

## MALDON DIVISION MONTHLY UPDATE– COUNCILLOR JANE FLEMING

### PEOPLE GETTING HOME FROM HOSPITAL QUICKER THAN EVER IN ESSEX

Efficient hospital discharge is helping more people live independent lives. Recent [NHS data](#) shows Essex County Council as a top performer in getting people home from hospital.

The data is from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). The framework measures how well care and support services achieve the outcomes that matter most to people.

The most recent data (2022/23) shows that permanent admissions into residential care (1,089 admissions) in Essex were a rate of 349.3 per 100,000 of the over 65 population. This is compared to a national average of 560.8 per 100,000.

This is the equivalent of 659 people being supported home, rather than admitted into a residential care setting. This means more people are being helped to live independently at home and that delays in hospital discharge are reduced.

Recent internal NHS data also shows the county council as joint best in the country for low levels of delayed discharges.

The council, alongside the NHS and other partners have a responsibility to support people leaving hospital.

They must support with the transition to either home or residential care, and arrange any long term care if needed. Getting people home from hospital quickly is important in helping people achieve the best possible long-term outcomes. Delays to people ready and able to leave hospital can lead to more on-going needs. Delays can cause:

- a greater dependency on support
- a prolonged risk of infection
- frustration and upset for the individuals

### JOURNEY PLANNING ON THE NEW TRAVELESSEX WEBSITE

[Plan a journey](#) is a feature of the new [TravelEssex website](#) that can be found on the Homepage.

To view suggested routes and their predicted journey times, add a start and destination place, select the departure or arrival time and then select how you would like to travel.

If you are planning a journey for somebody else, you can also share the journey results.

## MULTIPLY IN ESSEX: MORE FREE COURSES ON OFFER TO HELP RESIDENTS BOOST THEIR NUMBER SKILLS

Essex County Council's £7.9 million programme offers opportunities to learn everyday maths skills, with flexible opportunities available for those of all abilities.

Thousands of new opportunities for residents to boost their number skills will be on offer, as the second phase of a £7.9 million skills programme gets underway.

Essex County Council's Multiply programme has already offered bite-sized maths training to more than 3,000 adults aged 19 and over across Essex.

The campaign, which gained support from consumer champion, Matt Allwright and TV presenter and maths guru, Johnny Ball, has now entered its second phase, which will see 4,000 plus new opportunities created through to March 2025.

Delivered by a network of college and education providers, Multiply courses focus on everything from assisting residents to gain qualifications, progressing at work, managing their finances and helping children with their schoolwork. At least 800 of the latest opportunities will be targeted to businesses, helping them upskill their workforce

## SPREAD KINDNESS THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a great opportunity to spread kindness. Last year a group of lovely ladies at Southminster Residential Home made no-sew sleep masks for patients at Broomfield Hospital. These ladies, aged between 89 to 99-years-old were grateful to give back to their local community with [United in Kind](#).

There are volunteering opportunities available for people of all ages and abilities. [Discover local volunteering opportunities](#) today.

## NEW £1.4 MILLION POPPINS BURSARY TO SUPPORT TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS IN EARLY YEARS ANNOUNCED

The huge financial boost will help increase the local workforce and support future demand for childcare. The new £1.4 million Poppins Bursary will be used to support new staff, as well as those who already work within the early years sector, to progress in their careers.

Essex County Council is committed to ensuring all children get the best start in life. Part of this includes supporting recruitment within the early years sector.

The council is working to ensure there are career opportunities for professionals. This will see more children access high quality childcare as more parents and carers enter employment.

The bursary will offer fully funded courses across the county, delivered by ACL Essex. These will be suitable for early years employees who may be new to the sector.

They are also available for those looking to return after a career break or gain formal accreditation. The courses will help individuals improve their skills and progress to higher or more specialised jobs.

Grants will also be available to help new childminders set up a business.

The bursary is being funded through the council's Levelling Up fund, as well as ACL's Adult Education Budget, which derive from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

This bursary looks to create at least:

- 90 new childcare places within childminder settings
- 480 new childcare places in nursery type settings
- 75 specialist practitioners to support children with SEND

## **BOOKINGS SET TO STAY AT RECYCLING CENTRES**

A decision has been made to keep the booking process at all 21 Essex County Council recycling centres permanently. Over 18,000 people had their say on the booking process by taking part in our public consultation towards the end of last year. Read more about the [recycling centre booking system](#) and why it is here to stay.

The booking process was trialled in three phases. In February 2022, Essex County Council introduced a booking process for vans and large vehicles at our nine van-friendly sites. In June 2022, a booking process was trialled for cars at Rayleigh Recycling Centre. The booking process trial was extended to cover all Essex County Council recycling centres in March 2023.

Towards the end of 2023, a six-week public consultation was launched. This was to give people the opportunity to have their say on whether we should keep the booking process.

More than 18,000 people completed the consultation survey. Independent analysis of the responses show 58% of respondents were in favour of keeping the booking process for cars. 72% were in favour of keeping the booking process for vans.

Read the full [evaluation of the booking trial](#) or [find out more information](#) about booking a slot.

## **BEAULIEU PARK STATION ON TRACK**

Beaulieu Park will be the first railway station on the Great Eastern Main Line in over 100 years.

It will significantly reduce congestion in and around Chelmsford. It will ease pressure at Chelmsford train station and reduce car journeys into the city. In turn, residents will see less congestion and pollution on local roads.

With three platforms, it will provide travel to London Liverpool Street in 40 minutes. There will also be car parking, a public transport interchange and cycle facilities.

New transport links will also promote seamless travel in the area. For example, the [Beaulieu Parkway relief road](#) and [North East Bypass](#).

We have committed to supporting Beaulieu Park as part of our [budget for 2024/25](#).

## **ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT ANNOUNCED FOR ESSEX HIGHWAYS**

At our Full Council meeting last month (Tuesday 13 February) we announced an additional [£12 million investment in highways for 2024/25](#). The funding will include additional crews carrying out maintenance across all 12 districts who will prioritise repairs raised by local councillors.

## **HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF MINERALS DEVELOPMENT IN ESSEX**

Like other Planning Authorities across the country, Essex County Council are required to publish a Minerals Local Plan. This provides planning policies for minerals development and identifies future sites for mineral extraction or quarrying.

Essex County Council have launched a consultation on the Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan, which would run to 2040. [Have your say on the replacement minerals local plan](#) and the sites submitted for inclusion before 5pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

## **ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL GOES OUT TO TENDER FOR THE FIRST SECTION OF THE CHELMSFORD NORTH EAST BYPASS**

Plans for the first phase of a north east bypass for Chelmsford have moved a step closer with Essex County Council going out to tender for a contractor.

This first section of the [Chelmsford North East Bypass](#) will connect with Beaulieu Parkway in the south, providing access to the new Beaulieu Park Station and the A12 at Boreham Interchange via the recently opened Beaulieu Parkway bridge. To the north, it will join with a new link road, to be built by developers as part of the planned [Chelmsford Garden Community](#), to the Wheelers Hill roundabout on the A131 Essex Regiment Way.

The first phase of the bypass is scheduled to be completed by March 2026 and, together with the new Beaulieu Park Station, which is expected to be open in 2025, will support housing and economic growth.

The first section of the bypass is funded by the Government through Homes England's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). Further phases of the bypass are subject to funding being secured alongside future phases of the garden community's development.

### **LAST CHANCE TO JOIN SOLAR PANEL GROUP BUYING SCHEME**

Solar Together helps buyers through the process of purchasing high-quality solar panels with optional battery storage. It offers lower prices than the open market using trusted suppliers.

The scheme has been running for a number of years and we have seen growing interest. Diane and Ian commend the scheme remarking, "We're both very pleased with the way things have gone in terms of installation... 9 out of 10 on the whole process". For the opportunity to cut future electricity bills [register for Solar Together](#) by Friday 22 March 2024.

### **HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE HEALTHY WEIGHT STRATEGY**

Essex County Council want to support people to be a healthy weight by making Essex a healthier place to live. Where healthy choices are the easiest choices. Share your views, experiences and priorities around maintaining a healthy weight and help shape plans for a future strategy. [Complete the healthy weight survey](#) by Friday 22 March 2024.

### **CLAIM UP TO £8,000 TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM FLOODING**

If your home has experienced internal flooding or you live in a high-risk flood area in Essex, the Property Flood Resilience (PFR) grant can help. The grant offers eligible properties up to £8,000 for flood protection. Expert assessors will recommend and install measures to help protect your property. [Apply for the PFR grant](#) today to improve your property's flood resilience.

### **GAIN PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITHIN THE WORKPLACE WITH A SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP**

Young people aged 16 to 24-years-old, with an Education Health and Care Plan who wish to start working can apply for a supported internship.

Supported internships offer a substantial work placement, facilitated by the support of an expert job coach to bridge the gap between college and the workplace, alongside a personalised study programme. [Find out more about supported internships](#) and view current providers in Essex.

## IMPROVE YOUR FINANCIAL LITERACY WITH MULTIPLY IN ESSEX

It is National Credit Education Month, a good time to improve your financial literacy. Multiply in Essex offers free financial wellbeing courses to help you feel confident about managing your money. Courses include personalised advice and practical tools to help you understand the effect of credit on your financial health. [Find a free Multiply course that's right for you.](#)

## LOVE ESSEX FUND MICROGRANTS AWARDED

Essex County Council has helped 36 groups and individuals kick-start their waste reduction journeys.

Grants of up to £500 have been awarded through our Love Essex Fund to support projects that promote recycling, reuse and repair. The fund was available to Essex schools, organisations and individuals.

The Love Essex Fund has been running since October 2019. Over the past four years, we have awarded grants to nearly 200 projects that aim to reduce waste.

Some of the successful projects this year included a school uniform swap shop and a repair café. Previous years have helped to fund refill shops and cloth nappy banks.

[Find out more about the Love Essex Fund](#) and read about previous success stories.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY WITH A CAREER IN EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE

There is a local and national need for more early years and childcare practitioners and childminders. You can make a change and build a future for young children by starting a career in early years.

[Discover early years and childcare opportunities](#) now.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know, if you see a damaged bus shelter, a missing timetable, or a fault with a real time electronic display at one of our bus stops, you can report it [here](#).