

## NEWS RELEASE

Publication: 2 April 2008

### MILLENNIUM FUND GIVES £500,000 – AND STILL GROWING

Chelmsford Stroke Exercise Group and Chelmsford Agency for Volunteering are among the latest Essex based charities to benefit from the Essex County Council Millennium Fund which has distributed over £500,000 since it was first established to celebrate the Millennium. Members of Essex County Council gave a gift of £1 million to the people of Essex by setting up an endowed fund within Essex Community Foundation which is now valued at £1.3 million.



Annual income is distributed each year and to date over half a million pounds (£517,406) has been distributed to 189 voluntary and community groups throughout Essex.

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At an annual awards ceremony, held at the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford on 31 March, Chairman of Essex County Council, Cllr Gerard McEwen praised the charities present, for their work supporting vulnerable people in their communities.

Cllr McEwen said "This annual event is a great tradition and it is a special honour for all Chairmen of Essex County Council to host. This year's event is particularly special as we are celebrating the distribution of over half a million pounds since the Fund was established". He added: "The Council is very grateful to Essex Community Foundation for its professional management of the Fund, growing the initial donation of £1 million, while enabling us to award more grants year on year."

In commending the 24 charities present for their commitment and dedication Cllr McEwen said "It is humbling to hear about the work that you do and the support that you give to help vulnerable people in our communities."

The objective of the Essex Millennium Fund is to improve the quality of life of local people now and for years to come and supports work that is helping young people, carers, local communities and the environment.

Local grantmaking trust, Essex Community Foundation, manages the Essex Millennium Fund. Charities and voluntary groups are encouraged to contact the Foundation for information about how to apply for a grant from the Millennium Fund or one of the other 38 Funds which the Foundation currently manages on behalf of individuals, companies or public agencies. Details can also be found at [www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk) or by calling their grants team on 01245 356018.

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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 more than 2500 Essex based charities and community groups receive over £10million 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](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)