

# Working with Young People to Build Communities

Essex Youth Service



**Commissioning  
through Community  
Capacity Building**



Essex County Council

# Essex Youth Service

Essex Youth Service is an excellent informal education, social and personal development service targeted at the most vulnerable young people from those communities that need our support the most. We commission through community capacity building to enable and support young people and partners from within our communities to deliver universally available positive leisure and personal development activities for themselves. Our Outcome Framework gives clear guidance on how these positive activities enable young people to achieve their full potential.

## What is youth work?

“ Youth workers dedicate their time and expertise to help young people in their personal and social development; equipping them with the practical skills they need to be resilient in challenging times and positive contributors to future economic growth ”

(National Youth Agency 2014)

## All youth work in Essex is based on four core values and is therefore:

**Educative** – Youth work in Essex helps young people to learn about themselves and others in society through informal educational activities which combine enjoyment, challenge and learning.

**Participative** – Youth work is unique in that young people are always encouraged to be involved in the design, delivery and governance of the services they are offered and participate in.

**Empowering** – Young people are supported to make choices about their life from a position of knowledge.

**Provide equality of opportunity** – Youth workers in Essex are committed to ensuring that all young people regardless of race, gender, cultural background, age, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or disability have equal access to good quality youth work.



# How and why we deliver youth work

Youth work in Essex happens in youth centres, schools, colleges, parks, streets, village halls, and shopping precincts. Youth work methods include support for individuals and communities, group work, bespoke programmes and learning through experience. All youth work methods offer young people a safe space to explore their identity, experience decision making, increase their confidence, develop inter-personal skills and evaluate the consequences of their actions. These methods lead to better informed choices, changes in behaviour and improved outcomes for young people.

## Youth work in the community

Using centre based, mobile and detached teams, professional youth workers facilitate youth work in a range of settings, working alongside young people in their own communities to deliver the services they want. Youth workers, acting as community based commissioners build relationships with key people and organisations to identify local need and develop appropriate provision to meet that need. They create opportunities for the community to learn new skills and to work together with young people to deliver accessible and challenging provision in the heart of their community.

Essex Youth Service supports young carers and additional needs provision throughout Essex. The work in communities also includes social action projects through the delivery of the National Citizen Service, Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteering and the Prince's Trust Team community projects.

### We support communities working with young people by helping them to access:

- Free volunteer training
- DBS checks
- Free curriculum support and resources
- Help with policies and procedures
- Access to premises
- Health and Safety guidance
- NEET reduction programmes
- Access to accreditations and awards
- A range of other support is also available



## Youth work in schools

Youth workers have the skills, knowledge and significant experience to work in schools and other educational establishments. The main aim of this work is to successfully re-engage young people in positive learning experiences and to enable them to take responsibility for their learning and boundaries. A number of programmes are designed to support students to achieve in school including reducing the number of young people potentially becoming NEET .

### Programmes to raise students' attainment include:

Alternative Education for Years 10 and 11

Complementary Education for Years 9 and 10

Managing Emotions

Qualifications

GOALs (a confidence building and motivational course)

Personal Social Health Education lessons

One to one support

Access to bespoke work experience

Support for Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Essex Dance Theatre

Bespoke programmes (available on request)

A range of accredited programmes



## Youth work with individuals

Youth Workers and Targeted Youth Advisers work on a one to one basis with young people to help them make informed choices about their lives and to identify and discuss the barriers preventing them from moving forward. They are skilled in building positive relationships with young people that engender an atmosphere of trust and safety, allowing issues to be explored and resolved. A variety of techniques are applied in order to encourage the young person to achieve the best possible outcome for themselves.

These interventions can be school based or EET focused can also be targeted for young offenders and care leavers.

## Youth work with partners

In order to achieve the best outcomes for young people, working with partners is essential. Essex Youth Service works with partners in a variety of ways to enrich provision and ensure an holistic approach to building capacity for young people to enable them to engage in their community.

Principal partners include Essex Youth Strategy Groups, Health Organisations, Essex Police, voluntary youth agencies, Local Strategic Partnerships, The Prince's Trust, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Young Carers groups, Awarding Organisations, National Citizen Service, Essex Boys and Girls Clubs, Youth Offending Service, Leaving and After Care, ECVYS, Youth Councils and forums.

Work undertaken with partners includes NEET reduction, healthy living, staying safe, emotional well-being, employability skills, qualifications and accreditations, volunteering opportunities, social action projects, crime reduction and young people having a voice.

### Essex Youth Service Contact details

County office: Tel no. 03330131496 or email: [youth.work@essex.gov.uk](mailto:youth.work@essex.gov.uk)

Local Youth Hub:



This information is issued by  
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