

NEWS RELEASE

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ESSEX CHARITIES RECEIVE £120,000 FROM LOCAL NETWORK FUND

Chelmsford Daybreak is among 21 Essex-based voluntary organisations which have received a total of £120,882 in the latest round of grants distributed from the Local Network Fund for Children and Young People.

In total, over 400 voluntary groups working with children in Essex have so far 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 2001, to £2.5 million.

Examples of grants awarded include: Chelmsford CVS, £6,985 to run an Active Families event and programme of follow-on activities to encourage healthy lifestyles in a local community and WHCM Counselling & Support, £7,000 towards the cost of refurbishing rooms in two centres to provide suitable setting for counselling and therapeutic work to improve mental health and well-being of children and young people and their families.

"It is clear from our monitoring of the grants awarded, that the Local Network Fund has made a substantial contribution to increasing the opportunities available to a great many children and young people in Essex" said Laura Warren, Chief Executive of Essex Community Foundation. "The current programme is due to end this year, so we would urge organisations working with children to contact the Foundation's grants team on 01245 356018 as soon as possible". Information is also available on the website www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

The Local Network Fund is used to support local community groups under the five Every Child Matters Outcomes - Being healthy, Staying safe, Enjoying and achieving, Making a positive contribution and Economic well-being.

There are just **2** deadlines left: **7 August and 8 October**. Projects must be completed and money spent by 31 January 2008.

Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss their projects against the Fund's criteria with Jill Curd at Essex Community Foundation on 01245 356018.

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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For further information contact

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Notes to Editors:

The Local Network fund is looking to improve outcomes for all children and young people 0 – 19 (up to 25 with learning difficulties) to meet the Every Child Matter's strategy. The Government believes that communities can make a difference to improving opportunities for children and young people. The Fund targets voluntary and community groups, with an annual income of less than £100,000 giving grants from £250 to £7,000 for projects and activities. It cannot contribute to project budgets over £10,000 and will not support core running costs of existing projects. It could however support a developmental or extension aspect of an existing activity. Equipment requests can be considered as part of an application and are encouraged due to the ending of the Fund. Please note that activity during school curriculum hours or equipment that will become part of school property cannot be supported.

Projects must be **completed and money spent by 31 January 2008 latest** which groups will need to take into account when submitting an application that is for more than a one-off activity - decisions are generally around 4 weeks after each deadline date.

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. Uniquely, 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 such as good practice in safeguarding children and young people.

Deadline dates for applications are: 25 June, 7 August, 8 October

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).

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 £9 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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