

ECC Report August 2023

Join our network of SEND support in Essex



Essex County Council is encouraging clubs, groups, and organisations to join the [Essex Local Offer](#).

- I think my child needs help, with a guide about the first steps to take, who you can speak to and planning for the future.
- Help with learning to find out about help available at nursery, school, or college.
- Health and wellbeing in finding out how to access the right health support for your needs.
- Appeals, advice and mediation on how to give feedback, how to find an advocate, and how to disagree with SEND decisions.
- Financial support with finances for children and young people with special educational needs, and
- Crisis support if you are in crisis and need help, there are teams who can help you.

This [Essex Local Offer](#) provides information on support for people aged up to 25 with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

It also includes advice if you're new to SEND and a range of local groups and activities that offer support.

The site currently lists over 350 services, groups and activities which offer different types of support. These include play centres, sport clubs and employment support.

Clubs, groups, and organisations can offer support in different ways. This might be as full-time provision or during dedicated SEND-inclusive sessions.

Joining the Essex Local Offer is free and there is no limit on the size of club or organisation that can join.

[Find out more and request to join](#) the Essex Local Offer.

Expressions of interest are now open for our new £7.5 million public health grant programme.



Expressions of interest for the major grants have opened on Tuesday 1st August. The deadline for the first round of expressions of interest is 5pm on Friday 25 August. If the initial expression of interest is successful, bidders can submit an application form.

The Public Health Accelerator Bids (PHAB) programme offers funding across two grant streams. These are:

- small grants under £15,000

- major grants over £15,000

Essex County Council has also launched a [new website](#) for the

programme. The website brings together information on the programme. It includes the full guidance and expression of interest forms. It will continue to update it with further details as they become available.

The PHAB programme will support the new [Essex Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities Business Plan](#). Grants are available to voluntary organisations, charities, NHS bodies, schools, councils and more.

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

“This ambitious programme will fund a range of innovative public health projects across Essex, supporting our aim to address the wider determinants of health in the communities where this is needed most.

We’re excited to see the benefits projects will bring to residents and I would urge organisations to take a look at the website where they can learn more about the funding criteria and the process of submitting a bid.”

Applications for the small grants and first round of the major grant will open on Monday 4 September. At the beginning of November we will award the first grants. They can fund projects for up to two years.

[Find out more about the programme](#) and stay up to date.

Hear more from Councillor Spence in this short video:

[Public Health Accelerator Bids \(PHAB\) programme, Cllr Spence - Essex County Council](#)

Roadworks during the school holidays



Essex residents are being encouraged to check the roads before they travel this summer. This is so they can make sure their journeys aren't affected by roadworks and delays.

During the school holidays, peak time traffic is less busy. This means it is a good opportunity to complete repairs, particularly in traffic sensitive locations.

With more traffic management likely to be on the network, planning your route means journeys will be less affected by delays. Traffic management is essential to keep the public and workers safe.

It is easier to complete repairs smoothly and on time with the co-operation of the public, and when schools are closed. We would urge residents to treat workers with respect.

Residents can stay up to date and [check where the latest works on the network are taking place](#).

Partners team up to launch online Safety Map



Essex County Council has launched a new [online map](#) for women and girls to use to highlight areas they feel safe or unsafe in Essex.

When accessing the map, women and girls can 'drop a pin' on a particular area that they have felt unsafe. They can then state why. It can be used on a desktop computer, phone, or tablet.

Anyone can use it, but the primary audience is women and girls over 13-years-old.

The map follows research by the council's Safety Advisory Group into women's perceptions of safety.

Data from this research shows 16% of women involved felt unsafe in our towns and cities during the day and 47% felt unsafe at night.

The Council alongside Essex Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex is rolling out this map across the county, and it's being supported by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and researchers at Nottingham Trent University.

This latest initiative is part of our commitment with partners in making the county safer for women and girls and helping them to feel safer too and the data collected will be used by partners to inform their work going forward.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, Communities and the Economy at Essex County Council, Councillor Louise McKinlay said:

"Everyone in Essex has the right to live their life free of fear and free of harassment."

“While police and partners in the county are working hard to make the county safer, we know many women and girls in the county still feel afraid in some areas, whether that be at day or night. This is not acceptable”.

“This initiative will be valuable in finding out where in the county women and girls feel most unsafe and why.

“We have already done a lot of work to understand how women in particular perceive safety in the county, but this map will allow us to go one step further by gaining insight at a hyper-local level. We can then address the issues raised and bring about change.”

Visit the [map](#) and tell us where in Essex you have felt unsafe and why.

Landmark moment sees new-look historic Tindal Square in Chelmsford launch to the public



An official launch took place on 29th July in the historic Tindal Square. The event marked the end of the works [Tindal Square and Market Road, Chelmsford | Essex County Council \(essexhighways.org\)](#) and the much-awaited opening of the vibrant space.

The works have joined Tindal Square and Shire Hall creating a new public square at the head of the High Street. With new trees and seating, shoppers can enjoy this beautiful space in the historic and civic heart of the city.

Leader of Essex County Council, Councillor Kevin Bentley said:

“This is an exciting time for people that visit or live and work in Chelmsford. The pedestrianisation of this area brings with it a wealth of opportunities for this historic square set the heart of the county.

“With our colleagues at Chelmsford City Council we have worked hard to create a vibrant space that can be shared and loved by residents and visitors for many years to come.

“We have great ambitions for the future of Shire Hall, and this marks the start of bringing it back to life.”

The council started the works [Green light for major works in Chelmsford’s High Street - Chelmsford City Life](#) last year alongside Chelmsford City Council. The plans were developed as part of the Chelmsford city growth package.

Prior to the works, the square was separated from the High Street by a road.

As well as removing through-traffic, Essex County Council has created a prioritised pedestrian space. An east-west cycle link was also maintained. This now means a safe, uninterrupted route for cyclists to travel through the city centre.

The works will bring many benefits for residents, visitors, and the local economy.

Cabinet Member for A Growing Chelmsford at Chelmsford City Council, Councillor Ian Fuller said:

“I’m so proud to see the brilliant end result of this partnership project with Essex County Council, which celebrates the civic heart of Chelmsford.

"The investment has revitalised the head of the High Street and created a new focal point for one of Chelmsford’s most iconic buildings – Shire Hall.

"I’m delighted that the city’s residents and visitors alike will be able to meet up, relax in and appreciate this attractive, safe, and inclusive new space.”

The square will also host events by:

- community groups
- cultural organisations
- charities
- businesses

The launch event was the first opportunity to showcase what this might look like as performers took to the square for the first time.

Other exciting events are planned to include a free day of fun the ‘Tindal Square Summerballoo’. It takes place on 12 August from 11am to 5pm.

If you're interested in hiring Tindal Square for a cultural activity or event, you can find out more and submit an application [via the Chelmsford City Council website](#).