

## NEWS RELEASE

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### £100,000 HELPS ESSEX CHILDREN

18 Essex-based voluntary organisations have received nearly £100,000 in grants from the Government's Local Network Fund for Children and Young People. £97,150 was distributed in the latest round of awards to help children and young people.

To date 339 voluntary groups working with children in Essex have benefited from the Local Network Fund, which is managed by Essex Community Foundation, a local grant-making charitable trust. These latest grants bring the total amount distributed throughout the County, since the fund was launched in June 2003, to £1.8 million.

Examples of grants awarded include: Chelmsford Environment Partnership; £6,210 to run a project to engage children with learning disabilities with issues in the environment and Gateway Kidz Club (Chelmsford) £7,000 to set up and run a kids club for children with disabilities.

"The Local Network Fund grants programme continues to make such a difference to so many voluntary and community groups working with children and young people in Essex" said Laura Warren, Chief Executive of Essex Community Foundation". She added "We are also very pleased that we have been awarded an additional £45,000 to distribute from this programme, on top of the £1.2 million which is available over the next two years. This is excellent news and we would urge voluntary and community groups working with children and young people in Essex to contact our grants team to discuss how to apply for a grant."

The Local Network fund supports voluntary and community groups which 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 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 Local Network Fund, funded by the DfES, 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 giving 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. Free advice and support can be provided to groups who may not be used to completing application forms to access funding or who have developmental needs within their organisation.



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**Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss their projects against the Fund's criteria with Jill Curd at Essex Community Foundation on 01245 356018. There are 4 remaining deadlines for receipt of applications in this financial year – 9 October 2006, 13 November 2006, 8 January 2007 and 26 February 2007.**

**NB. Projects or activities planned for delivery over the Christmas period are advised to apply to the October deadline.**

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

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).

For further information contact

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#### **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](http://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 2500 grants totalling over £8 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](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)