

# Supporting our local voluntary sector 2022 – 2023

We have given an incredible **£4.4 million** in grants this year to **629** voluntary organisations and **131** individuals.

Increased cost-of-living, rising inflation and other financial challenges are causing local charities to struggle more than ever before. And these are pressures that are unlikely to end any time soon.

We received 1,221 applications during the year requesting **£9 million** in support. This is a **30%** increase on last year and is higher than the requests we received in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21. We have also seen an increase in first-time applications (35% this year compared to 27% in 2021/22). In addition, **49%** of our grants supported running costs, including salaries, rent and utilities.

We continue to reach out to grassroots organisations in need of support and are doing all we can to help, either through our own funds or by signposting them to other funders.

This year, we successfully delivered the Mid & South Essex Mental Health Inequalities Programme with NHS Mid and South Essex, designed to address health inequalities for people managing their own mental health, and in particular for work helping historically underrepresented or marginalised communities. Through this, we were able to fund 10 organisations that provide essential and innovative services to communities, including suicide prevention within the farming community, well-being support to members of the traveller community and support for ethnic minority women dealing with female genital mutilation.

Our latest Community Listening Project is helping us to understand the impact of the current cost-of-living crisis. Our message to the voluntary sector is to get in touch. Tell us about your work and what you need. We are here to help.

**Andy Payne Worpole**  
Head of Programmes



**Camp JoJo** received funding to help families who have a child with medical needs or disabilities to enjoy group camping holidays.

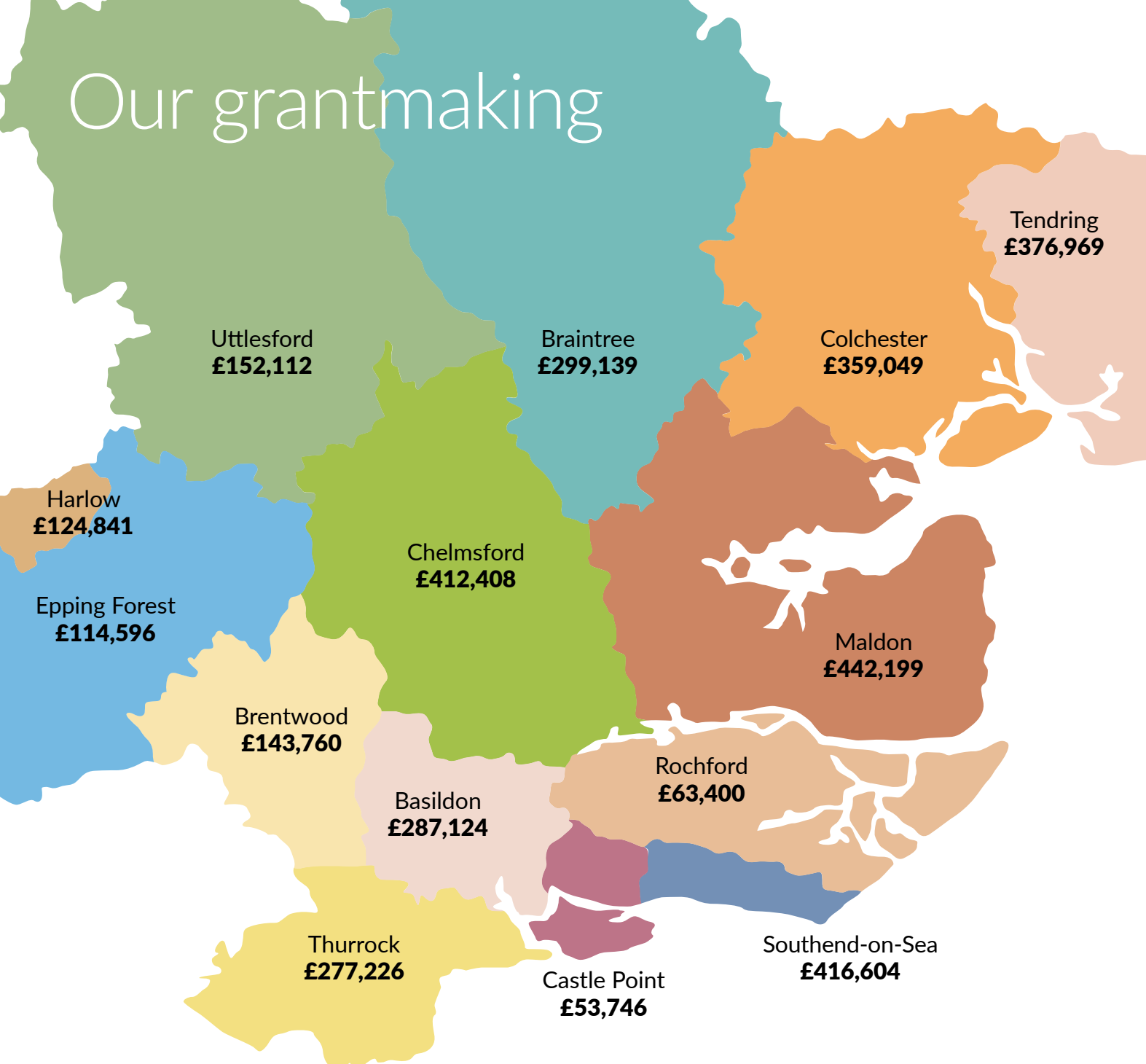
We are always pleased to speak with you about your funding needs, including:

- Core costs e.g. salaries, rent and utilities
- New and existing projects, events or activities
- Individuals (in education, sport and the arts)

Get in touch:

- Call our grants team on **01245 355947**
- Book a telephone appointment with a grants officer through our website
- Use our **CHAT NOW** message box on our website
- E-mail [grants@essexcf.org.uk](mailto:grants@essexcf.org.uk)
- Message us via social media

# Our grantmaking



## Grants paid by district

### Notes:

Within the total amount awarded £745,924 was awarded to organisations working across two or more districts.

In addition, £158,269 was awarded to organisations working outside the county.

## Facts and figures

- **£4.4** million in grants made to **629** voluntary organisations and **131** individuals
- The success rate for applicants applying to us for funding **60%**
- Number of first time applicants **422**
- The average grant size **£5,280**
- **58%** of organisations we funded have an annual income of less than £100,000
- **55%** of our funding supported core running costs including rent, salaries and utilities
- On average we receive **93 requests** for funding each month
- Our grants team have delivered **1:1 advice** and guidance sessions to **185** potential applicants



## Categories

We use an **IMPACT** tool to help show how our grants are making a difference. Some groups fit into more than one segment.

### IMPROVE

life skills, education, employability and enterprise

**218**

### MAXIMISE

ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity

**59**

### PROMOTE

reduction of isolation and disadvantage, and improve access to local services

**116**

### TRANSFORM

access to, and engagement with, the environment and public spaces

**62**

### CONNECT

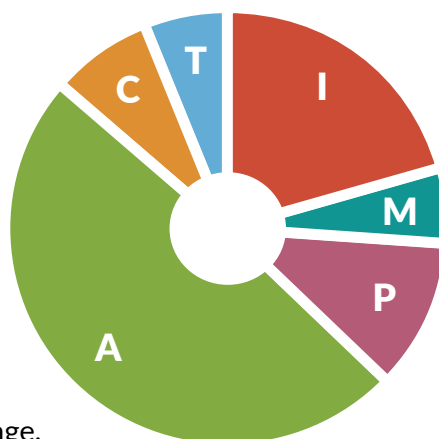
people with arts, culture and heritage

**80**

### ADVANCE

people's physical and mental health, well-being and safety

**515**



## Annual income

We fund organisations of all sizes, but typically support groups with a smaller annual income.

**Under £50k** 280 organisations  
**45%**

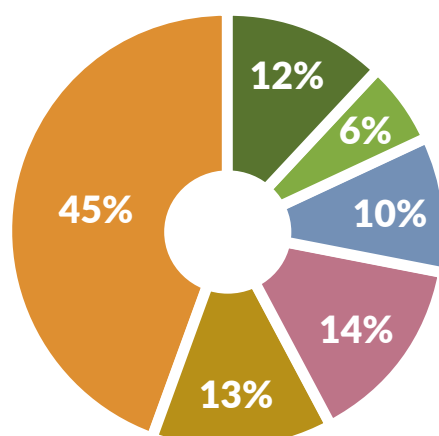
**£50k - £100k** 81 organisations  
**13%**

**£100k - £250k** 89 organisations  
**14%**

**£250k - £500k** 65 organisations  
**10%**

**£500k - £1 million** 37 organisations  
**6%**

**Over £1 million** 77 organisations  
**12%**



# Our grants

This supplement includes a selection of the grants awarded this year. They show the wide range of work that is being carried out across Essex and highlight the diversity of the 180 charitable funds that we manage and their criteria for support.

We have been recognised by IVAR (Institute for Voluntary Action Research) as a flexible funder and are committed to being an accessible, open and trusted grantmaker.

If you would like to read more about the grants we are awarding, we regularly add new stories to the **Community Spotlight** page on our website. These can be filtered by a specific issue or area.



We also feature stories about our funds and grants on our social media, so please follow us.

## **3food4u** £5,000

For a charity providing free surplus food to people in Epping Forest.

## **4th Dovercourt Sea Scouts Group** £10,000

To help replace an ageing minibus.

## **Abberton Rural Training** £5,000

To run women-only rural skills sessions in North East Essex for survivors of domestic abuse.

## **Accuro (Care Services)** £9,500

For an organisation supporting people with disabilities, and their families across West Essex.

## **Action for Family Carers** £14,515

To provide young carers in Harlow with group activities.

## **Adfam National** £3,500

To provide virtual one-on-one support for people with drug and alcohol issues across Essex.

## **Alpha Vesta** £7,500

To run a domestic abuse support programme across Essex.

## **Balmoral Community Centre Association** £7,200

To provide a warm hub for vulnerable local people during the winter months in Westcliff-on-Sea.

## **Bar 'N' Bus Trust** £4,790

For a young women's self defence and safety programme in Basildon.

## **Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled** £6,000

To employ a coach at a riding school near Chelmsford, for people with disabilities.

## **Basildon Foodbank** £10,000

To support the cost of additional storage space and van hire for a busy foodbank.

## **BATIAS Independent Advocacy Service** £12,000

For a service helping individuals with a learning disability across South and West Essex.

## **Beacon House Ministries** £9,000

To help homeless people in Colchester rebuild their lives.

## **Billericay Baby Basics** £1,500

To provide free clothes and toiletries for children and their parents in need.

## **Brighter Opportunities for Special People** £7,500

To give support and respite care to young adults and children with complex disabilities or life-limiting conditions in Basildon.

## **Brentwood Catholic Children's Society** £7,850

Towards the salary of a therapist supporting children facing emotional distress and their families.

## **CanalAbility** £7,000

To repair a fully accessible canal boat that provides respite river trips for people with disabilities in Harlow.

## **CARA Centre for Action on Rape and Abuse** £4,511

To improve the booking system of a Colchester-based charity that provides counselling to survivors of rape and sexual violence.

## **Castle Point Social Car Scheme** £10,000

For a community transport scheme helping the elderly, those with poor health and people with disabilities.

## **Chelmsford Council for Voluntary Services** £5,600

To create a community café and welcoming meeting space for local groups inside Chelmsford market.

## **Children Heard and Seen** £13,500

Provision of online group sessions for children across Essex who have a parent in prison.

## **Citizens Advice Bureau Harlow** £18,000

For a money adviser to work in GP surgeries and help people resolve finance related stress.

## **City of Chelmsford Mencap** £5,000

To employ a staff member to work with adults who have learning disabilities.

## **Coach Core Foundation** £5,000

For a sports apprenticeship programme for young people across Essex.



**4th Dovercourt Sea Scouts Group** received £2,000 from **Galloper Wind Farm Community Fund** to replace their ageing minibus.

This means the young people can experience a wider range of sea scouting activities including camping and kayaking. Having their own transport means they don't need to hire a vehicle each time they want to go out, which significantly reduces costs.

“This means that our building and fuel costs are covered for the next two years! It's such a relief and now we don't have to have any more sleepless nights.

*Sociability, Basildon*



**Communities and Sanctuary Seekers Together** **£7,000**

To upgrade the IT of a Southend charity supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

**Cool to be Kind** **£6,500**

For an organisation supporting people who are homeless in Chelmsford.

**Crossroads Braintree and Chelmsford** **£7,000**

To continue a weekly respite service for unpaid carers.

**Divine Assembly Ministries** **£6,500**

To support a team of neighbourhood chaplains working in the Greenstead area of Colchester.

**Dynamic New Anglian Networks** **£7,900**

Helping refugees in Colchester to improve their English language skills.

**Epping Forest Foodbank** **£7,500**

For a foodbank providing emergency food parcels during the winter period.

**Essex Boys' and Girls' Clubs** **£3,750**

To run sports sessions and a sports leader programme for young people in East Tilbury.

**Essex Dementia Care** **£30,000**

For the salary of a care manager providing tailored support plans to people with dementia.

**Evolving Community** **£6,100**

To run weekly physical activities for children and young people in Grays.

**Families InFocus** **£7,500**

Supporting a weekly activity club in Chelmsford for children with special educational needs and their families.

**Ferriers Barn** **£7,000**

Towards the salary cost of staff at a day centre near Bures that supports adults with disabilities.

**Friends of Rock School** **£5,000**

Towards a music festival showcasing the talents of young Harlow residents.

**Frontline Partnership** **£1,420**

For the running costs of a café that provides work experience for those with learning disabilities in Brentwood.

**Get Started Art** **£1,000**

To buy art and craft materials for a Coronation competition in Thurrock involving children and young people with disabilities and vulnerable adults.

**Golden-Oldies** **£2,000**

To re-start social singing groups for older people in Braintree.

**Great Yeldham Reading Room** **£3,000**

To help provide a warm hub at a village hall in north Essex over the winter months.

**Halstead Day Centre** **£5,000**

Towards the running costs of a day centre for older people in Halstead.



**Katie's Heart Appeal** received a grant of £5,127 from the **Lower Thames Crossing Community Fund** to help maintain three defibrillators in Thurrock community spaces and add bleed control kits.

The charity has installed 46 defibrillators in Thurrock so far and is working to make sure every school in the District has one.

**Harlow Hindu Society** **£1,300**

Towards the cost of a ten-day festival for the community to celebrate and learn about Navaratri.

**Harwich Hive** **£6,600**

To help provide an operational base and storage space for a community hub supplying free baby clothes and hygiene items.

**HBBS Counselling** **£9,000**

To provide free counselling sessions for people in Brentwood who require emotional well-being support.

**Headway Essex** **£1,681**

To run a workshop in Chelmsford for carers of adults with an acquired brain injury.

**Hearing Help Essex** **£8,067**

To expand an information, advice and guidance service for people with hearing loss across Thurrock.

**Helen Rollason Cancer Charity** **£4,000**

Towards the running costs of cancer support centres in West Essex.

**Holdfast Credit Union** **£7,000**

For a credit union in Braintree that offers advice on debt, benefits and savings.

**Home-Start Essex** **£20,000**

Towards the salaries of three area lead co-ordinators to help support children and families across Essex.



Children have been able to enjoy exploring the grounds of St Osyth Priory Estate, thanks to a grant of £622 from the **Clark Family Charitable Fund**.

The **St Osyth Priory and Parish Trust** hosts a nature-based learning programme, creating memorable experiences that immerse children in nature. Their sessions focus on the estate's history, wildlife and conservation, and include tours of the deer park, a wilderness garden and pond dipping.

“Thank you, that will be really helpful as we are providing food each week to members who are going without meals to pay their heating costs.

*Open Door Loughton*



One of the beneficiaries of the **Chelmsford Star Co-op Community Fund** this year was **Families InFocus**, a parent-led charity that supports families who have a child with special educational needs or a disability.

At their group sessions in Southend and Chelmsford parents can share stories and concerns or ask for advice while their children play with others their own age.

*"It's really moving to see how much this small charity has achieved over the last 25 years or so, and how relied upon they are. What a great organisation!"* Pauline Dodd, Chair of the Co-op's Membership Committee.

#### **Hope House Essex £1,200**

To help provide accommodation for people who are homeless in Braintree.

#### **Inclusion Ventures £1,000**

For a newly formed stay and play toddler group in Jaywick.

#### **IPSEA (Independent Provider Special Education Advice) £9,100**

For an organisation providing free information and advice services to families with children with special educational needs across Essex.

#### **Kids Inspire £4,500**

To support young children in Grays at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour or criminal activity.

#### **Knightswood Care £9,000**

To provide day care to elderly people, including those with dementia, in rural Maldon.

#### **Kool Carers South East £20,000**

Towards a counselling service for young carers and their families in Basildon.

#### **Lighthouse Furniture Project £5,000**

To support a recycling project helping people across Mid-Essex.

#### **Little Explorers Pre-School £1,000**

To teach children about new foods and healthy eating habits at a preschool in Colchester.

#### **Made for More £6,000**

To deliver a well-being course for young people aged 11-18 attending secondary schools in Chelmsford.

#### **Maldon & District Community Voluntary Services £22,900**

To facilitate a suicide prevention programme for members of the agricultural community.

#### **Maru Karate Kai £1,500**

Provision of self-defence classes for young girls in Basildon.

#### **Matipo Arts £1,350**

To run theatrical workshops in Harlow schools.

#### **Micro Rainbow £20,000**

For the running costs of an organisation supporting refugees and asylum seekers from the LGBTQI community in Thurrock.

#### **Mistley Kids Club £6,135**

Provision of childcare, respite and outreach services for families in and around Mistley.

#### **MyOTAS £6,000**

For a support service for autistic children and their families in the Basildon area.

#### **New Life Wood £7,000**

For a community wood recycling project in Pitsea, which provides employability skills training to people.

#### **North Avenue Youth Centre £10,300**

For a youth centre working with young people living in the Melbourne area of Chelmsford.

#### **Off the Streets £5,000**

Towards the operating costs of a Southend-based charity helping rough sleepers find accommodation.

**“We are delighted to have been funded and you have made the world of difference to the service we deliver in our community.**

*Dig It Community Allotment, Saffron Walden*

#### **One Community Development Trust £8,762**

To provide a warm hub over the winter for vulnerable people in Tilbury.

#### **Parents 1st UK £20,000**

To support women with perinatal mental health issues in Basildon, Thurrock and Castle Point.

#### **Rainbow Services Harlow £4,475**

Subsidising the cost of accessible canal trips for older people to aid their well-being and reduce social isolation.

#### **Re Engage £2,722**

Towards the cost of running social groups and a befriending service for older people in Thurrock.

#### **Reach Out for Mental Health £10,000**

For a Thurrock-based suicide prevention service which helps people across the county.

#### **Re-cycle £4,000**

Towards the volunteer costs of a bicycle repair and recycling organisation based in Colchester.

#### **Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex and London £21,697**

To help provide legal and immigration services for refugees and vulnerable migrants across Essex.

#### **Restitute £5,000**

To provide support and therapeutic care for third party survivors of sexual abuse and violent crimes in Essex.

#### **Safe Steps £5,740**

To create a consultation room for families seeking refuge from domestic abuse in Southend-on-Sea.

#### **Sanctus £7,500**

Towards the running costs of an organisation supporting homeless people in Chelmsford.

#### **Send the Right Message £4,372**

To develop a new website to improve access to resources at an organisation supporting parents of children with special educational needs in South East Essex.

#### **SOS Rape Crisis £3,500**

For a camping trip for girls aged 10-18 in Southend who are survivors of sexual violence.

#### **South Essex Advocacy Services £5,000**

Support for those who have been a victim of financial abuse in Southend.



**South Essex African Caribbean Association** **£6,500**

To teach young people in Southend how to play the steel pan instrument.

**Southend Pride** **£2,500**

Towards weekly support groups and a range of events for the LGBTQ+ community.

**Southend United Community and Educational Trust** **£2,500**

To run an early intervention and education project for primary school children about the dangers of becoming involved with drugs and gangs.

**Special Needs and Parents** **£5,000**

For a counselling service for individuals with special needs, and their families, in Brentwood.

**St. Francis Hospice** **£2,500**

For the salaries of staff at a hospice supporting adults with life limiting illnesses in West Essex.

**Stow Maries Aerodrome** **£5,000**

To develop a new website for a heritage WWI aerodrome of historical and educational importance.

**Streets2Homes** **£1,435**

To buy fitness equipment and art materials for projects supporting people who are homeless in Harlow.

**Supporting Carers and Families Together** **£8,000**

For the salary of a service delivery manager at a charity supporting carers in Rochford.

**Tabor Centre** **£850**

For equipment to support physiotherapy and rehabilitation for older people with health problems.

**Teen Talk Harwich** **£12,000**

Providing increased one-to-one support to vulnerable young people and their families.

**The Coroner's Court Support Service** **£2,500**

To employ a volunteer co-ordinator to support people who need to attend a coroner's inquest after the death of their loved one.

**The Country Food Trust** **£6,000**

To support the provision of nutritious meals for people in need in Essex.

**The Design Cabin Community** **£5,000**

To run a market for teenagers to showcase their products and entrepreneurial skills in Rochford.

**The Friends of All Saints Church Brightlingsea** **£5,220**

To run a series of arts and culture based activity sessions open to other groups in Brightlingsea.

**The Heritage Crafts Association** **£2,400**

To support a bursary for a project tackling the loss of endangered traditional crafts in Essex.

**The Little Edi Foundation** **£4,800**

To pay the rental costs of an organisation offering support to families in need in and around the Melbourne area of Chelmsford.

**MAZE Group** **£10,000**

Provision of specialist support for parents of children with special needs in North East Essex.

**The OutHouse** **£6,040**

To start a youth forum for the young LGBTQ+ community across Colchester and Tendring to help address concerns, increase well-being and improve community understanding.

**The Peaceful Pony** **£6,965**

To provide therapeutic support for Ukrainian children and families who have experienced the trauma of displacement from their homes.

**Thurrock LGBTQ+ Network** **£2,796**

To help run a series of social nights at the Thameside Theatre in Grays, to provide a safe space for the LGBTQ+ community.

**TouchPoint** **£4,650**

Provision of fridges for a community-run food share project helping people in Uttlesford.

**Trust Links** **£8,000**

To run a peer and mental health support group for women in South East Essex who have experienced domestic abuse.

**Ukrainians in Thurrock Community Group** **£2,235**

To run community activities for Ukrainian refugee families, children and young people.

**Unpuzzled Theatre Company** **£4,800**

To support an interactive theatre workshop programme for vulnerable children, young people and families in Southend.

**Uttlesford Buffy Bus Association** **£7,000**

To support the running of a playbus for families in isolated communities.

**Voluntary Action Epping Forest** **£10,000**

Running a benefit advice service for vulnerable and housebound residents.

**Waltham Abbey Youth 2000** **£5,000**

To help pay for a confidential counselling facility for young people.



**CanalAbility**, which provides canal boat holidays and day trips for people with disabilities, their families, friends and local community groups, has received £7,000 from the **Harlow Recreation Trust**.

The boats are all specially adapted with ramps, wheelchair accessible lifts, hoists, wet rooms and day beds so everyone can get involved in the boating experience. However, they need to be maintained and this grant enabled them to replace one of the engines and a gearbox.

**Walton Community Centre** **£3,500**

To provide cost effective ways of cooking and run a weekly warm hub for people struggling with the cost-of-living crisis in Walton.

**Welcome to the UK** **£7,000**

For a charity supporting migrant and refugee families in Southend.

**Wellbeing 4 Life** **£7,000**

To support the salary of the finance officer role at an established wellness organisation in Basildon.

**Wilderness Foundation UK** **£7,500**

To provide therapeutic outdoor nature sessions for vulnerable young people and adults across Essex.

**Women of Grace UK** **£7,000**

To support mental health workshops in Braintree for Black, Asian and minority ethnic women.

**Writtle Green Pre-School** **£3,000**

To buy equipment for a pre-school in Writtle.

**Young Concern Trust** **£5,000**

To help provide counselling services for children living in Harlow to improve their mental health.

“Thank you so much. This will allow us to help change the lives of young people.

*Leadership Through Sport and Business, Southend*

# Support for smaller groups

Giving grants to help voluntary and community groups pay their core costs is an essential element of our grantmaking.

Core costs can be staff salaries, bills and rent, and through conversations with our grant partners we know that covering these costs causes the most worry for groups. Because they are so essential, if these costs are not funded it can mean the loss of expertise, services or projects and, in the most serious of cases, closure of an organisation.

We actively encourage groups to apply for funding towards their core costs and we are always pleased to explain to our fundholders why this is so important.

This year, we gave around **£150,000** in grants to small, grassroots organisations with an annual income of **less than £50,000** for their core costs. Here are just a few:



**Colchester Toy Library** is run by volunteers and lends toys to families around the Colchester area to promote play and cognitive development in local children, including those with additional needs.

They received £6,600 jointly from the **Saffron Community Fund, East of England Co-op Community Cares Fund** and **Blanc Family Fund** to help cover their rent and insurance costs.

**Ace Hounds** **£5,000**  
Providing animal-based social therapies for people with additional needs or mental health problems in Uttlesford.

**Affordable Counselling Epping Forest** **£5,000**  
To subsidise counselling sessions for adults on low incomes.

**Age Concern Harlow** **£5,864**  
To support an organisation meeting the needs of elderly people.

**Aspire Educational Mentoring** **£2,500**  
Provision of academic and professional mentoring for students in disadvantaged areas of Tendring.

**Avenue Child Contact Centre** **£9,000**  
To support salaries at a Southend-based charity offering safe contact between children and parents following family breakdown.

**Bereavement and Friendship Cafe** **£1,500**  
To help with overheads and transport costs of a volunteer-run friendship club in Clacton.

**Beth Chatto Education Trust** **£4,435**  
For educational activities in Tendring that engage children with the environment.

**Braintree District Stroke Support Group** **£2,000**  
For the running costs of a stroke support group.

**Bridgeway Mission** **£3,500**  
To buy food for refugees and asylum seekers in Colchester.

**Candles** **£3,970**  
To provide activities and specialist sessions for families in Colchester who have children with Down Syndrome.

For the first time ever, this year we have awarded more grants to support the core running costs of organisations than for specific projects.

**Clacton Pride** **£6,000**  
To support the rent and furnishing costs of an LGBTQ+ support organisation.

**Colchester Toy Library** **£6,000**  
To help cover the rent of a small charity promoting the benefits of play for children in Colchester.

**Cruse Bereavement Support** **£5,000**  
To increase the number of volunteers available to support people experiencing bereavement in Essex.

**Dig It Community Allotment** **£3,000**  
To support a community allotment and cooking initiative in Saffron Walden.

**Dumont Luncheon Club** **£3,000**  
For the transport costs of a weekly lunch club for elderly people in St Osyth.

**Epping Forest Sunflower Group** **£5,000**  
For the running costs of a charity that supports people with special needs and disabilities.

**FC Vilomah** **£700**  
For a Chelmsford-based football club which gives peer support to men who have suffered the loss of a child.

**Great & Little Leighs Friendship Club** **£1,000**  
To help with the cost of social outings for elderly people.

“We are so grateful for the funding and your support of our work in the community, especially during these difficult times.”

*Dig It Community Allotment, Saffron Walden*





**Maldon Pioneers Association** provides activities for adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities whose needs are not severe enough to be eligible for local authority resources, but who need support to participate in the local community so they don't become isolated and lonely.

A grant of £1,500 from the **Maypole House Charitable Fund** supports the salary of their activities organiser.



**Heads2Minds** received £2,000 from the **Saffron Community Fund** to provide pet assisted therapy to mental health patients at Colchester Hospital.

Contact with animals has been proven to boost morale and aid well-being, and it can especially benefit those facing mental health challenges.

#### **Harlow Ethnic Minority Umbrella** £3,000

Supporting an organisation that provides advice to marginalised and low income families.

#### **Heads2Minds** £2,000

To provide pet assisted therapy to mental health patients at Colchester Hospital.

#### **Jaywick Sands Revival** £9,960

To support a foodbank and community hub.

#### **Kaos Youth Club** £5,665

To provide a regular club and support for young people in Rochford.

#### **Klimax Family Hub** £5,000

For an educational after school programme in Southend to support young Black, Asian and minority ethnic people.

#### **Langdon Hills Over 60's Club** £2,500

To support a social group for elderly people in Basildon.

#### **Lee Chapel North Helping Hands** £7,000

To help with increased running costs of a busy foodbank in Basildon.

#### **Maldon Pioneers Association** £1,500

To support activities for adults with learning difficulties.

#### **MATES** £5,500

To cover the pitch hire and referee costs of a football project based in Chelmsford, which helps improve men's mental health.

#### **Open Door Loughton** £4,600

Supporting people who have been an inpatient of an acute mental health ward.

#### **Packed with Smiles** £5,000

To provide free school uniforms and other essentials for primary school children in Southend.

#### **Rayleigh Vineyard (GrowBaby)** £7,000

Towards the cost of providing essential baby items for families in crisis in South Essex.

#### **Together Free Foundation** £7,000

To raise awareness about modern slavery in Chelmsford.

#### **Turning Corners** £5,000

Towards the running costs of a football group in Thurrock for men with substance misuse challenges.

#### **Volya Ukraina** £2,500

For a community hub in Colchester providing activities for Ukrainian refugees.



**FC Vilomah** is a football club in Basildon that is made up of men who have suffered the loss of a child, either through a miscarriage or shortly after birth.

They received a grant of £700 from **Britvic Community Fund** for their work with Broomfield, Southend and Basildon hospitals, where they refer dads when they are ready for support.

# Support for the sector beyond grantmaking

Our commitment to supporting the local voluntary sector goes beyond just grantmaking. We continually explore new ways to make a meaningful impact in our community, and we take pride in being more than just a funding source.

One of the ways we actively engage with local voluntary and community organisations is by extending our relationship beyond the application process. We welcome the opportunity to speak with groups even before they apply for funding and offer ourselves as a sounding board to discuss new ideas or challenges.

Here we share some of the work we have done to help organisations build capacity, resilience and to plan for the future.

### FACTS

**Demand is growing...**

Council spending per person has fallen by 23% since 2010. This has put more pressure on small charities to support society's most vulnerable people.

**donations are down...**

The cost-of-living crisis is impacting charitable giving. A quarter of people said they had changed their charitable behaviour and the overall income of small charities has decreased by 20%.

**...and there is less support**

Many infrastructure organisations that used to support the voluntary sector have had their capacity and budgets cut or have had to close.

Sources: NCVO and Institute for Fiscal Studies

## Building resilience

The Thrive Programme, which we run with Cranfield Trust, helps Essex voluntary organisations with group and one-on-one strategic planning and business development.

Four cohorts of organisations have taken part in this so far with the most recent meeting at our offices, which presented a great opportunity to share learning and build support networks. Participants include Southend Carers, Reach Out for Mental Health and Refugee, and Asylum Seeker & Migrant Action.



“In the voluntary sector it can often feel like you’re fighting fires every day, which doesn’t leave much room for thinking about the future or preparing for what comes next. The Thrive Programme has helped me to plan and it has been great to meet people from other local organisations who are experiencing similar things. This learning has been immeasurably helpful to me, my team and the organisation.

Dawnette Fessey,  
Southend Carers



# Grants uplift this year

The organisations we support, our grant partners, told us how they are facing real financial challenges and are worried about rising bills, alongside increased demand. In response, we gave smaller voluntary and community organisations that had received a grant from us in the past 12 months, an additional uplift of 10% on their grant or at least £500 to help towards their costs.

This resulted in **205** charities receiving a total of over **£135,000**. They were given the flexibility to use this for whatever they needed, and we know it provided some relief. We also contributed a further **£65,000** in cost-of-living grants to additional organisations affected by the crisis.



**Market Field Farm**, which provides land-based skills training and employment opportunities for young people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health issues, received an uplift grant.

# Longer-term support

Receiving a grant over more than one year, particularly towards running costs, helps to give groups certainty and stability, enabling them to spend more time focused on delivering their services. It can also give them space and time to develop and expand their work.



**Action for Family Carers**

This year, we were pleased to approve multi-year grants totalling **£390,996** to support local organisations, including:

**Abacus Counselling and Support**, based in Southend, received funding to pay for their Operations Manager over two years.

**Action for Family Carers**, based in Chelmsford, will receive support to run their information and support service for carers who have unpaid caring responsibilities for others, over the next three years.

**Blind and Sight Impaired Society** received funding over two years, to run an advice service in partnership with Essex Blind Charity, for patients attending Brentwood Community Hospital.

## Book space at our Foundation Hub

In January 2023, we launched our fully accessible Foundation Hub workspace. This offers bookable meeting rooms and breakout spaces with free Wi-Fi for use by our grant partners, past and current.

### OPENING HOURS:

Monday – Friday 9am to 4:30pm.

### WHERE TO FIND US:

Our Foundation Hub is conveniently located in Chelmsford city centre with excellent transport links to Chelmsford train and bus stations. We also have limited bookable parking spaces available.

### HOW TO BOOK:

Please email [hub@essexcf.org.uk](mailto:hub@essexcf.org.uk) for all booking enquiries.

**So far this space has been booked for 2,200 hours by local charities and groups.**

“Groups may only need space for an hour’s meeting or a short training session. They may just want to work in a different environment for the day. Whatever the reason, the Foundation Hub has something for all.”

*Caroline Taylor, CEO*



# Our funds

You can find out more about our funds and the stories behind them on our website.

Acorn Fund	Ellisons Foundation	Maypole House Charitable Fund
Ajvir Singh Sandhu Leadership Fund	Elspeth Hodgkinson Fund	Mersea Homes Charitable Fund
AJW Charitable Fund	Essex & Southend Sports Charitable Fund	Michael Pratley Charitable Fund
Alan and Fay Cherry Fund	Essex & Suffolk Water Community Fund	Mid and South Essex Mental Health Inequalities Programme
Alastair and Patricia Stewart Charitable Fund	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service Charitable Fund	Middlewick Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund
Alston Family Charitable Fund	Essex Education Fund	Middlewick Wind Farm Scholarship Fund
Annabel and Gerald Malton Charitable Fund	Essex Fund	Milsom Charitable Fund
Asquith Family Fund	Essex Heart Fund	Minter Family Fund
Austin Hicks Charitable Fund	Essex Rural Fund	Moody Fund
Ball Family Fund	Essex Young Musicians' Trust	Nicki Alvey Bazlinton Trust
Bartella Charitable Fund	EWAG Charitable Fund	NS Community Fund
Bartleet Family Fund	Firebird Fund	Opportunity Fund
Belinda Starling Memorial Fund	Frank Litchfield General Charitable Trust	Pioneer Fund
Bengtsen Family Fund	FW Charitable Fund	Police Property Act Fund
Beresford Foundation	Gallopers Wind Farm Community Fund	Poter Family Fund
Bill Southern Legacy Fund	Gary Sullivan Charitable Fund	Priest Foundation
Birkett Long Community Fund	George Courtauld's Educational Charity	Provide Foundation
Birketts Charitable Fund	Golbourn Family Fund	Rickard Luckin Community Fund
Blanc Family Fund	Gwendy Marrs Fund	River City Fund
Bradwell Wind Farm Community Fund	Harlow Education Trust	Roger and Jean Heath Charitable Fund
Braintree District and Eastlight Community Fund	Harlow Recreation Trust	RSM Community Fund
Brian and Julie Cue Fund	Harwich Haven Authority Community Fund	Saffron Community Fund
Britvic Community Fund	Harwich Mayflower Legacy Fund	Salix Trust
Brooks Family Fund	Harwich Peninsula Education Support Trust	Salter McKinlay Charitable Fund
Butler Educational Foundation	Hew Watt Family Charitable Fund	Searle Trust
Butler Family Fund	High Sheriffs' Fund	Sebright Fund
Charlie Watkins Foundation	Hills Family Charitable Fund	Sound Financial Planning Charitable Fund
Chelmsford Star Co-op Community Fund	Hollis Family Fund	Southend Community Fund
Christopher Holmes Charitable Fund	Honalee Fund	Southend Education Fund
Chrysalis Fund	Humphrey Pennington Fund	Spence Family Fund
Clark Family Charitable Fund	Hutton Charity	Squier Charitable Fund
Colchester Fund	Ian and Angela Marks Charitable Fund	Squirrel Fund
Collier Family Fund	Jack Elliott Fund	Stour Valley Environment Fund
Community Resilience Fund	Jean and Peter Davey Charitable Fund	Surviving Winter Appeal
Coode-Adams Firstsite Charitable Fund	Jerome Booth Charitable Fund	Taylor Family Fund
Cooibewood Amenities Fund	John and Wenna Marks Charitable Fund	Teledyne e2v Foundation
Crix Charitable Fund	Joseph and Lilian Sully Foundation	Thomas and Evelyn Gepp Charitable Fund
Daphne Woodward Home-Start Fund	Kay Jenkins Fund	Thriving Third Sector Fund
Dennis and Kathleen Smith Fund	Koinonia Charitable Fund	Thurrock Fund
Derrick and Margery Bailey Fund	Leeze Charitable Fund	Tinneveld Family Fund
Diana Tinson Fund	Link-Ed Mike Williamson Memorial Fund	Turncole Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund
Douglas Allen Emergency Fund	Little Braxted Community and Educational Fund	W G Stacey Family Fund
Douglas Allen Estate Agents Charity Fund	Longfield Solar Fund	White House Farm Charitable Fund
Duet Fund	LTC Community Fund	Wilkinson Family Fund
Dulverton Trust Fund	Malcolm and Beryl Crook Fund	William and Gladys Pudney Memorial Fund
Earls Hall Farm Community Benefit Fund	Manek Foundation	William Julien Courtauld Medical Fund
East of England Co-op Community Cares Fund	Margaretting Fund	Yellow Car Charitable Fund
ECF Team Fund	Marion Ruth Courtauld Educational Fund	Young Sport Fund



Essex Community Foundation is a Quality Accredited member of UK Community Foundations.



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