

Example of a grant awarded from Funds set up with Essex Community Foundation (ECF) and that received matched funding from the Proceeds of Crime Scheme also managed by ECF:

Market Field Farm is a charity formed in 2020 that operates across Colchester and Tendring. By delivering skills training in a working environment, they aim to improve the employment skills, opportunities and broader safety of young people with additional needs.

The young people who benefit from this service may have learning disabilities, autism or other mental health issues and may struggle to find similar chances elsewhere. They are also vulnerable to being victims of crime, bullied or targeted by gangs.

Market Field Farm received £1,200 from the Minter Family Community Safety Fund with ECF, enabling them to continue providing training in hospitality, horticulture, maintenance and administration. The group also has a gardening service through which they undertake conservation work and help to maintain community green spaces.

One of the young people now working for Market Field Farm started as one of their mentees in 2021. He was experiencing frustration and challenging behaviour in school and college following a diagnosis of ADHD. Staff described him as “happy and gaining confidence” during his time working with them, and that led to them asking him to join the team permanently as a mentor for other young people who needed support. He is now a mature and hard-working young man, inspiring others to talk about their difficulties in the same way he did.



According to statistics:

- Disabled people under 65 are more likely to experience violence than non-disabled people of the same age. For example, 13% of disabled people aged 16–24 have experienced violence, compared to 8% of non-disabled people.
- Children with disabilities are more likely to be victims of violent crime than non-disabled children. For example, children with ADHD are more than four times more likely to be victims of violence than non-disabled children.
- In 2021/22, there were 11,224 disability hate crimes reported to the police in England and Wales, which was a 25% increase from the previous year. Over half of the reports involved violence.
- Disabled people often prefer to report incidents to third party services, such as helplines and charities, rather than to the police