

Thrive Programme 2026

This is an exciting programme aimed at voluntary and community organisations.

Essex Community Foundation (ECF) is working with the Cranfield Trust to provide a nine-month programme of bespoke organisational development support. This will be the 7th Cohort of the Thrive Programme funded by the Thriving Third Sector Fund which was established to create an environment for a healthy and thriving third sector in Essex.

The nine-month programme provides an assessment and diagnostic of your organisation, bespoke mentoring and consultancy support, a development action plan for your organisation, learning and workshop events, peer to peer support and networking, and a wide range of resources developed by the Cranfield Trust.

Information Session

ECF and the Cranfield Trust are holding an information session about the Programme on **Wednesday 17th December at 3pm** with a backup session on **Wednesday 7th January at 11am**. Please submit your expression of interest here to attend the information session. The purpose of these sessions are to help you understand the requirements of the programme, we recommend joining the sessions before applying.

Apply to the Programme

To apply for this programme, please complete the short form [here](#) by **5pm on Wednesday 21st January**. Applications will be assessed on **Wednesday 28th January** and application responses will be issued on **Friday 30th January**.

Programme of Works

An introduction session for successful applicants will be held on **Wednesday 11th February**. An in-person session will take place on **Wednesday 18th March**, followed by a 2nd in-person session on **Wednesday 14th October**.

About the Cranfield Trust

[Cranfield Trust](#) is the leading pro bono management support organisation for the voluntary sector. Focusing on small to medium size charities, which provide vital services in our communities, but which have few resources to invest in management development and external support.

Programme Checklist Summary

- ✓ Our organisation is registered in Essex and is established for the benefit of people in Essex, Southend and Thurrock. (Your organisation does not need to benefit the whole county)
- ✓ Our organisation is a voluntary and community organisation (registered or non- registered charities, community interest companies, that are charitable in purpose)
- ✓ Our organisation helps people experiencing poverty, disability or social exclusion.
- ✓ Our organisation has received a grant from ECF within the last two years.
- ✓ Our organisation is, at all levels, open to change and has the potential to improve and develop.
- ✓ Our organisation has the capacity and commitment to dedicate time to the programme

Thank you for your interest in the Thrive Programme 2026.