

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

For any resident of the Braintree District Council area who does not have access to transport. We are currently able to provide transport for emergency health related appointments including coronavirus vaccinations.

Transport is offered to those who have a mobility difficulty, people who need to travel in their wheelchair and those who are able bodied. To allow for two metre distancing we carry one passenger at a time or two from the same household or if the individual needs a carer. The driver sits behind a Perspex screen and vehicles are sanitised between every trip.

Transport for vaccinations is currently free of charge and is offered seven days a week from 8am until 6pm – for other health related appointments e.g. doctors, dentist etc a subsidised fare is chargeable.

To check availability or to book a trip call **01376 557883** Monday to Friday 9.00-15.00.

An answerphone is available to leave a message outside of these hours.

## COMMUNITY360

Community360 is an independent charity that aims to inspire and enable social action to improve people's quality of life. Our vision is for a more equal society. Our ambition is to use our efforts and influence to reduce inequalities and increase opportunities.

Community360 provides the following services in Braintree district:

- Volunteer recruitment and coordination through the Braintree District Volunteer Centre & Time Bank
- Welfare Calls for residents who may be lonely or isolated

- Support for families through the Essex Family Support Service
- Information, advice and guidance on how to stay warm, well and connected to local services
- Infrastructure and funding support for voluntary, community and not for profit organisations

Referrals can be made Monday - Friday by email - **information@community360.org.uk** or by calling **01376 550507**

## ESSEX WELLBEING SERVICE

Supports all Essex residents with easy access and referral to all the wellbeing services they need. Links all Essex residents including parents and families with the practical, emotional and social care support they need as they adapt to 'the new normal' of their lives as lockdown eases.

 **0300 303 9988**

 **provide.essexwellbeing@nhs.net**

## WITHAM COMMUNITY HUB

The hub based in Newlands Shopping Centre are able to provide food parcels to individuals and families in Witham and surrounding areas should they be shielding, vulnerable or financially struggling due to the Covid pandemic. These can be delivered where necessary or collected. Inside the hub there is a community fridge which needs no referral and is currently open to the public - Monday – Saturday from 12 noon - 2pm.

Referrals can be made by statutory and voluntary sector organisations either by email **referrals@withamhub.co.uk** or by calling **01376 617998**.



## FIRST STOP

First Stop collect food donations from various supermarkets and make up food parcels which can either be collected or delivered. People can just turn up at their premises based at 29 Bocking End, Braintree between 10.30a.m -12 noon or call them on **01376 346535**.

## BRAINTREE AREA FOODBANKS

Access to foodbanks is through a voucher referral system, please contact the foodbank on **01376 330694** to find out which local organisations can issue the vouchers.

Christchurch, London Road, Braintree, CM7 2LD  
Opening Times: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 10.00a.m – 12 noon

St Andrews Church Hall, Parsonage Street, Halstead. CO9 2LD

Opening Times: Monday's from 10.00a.m – 12 noon

The Church in Great Notley, Bridge End Lane, Great Notley. CM77 7GN

Opening Times: Tuesday's from 10.00a.m – 12 noon

Witham Methodist Church, Guithavon Street, Witham. CM8 1BJ

Opening Times: Friday's from 10.00a.m – 12 noon

## CITIZENS ADVICE

Citizens Advice, advice line - **0344 499 4719**

Advice line is open Monday – Friday 10:00-16:00 excluding bank holidays.

**Warm Homes** can help with:

- Maximising your income to make sure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to
- Helping you with fuel debt – if you have already fallen to arrears (in some cases we can apply to trusts and foundations to help pay these off – giving you a fresh start)
- Energy saving around the home
- Energy tariffs - are you on the best one for you?
- Access to grants for energy saving improvements – we can help you find the best scheme and help you apply
- Access to emergency fuel payments
- We can also provide free energy saving devices around the home.

## BRITISH RED CROSS

The hardship fund offers up to £120 per month for up to 3 months. The Hardship Fund will support people with no access to stable income sources, people who lack recognised legal status, people with no or in temporary accommodation, families living below the poverty line and those facing domestic or sexual and gender-based violence. Call the Coronavirus support line: **0808 196 3651**

## ESSEX ESSENTIAL LIVING FUND

The Essential Living Fund can help to pay for furniture, clothing, and daily living expenses. It has replaced Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants -

**[www.southend.gov.uk/extra-financial-help/essential-living-fund](http://www.southend.gov.uk/extra-financial-help/essential-living-fund)**

apply by calling **0300 7900124**

## SAMARITANS

Available all the time to listen to anyone unable to cope.

Try the Samaritans self-help app:

**<https://selfhelp.samaritans.org>**

 **116 123**

 **[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)**

## CARERS FIRST

It is estimated there are over 145,000 people in Essex providing care for a relative or friend. Carers do an amazing job, and have the right to be supported. The earlier you get help, the more difference it can make. Find out what support we provide by visiting our website **[www.carersfirst.org.uk](http://www.carersfirst.org.uk)** or contact us on **0300 303 1555** to talk about your caring situation.

## COMPASS

Compass is a single point of access to support victims of domestic abuse.

Essex Domestic Abuse Helpline: **0330 333 7 444**

The helpline is available from 8a.m – 8p.m weekdays and 8a.m – 1p.m weekends.