleigh, Hockley, Ashingdon, Great Wakering, Canewdon and Hullbridge.
- Urban Support CIC: to provide a supported learning programme in partnership with local schools, focusing on assisting children with learning difficulties by providing access to physical activities and mentoring.
- Over 50s Black Men Forum CIC: to host a Mental Health Seminar in Chelmsford and provide five mental health workshops over a 36-week period for older black men across Essex.
- Making It Mindful: to host “dance and dine” sessions for women and families, combined dance and cooking workshops.
- Yoga4all Group CIC: to deliver children’s yoga classes in Basildon.
- Let's Get Out C.I.C: to create the Every Acorn Project Forest School, which will utilise the therapeutic benefits of nature to improve mental wellbeing.
- Barnardo's Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service: to work with Thurstable School to offer young people suffering anxiety up to age 19 two blocks of six-week yoga sessions.
- Ferriers Barn: to provide two fitness classes weekly at Ferriers Barn, a day centre for adults with disabilities, and a weekly sound gong session.
- Canvey Island Youth Project (Yellow Door): to employ a sessional counsellor specialising in supporting young people who are neurodiverse or who present as younger than their years.
- Ace Music Therapy CIC: to host two inclusive 12-week music workshops for adults and children, as well as a community performance at the end of the programme.

Councillor John Spence, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and ICS Integration, said:

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to impactful public health interventions, and I’m really pleased to such a diverse range of projects and organisations benefit from the first PHAB small grants.

Small grants from the programme are still available, and I would urge other organisations across the county to consider submitting a bid – the money you could receive can make a real difference.

The £7.5 million Public Health Accelerator Bids (PHAB) programme offers organisations the opportunity to bid for funding across two grant funding streams. These are: small grants under £15,000 and major grants over £15,000.

Applications for the small grants scheme can be made on a rolling basis.

Find out more about [our PHAB programme](#).

Projects that can be considered for funding need to:

- be new or add something to a service
- help achieve good physical and mental health outcomes at either an individual level or a community level. This includes improved quality and length of life

We will prioritise projects that:

- adopt the principles of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) to empower communities to make healthier choices and maximise their opportunities
- use Population Health Management to identify groups experiencing or at risk of poor health
- support positive mental health to improve quality of life and healthy life expectancy
- address the main six lifestyle risk factors: smoking, high body mass index (BMI), high systolic blood pressure, high LDL cholesterol, high fasting blood glucose and alcohol use.

New 1.75 million grant fund for unpaid carers launches in Essex.

A new grant programme has launched in Essex that will see £1.75million allocated to support unpaid carers of all ages, through local projects.

There are an estimated 124,000 unpaid carers in Essex, but we estimate this number is far greater.

Unpaid carers play a vital role in helping family and friends live independently.

Unpaid carers usually see it as their role to support relatives, friends and neighbours so they might not there is [help available](#).

The Carers Community Fund, funded by the Councils' Better Care Fund Allocation, aims to build localised community-based support for these carers.

Eligible groups and organisations will be able to apply for a grant between £1,000 and £30,000.

Applications open 28 November and close 30 January 2024.

Applications should demonstrate innovation and an inclusive approach to supporting carers in their communities.

Visit the [Carers Community Fund webpage](#) to find out who is eligible and to apply.

Cabinet Member for Health, Adult Social Care and ICS Integration, Councillor John Spence said: "Our new carers' strategy for Essex is aimed at ensuring high-quality

information guidance and advice, that carers know their rights and that they feel well supported.

“Grants from this fund will particularly help the last of these, as local organisations and charities will be able to identify those projects which will best enhance the lives of the carers in their part of Essex.”

If you are an unpaid carer, [support is available](#).

Unpaid Carers also have a number of rights. We recently launched a new [campaign](#) to raise awareness of these rights.

Have your say on a new political map for Essex County Council.

New boundaries are being proposed for Essex County Council divisions.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has launched a consultation on the proposals. This will run until Monday 19 February 2024.

The Commission is the independent body that draws these boundaries. It is reviewing Essex to make sure councillors will represent about the same number of electors.

The Commission's proposals for Essex would see 78 single-member divisions.

Key points for the proposals include:

- retaining five councillors in Castle Point, to better reflect the communities in this borough



- bringing Loughton within two divisions rather than three
- ensuring that Clacton-on-Sea is covered by divisions focussed on the town.

Here is a map of the proposed new boundaries:

You can view an [interactive map of the proposals](#).

Find out more and [give your thoughts in the consultation](#).

People can also give their views by e-mail at reviews@lgbce.org.uk, and by post to: Review Officer (Essex), LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth, NE24 9FE.

Apply now for 2024 primary school places.

Primary school applications are now open for 2024. Children can start primary school in the September after their fourth birthday. Parents and carers of children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 need to apply.

Applications will be open until Monday 15 January. This is the national closing date.

Applications received after 15 January will be considered after on time applications. This means applying late could reduce the chance of getting a place at a preferred school.

Councillor Tony Ball, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability, said:

Starting school for the first time marks an exciting milestone in a child's life and we want to ensure the application process is as smooth as possible for parents and carers.

Parents applying on time and using their four preferences will help to ensure their child gets the best possible opportunity of a place at a preferred school for when they start their primary education from September 2024.

Find out more and [apply for a primary school place for 2024](#).