

NEWS RELEASE

Publication: 13 July 2006

ESSEX VOLUNTARY GROUPS WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM LOCAL NETWORK FUND

Voluntary organisations working with children in Essex will continue to benefit from the Government's Local Network Fund for Children and Young People. The Local Network Fund, which has been managed in Essex over the last three years by Essex Community Foundation, has seen over 300 organisations benefit from grants totalling £1.7 million.

The new programme will continue to be managed by the Community Foundation in Essex for a further two years, with £600,000 being available each year to support voluntary and community groups working with disadvantaged children.

33 Essex-based voluntary organisations are the latest to receive grants from the Local Network Fund. Examples of grants awarded include:

"The Local Network Fund grants programme has made such a difference to so many voluntary and community groups working with children and young people" said Laura Warren, Chief Executive of Essex Community Foundation. "We estimate that over 90,000 children will have directly benefited from this programme since it began so we are immensely delighted that it is continuing". She added "This Fund is unique in that it provides support to new and small groups wishing to apply and has encouraged the development of good practice in safeguarding children and young people. The new programme means that a further £1.2 million is available over the next two years so we would urge groups working with children and young people to contact our grants team to discuss how to apply for a grant."

The Local Network Fund, funded by the Department for Education and Skills, aims to help vulnerable children and young people, aged 0-19, achieve their potential by investing directly in the work of the local community. The fund targets those voluntary and community groups, with an annual income of less than £100,000 who are developing projects and activities for children and young people with limited opportunities and access to services that many young people take for granted. The Fund gives grants from £250 to £7,000 for projects and activities.

Organisations should be able to demonstrate a need for their project against the five Every Child Matters Outcomes and priority will be given to small volunteer-led groups where children and young people have been or will be involved in the planning and delivery of activity. Advice and support will be given to small volunteer led groups who may be unused to completing application forms to access funding. **Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss their projects with Jill Curd at Essex Community Foundation on 01245 356018. The next**

deadline for receipt of applications is 7 August 2006.



ESSEX
COMMUNITY
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Application Forms are only available from the Local Network Fund Call Centre on 0845 113 0161 (RNID Typetalk 18001 0845 113 0161). Calls charged at a local rate.

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The Local Network Fund is used to support local and community groups under the five Every Child Matters Outcomes. These are:

- **Being healthy:** projects or activities that promote a healthy lifestyle so that children and young people are able to enjoy good health (e.g. sports sessions, healthy eating classes, peer support programmes on drug misuse)
- **Staying safe:** projects or activities that contribute to children and young people being protected from harm and neglect and growing up able to look after themselves (e.g. anti bullying projects, safe cycling groups, after-school clubs, self-defence groups)
- **Enjoying and achieving:** projects or activities that help children and young people maximise their potential and develop skills for adulthood (e.g. theatre arts groups, self advocacy skills programmes, cultural dance and music projects, CV development classes)
- **Making a positive contribution:** projects or activities which enable children and young people use their skills and abilities in ways to enhance their own lives and the lives of their community (e.g. conservation schemes, recycling programmes, mentoring projects)
- **Economic well-being:** projects or activities which help children and young people overcome income barriers and achieve their full potential in life (e.g. preparation for work and training, financial literacy classes for young people, homework clubs).

[Ends]

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For further information contact

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E-mail: grants@essexcf.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

A full list of grants awarded, by District, is attached.

If you would like to feature any of the organisations in your area and would like to arrange to take photographs please call us for contact details.

The Local Network Fund for Children and Young People was launched by the Government in May 2001 as a key element of its' commitment to tackle child poverty. The Fund aims to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people by supporting local community groups to enable children and young people to reach their full potential. www.dfes.gov.uk

Essex Community Foundation

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen nearly 3000 grants totalling over £7 million, distributed to Essex based charities and community groups. Funds are distributed on behalf of a wide range of donors

who want their charitable giving to be accessible to local charities.
www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk



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Chief Executive: Laura Warren

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