

ECC Report September 2023

Essex Children's Social Care Services are 'Outstanding'.



Ofsted has rated ECC's children's social care services as 'Outstanding' again in every area assessed. The report, published on Wednesday 23rd August, follows their inspection in June this year.

Inspectors found high standards were in place across the county. They highlighted the innovative, high-quality help and support available. They also praised employees and how children's needs are at the heart of decision making. Leaders were praised for being "outward looking and forward thinking".

Ofsted also rated our children's social care services 'Outstanding' in 2018. Since then, they found further improvements have been made.

Councillor Beverley Egan, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Early Years, said:

"Achieving an Outstanding Ofsted rating is a fantastic achievement for everyone working in children's social care in Essex, as well as our partners. Our success is a testament to them, and I want to say thank you to every person who has played a part in this rating.

The report recognises how we have invested in our staff, improved practice and developed innovative methods, but continued to ensure at the heart of everything we do is the drive to improve the lives of vulnerable children and their families.

While this report is fantastic news, we are not complacent, and I can assure residents we will continue working to further improve our services".

Councillor Kevin Bentley, Essex County Council Leader, added:

“An incredible amount of hard work has gone into securing this Ofsted rating and it shows how committed Essex County Council as an authority, as well as all of our staff, is to providing the highest possible standard of support for vulnerable children across Essex. Our work is making a real difference to their lives, and it brilliant to see our efforts recognised by Ofsted.

I could not be prouder of this achievement. Congratulations to all involved”.

Hear more about the report from Councillor Egan in this video:

[Cllr Beverley Egan, Ofsted Outstanding - Essex County Council](#)

[Read the full Ofsted report](#) to find out more.

Students praised as they receive their A-level, vocational and technical results.



Students across Essex have been congratulated after picking up their A-level, vocational and technical (level 3 qualifications) results on Thursday 17th August.

Across Essex, nearly 9,000 young people have completed courses and sat exams this year at schools or academies, further education colleges, sixth form colleges and training providers.

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

“I would like to congratulate everyone who has picked up their A-level, vocational and technical results today. A lot of hard work, dedication and commitment goes

into studying for these exams and I am pleased that students' efforts have been rewarded.

"I extend my warmest congratulations to all those receiving their results and wish them the very best of luck for the future, whatever path they are now pursuing.

"I would also like to thank all our teaching and school colleagues from across Essex for their ongoing hard work and dedication over the last year. Students' results are also a testament to them."

The [National Careers Service](#) and school or college career advisers can provide information, advice and guidance to students about resits, qualification and subject choices.

They can also advise on apprenticeships, careers advice, and gap years.

For any questions students have about university admissions or higher education courses, they should contact the university or college directly.

They can also contact [UCAS](#) on 0371 4680 468 for more information.

Students can apply for a course using [Clearing](#) until 17 October if they have missed out on an offer or have declined their firm choice.

Any young people who are feeling worried about what to do next or overwhelmed by leaving school and starting university can find [local wellbeing support](#).

If a student is not happy with their results in some subjects, they have the option to appeal their results or retake their exams in those subjects.

Their school or college will be able to tell them about the process for both of these.

Congratulations to Essex pupils on GCSE results day.



More than 16,000 pupils in Essex are celebrating after collecting their GCSE results on Thursday 24th August.

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

“I would like to extend my congratulations to everyone who sat their GCSE exams this year.

“The commitment and dedication of learners, teachers and families have contributed to some fantastic outcomes, and I want to wish everyone who has collected their results today the best in whatever they decide to do next.

“We remain committed to ensuring all pupils in Essex receive the best possible education and continue to work very closely with all schools in order to ensure this is the case.”The [National Careers Service](#) and school or college career advisers can provide information, advice and guidance to students about resits, qualification and subject choices.

Any young people who are feeling worried or overwhelmed are encouraged to find out about the [local wellbeing support](#) available.

If a student is not happy with their results in some subjects, they have the option to appeal their results or retake their exams in those subjects.

Their school or college will be able to tell them about the process for both of these.

Alongside school leavers, ACL Essex learners across the county have also received their results today. ACL offers a range of GCSE courses, from English, maths and various sciences to psychology, sociology and computer science.

New GCSE courses at ACL will commence in September. English and maths GCSEs are free to those people who do not currently hold a grade (A*-C/ 4+) in the subject already. Find out more about [GCSE courses with ACL](#).

ACL Essex congratulates adult learners on their GCSE results.



Our adult education provider, ACL Essex, is celebrating the results of GCSE learners this Results Day.

Alongside students, ACL learners across the county have opened their GCSE results. This will help them continue onto further courses and step into new career pathways.

ACL Essex learner, Imogen, has been trying for her GCSE Maths since Year 11 in school, and finally achieved it this year.

Imogen said:

“I’m a Teaching Assistant in a primary school, and my next steps are to train as a teacher but I couldn’t start the training without a GCSE in Maths.

“I tried twice in college and two to three times in university, and I came to ACL for a last chance at getting it. It made a difference having adults around that want to learn.

“I really gelled with my tutor and felt more supported, and now I can start teacher training as of next September.”

Another ACL Essex learner, Kathleen, is a grandmother who wanted to prove to herself that she could achieve top marks in GCSE Biology.

Upon receiving the top mark of a 9, Kathleen said:

“Having retired, I was getting worried about my memory, so I decided to do a course and get my brain working again.

“I was hoping for a 9 and I got a 9. I’m really, really pleased that I’m still capable of achieving such a good grade.”

Melanie, another ACL Essex learner, has three children and has now achieved her GCSE English with ACL.

Melanie said:

“This means so much, it’s fantastic. It’s been a long time since I’ve been at school and my daughter’s now starting her GCSEs.

“It was hard to get back into the swing of things and restarting it again. I’m hoping to go into teaching, so now I’ve got this one, I’m going to do my GCSE Maths in September.”

ACL Essex offers a range of GCSE qualifications, including in English, maths and various sciences.

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

“GCSE and Access to Higher Education qualifications can increase employment opportunities, help people to build essential skills, and enable people to take the next steps in their learning journey.

“I’m proud that ACL Essex can offer a range of opportunities for the people of Essex. Not only does ACL Essex offer a wealth of GCSE and Access to Higher Education courses for residents, but they also advise learners of the progression opportunities that are available to them.”

ACL Essex will offer a range of [GCSE](#) and [Access to Higher Education](#) courses from September 2023. Courses include GCSE English and Maths, as well as Computer Science, Psychology and more.

GCSEs in English and Maths are free with ACL Essex if learners do not currently hold a GCSE grade C or 4 (or above). If residents do not achieve their GCSEs, ACL Essex also offers the chance to retake exams and complete further study at their centres.

Residents who achieve their GCSEs can progress and onto an Access to Higher Education course. ACL Essex supports learners to take this next step and aims to get them into university within 33 weeks to a year.

A series of taster workshops will also be held during their Festival of Learning: Have A Go Week (6-14 September). Residents can speak to teams at ACL Essex, sign up for tasters and receive guidance about their next steps.

Find out more about how to sign up for GCSE qualification tasters during ACL Essex's [Festival of Learning](#).

Council secures green planning award.



[Building with Nature](#) has awarded ECC with a [Building with Nature Policy Award](#) for the [Essex Green Infrastructure Standards](#).

The Council has created the set of local standards tailored to Essex working alongside a wide range of stakeholders and partners. This was as part of [Natural England's](#) trials of the '[Green Infrastructure Framework – Principles and Standards for England](#)'.

Green infrastructure is the carefully planned network of high quality natural and semi-natural assets and habitats. It is made up of green and blue spaces as well as other strategically planned environmental features that maintain and create ecosystems.

These standards and principles have been designed to ensure that green areas in Essex are developed and maintained to a high standard, benefiting Essex's residents and environment.

The Building with Nature Policy Award officially recognises the Essex Green Infrastructure Standards as meeting the high standards set within the [Building with Nature principles](#).

To aid with the design and development of green infrastructure in Essex, we have also commissioned a [training video covering the Essex Green Infrastructure Standards](#).

The training video provides a full breakdown of the standards. It shows how to implement them in new and existing developments across Essex.

Watch the video below:

[The Essex Green Infrastructure Standards and Principles](#)