

Topic / Subject	Progress	
Meet The Team	Needs Updating	ALL / TT
Intro & Contents	Needs Updating	ALL / TT
Armed Forces	No New Info	CH
Physical Activity / LDP	Info Added	JM
Public Health	Info Added	JM
Resettlement	Info Added	YC
EDI & Faith Groups	No New Info	MH
Locality Budgets	No New Info	MH
S106 / Community Facilities	No New Info	ALL
Community Support / Projects	Some Projects Added / More?	ALL
Children & Young People	No New Info	CH
Older People	No New Info	MH
FEWT	No New Info	RC
DAST	No New Info	RL

IDEAS / TO ADD

- FEWT – TEAM PROFILES & PAGES
- FEWT – ACTIVITIES & CASE STUDIES
- DAST – TEAM PROFILES
- SHAZ NEW ROLE (Resettlement)
- REFERENCE TO KPI’S (LINK TO I NDIVIDUAL SESSIONS)
- SALIM – AFIUK WORK PLACEMENT (Resettlement)
- RIDE LONDON (Physical Activity)
- COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES (Community Support / Projects)
- CITY OF SANCTUARY (Resettlement)
- GOLD AWARD CONFIRMATION (Armed Forces)
- HIGHWOODS MURAL (Community Support / Projects)
- COMMUNITY SUPERMARKET (Community Support / Projects)

Community, Health & Wellbeing Teams Annual Report – 2024



Colchester
City Council

Colchester
Community in Action

Meet the Team



Tom Tayler

Community, Health & Wellbeing Manager

Tom.tayler@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Support All

Thematic Leads Support All

Additional Info Colchester Local Delivery Pilot Team (Active Essex) | One Colchester Delivery Board – Vice Chair



Yovone Cook

Community & Partnerships Officer

Yovone.cook@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Support All

Thematic Leads Resettlement

Additional Info Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Homes 4 Ukraine Scheme, City of Sanctuary | Diverse Ethnic Communities



Chrissy Henegan

Community & Partnerships Officer

Chrissy.henegan@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester Central

Thematic Leads Children and Young People Armed Forces

Additional Info Armed Forces Covenant



Mark Healy

Community & Partnerships Officer

Mark.healy@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester North (+ Stanway)

Thematic Leads EDI & Faith Groups Older People | Locality Budgets



Jake Mullinder

Community & Partnerships Officer

Jake.mullinder@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester South

Thematic Leads Physical Activity | Public Health

Additional Info Colchester Local Delivery Pilot Team (Active Essex)



Shaz Peacock

Community Resettlement Support Officer

Sharon.peacock@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area N/A

Thematic Leads Resettlement

Additional Info Homes 4 Ukraine Support , Afghan Resettlement, Refugee & Asylum Seeker Employment Support

Meet the Team

ADD IN DIGITAL ACCESS TEAM AND FINANCIAL EQUALITY & WELLBEING TEAMS

Rachaelle Litwin

Digital Access Team Manager

Rachaelle.litwin@colchester.gov.uk

digital.accesssupport@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester & Tendring Area

Thematic Leads Digital Access Support Team Manager

Additional Info Manages Digital Access Project on behalf of Colchester City Council, Tendring District Council & NEE ICB |

Digital Access Support Team Below:



Aimee Moore

Health Inequalities Coordinator

Aimee.moore@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester & Tendring Area

Thematic Leads Health Inequalities

Additional Info Colchester City Council & Tendring District Council



Aaron Ashwood

Active Environments Officer

Aaron.Ashwood@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester

Thematic Leads Active Environments (Planning for Environmental health, physical activity, accessibility and EDI)

Additional Info Colchester Local Delivery Pilot Team (Active Essex)



Meet the Team

Roz Clough

Financial Equality and Wellbeing Team Leader

Roz.clough@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester

Thematic Leads DHP /EHP funding,

Additional Info Discretionary funds, benefit advice and financial support

Caroline Shaw

Financial Equality Officer

Caroline.shaw@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester

Thematic Leads Discretionary funds, benefit advice and financial support

Additional Info Assess and process Discretionary Housing Payment , Payments, provide benefit advice and financial support

Deborah Batterham

Financial Equality Officer

Coborah.batterham@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester

Thematic Leads Discretionary funds, benefit advice and financial support

Additional Info Assess and process Exceptional Hardship Fund payments, Food Bank in person support

Sarah Stafford

Financial Equality Officer

Sarah.stafford@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester

Thematic Leads Discretionary funds, benefit advice and financial support

Additional Info Assess and process Discretionary Housing Payment , Payments, provide benefit advice and financial support

Leah Winter

Financial Equality Specialist

Leah.winter@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester

Thematic Leads Employment support, benefits advice and financial support

Additional Info Support to prepare for employment , support with disability benefit claimsnt, in person service at JCP, YES and other outreach

Marta Williamson

Financial Equality Specialist

Marta.williamson@colchester.gov.uk

Geographical Area Colchester

Thematic Leads Welfare benefits

Additional Info Disability benefits support from claim through to tribunal, Complex case work. In person service at JCP

Introduction

We are delighted to present to you our **Community & Partnership Team Annual Report for 2023**. This report contains a snapshot of activities which have involved our **Community & Partnership, Digital Access & Wellbeing Prevention & Partnership Officers** working alongside residents and community groups.

Within our group of teams and officers we are continuously striving to support the health and wellbeing of our communities putting them at the heart of decision making and positive action often resulting in creative and inspirational outcomes for residents in Colchester.

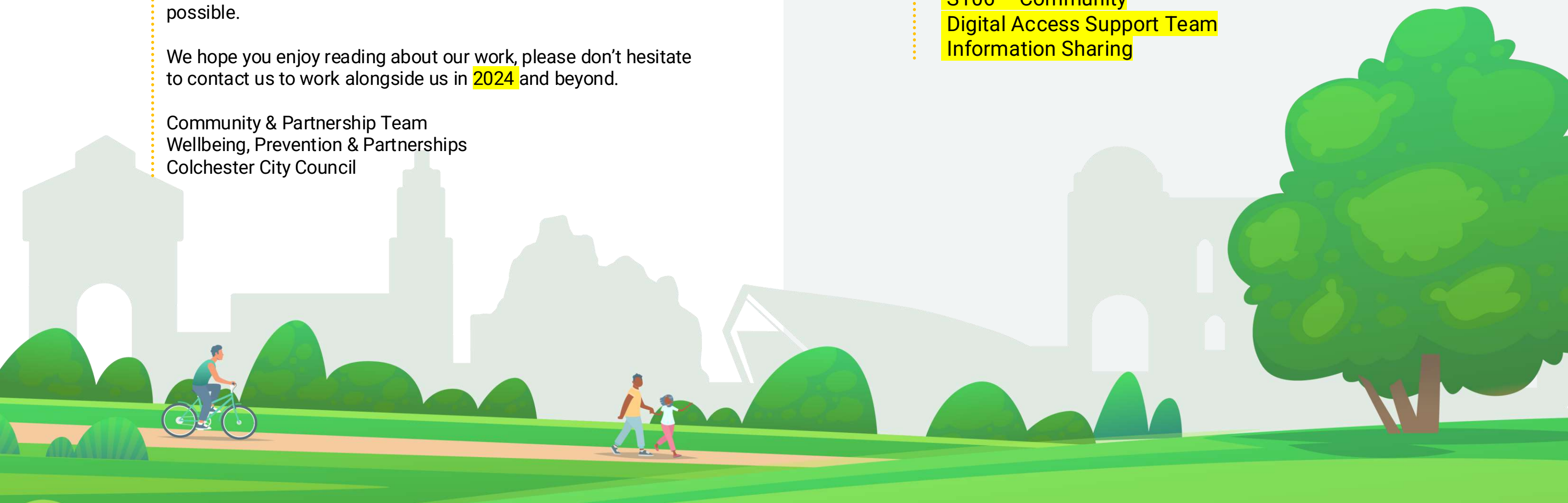
The aim of this annual report is to raise awareness not only of the action the team undertakes but also of our fantastic partners who we continuously collaborate with to make this possible.

We hope you enjoy reading about our work, please don't hesitate to contact us to work alongside us in **2024** and beyond.

Community & Partnership Team
Wellbeing, Prevention & Partnerships
Colchester City Council

Contents

Meet The Team
Armed Forces
Community Support
Community Days of Action
Health Inequalities
Physical Activity
Public Health
Resettlement
EDI
Locality Budgets
S106 – Community
Digital Access Support Team
Information Sharing



Armed Forces (Thematic)

Gold Award for council's Armed Forces support

Press Release (December 2024): Colchester City Council is delighted to announce it has been successful with its Gold Award revalidation, in the prestigious Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS), for its work to support the Defence and Armed Forces community. This award continues to recognise our commitments to supporting the Armed Forces community, following our original Gold Award achievement in 2019.

Colchester has a historic and established relationship with the Armed Forces, owing to the centuries-old link between the city and its garrison. The council was also one of the first local authorities to sign up to the official Defence Discount Service, in 2017.



Councillor David King, leader of Colchester City Council and Armed Forces Champion, said: “The council is proud that our support for our Armed Forces, their families, and the Garrison, has been recognised. From discounts for Armed Forces families and veterans at Colchester Leisure World, to community engagement events and advice and support to Armed Forces Day and Remembrance events, we look to make sure they feel valued by the city.

“We are honoured to continue as a Gold Award holder and remain dedicated to strengthening our historic connection with the Armed Forces community. This prestigious honour reflects the council's ongoing commitment to supporting current and former members of the military and their families.”

Lieutenant Colonel Ed Rankin, Commander of Colchester Garrison, said: “The Garrison enjoys a close and productive working relationship with Colchester City Council, which is aware of and responsive to the needs of the town's military community. I congratulate the council on receiving the Gold Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme – Regular and Reserve military personnel, their families, veterans, and cadet organisations have all already benefitted from the council's work towards receiving this prestigious status.”

The Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) acknowledges businesses and organisations that have provided exceptional support to the armed forces community and defence by going above and beyond their covenant pledges. This allows the Ministry of Defence to publicly thank and honour those organisations for their support.

More information about the Ministry of Defence's Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards and the ERS can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/defence-employer-recognition-scheme/defence-employer-recognition-scheme

For more information on the council's work with the Armed Forces, please visit colchester.gov.uk/armedforces

Military Families Project:

We awarded £250, (alongside further Locality Budget funding of £750), to the Chaplaincy team from 16 AA BCT, who wished to support their military families with resources from a national charity, designed to help build resilience in relationships. After an initial trial which received excellent feedback and positive outcomes, the Chaplaincy Team, decided to offer this to each 16 AA BCT home in the Garrison.

This funding was provided under a grant we received from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust, along with further Locality Budget funding from Shrub End ward Cllrs, making a total of £1000, to support this project.

CASE STUDIES/FEEDBACK

A soldier who took one home not only enjoyed the game and built resilience in their relationship, but his partner was so surprised that he had brought something 'so thoughtful' that enabled them to connect.

We have seen Soldiers, Aviators and Sailors from across the ranks and diverse spectrum enjoy the time the activity has afforded them. One couple said they played in the back garden after a barbeque and 'forgot we were playing the game and just enjoyed talking things through with each other'. The wife loved the question prompts, which led them to talk more deeply about their relationship.

Thank you so much again for sending it over - we played it last night and loved it! Honestly, we've barely seen each other over the last month because J's work has been so full on. It was great to spend quality time together and to have meaningful conversations that were prompted by the different questions. We look forward to playing again - thank you! (L, army wife, 2023)



Community Support

Winter Warmers Events, Colchester – - Lakelands Centre & Greenstead

Winter Warmers is an event organised by NEST and community partners, and which involves a simple concept of collecting in donations of adults and children's winter clothing, coats, shoes, bedding and other items as appropriate, to the local scheme.

These items are then stored, sorted, and used to create 'pop-up' events that are open to any member of the local community, without the need to meet any criteria. They can just attend if they feel they need this kind of support, and will be welcomed and helped if needed, to browse and select items that they can take away without any judgement, to give them dignity in choice, and a better chance of keeping warm and well throughout the winter season.

Other help, advice and signposting was also offered as appropriate. Working together across all the events in both Colchester and Tendring, this helped support over 3000 people and families, ready for the upcoming winter months.

This involved collecting/sorting/hanging/bagging up and giving away, more than 24,000 items – including hundreds of warm winter coats, thousands of jumpers, rails and rails of warm pyjamas, dressing gowns, onesies, socks, slippers and blankets.

Feedback from the events, reflected the appreciation of attendees and the friendly, kind, and helpful staff.

*The Winter Warmers Events are organised and coordinated by Michelle Whiteman (Banardos) & Les Nicholl (NEST)





Community Support

ST ANNES FUN DAY AND FOOD PARCELS HALF TERM SUPPORT.

We came to the Fun Day as we live locally to the hall and brought our children. They had such an amazing afternoon, and the best thing was, it didn't cost us anything for the activities which is a great help to our pockets in a time where everything costs so much, and the children also got a free ice cream. Kirstie – St Anne's resident.

On behalf of Roach Vale School and the entire community, I wanted to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support in providing food parcels to our disadvantaged families. Your commitment to alleviating the challenges faced by our low-income families has had a profound impact. These food parcels not only provide essential sustenance but also offer a sense of relief and hope to those struggling to make ends meet. They have eased the burden of food insecurity, enabling our families to redirect their limited resources towards other critical needs, such as education and healthcare. Your kindness has undoubtedly fostered a stronger, more resilient community, and we are truly appreciative of your ongoing support.



KNIFE ANGEL

In October, the impressive Knife Angel statue, standing at 9 metres tall, was installed in front of the Jumbo water tower. The sculpture, made from over 100,000 seized blades, was specifically created to highlight the negative effects of violent behaviour whilst solidifying our critical need for social change. Not only does the Angel act as a catalyst for turning the tide on violent and aggressive behaviour, but it is also acts as a beautiful memorial designed to celebrate those lives who have been lost through these violent and thoughtless actions.



Community Days of Action

COMMUNITY DAYS OF ACTION

At Colchester City Council our Community Days of Action are collaborative efforts where Ward Councillors work with CCC Officers and members of the community to identify and tackle any issues they may have within their Ward.

Friday 3rd November a Community Day of action took place in St Annes and St Johns ward. Coordinated by the three ward councillors and supported by the Community and partnerships team.

Around ten residents volunteered to support a coordinated litter pick, combing with targeted resources of the council's neighbourhood service team.



Health Inequalities

Addressing the Wider Determinants of Health

Colchester City Council has received significant funding from the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance and East Suffolk and North Essex Foundation Trust (ESNEFT) to address inequalities at place. The funding has given Colchester the opportunity to work with partners to address the wider circumstances and issues that affect a person's health outcomes.

Projects and work undertaken has included improving housing conditions and energy efficiency, improving access to physical activity opportunities, supporting residents with fuel poverty and the cost of living more broadly, improving facilities for children and young people, preventing homelessness and improving care support for older residents among many other initiatives.

Peabody Hospital Discharge Officer

Joint funding from Colchester and Tendring health inequalities funding was used to contribute towards a hospital discharge officer for a two year period. The officer provided advice and intervention for hospital patients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, sometimes caused by a worsening health condition. They provided outreach support for patients, one off advice and guidance for patients to support with form filling as well as longer term support such as arranging suitable accommodation.

- One-off advice was provided for more than 362 patients
- Patients supported for longer than 6 weeks: 74
- Needs supported alongside housing include alcohol, dual diagnosis, multiple/complex needs, mental health, offenders at risk of reoffending, older people with mental health/dementia, physical/sensory disability, drug misuse, learning disabilities, financial welfare

Cultural & Creative Events Fund

Colchester City Council in partnership with the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance together made available a Fund with a total value of £30,000 to consider applications for micro grants of between £250 and £1,500 maximum for cultural and creative events/activity taking place between 1st May 2024 and 30th April 2025. 26 projects have been funded.

[Cultural and Creative Events Fund 2024/25 · Colchester City Council](#)

Colchester Playground Equipment

We have used funding to make improvements to several play areas across Colchester to improve accessibility and play value, focusing on play sites in the most deprived LSOAs. This will improve opportunities for physical activity for children and families who need it the most in the long term.

Gurdon Road play area - CBH



Greenstead Slopes play area



Suffolk and North East Essex
Integrated Care Board (ICB)



East Suffolk and
North Essex
NHS Foundation Trust



North East Essex
Health & Wellbeing Alliance

Health Inequalities

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Towards the end of 2022 we contacted the 12th Man campaign - a Mental Health Awareness campaign focussing on men's mental health, which operated mainly in Suffolk and Norfolk. They had worked in Colchester before with some funding from Colchester Catalyst, but this had come to an end. They were keen to expand into North East Essex so our team signposted them to the Be Well funding pot and advised them during bid writing. The 12th Man was successful in securing £50,000 to expand their work into Colchester and Tendring. Since then, we have linked them in with colleagues from Community360, Tendring District Council, Active Essex, Colchester Leisure World, Essex County Council (Public Health), Essex Pedal Power, and CCC Comms team. In August 2023 the 12th Man was delivering MHFA training to Colchester Sports Park staff members.

RESEARCH

Our Officers regularly provided information, contacts, and introductions to the researchers from Community360, CVST, and Healthwatch Essex, who were writing the Community Asset Maps for the 6 Live Well Domains. The Officers also read and provided feedback for the draft reports ahead of publishing. The research team sent the Officers their appreciation for every report they provided support for.



North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance
Community Asset Mapping



Physical Activity

Essex Pedal Power Colchester proudly celebrates its first anniversary, marking a year of transformative impact on the local community.

Launched with the goal of promoting healthier lifestyles, fostering community connections, and improving overall well-being, the project has exceeded all expectations in its inaugural year. Since its inception, **Essex Pedal Power Colchester has distributed 495 bikes to individuals** in the Greenstead area, providing them with a sustainable and enjoyable means of transportation. In addition to bike distribution, the project has placed a strong emphasis on safety and skill development.

Over the past year, 120 bike training sessions, including 9 led rides, have been conducted, empowering 417 participants to ride confidently and safely. These sessions have been instrumental in building a community of knowledgeable and responsible cyclists who are now more connected to their environment and each other.

The positive impact of the Essex Pedal Power Project extends beyond just physical activity. By encouraging people to cycle, the project has fostered social interaction and strengthened community bonds.

For more information about the Essex Pedal Power Project, or to get involved, please visit <https://www.activeessex.org/essex-pedal-power/essex-pedal-power-colchester/> or email colchesterEPP@theaws.org

COLCHESTER PARK PLAY

The funding for the ParkPlays in Colchester has been provided by Colchester City Council and Active Essex. This initiative is part of the Sport England Local Delivery Pilot (LDP), an ongoing programme from 2018 to 2025 that aims to test new health and wellbeing projects. The LDP complements the efforts of the NHS in encouraging healthy and active lifestyles, with the expectation of reducing the prevalence of long-term conditions, such as cardiovascular disease and Type-2 diabetes, and improving mental health.

Colchester celebrated the 1-year birthdays earlier this year and we now have a new location!

Kings Meadow (Castle Park) – add info once PP have responded

<https://park-play.com/parks/kings-meadow/>



Where can you get involved in Colchester?

Greenstead

[Greenstead - ParkPlay](#)

Old Heath

[Old Heath - ParkPlay](#)

Kings Meadow (Castle Park)

[Kings Meadow - ParkPlay](#)

Ride London 2024

On the 24th May 2024 The 2024 Ford RideLondon Classique, part of the UCI Women's World Tour, featured three unique courses across London and Essex from 24 to 26 May.

The courses produced three thrilling days of racing for some of the world's best riders. Starting off in Saffron Walden and ending in Colchester.

Did you know?

Colchester is both Britain's newest city and its oldest recorded town. It became a city in 2022, as part of the late Queen's Jubilee Civic Honours, but has a long and rich history dating back more than 2,000 years. This history includes being the first major city of Roman Britain, which was attacked and destroyed by Boudica, Queen of the ancient British Iceni tribe, in a famous uprising in AD61. The modern city still has remnants of its Roman past as well as (relatively) more recent history such as Colchester Castle, which was built in the 11th century and is the largest of its kind in Europe.



Included Deepening and other LDP projects that have ended???



Colchester City Council announced a free Spectator Zone in Castle Park which took place from 11am on Friday 24 May, allowing spectators to watch and celebrate the thrilling finish of the opening stage of the Ford RideLondon Classique.

Included fun activities for all ages and local catering options. Local schools were welcomed to join us for the colour and logo design competitions to showcase children's creativity and talent by crafting a unique art piece celebrating the event. Local community and sporting groups will also be present to provide entertainment and information on their activities, including Essex Pedal Power, The Dry Skate Project, Essex County Council mobile library, Leisure World Colchester, Colchester Sports Park.

Public Health - Funded Projects

In 2023 and 2024 we have worked hard to utilise the funded which is provided by Essex County Council Public Health for projects that align to the Essex Wellbeing, Communities and Business Plan in Colchester.

Here are an example of some of the projects that were funded early 2024.

Art Action Burst £1800

Action Art Play is the artist-led art play class/activity that invites all the community to be physically active and creative through the combination of art, culture, and sport. Art play helps the most reluctant to get active, experience sports, and develop personal creativity to improve their short and long-term health and wellbeing outcomes.



Find our more here: [Action Art Play](#)



**Wimpole Road
Community Day
£1300**

A free to enter, open to all community day to bring to local community together for a time of enjoyment, fun and fresh air on the New Town / Old Heath Recreation Ground. To help to build community, bring people together and provide greater awareness of local events and activities locally. Wimpole Road and St Stephen's churches are community hubs within the New Town and Hythe area, and this is a way in which we can further build the community spirit and wellbeing in the area.

The event supported and promoted wide range of physical activities and information which promote both active and healthy living along with wider improved wellbeing. Events and activities on the day included a mix of many of the following:

- Dance, singing and fitness group displays (largely based within the New Town area)
- Bike Kitchen / E'Cargo Bikes / Balance Bikes 4 for small children
- Mobile Skateboard Park
- Dog show promoting walking and outside activities
- Live music performance
- Vegan and other healthy eating stalls
- Health and wellbeing advice from Community 360, Autism Anglia, First Responders, Essex Therapy Dogs & British Forces Business Centre, Essex Free School Uniform, St Helena Hospice

2023/2024 Projects

Organisation	Project	Funded
Emotionally Well Communities	Action Art Burst	£1800
Colte Partnership PCN	Seated Yoga	£2500
The Dry Skate Project	School Sessions	£1500
Wimpole Road Methodist Church	Community Day	£1300
Colchester Life in the UK	Yoga and Employment/Community Support	£1,500



Public Health Grant Process

In April 2024 we have been allocated £50,000 from Essex County Council Public Heath towards the new Public Health Grant which allowed applications of £3000 per organisation.

Open between September to October 2024, we received 33 applications from groups and organisations all over the Colchester Borough.

Projects had to align to the following:

Criteria A: Projects that address a health and wellbeing priority in the local area

Criteria B: Projects that are ‘additive,’ meaning the services and activities aimed at delivering multiple outcomes of different priorities rather than a single outcome.

Criteria C: Focuses on addressing the Healthy Weight Strategy for Essex and Colchester [Public Health funding · Colchester City Council](#)

2024/2025 Projects

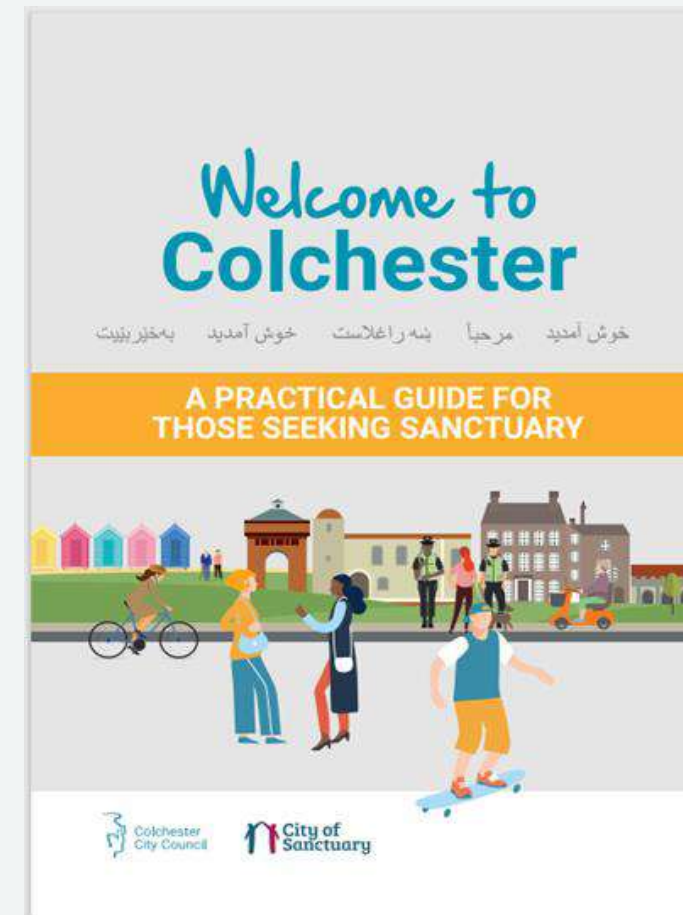
Organisation	Project	Funded
Sports for Confidence	SfC at Colchester Sports Park	£2000
Headway Essex	Tailored Activites for Adults with Acquired Brain Injuries	£2720
Boys & Men CIC	Community Wellness Integration	£3000
Colchester Life in the UK	Yoga and Wellness	£3000
Heads2Minds CIC	Community Links	£3000
Wilderness Foundation	Brave Futures	£3000

Resettlement (Thematic)

City of Sanctuary

The council initially became a non-awarded member of the City of Sanctuary network by signing up to their vision and values in 2016 but is now working towards joining the network as an awarded member.

- A new City of Sanctuary forum has been set up to oversee the production of a City of Sanctuary Policy and Action Plan.
- CCC host the quarterly Essex Migration Forum meeting. Members representative from other district councils, Essex County Council the Strategic Migration Partnership, Home Office, Clearsprings Ready Homes and voluntary sector organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers across Essex.
- Attend regional asylum and refugee reference group hosted by the Strategic Migration Partnership
- Attend East of England Resettlement meetings
- Attend LGA forum for tackling anti asylum activity meeting
- Member of Essex Refugee Task Force
- The council's website has been updated to provide information to residents about the different resettlement schemes but also to provide vital information for those arriving in Colchester whether it be as a refugee or asylum seeker.
- Welcome Pack have been produced for Asylum seekers moving to Colchester. The pack has been produced in English, Arabic, Dari, Urdu and Turkish.
- A master's student from the University was commissioned to produce a needs analysis of migrants and refugees in Colchester.
- A member of the team presented to 100 other councils on work carried out by the team to prevent homelessness in newly granted refugees.
- The team are hosting the director of the Boys and Men's club and an African Families in the UK ambassador one and a half days a week, who provides valuable lived experience and insight.
- Supported the Migrant Democracy event held at RAMA
- Two members of the teams have studied OISC level one training in immigration advice
- Events planned for Refugee Week 2025



Asylum

Dispersed Accommodation

- Supported 58 newly granted refugees with first month's deposit and rent to enable them access to the private rented sector.
- Recently started a £200 bursary scheme for newly granted refugees to assist until benefits start. So far 18 young men have received the grant
- Monitor ClearSprings Ready Homes in regards to housing defaults and advocate for residents
- Provide funding to RAMA for 2 caseworkers and an interpreter.
- Funded a number of charities and Voluntary sector organisations who support those seeking asylum in Colchester including: -
 - Colchester Diverse Communities Festival
 - Colchester Caribbean Group
 - African Families in the UK – Black History Month
 - Colchester Mosque – food provision during Ramadan
 - Together We Grow
 - Bridgeway Mission
 - Boy and Men
 - Colchester Institute – trips for those seeking asylum and workshops
 - STEP Project
 - Salvation Army.
 - Colchester
 - Changing Lives Gym
 - Essex Integration – Integration Through Language Courses
- Successfully negotiated a cessation in procurement of housing in the Greenstead area.

Salvation Army Weekly Migrant Drop-in

CCC used asylum funding to support a new weekly Migrant Drop in at the Salvation Army.

The drop in is supported by CCC's Community Enabling Team, RAMA, Essex Integration, Care for Calais, Boys and Men Club and Drs of the World.

It offers a warm space, hot drinks, employment and volunteering support, informal ESOL, a hot meal, SIM cards and a chance to practice English in a warm and safe space.

The hub is open to all from Colchester but is also attended by men from Wethersfield

Diverse Ethnic Communities

- **Bangladeshi Women's Association**
 - Sit on the committee
 - Supported with funding applications
 - Sit on steering group for the Community Ambitions Funding
- **Colchester Islamic Community Centre**
 - Providing funding for lunch club and assisting on other funding bids.
 - Facilitated meeting around the Muslim burial ground extension
- **African Families in the UK**
 - Work closely with the Community Ambassadors providing support and advice
 - Host the CEO at Rowan House once a month to facilitate closer working
 - Supported Black History Month
- **Colchester Chinese Association**
 - Facilitated funding from the Hong Kong Hub for provision of Cantonese lessons for Hong Kong Community youth
- **Colchester's Diverse Communities Network**
 - Supported the group through funding towards Colchester Carnival
- **Hong Kong Welcome Hub**
 - Provide support on funding applications
- **Colchester Caribbean Group**
 - Submitted a £50K application to mark Windrush in 2025.
- **Boys and Men Club**
 - Provided funding and assisted in funding bids
 - Provide work experience in team for Director
- **Member of ONE Colchester Tackling Racism group**

Employment Support

From June, we started to offer one-to-one support for refugees and people seeking asylum the support and guidance needed for getting ready for employment.

Working alongside RAMA and Essex Integration, we have been able to offer the following bespoke services:

- CV writing, and updating
- Help with online job searching
- Help with applications for voluntary and paid employment
- Transferring qualifications to English equivalents
- Informal English classes
- Practice for driving theory tests

Job Club

As part of the employment support, we have started holding a monthly Job Club at RAMA's new premises. Each month, the room is full of those eager to get ready for work here in the UK.

Over coffee and biscuits, everyone supports each other with ideas, tips, and shared interview experiences (good and bad!).

We have key staff members also in the room to help from Essex Integration, RAMA, Together We Grow, STEP, and CCC.

Topics covered so far:

- Transferrable skills
- Positive and negative words for CVs
- Keeping Safe whilst job hunting - Online Safety and Modern Slavery awareness
- Understanding work documents
- Voluntary work
- Health & Safety in the Workplace
- Prepping for job interviews

Asylum Seeker Digital Champion Training

From September, we started a ten-week training course, where our DAST team would help people seeking asylum and refugees to become Digital Champions. Each rolling ten-week course is for 7-10 individuals.

Throughout the ten-week course, the delegates learned to navigate around their device as well as the internet, settings, security and accessibility.

We also focused on using search engines for job hunting, registering for Indeed and other such job sites, setting up new email accounts, using Teams, Zoom, Skype and other online business platforms. We looked at common software including Excel Spreadsheets, Microsoft Word and Power Point.

Each delegate was presented with a certificate at the end of the course, so they could include this on their CVs, but more importantly, have the knowledge and confidence to help others in their communities.

A poster for the Job Club. It has a blue and purple gradient background. The text is white and yellow. At the top, it says 'Job Club' in large white letters, followed by 'at 10am' in smaller white letters. Below that, it says '2nd Friday of each month' and 'at RAMA House' in yellow letters. Then, it gives the address '31 Eld Lane, Colchester, CO1 1LS' in white. Below that, it says 'Get the help and support you need to prepare for work in the UK' in white. Then, it says 'All refugees and Asylum Seekers who live in Colchester are WELCOME!' in yellow. Below that, it says 'Any questions? Just email' in white, followed by the email address 'communities@colchester.gov.uk' in yellow. At the bottom, there is a silhouette of a family (two adults and three children, one in a wheelchair) and the Colchester City Council logo.

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP & Afghan) Citizens Resettlement Scheme

Marks Tey Bridging Hotel

- Of the 31 families originally at the hotel 7 families presented as homeless when the hotel closed, all have been helped into long term housing.
- 9 families remain in Colchester and continue to be supported both by Essex Integration and CCC

MOD Families

- The 10 families in MOD accommodation, whose leases expired in July 2024 have all been supported into either LHAF housing or the private rented sector.

Family Reunion

- 1 family has been assisted in locating extended family who had fled to Islamabad and relocating them to Colchester. This involved a large amount of joint working with the Home Office

Communities for Afghans

- One community group is being supported in sponsoring an Afghan family to relocate Colchester

Partners include, Essex Integration, ECC, Strategic Migration Partnership, Home Office, DLUC, C360, Mercury Theatre, RAMA, Bridgeway Mission, Health, local schools, CBH, Private Sector Housing team, CCC Housing Strategy

Homes for Ukraine

Since the scheme started CCC has welcomed a total of 374 Ukrainian guests to Colchester. With 34 arriving in 2024

- £74,800 in welcome payments
- Supported 13 guests and families into PRS accommodation with rent and deposits
- Supported 230 hosts
- Facilitated a total of 34 rematches
- Provided funding for a support worker and translator based with RAMA
- Funded wellbeing and mental health support through iCARP and The Underdog Crew
- Working with partners on an event to mark the 3rd anniversary of the war in Feb 2025

Partners include RAMA, ECC, C360, Volya Ukraine, CBH, CCC's Private Sector Housing team

eVisa Support

- eVisa support has been offered to residents with either limited digital skills, no access to digital devices capable of supporting the apps necessary, and or access to data, or limited English.
- Sessions where run at the Salvation Army Migrant Drop in and Greenstead Community Centre.
- More sessions are planned for 2025



The poster is for the UK Government, featuring the Royal Coat of Arms and the text 'UK Government'. It announces support for accessing eVisas at the Greenstead Community Centre. The main text reads: 'If you need support accessing your eVisa, HELP IS AVAILABLE at Greenstead Community Centre'. Below this is an illustration of a woman sitting on a box, using a laptop. A speech bubble from the laptop shows a 'Create a UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) account' screen. At the bottom, it provides details: 'We will help you set up your eVisa account. Just bring your passport or your BRP Card with you. No need to book, just drop in!', 'Date: Saturday 7th December 2024', 'Time: 11am – 2.30pm', and 'Location: Greenstead Community Centre, Hawthorn Ave, Colchester CO4 3QE'. It also includes the email 'communities@colchester.gov.uk' for more information.

UK Government

**If you need support
accessing your eVisa,
HELP IS AVAILABLE
at Greenstead
Community Centre**

We will help you set up your eVisa account. Just bring your passport or your BRP Card with you. No need to book, just drop in!

Date:
Saturday 7th December 2024

Time:
11am – 2.30pm

Location:
Greenstead Community Centre, Hawthorn Ave, Colchester CO4 3QE

For more information, email communities@colchester.gov.uk

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES - "SURVIVAL OF THE KINDEST"

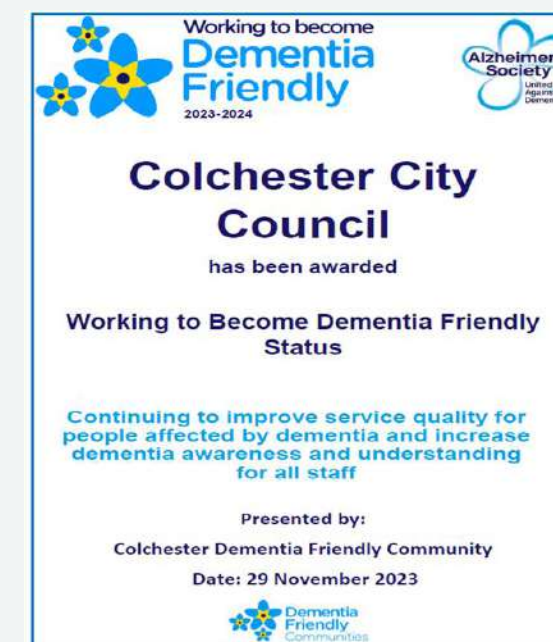
There is an abundance of evidence where residents are part of compassionate communities then mortality can be extended. Lead by St Helena Hospice CCC has committed finance and staff to begin the journey of achieving compassionate City status. Compassionate communities are places where we have a sense of belonging. Places where love. Laughter and friendship flourish.



EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION.

Colchester City Council is vice chair for the Demetia Friends Community. All members of the group work towards becoming a dementia friendly community and Colchester City Council completed the following three pledges ...

1. Completed an environmental audit of the recently refurbished Rowan House, looking to see its accessibility to persons living with dementia. Recommendations have been passed to senior colleagues for review.
2. Illuminated three of the Council buildings (Castle, Town Hall and Jumbo) to highlight World Alzheimer's Day and more recently Dementia Awareness Week. This was accompanied by social media messaging.
3. Delivered on October 30th and December 8th Dementia Awareness training to sixty colleagues and elected members which includes the Dementia bus.



Locality Budgets

LOCALITY BUDGET

As part of the Communities Can approach a sum of money has been divided equally between all 51 Colchester Councillors to use on supporting initiatives within their wards.

As well as delivering the objectives of the Communities Can approach, projects should be aligned with the themes of council strategic plan 2023-26.

The 23/24 locality budget went live on 16th May 2023 and £97,551.00 was aligned to over 200 projects & groups right across the city.

Fingrinhoe Play Park



The grant is a useful contribution towards all Council projects, whether budgeted or ad hoc unplanned expenditure that arises. For smaller councils where the precept is low, a few hundred pounds makes a big difference and every penny counts. I think it also demonstrates that Ward councillors are aware of the needs and projects in their areas.
Parish Clerk - Fingrinhoe Parish Council

NEWTOWN COMMUNITY DAY

This is now an established and much-loved annual event, co-ordinated by members of Wimpole Road Methodist Church with the support of St Stephen's Church and the wider New Town Community. This is not intended to be a fund raiser nor a profit-making venture, but simply to provide an inclusive and family friendly event for the residents.

Everybody is hugely grateful for the monies given from the Loyalty Budget which enables us to put on this community focused day, which brought hundreds of people together for a wonderful afternoon of fun and enable us to support local charities.

Andrew - Lead Co-Ordinator.

KINGSLAND CHURCH – PRETTYGATE

The award will be spent on providing a warm, safe, and comfortable environment for the baby clothes swap and the activities for the elderly to take place. The award will contribute to the power, light, and heat for the building. Both projects are managed in the main by volunteers, and the award will be used for the volunteer expenses. As well as the film club, there is a free art club for elderly people in the community, and here is a quote from one of the participants.

"This group has been a lifeline. It's an opportunity to be creative, and we all work together but on our own projects, so we move at our own speed and pace. The friendships that have developed are genuine, so I don't feel so lonely. There's always other things happening in the cafe, so I feel in touch and included."

Here is a quote from one of the mothers using the baby clothes swap.

"I got involved even before my baby was born, as I knew I would need some clothes. I found the group on Facebook, and I travel here from near Asda. It's more than just coming to get clothes, there's a sense of community here. Mothers helping other mothers. The clothes help families who are struggling financially because everything helps. It makes me feel good to bring the clothes back when I don't need them anymore, so another mother can use them. I also feel good because we're recycling and helping the environment."

Vivienne – volunteer.

Section 106 - Community

The Community & Partnerships Team submit S106 community facility contribution requests wherever a new development of houses has been approved. All submissions need to meet the section 106 threshold.

We will continue to work closely with local community groups, community facilities, parish & town councils and ward councillors, to confirm new community projects (capital, fixture, and fittings) that would mitigate the increase in the population, from the development.

Some examples of the upgrades made through being in receipt of some S106 funding:

Christ Church Parish Church (New Town and Christ Church ward) received £36,865.13 from S106 funding, to help support their community project to upgrade their building, earlier last year. The current works have all now been completed and here's their end of project report, along with before and after photos: [Building for the Future – Christ Church Community Project – Colchester Christ Church](#)



Christ Church Community Project_end of project report (1).pdf

End of project Report

Before



..... After

Section 106 - Community

The Community & Partnerships Team submit community contribution requests wherever a new development of houses has been approved. All submissions need to meet the section 106 threshold. **The Lakelands Community centre** was funded through this funding, as well as the Colchester Sport Park. We must work closely with local community groups (mostly parish & town councils) to confirm new community projects (capital, fixture, and fittings) that would mitigate the increase in the population.



SECTION 106 LANGHAM COMMUNITY SHOP

The Langham Community shop celebrates its 20th year in 2024 and has grown to be an important part of the local infrastructure. Along with the provision of essential goods, it is also a Local Authority recycling distribution point and provides monthly free soup lunch events. The Community shop wanted to expand its offer and through a section 106 award was able to introduce an adjacent cabin space. Providing a new space for a coffee and is even used as a flexible workspace for local people.

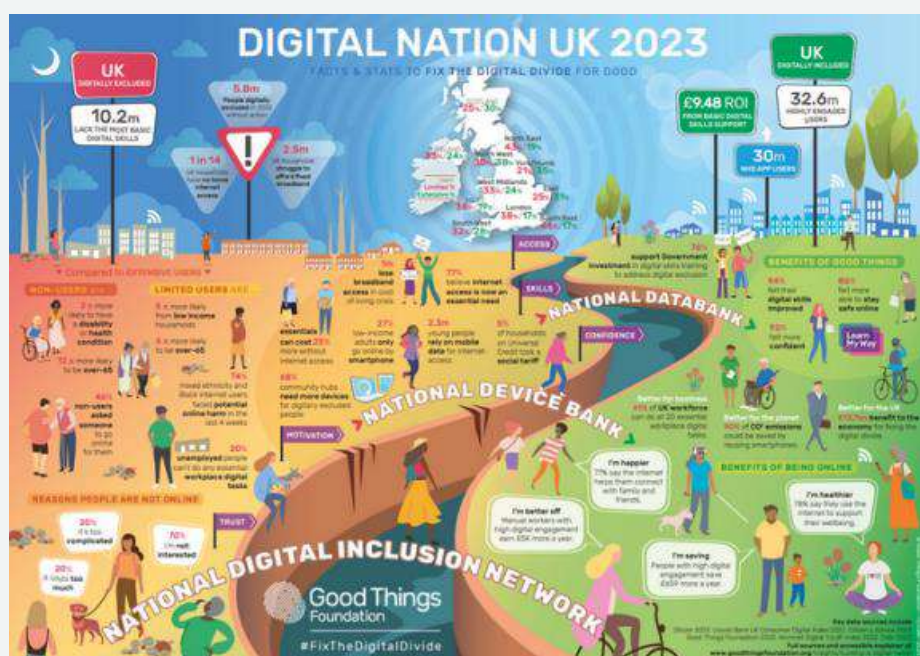


Digital Access Project

The Digital Access Support Team, represent and undertake activities on behalf of the Digital Access Project, a collaboration between Northeast Essex Integrated Care Board, Tendring District Council and Colchester City Council, who manage the project on behalf of the partnership.

By using partnerships, resources, and structures already established, the team provide support and opportunity to the most vulnerable, neurodivergent, diverse, disadvantaged, residents, at the first basic level, then provide experience where possible or sign post up the chain to other organisations where required to improve access to employment and educational opportunities leading to an improved quality of life.

The teamwork alongside partners such as Community Volunteer Services Tendring, Digital Inclusion Team at Essex County Council, Changing Lives, Armed Forces Business Centre, Hawks Farm Resort, DWP, a variety of health services, and many community groups, they are also an online centre with Good Things Foundation.



Continuously flexing their service to need, with future services including a digital champion package, that also provides for some, voluntary community work experience with the DAST team, and where relevant with partners, thus developing experience but mainly self-confidence.



As well as a Top Tips to Finding a Job Online tutorial, which enables those individuals out of work with some key skills on how to go 'job hunting' online.

The team are also promoting how individuals can use apps and browser to self-care, including NHS App drop ins and tutorials within our GP surgeries. As well as others on, understanding the NHS website and navigating around your GP website, as there are many services that individuals may not be aware of.

Fixed Digital Access Points (FDAPs) are devices in a secure and lockable stand, which are situated in several locations. The screen is locked onto a kiosk of 16 tiles, 6 of which are on all devices. These are: • Venue • Council • NHS • DAST • ECC • Seasonal (this changes dependent on requirement at time), Full list of FDAPs can be found via our [website](#).

The team are currently, alongside others within the organisation learning British Sign Language as an additional team skill to use in the community.

Digital Access Support Team Impact

They provide this first stage of knowledge and confidence via adhoc one to ones, group sessions, [digital chat support sessions](#), tutorials and workshops.

Wow this wasn't as hard as I thought it would be, thank you for explaining it to me so I understood.



WHICH PAGES AND SCREENS GET THE MOST VIEWS?

Views by Page title and screen class

PAGE TITLE AND SCREEN CLASS

VIEWS

Signpost Colchester kiosk-dashboard	719
Citizens Advice Shop kiosk-dashboard	683
Shrubend Recycling Depot kiosk-dashboard	647
East Hill Surgery Two kiosk-dashboard	378
Wivenhoe Surgery kiosk-dashboard	124
Harrison Court Sheltered Accommodation kiosk-d...	98
Tiptree Medical Centre Two kiosk-dashboard	90



What did you do: Colchester	
More Details	
Drop in	182
Event	53
1-2-1 (6 sessions)	41
1-2-1 (Ad Hoc)	59
Surgery	31
Tutorial - In Person	4
Tutorial - Online	26
Workshop	38
Other	133
What did you do: Tendring	
More Details	
Drop in	117
Event	36
1-2-1 (Fanned 6)	20
1-2-1 (Ad Hoc)	11
Surgery	17
Tutorial - In Person	8
Tutorial - Virtual	0
Workshop	20
Other	28
Other	16



Information Sharing

COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS NEWSLETTER

This is issued twice monthly and is sent to over 400 community groups and individuals, schools, Councillors, churches and charities.

The newsletter contains details about Covid Vaccination clinics, community events, children's holiday activities, courses, and any other information we feel the community will benefit from.

There is an Armed Forces section, a Cost-of-Living section, and a page which contains a link to over a hundred different funding streams for both individuals and organisations.

We produced a supplement for International Women' Day, which included over 30 ladies celebrating their work in the community.

For Armed Forces Week, we issued a supplement detailing all the events being held across the week in Colchester.

During October, a complete redesign of the newsletter took place, ensuring that it is now fully accessible. Alternative text was added to all the posters and images, so that visually impaired recipients can use screen readers. We took out any green and red text to help those who are colour blind. We changed the text to Sans Serif as this is clearer for people who are dyslexic. Text and background colour combinations were also changed to dark grey on white, as this helps those with visual conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma, and retinitis pigmentosa.



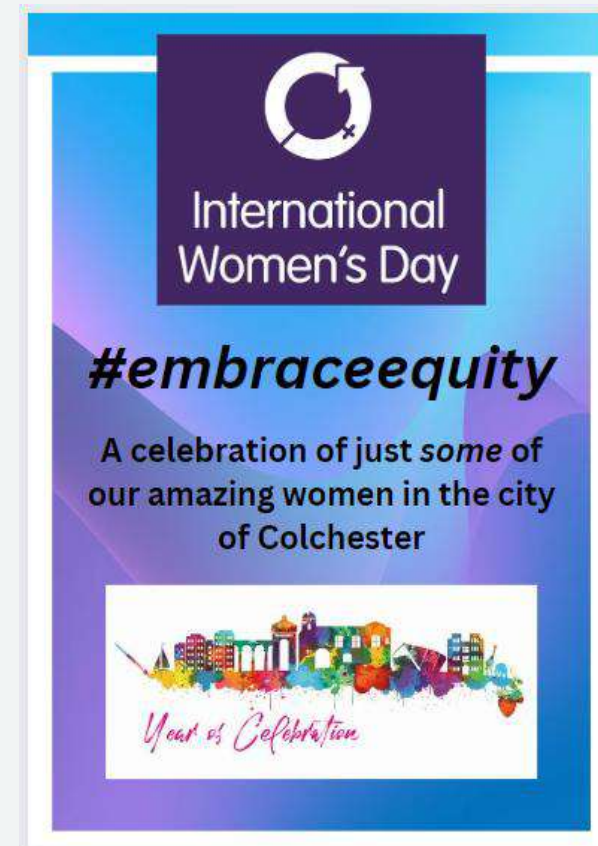
Community Funding

All of the funding you need for your organisation can now be found in one place! **Just click on the image below**, which will take you to our website.

If you are successful in getting a grant, let us know - we can help you promote your project, and inspire others to get involved.



TOP



TO ADD

FEWT – TEAM PROFILES & PAGES

FEWT – ACTIVITIES & CASE STUDIES

DAST – TEAM PROFILES

✓ **SHAZ NEW ROLE**

REFERENCE TO KPI'S (LINK TO I NDIVIDUAL SESSIONS)

SALIM – AFIUK WORK PLACEMENT

RIDE LONDON

COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES

CITY OF SANCTUARY

GOLD AWARD CONFIRMATION (FINGERS CROSSED)

Creative students and artist illustrated Colchester's Heritage in Mural

A group of creative students from the Gilberd school have collaborated with a local artist to brighten Highwoods Community Centre.

Funded by Essex County Council Locality Fund, the Gilberd School Legacy Project has culminated in a stunning mural at the Highwoods Community Centre, celebrating the City's rich history and development in a vibrant pop-art style.

The project aimed at fostering creativity and community engagement among students through collaborative projects that enhance public spaces and celebrate local heritage.

The school held a mural design competition in October 2023, receiving over 65 entries. From these, 15 winners were selected. Students involved in the project then met up with the artist to discuss the final design of the mural.

The artwork from the students captures the essence of Colchester's landmarks and heritage. Notable sites such as Colchester Castle, St. Botolph's Priory, St John's Abbey Gate, Sage House, the Town Hall, Jumbo Tower, and Firstsite are prominently featured, showcasing the city's evolution through a creative lens.

The mural by a local artist took months to complete and serves as a testament to the students' artistic vision and dedication.

On Monday, 8 July, the winning students, representatives from St John's & Highwoods Community Centre, and artist Adrian Leroy gathered with local councillors, including Councillor Alison Jay, Councillor Simon Appleton (Highwoods ward Cllr's), and Councillor Natalie Sommers, to unveil the mural and share their insights about the project.

Councillor David King, Leader of Colchester Council said: 'The artwork brightens up and brings energy to the community. This collaborative effort between the students and Adrian has brought colour and life to the area. We hope to have more collaborative mural projects in the future, where members of the community can foster a sense of city pride and beautify public spaces.

"We will be posting photos of the murals online, but I really hope people will come and see the artwork in person."

[\(Quote from Gilberd school\)](#)

Katherine Kane, trustee and acting manager of St John's & Highwoods Community Association added: "We are extremely impressed with the design of the mural and the professionalism of the artist who has brought it to life. We think it adds so much colour and life to the Centre, and we are very pleased to have been involved with this project."

Adrian Leroy, the mural artist said: 'I'm so grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the school on this piece. We worked together to develop a design that would reflect the local area's rich history and incorporate their creativity to showcase the historical sides of Colchester City.'



Colchester awarded Compassionate City status

Colchester now has national recognition as the first Compassionate City in the East of England, which community champions believe will inspire more people to be kind and compassionate to others in need of support during life's most difficult moments.

Local groups, workplaces, organisations, businesses, clubs, and community hubs are all part of a Compassionate Colchester network that has been working collaboratively towards Compassionate City status. An assessment from the national charity Compassionate Communities UK confirmed the kindness and compassion being shown to people confronted with serious or life-limiting illness, ageing, caregiving, loss, and isolation.

Many residents are part of the Compassionate Community network, including Janice Longe. She said: "Someone's final months or year of life, and that of their carers, can be made much easier with the kindness and compassion of people they meet on a day-to-day basis. We can all play a part, however small, sometimes without realising it, by just saying hello and starting a conversation or by dropping off a pint of milk when someone can't leave the house."

Acknowledging yet more can be done, Compassionate Colchester is also launching a Compassionate Champions initiative to recognise and celebrate people, projects, groups, or places that help improve the lives of others facing serious or life-limiting illness, ageing, caregiving, and loss through social connectedness, kindness, and compassion.

Cllr David King, Leader of the Council, said: "It's great to see national recognition for the tireless work providing end-of-life and serious illness support. Let's all build on this momentum by expanding the network of care and kindness. Answer the call from the Compassionate Colchester network and nominate your Compassionate Community Champions. These can be the people, places, and projects that have made a positive difference for you and your loved ones. Perhaps it's a resident looking out for neighbours, a community group offering friendship and support, or a business that compassionately cares for its staff and customers. By sharing these stories, we can raise awareness and make it easier for those in need to find the support they deserve."



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Colchester

Has been awarded Compassionate City Status

10th July 2024

Dr Julian Abel
Chief Executive Officer



Community Supermarket Launches in the Heart of Greenstead, offering affordable food and household essentials to local residents

A new Community Supermarket is coming to Greenstead on 1 March 2024, providing local residents with the chance to buy food and household essentials at discounted prices.

For a small membership fee, residents with a Colchester postcode will be able to come and shop once a week at the Greenstead Community Supermarket. It is open Thursday to Saturday from 9:30am until 12:30 noon.

The community supermarket offers people who may be struggling with food bills the opportunity to purchase food and household essentials at reduced prices, bridging the gap between food banks and affordable supermarkets.

The supermarket is being delivered in partnership with Colchester City Council, Essex County Council and the Divine Assembly Ministries; and has been made possible through funding from Colchester City Council via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Colchester Borough Homes Community Fund.

The shop will be run by the Divine Assembly Ministries, a Colchester-based church led by Nigerian pastors who provide valuable support across the Community, including the BOAZ Outreach Project. It is the seventh community supermarket supported by Essex County Council's levelling up funding.

COLCHESTER
COMMUNITY SUPERMARKET

✓ Community Led ✓ Affordable ✓ Dignified ✓ Sustainable



Community, Health & Wellbeing Teams Annual Report – 2024



Colchester
City Council

Colchester
Community in Action