

NEWS RELEASE

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EASTERN EUROPEANS VISIT LOCAL FOUNDATION

Essex Community Foundation hosted a meeting of 15 community leaders from Ukraine and from Russia at their Chelmsford offices this week (4 October). They were all participants of the first Eastern European grant-making school, an initiative of the London-based Capital Community Foundation funded by the US Mott Foundation and the World Bank.



The delegates, all from Eastern European Community Foundations, are on a week-long study tour to learn from the UK experience, and explore how to capitalise on corporate and private philanthropy. Essex was selected for a visit because of Essex Community Foundation's profile as one of the fastest growing community foundations in the UK. Community Foundations encourage local people to channel their charitable giving to local causes, acting as a link between donors and local need to ensure that grants are targeted to make a difference to the lives of local people.

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"It was a great opportunity to share our experiences of managing a community foundation with colleagues who want to improve the knowledge and governance of community foundations in Eastern Europe" said Laura Warren, the Foundation's Chief Executive. "They were interested to know how we work with companies such as Essex & Suffolk Water and with families like the Bartella Family whose fund supports children and their families in Chelmsford.

The next study visit will be taking place in November and another group of delegates from Eastern Europe will meet Essex Community Foundation staff on 11 November.

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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 £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

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Patron: The Lord Lieutenant of Essex

Chief Executive: Laura Warren

