

NEWS RELEASE

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FUND INVESTS IN ESSEX CHARITIES

A new fund aimed specifically at investing in the development of Essex charities has announced the first recipients of its annual funding programme. Four local organisations will receive multi-year funding from the endowed Thriving Third Sector Fund which has been set up with funding from the county's Local Area Agreement (LAA) Partnership. Essex County Council remains the only local authority in England to secure a portion of the LAA funding to specifically resource a thriving third sector over the long-term.

In the first allocation of income from the fund, £135,000 has been committed to four organisations in Essex; Hythe Community Centre Association, Colchester: Support4Sight, Uttlesford: Tendring Community Voluntary Services: and Uttlesford Crossroads - Caring for Carers. Each proposal successfully demonstrated how funding will not only help the individual organisation, but will also offer learning experiences to benefit the wider charitable sector in Essex. Funding will enable these organisations to develop strategic partnerships, explore collaboration and mergers, establish shared networks and encourage good governance among trustees.

The Thriving Third Sector Fund is being managed by Essex Community Foundation (ECF) who convened a panel of Chief Executives from county-wide charities and a Cabinet Member from Essex County Council, Cllr John Jowers. The Panel determined the criteria and decided on which of the applicants would receive funding.

"There were some very good applications", said Jackie Sully, Trustee of Essex Community Foundation who chaired the Panel. "But our challenge was to look wider than the individual organisation's development and be satisfied that the third sector as a whole could benefit from their experience."

Applications are being invited for the next round of funding awards – deadline 9 September 2010; details are available on ECF's website www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

The organisations receiving funding from the Thriving Third Sector Fund are:

Hythe Community Centre Assoc, Colchester: £40,000 over 3 years

To establish a partnership with 3 other Community Centres to centralise booking systems, make better use of IT, increase marketing, and improve trustee networks to increase income and good governance.

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Support4Sight, Uttlesford: £19,000 over 2 years

To establish a strategic group, called Essex Vision Strategic Partnership, bringing together local sight loss charities and organisations to improve services for blind and partially sighted people.

Tendring Community Voluntary Services: £33,000 over 3 years

To establish a network for trustees of local charities in Tendring to strengthen skills and share information.

Uttlesford Crossroads - Caring for Carers £42,000 over 3 years

to explore how 7 district-based Crossroads for Carers can work in collaboration or merger.

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For further information contact

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen nearly 4,000 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £15 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

About the Community Foundation Network

Community Foundations are independent charities committed to supporting projects that engage local people. Since the 1980s, a nationwide network of Community Foundations has developed, endorsed by many major public figures and leading companies.

There are 1000's of charities and voluntary groups working for the community to create a richer society for all. Community Foundations build endowed funds and make grants to these organisations.

- There are 57 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds values at circa £151 million
- In 2008/09 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £56 million and funded 19,000 voluntary organisations and community groups

For more information visit www.commmunityfoundations.org.uk