

NEWS RELEASE

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Tending Charities to benefit from £60,000

Voluntary and community groups in West Clacton are being invited to apply for funding for projects that must benefit local people.

£60,000 is available from two Funds, the Fair Share Trust and the European Social Fund Key Fund, both managed by grantmaking trust, Essex Community Foundation.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to fund projects offering learning opportunities to help local people develop skills and build self-confidence.

Caroline Taylor, Programmes Manager for Essex Community Foundation said, "We really want this money to make a difference. We have already seen fantastic examples of people's lives being turned around through their participation in projects run by voluntary organisations and we want to increase those opportunities." She added "I would encourage local groups in the West Clacton area to contact Essex Community Foundation to discuss potential projects".

The Clockwise Centre in Clacton has already benefited from this Fund. They received £10,000 to run a Creating Opportunities scheme to help ex-offenders move into education and employment and provide training for staff and volunteers.

For further information please contact Caroline Taylor on 01245 356018 or by e-mail caroline@essexcf.org.uk. www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

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For further information contact

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Notes to Editors:

European Social Fund – Key Fund Programme launched in Essex in January 2002 under the banner *Unlocking Potential* to give grants to voluntary and community groups working with disadvantaged people in our communities to improve their skills and employability. Those being targeted to benefit from the Key Fund include young people who are not in education, employment or training, lone parents, people with physical, learning or sensory disabilities or mental health problems, minority ethnic communities, and people that have been out of work for a considerable time.

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Patron: The Lord Lieutenant of Essex

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Essex Community Foundation manages the Fund on behalf of six funding partners, Business Link for Essex, Connexions, Essex County Council, Learning + Skills Council, Essex, Southend Borough Council and Thurrock Council.

Community Foundation Network is the Trustee of the Fair Share Trust, a £50 million UK-wide programme funded by the Big Lottery Fund, aimed at building social capital, community capacity and improving the environment in disadvantaged areas that have not received their fair share of Lottery funding in the past.

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen around 2,500 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £8 million in grants. 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