



Essex County Council

## People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee

<b>09:30</b>	<b>Wednesday, 15 February 2023</b>	<b>Committee Room 1 County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH</b>
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**For information about the meeting please ask for:**

Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

**Telephone:** 033301 34574

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		<b>Pages</b>
<b>**</b>	<b>Private Pre-Meeting for PAF Members</b> Please note that there will be a virtual private pre-meeting for members at 4.00pm on Tuesday 14 February.	
<b>1</b>	<b>Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest</b>	<b>4 - 4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes: 11 January 2023</b> To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2023.	<b>5 - 16</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Questions from the Public</b> A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting. Please note that members of the public wishing to ask a question must email <a href="mailto:democratic.services@essex.gov.uk">democratic.services@essex.gov.uk</a> by noon on the day before the meeting (Tuesday 14 February 2023) and that questions must relate to an item on the agenda for the meeting.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Disability Strategy</b>	<b>17 - 19</b>

**Part A: Discussion with Healthwatch Essex Ambassador Samantha Tracey (along with her communicator, Julie) on her lived experience**

**Part B: Consideration of draft Disabilities Strategy**

- |            |   |                |
|------------|---|----------------|
| <b>4.1</b> | <b>Draft Disability Strategy - titled 'Meaningful Lives Matter: Equal Lives for All'</b>  | <b>20 - 31</b> |
| <b>4.2</b> | <b>Engagement and consultation findings (Power Point presentation)</b>  | <b>32 - 35</b> |
| <b>4.3</b> | <b>Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment (ECIA)</b>  | <b>36 - 54</b> |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>Work Programme</b>   | <b>55 - 58</b> |
| <b>6</b>   | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b><br>To note that the next meeting will be held on Thursday 9 March 2023, in Committee Room 1, County Hall.   |                |
| <b>7</b>   | <b>Urgent Business</b><br>To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. |                |

### **Exempt Items**

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

**That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.**

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|----------|---|
| <b>8</b> | <b>Urgent Exempt Business</b><br>To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency. |
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## Agenda item 1

**Committee:** People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee

**Enquiries to:** Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer

### Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

#### Recommendations:

To note

1. Membership as shown below
2. Apologies and substitutions
3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Councillor R Gooding	Chairman
Councillor S Barker	
Councillor M Durham	
Councillor J Fleming	
Councillor M Goldman	
Councillor I Grundy	
Councillor C Guglielmi	Vice-Chairman
Councillor J Lumley	
Councillor P May	Vice-Chairman
Councillor A McGurran	
Councillor R Playle	
Councillor L Shaw	
Councillor W Stamp	
Councillor A Wiles	

Co-opted educational representative members may advise and vote on all matters relating to children's services in schools. Two places are available for church Diocesan representatives. Two further places are available for parent governors at maintained schools in Essex (one primary and one secondary school). All places are vacant but a new nomination for a church Diocesan representative has now been received – an update will be provided at the meeting.

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**Minutes of the meeting of the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held at 9.30am on Wednesday, 11 January 2023 in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford.**

**Present:**

*County Councillors:*

Cllr Ray Gooding (Chairman)  
Cllr Susan Barker  
Cllr Jude Deakin (substitute)  
Cllr Mark Durham  
Cllr Jane Fleming  
Cllr Ian Grundy  
Cllr Carlo Guglielmi (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr June Lumley (via Zoom)  
Cllr Peter May (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Aidan McGurran  
Cllr Mark Platt (substitute)  
Cllr Ross Playle  
Cllr Laureen Shaw

*Members of the Place Services and Economic Growth Policy and Scrutiny Committee:*

Cllr Paul Gadd (via Zoom)  
Cllr Alan Goggin  
Cllr Paul Honeywood (via Zoom)  
Cllr Dan Land  
Cllr James Newport (via Zoom)  
Cllr Mike Steel  
Cllr Holly Whitbread

Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer and Gemma Bint, Democratic Services Officer were also present.

**1 Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest**

The report on Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations was received.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Marie Goldman for whom Cllr Jude Deakin was substituting, Cllr Andrew Wiles for whom Cllr Mark Platt was substituting, Cllr Wendy Stamp and Cllr June Lumley who however joined the meeting via Zoom.

**2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2022 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

- Minute 4, under bullet point xviii – replace ‘Members challenged if such closures would adversely impact the implementation of the

Strategy and achieving outcomes.’ with ‘Members challenged that such closures would adversely impact the implementation of the Strategy and achieving outcomes.’

### **3 Questions from the public**

There were two questions from the public relating to agenda item 4 which were asked at the end of the introductory presentation for agenda item 4.

#### First Public Question: Andy Abbott

With no mention in the current strategy, can people in Essex be assured that the so-called "community libraries" plan has been dropped?

#### Second Public Question: Katy Vargas

Could we have a plan for the older children/pre-teen age group (approximately age 9-13), to build on efforts being made with younger children? This is an age when many children stop reading and visiting the library even if they did so before. In my own area (Colchester), the book stock for this group is poor - too young in the children's library, too old, too gendered or not open to them in the Young Adult section. There is also no physical, welcoming space for them where they don't have to sit amongst toddlers/very young children or adults for reading or research. I feel this would help to hold on to and develop existing child readers as well as attracting new older child readers, otherwise any progress made with the strategy could be undone as children grow older.

Please could we have a published local phone number for local libraries? The Essex switchboard is very frustrating as call handlers are not familiar with the library service and have even given me wrong information. This would fit the intention of improving communication with readers.

### **4 Everyone's Library Service 2022-2026 Update**

The Committee considered report PAF/01/23. The following attended the meeting to introduce the item and respond to questions:

- Cllr Louise McKinlay, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance
- Geoff Pearson, Service Delivery Plan Manager
- Carolyn Peters, Service Development Manager
- Juliet Pirez, Head of Libraries
- Jo Powell, Literacy Lead

Contributors provided the Committee with an update on the development of Everyone's Library Service 2022-2026 Plan including an update under the three pillars of the plan: Library Service and Literacy; Communications and Infrastructure; and Supporting our Communities and Levelling Up.

Within the opening presentation, it was highlighted that there had been an increase of active members, loans and visits in 2021-2022 and over 60,000 new members. There was an update on the progress of the Service Delivery Plan where projects included the creation of Literacy Areas in libraries and the Summer and Winter Reading Challenges as well as library services for adults.

A smaller mobile library van was leased in May 2022, it had visited 68 venues and had signed up 332 new members. A communications plan was being developed to highlight the service and target it in the right places.

In response to the Public Questions and subsequent discussion, the following was highlighted, raised and/or noted:

- (i) The Cabinet Member confirmed they were not currently seeking or accepting offers from voluntary groups to take over current professionally run libraries.
- (ii) Volunteers were important to assist with the delivery of the service and were in addition to paid staff. Staff reviews took place throughout the year, looking at what resources were in place and how that fitted with skillsets and any staff training required.
- (iii) Some members referred to previous public feedback to not reduce the library service. The Cabinet Member confirmed her commitment to maintaining the current 74 libraries.
- (iv) Broader communications on accessing libraries services would be considered.
- (v) The 9-13 age group was a notoriously difficult group to reach and influence and a significant portion of the Summer Reading Challenge had tried to focus on this group, and the service wanted to see this extended and expanded further and to look at what could be made more relevant to younger people.
- (vi) A welcoming space for the 9-13 age group would be considered although it might only be an option for larger libraries, and there could be funding implications, including for signage and seating.
- (vii) Currently there was one commercial charge to hire library space but from April a new charge would be introduced which would focus on supporting more partnership and community initiatives in the libraries. These cheaper community rates would soon be published.

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- (viii) Members asked if consideration could be given to provide adult changing facilities for disabled customers in the design of the new Shenfield library.
  - (ix) There had been a recent exercise to make sure all paperwork, such as public liability insurance, was in place for all those organisations hiring library space and that the process was as streamlined as possible and not an unnecessary burden.
  - (x) Some members referred to the Warm Welcome winter initiative encouraging greater use of library buildings but pointed out that a significant number of libraries did not have public toilets. All libraries had staff toilets but they were often located in the back office although it was expected that staff would not refuse a customer request to use the staff toilet. All new buildings would have public toilets. Members suggested that if there was an opportunity to seek alternative funding to enhance those particular facilities it would be worth pursuing that in the future. Members highlighted that it was important to have disabled friendly toilets in libraries.
  - (xi) Developer contributions for future large developments would need to include consideration of and impact on library provision and future locations.
  - (xii) A further roll-out of library cards targeted at sixth form students would be considered, although it was highlighted that there had already been some interactions in some places with this cohort by Community Connectors.
  - (xiii) Promotion of library services would focus more on communicating what was happening locally. There were implications on how this would be resourced and keeping it updated.
  - (xiv) A communications plan was being developed, targeting geographical areas and audiences, and around reaching non-users.
  - (xv) All partnership work and projects were being delivered throughout the year and it was hoped that this would start to have an impact to help more consistent usage of the library throughout the year.
  - (xvi) The service would be looking at suitable key performance measures to evaluate each of the projects underway.
  - (xvii) All sites for the mobile library had recently been reviewed and there were further plans to look at the sites that were not attracting many users. Requests for new sites were received all



the time. The service would be looking to implement changes to the timetable in consultation with the public over the next few months.

Conclusion:

It was **agreed**:

- A discussion would take place off-line with Cllr Aidan McGurran on the school welcome programme in Harlow and whether there were opportunities for further roll-out (especially in Basildon).
- To provide amended trend data and charts that compared to periods/years before the pandemic and not just 2021.
- That, as part of a future scrutiny session, and further to an upcoming public consultation, to include more information on what users and potential users want from their libraries and what matters to them.
- More information would be provided on the campaign to issue library tickets to encourage usage and particularly how many of the tickets issued had subsequently been used to loan books and to breakdown, if possible, by adult and children. It was stressed that the service wanted to encourage broader use of libraries and not just focus on loans.
- Members were concerned by some of the data on current performance on literacy. The Chairman advised that he was already minded inviting the Chairman of the Education Task Force to discuss these and other challenges with the Committee in the near future and indicated that he would like to extend that discussion to include Cllr Louise McKinlay and appropriate officers as well as Cllr Tony Ball and education officers.

Contributors were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11.15am and recommenced at 11.30am.

**5 Update on the HCRG Contract for the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service**

The Committee considered report PAF/02/23. The following attended the meeting to introduce the item and respond to questions:

- Cllr Beverley Egan, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Early Years
- Adrian Coggins, Head of Wellbeing and Public Health
- Richard Comerford, HCRG Care Group
- Kathleen Ely, HCRG Care Group
- Christopher Martin, Director – Strategic Commissioning & Policy (C&F)

- Carolyn Terry, EYCC Sufficiency and Sustainability Manager

Contributors provided the Committee with an update on the performance under the HCRG Care Group Contract for the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service (ECFWS) and proposed next steps. The update included background on the contract, what was unique about the Essex contract, performance to date, support offered by ECFWS to Essex families during the pandemic and challenges. It was highlighted that the contract was for 7 years with the option to extend for a further 3 years, and that the contract had started in April 2017 and was currently in year 6. There were 22 Outcome Measures focused on improving life experiences for children and families in Essex with over 100 activity-based KPIs sitting underneath those 22 measures. Under the ECFWS contract, in West Essex HCRG were also co-contracting with the NHS in providing additional children's therapy services.

During the subsequent discussion, the following was highlighted, raised and/or noted:

- (i) HCRG had put together a fully integrated, co-located multi-disciplinary team around each Family Hub / district in response to families saying they wanted to tell their story only once to a single trusted person.
- (ii) All HCRG volunteers had to complete a safeguarding awareness programme. However, it was acknowledged that training was not offered to individuals/families who decided to run their own support group but this could be looked into.
- (iii) ECC was the only council which was commissioning for outcomes rather than activity. Therefore, it was difficult to benchmark against other local authorities when they did not have a comparable outcomes-based contract. Families were asked for feedback on whether they think goals had been achieved.
- (iv) It was acknowledged that it remained a challenge to encompass everything into a holistic offer that extended into the 5-19 age group but there were some examples of linkages being made by HCRG such as transition assessments before children started school, the school nurse service, supporting the PHSE programme in schools, drop-in sessions in schools and some specific work with young carers.
- (v) The hard-to-reach often needed the most interventions and were often identified needing additional support in later life. Some limited data was available on reach within the educational system that could be used for analysis. There was a 2-year check facilitating a way to track issues earlier and further

analysis was being undertaken on younger children not going up in the age groups, this could be reported in future years.

- (vi) It was thought that every family was registered with the service as local maternity services advised the service of all their pregnancies. Vulnerabilities within the family were assessed against 7 specific categories and appropriate support was then put into place. Data collected could be provided on population and levels of need.
- (vii) Members referred to the initial performance slide and the percentage of outcomes being met. Members felt that it needed to show more than just a raw percentage and needed to show target outcomes against it and commentary on reasons for any missed targets.
- (viii) For the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities, the service was trying to coordinate a programme of Outreach across as many organisations as possible, particularly through the Essex Countywide Traveller Unit. Outcomes were worse in the GRT communities than the general population. The complete offer was available to those communities and more local activities were also run.
- (ix) The flexible structure of the multi-disciplinary teams helped support career progression. Retaining the workforce in south Essex in particular had been a struggle which was often due to the fact that it bordered London and staff could earn more money working there. Open days and workshops took place to encourage people to return to nursing, and other ways to attract people into the service were always being considered, including paying training and education fees and golden hellos.
- (x) The service co-located with some libraries and operated hubs within them. In other areas the outreach service visited libraries. The service was taking part in the Year of Reading and were undertaking a range of activities in libraries and around reading in primary schools to support that programme. ECC was working closely with library staff to look at how the library offer could be further diversified. A workshop took place at the end of 2022 with stakeholders.
- (xi) There were also some benefits and linkages from HCRG's involvement in other contracts such as providing some Tier 2 support within the North East London Foundation Trust's emotional wellbeing and mental health services contract with Essex and they had also successfully bid to provide some support services for children with autism admitted to hospital.

- (xii) For the first seven years the contract price was on an annual taper with the final three years fixed.
- (xiii) Staff received training on the data systems being used including ensuring that data stored was in line with national guidance around data collection, data storage and GDPR.

Conclusion:

It was **agreed** that:

- A table showing all 22 Outcomes and target outcomes with all KPIs would be produced.
- More information on the Affinity Programme would be provided to Members.
- Further information on the rate of the contract would be provided to Members.
- Further clarification be provided on the availability of statistics measuring reach, and the number of hard-to-reach families missing out on the early years services who were then later identified needing additional support in later life

Contributors were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting.

**6 Work Programme**

The Committee considered and discussed report PAF/03/23 comprising the work programme for the committee.

**7 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 15 February 2023. The Committee also considered and agreed future meeting dates for the Committee set out in report PAF/04/23.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.10pm.

**Chairman**

MATTERS ARISING (page 1 of 4)

Further to the request at the 14 December 2022 meeting of the Committee, further work will be progressed to close-off as many of the outstanding items as soon possible.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
11 January 2023	Everyone's Library Service 2022-2026 Update	To provide amended trend data and charts that compared to periods/years before the pandemic and not just 2021	TBC
		That, as part of a future scrutiny session, and further to an upcoming public consultation, to include more information on what users and potential users want from their libraries and what matters to them	To be picked up at the next update on libraries.
		Members were concerned by some of the data on current performance on literacy. The Chairman advised that he was already minded inviting the Chairman of the Education Task Force to discuss these and other challenges with the Committee in the near future and indicated that he would like to extend that discussion to include Cllr Louise McKinlay and appropriate officers as well as Cllr Tony Ball and education officers	To be scheduled
	Update on the HCRG Contract for the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service	A table showing all 22 Outcomes and target outcomes with all KPIs would be produced	TBC
		More information on the Affinity Programme would be provided to Members	TBC
		Further information on the rate of the contract would be provided to Members	TBC

<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
		Further clarification on the availability of statistics measuring reach, and the number of hard-to-reach families missing out on the early years services who were then later identified needing additional support in later life	TBC
14 December 2022	Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2022-2027: End of Year One Update	Further information be provided on the lobbying undertaken by the County Council with Government, the Local Government Association and other bodies to help drive further improvement in standards and outcomes.	
		A more detailed report of the 2022 EY Foundation Stage profile which measured a good level of development – which had been the first published data since pre-pandemic – would be circulated	
		A further broad update would be arranged in due course	
	SEND Strategy Update	To talk to representatives from the Family Forum in the new year to seek their views on the changes to services being seen and the challenges still being faced.	
		Cabinet Member and officers to come back in six months with a further update to include some analysis of numbers and spend compared with other local authorities	
10 November 2022	Adult Community Learning	A further update would be brought to the committee in the new year including a work plan (particularly on implementation of strategy and related workstreams), progress and impact of actions so far.	Scheduled for next meeting.
13 October 2022	Domestic Abuse update	Further data on how domestic abuse cases broke down by area to be provided to the Committee.	Timing TBC
		An information leaflet/card would be circulated to food banks before Christmas.	TBC
		Information cards for COMPASS would be sent to members if this had not already been done.	TBC

<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
	Domestic Abuse update continued...	It would be looked into whether support was provided to those victims who were directed to commercial rental market.	TBC
		Further information on cases where private legal proceeding in family court being brought against victims inappropriately.	TBC
		Opportunities to work with the Refugee Council would be raised with the Domestic Abuse Board.	TBC
		The impact of Court backlogs was discussed regularly at the Domestic Abuse Board. It was agreed an update would be provided on the current situation	TBC
		More detail would be provided on the figures showing a rise of repeat victims.	TBC
8 September 2022	Essex Adults Safeguarding Board	An operational briefing would be arranged [this may incorporate further information on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards]	To be scheduled later in the year
		Further information and breakdown on the age bands use for some disclosures	TBC
		A breakdown of the contributions made by the three statutory partners would be provided	TBC
	Essex Adults Safeguarding Board cont..	More information would be provided on the continued upskilling of the care sector in safeguarding and awareness.	TBC
		Further update to be provided in due course incorporating suicide prevention work	Chairman and VCs to decide on timing for a formal follow-up
14 April 2022	Essex Safeguarding Children Board update	Information on accessing services in the Dengie area to be provided	TBC

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Status
		More knife bins should be placed in smaller towns, including placing them within Essex libraries to prevent vandalism	TBC
		Broader conclusions around (i) MASA arrangements, (ii) further streamlining Board activities, (iii) continued focus on County Lines and (iv) stronger links to Everyone's Essex aspirations and priorities,	To be taken up by the PAF Chairman and VCs with the Independent Chairman
	Our Co-Parenting Strategy – How we do Corporate Parenting in Essex	A Champion within each district/borough for children in care and care leavers should be considered	TBC
		Priority policies on housing allocation to help give young people the opportunity to progress in life be considered	TBC
		That figures be included within the introduction section showing the number of children taken into care in the last three years	TBC
		The paragraph regarding co-grandparents in the Strategy be expanded	TBC
		Further consideration be given to increasing the corporate parenting role at Full Council	TBC
		Further consideration be given to how to encourage other anchor organisations to help and that a guarantee of a job interview could be a significant first step.	TBC



Reference number: PAF/04/23

<b>Report title: Disability Strategy</b>	
<b>Report to:</b> People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Ruth Harrington, Director of ASC for Adults with Disabilities	
<b>Date:</b> 15 February 2023	<b>For:</b> Discussion
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Ruth Harrington, Director of ASC for Adults with Disabilities ( <a href="mailto:Ruth.Harrington@essex.gov.uk">Ruth.Harrington@essex.gov.uk</a> ) Chris Martin, Director of Strategic Commissioning and Policy for Children and Families ( <a href="mailto:Chris.Martin2@essex.gov.uk">Chris.Martin2@essex.gov.uk</a> ) Rachel Williams, Senior Policy Advisor ( <a href="mailto:Rachel.Williams@essex.gov.uk">Rachel.Williams@essex.gov.uk</a> )	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex.	

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report introduces the draft disability strategy document that is out to public consultation, and an overview of the engagement and consultation activity that has informed it so far and invites feedback and questions on these.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To review the draft strategy document and provide feedback as part of the discussion or via the consultation process.
- 2.2. To review the process through which the strategy is being developed and take opportunity to ask any questions on this or on the content of the strategy.

## 3. Summary

- 3.1 People with disabilities have the right to a full life but they are often marginalised within our society. Whilst the current social care offer enables many good outcomes, we know that these aren't always consistent. Demographics and demand for services are challenging and require us to use resources efficiently and ensure sustainability within the system.
- 3.2 There is opportunity to address barriers in society and better meet what people want from their lives. The strategy document sets a clear ambition and commitment to do this. It is for the next 4 years and covers adults in Essex who have a learning disability, a physical disability or a sensory impairment.
- 3.3 Engagement with people with disabilities and the carers, providers and partners has taken place over the last few years and indicated what people want in their lives and what their strengths and challenges are. Over the past year we have undertaken more focused engagement such as surveys, 1:1 interviews and group discussion sessions. Our learning has uncovered 4 key aspirations that people with disabilities have told us are most important to them in their lives and which have formed the core of the strategy document. These are:

- 3.3.1 Meaningful relationships within a community, including with families, partners, friends, groups of people with similar interests and carers
- 3.3.2 A suitable place to live and call home, whether that is a person's own home or another accommodation that best allows their needs to be met
- 3.3.3 Ability to maintain as good health and wellbeing as possible, including financial wellbeing, and personal safety
- 3.3.4 Access to meaningful activity during the day, such as education, employment and volunteering, or other fulfilling day activities, which may include opportunities to contribute to society and the economy
- 3.4 The strategy aligns with the Everyone's Essex plan for levelling up. It links to the strategic framework set out within the Adult Social Care (ASC) business plan, contributing towards the vision of 'enabling people to live their lives to the fullest.' It also connects with related strategies such as the Carers Strategy.
- 3.5 The strategy is in accordance with the Care Act and its principles around community-based support and prevention, and the Health and Care Act and integration.
- 3.6 A 12-week public consultation is running until 23<sup>rd</sup> February, inviting feedback on the content of the strategy from all residents of Essex and particularly people with disabilities, their carers and families and those who support people with disabilities as part of their work. The consultation has been made as accessible to a wide range of needs as possible and has included in-person and online focus groups and drop-in sessions with people with disabilities. As of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, 139 people have been engaged in the consultation.
- 3.7 After the consultation period, the strategy will be amended with the feedback. A decision will be taken to endorse the strategy to launch in April 2023.
- 3.8 To implement the strategy, the Meaningful Lives Matter programme is already delivering and will develop its future work to deliver against the 4 key aspirations. Yet to fully address barriers and maximise outcomes for people with disabilities, we also plan to develop our work with partners across the system to enable the change that needs to happen.

#### **4. List of Appendices**

- 4.1 Draft Disability Strategy document – titled 'Meaningful Lives Matter: Equal Lives for All'
- 4.2 Engagement and consultation findings (Power Point presentation titled Disability Strategy Engagement – January 2023).
- 4.3 Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment (ECIA).

4.4 The online consultation (<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/disability-strategy-consultation>).

## Meaningful Lives Matter: Equal Lives for All

### Section 1:

#### **Foreword**

People with disabilities have the right to the best life they can have. But right now, they often get left out of things. The things that are important to us, and make all our lives meaningful, don't always happen for people with disabilities.

We believe that people are disabled by barriers - things in the world around them that stop them from living a normal life - instead of by their health problem or how they are different to other people. We want to remove barriers so that people can live better lives.

We are already helping lots of people in Essex to live the best life they can. We need to make sure this is the case for every person. We want to help people get what they want and expect from their lives. To do this we will support each person by understanding who they are and what they might need across the whole of their life.

The numbers of people who have a disability and who might need help from social care is going up. We need to use our money carefully to make sure we have enough to help people in the future.

This strategy will set out the change we want to bring about. It will make a commitment to people in Essex who have a disability. It will show where we can work better together with others.

The [Meaningful Lives Matter](#) work is already helping to make life better for people with learning disabilities and autism in Essex. Now we want it to help make life better for people with sight and hearing loss and physical disabilities too.

#### **What is this strategy about?**

This strategy will help us plan what needs to change. It will include:

- How things are being done now
- How people feel about things now
- What we need to do in the future to make things better

This strategy is for people in Essex who have:

- A learning disability
- A physical disability including people with brain injury
- A sensory impairment – part or full loss of eyesight and/ or hearing.

The strategy covers people who have more than one disability or have autism as well as one of these disabilities. Some people have support from social care. Other people are not in contact with social care.

We recognise that language is important when talking about disability and autism. Different people prefer different terms. For example, some people use the terms 'autistic people' and 'disabled people', 'neurodiverse, autistic or disabled community', 'people with autism' and 'people with disabilities', or others. In this document we will be using the terms people with autism and people with disabilities.

People with autism might also be interested in [All-age autism strategy](#) which was developed through the Essex All Age Autism Partnership.

We are looking at the things that help people in life. This will include:

- where people live
- who they spend time with
- what they do for work or in their free time
- health services
- social care services

To write this strategy we have spoken with lots of people with disabilities and listened to their experiences and ideas. We have spoken with families and carers. We have spoken with other organisations. We learnt that for a good strategy:

- we need to keep talking and working with people
- we need to be creative and bold
- we need to measure whether we are making things better and how much.

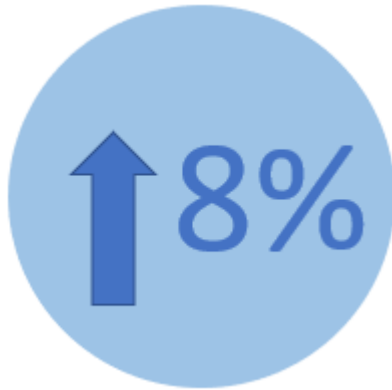
The strategy is for the next 4 years. We can't do everything in 4 years, but we can make a good start.

### **Why is this strategy important?**

There are more people with disabilities living in Essex every year. About 1 in every 6 people in Essex has a long-term health problem or disability.

There are also more people with disabilities who need help every year. This is partly because some people didn't get the help they needed during the pandemic. Other people feel more alone and are less independent since the pandemic.

The number of people with sensory impairment is set to grow from 240,000 (in 2020) to 310,000 (in 2030).



The number of people with learning disabilities who need help from social care will likely go up by 8% by 2030.

Some people get help from social care. Other people don't need as much help. Some people get help from other places. We want to make sure everyone gets the help they need. We also want to stop people's needs getting worse.

Most people with a learning disability tell us that they have enough social contact. Most also say that they are able to spend time on things they enjoy. But over 30% of people with physical or sensory needs tell us they don't have enough social contact. Over 40% of people with physical or sensory needs say they can't do the things they want to do.

It is getting harder to pay for all the things we would like to. It isn't clear how much money we will have in the future or what it will need to cover. Because of this we need to spend money carefully.

This strategy will work together with other things we have to do and choose to do:



## **Adult Social Care in Essex**

In Adult Social Care we want to help people and communities to live the best lives they can.

This strategy will help work towards the things we want to make happen for people. We want people to:

- have friends and have people around them that they love
- be independent and feel good about themselves
- have choice and control over their lives
- be able to work if they choose to
- access meaningful activity
- get the same good health and care service as everyone else
- have a comfortable home
- be involved in their local community
- be safe.

This strategy will also be guided by how we work in Adult Social Care:

- We work together with many different organisations
- We make sure our care and support is right for each individual person
- We do everything we can to support people as close to where they live as we can.
- We are always trying to improve what we do
- We work with you to decide what is needed and what works best.
- We always try to deal with problems as soon as we can before things get worse.

There are some extra things that are important for people with disabilities:

- Individuals should feel their disability is fully understood by the people around them,
- Support should change when needs change.

## **Section 2**

We have talked with lots of people with disabilities. They told us what they want from their lives. We have more people still to talk with but, so far, we have learned that:

- People want to have good relationships.
- People want to live somewhere that feels like home.
- People want to stay healthy, well and safe.
- People want to do things that are important to them and their community and that help them to feel part of something. This might include working in a job or learning new things.

We will look at each of these things in more detail. There are links that go between each of them and some ideas that keep coming up in all of them. For example, people want to:

- make choices
- get the care and support they need when they need it
- people to see them as they are and what they can do as well as what they can't
- treat them with respect

## **Good relationships**

### What you told us

You told us that you want to grow and keep good relationships in your life. You like to spend time with people that you get on well with, you want to love and be loved and you want people around you who understand you and your disability too. Sometimes you also need help from other people. You might get help from your family or friends, or from a person whose job it is to help you.

Some of you feel left out from the normal things people do together. You might find it hard to access local places or not know about groups you could join. Some of you don't feel safe going out alone. Because of this you might feel lonely or have difficulties with your health and wellbeing. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this worse for lots of you.

Some people only have a small group of people that are there for them. This means that the carers they need help from have to work very hard.

Carers and support workers don't always understand disabilities. This might mean people don't get support the way they need it.

### What else do we know?

People with disabilities are more likely to feel lonely than other people. Over 30% of people with physical or sensory needs told us they didn't have enough social contact. Lots of people in society don't understand how certain health problems or disabilities affect people. Some people don't have the right help to be able to communicate with others or to go out to places to meet people.

Lots of people who have help from social care have good conversations with their social worker. They are seen for who they are. But there aren't enough social workers and people sometimes wait a long time to see one. Social workers are busy and can be rushed. They spend less time face-to-face with people than they used to. This sometimes means they don't have time to help people plan for the future.

We found out lots about what carers need when we spoke with them. This can be seen in the [Carers Strategy](#).

### Where do we need to focus?

We commit to make sure that in the future:

- more people will have the chance to love others and be loved



- people will feel more of a part of their local community
- people will feel closer to other people who like the same things they do
- People will feel their staff understand them better.

Some people need help to go out, make connections and to see friends. We want to make it easy for people to find and get the help they need to keep up or make new relationships.

We are making changes to how people who work in social care help people. They will:

- understand that everyone deserves to have loving relationships
- help people to stay close to their friends and family
- help people make new friends if they want to
- understand every single person is different. This includes understanding different disabilities and understanding trauma.
- help people with their communication

To do this we will look at how we find the right staff within our services and the services we pay for. We will support staff to have the right skills and to have the time to meet with people face-to-face. We will support all staff to think about the good relationships we need and how we help other people connect and find these relationships at different times of our lives.

We will also work with communities. Communities are found in local places like the village or town where you live or where people who enjoy the same things come together. They might include groups of people who meet up to talk about a shared interest or do activities they enjoy together. We are asking communities to welcome and include people with disabilities. We want community spaces to be easy to access and feel safe.

We need to listen to and work with people with disabilities more. This will help make sure change makes things better.

## **A place to feel at home**

### What you told us

You told us that where you live is important. You want to live in a safe place that feels like home. You need your home to work for you. This means you can move around and do things within your home. It may also mean it is close to transport that you can access and places that you can go out to.

You want to have a choice in where you live. Some people want to live on their own. Most people want to live close to family and friends and feel part of their local area.

The right care and support is important to making your home work for you. Some people have to go a long way from their local area to find the right place to live with the right support.

#### What else do we know?

20% of people with physical or sensory needs tell us that their home doesn't meet all their needs. There aren't enough of the right places to live for some people with complex needs. There aren't enough care workers in some areas.



Some people could live more independently than they do now. People don't always have information what is available.

Services aren't always set up to help people to progress.

#### Where do we need to focus?

We commit to make sure that in the future:

- More people have their own home if they want this. This might be a private home or in Supported Living. This will help them to be more independent.
- More people have short term help to learn independent living skills. This could be through living with a Shared Lives host. Or it could be another option such as a short term residential services.
- There will be suitable housing options for adults with very complex needs.

To do this we are making changes to how social workers and care staff help people. They will:

- Work to help people to be more independent
- focus on what a person can do instead of what they can't
- help people to make choices and plans.

We will also work with the care market to increase choice of places to live within Essex. We want as many people as possible to have their own front door. We will help to make sure people have the information they need to find the right home for them.

The right technology and equipment can help people to live in their own home or access the community independently. It can also help to keep people safe and reassure families without being too intrusive. We will help to make sure there is enough of this and that it is easy to find.

## **Staying healthy, safe and well**

### What you told us

You told us that looking after your health is important. You would like to stay well and be able to get help quickly if you are unwell. You also want to feel safe.

You don't always have the right information to know about what could help you, especially early on in adult life. This makes it hard to keep yourself well. Sometimes there is a long wait for services. When you do use services you may have to repeat the same information about yourself lots of times. You may find your preferred methods of communication are not recorded.

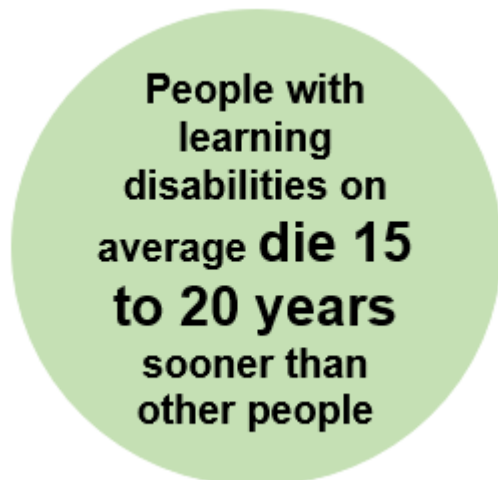
You would like to feel more in control of your health and care. If you need help with your mental health you need this to be from someone who understands your disability.

Some people find it hard to plan for the future. Many don't think about how their health might change over time or as they get older.

### What else do we know?

Over 30% of people with disabilities say they don't feel as safe as they would like.

Disability can be a result of illness. Disability also makes poor health more likely.



Many people with learning disabilities die earlier in life than other people. They are more likely to be unwell with physical or mental illness and not get the right treatment quickly enough.

Poor health and disability increase the need for social care. People often don't plan ahead for changes in their health.

More people feel alone or have mental illness after the pandemic. The things that help them may have stopped or had delays.

We know that services like health and social care are not always joined up. Services can be hard to access.

### Where do we need to focus?

We commit to make sure that in the future:

- More people feel that their health is good
- More people know how to feel even better
- People have the technology and equipment that helps them to live their lives.

To do this we will work with partners like the NHS to:

- grow skills and awareness around disabilities
- help stop people getting unwell where we can
- diagnose people quickly and make sure their needs are known about
- help people recover their health or increase what they can do after an illness or injury.
- make sure services help people with disabilities to be active and healthy
- give people control over their own health and care records
- help people to plan ahead for changes in health

This will include sharing information, costs and staff to make sure services join up.

To do this we will take action on things that make it more likely for people to get unwell. For example, where people don't have a job or enough money, or live in poor housing.

We will help people get the information and treatment they need to get well and stay well. This includes young people who are leaving school or college. All services should meet the [Accessible Information Standard](#).

## **Being active**

### What you told us

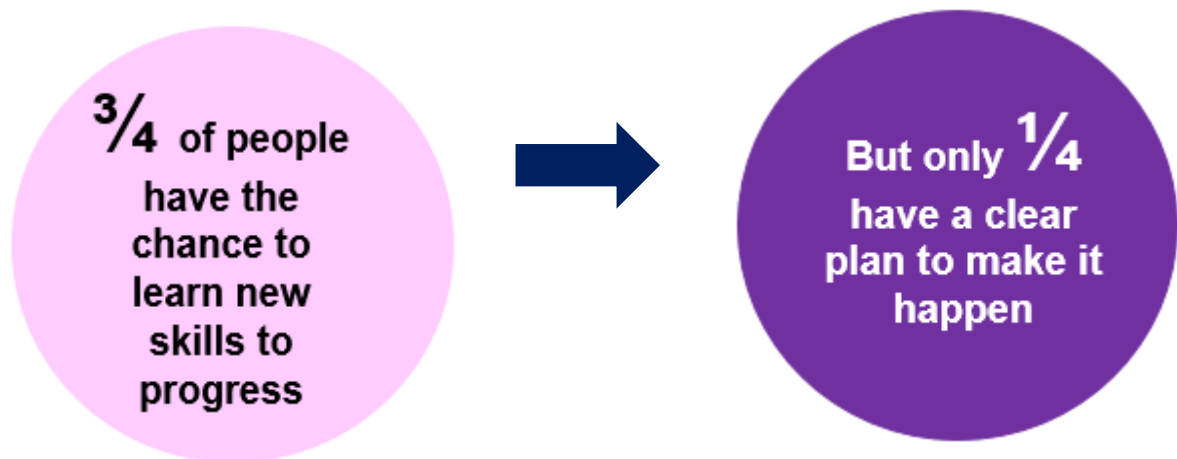
You told us that you like to do things that are important to you and your community. You want to feel part of something. Some of you would like to have a job or keep and develop the jobs you have. Some of you want to learn new things or help other people. You want to play a role in the world around you, spend time with other people and have fun.

However, it can be difficult to find a job or information about what it's like to have a job, the support available and how having a job will impact benefits. There are also barriers in both applying for jobs and getting to work. You might feel limited in the types of jobs you can apply to.

Some people have low confidence in their skills and abilities. Lots of people feel that those around them have low expectations for them.

### What else do we know?

People with disabilities are less likely to have a job than other people. If they have a job, they are less likely to be paid for the work that they do.



Lots of people don't understand how certain health problems or disabilities affect people. This can make it harder to work with a disability.

#### Where do we need to focus?

We commit to make sure that in the future:

- More people who want to work will be able to work
- People who already work feel supported in their job and able to progress
- People have choice and control over what they do every day

To help more people with disabilities start and stay in a job we will:

- make sure this is part of conversations with social workers and support workers
- include a person's family in conversations about getting and keeping a job
- focus on what people can do instead of what they can't do.
- talk to businesses about why they should give more paid jobs to people with disabilities and help them to do this.
- make sure there is the right transport to get people to work

We help young people to get ready for their adult lives. An important part of this for lots of young people is getting ready to get a job and go to work.

For people who can't work right now we will help them to do other things that are important to them. They might like to go out and about in their community more or learn a new skill or hobby.

#### Section 3:

##### **How we will make it happen**

We recognise that everyone with a disability has different lives, strengths and ambitions. We will need to do different things for different people to meet our ambitions. The

Meaningful Lives Matter project is working towards the four goals in this strategy in the following ways:

*For good relationships:* Local Linked Support teams are helping people with learning disabilities build relationships with others. We would like to expand this kind of support to people with a physical or sensory need. Our “Bfriends” peer support and mentoring service is being piloted. If that goes well we will expand this across Essex.

*For a place to feel home:* We have “Move On Workers” to help adults move to the most suitable home for them. We are looking at developing purpose- built accommodation for people with brain injuries.

*For staying healthy, safe and well:* We are working with health services to make it easier for people to use services. We want to make sure staff understand, and are well trained, to look after people as they get older. We are making changes to the Essex Sensory Service. This is so it will have better advice and guidance and shorter waiting times.

*For being active:* We are working hard to help people get and stay in paid work. We work with local businesses to get them to give paid jobs to people with a learning disability and/or autism. We have one of the biggest inclusive employment services in the country. We are looking at how this service can grow even more. We want to work with care providers to make sure activities help people to learn new skills. We also want activities to connect people to their communities.

We will continue to make these planned changes but also:

- think about the order things need to happen in and what is most important
- continue to empower people with disabilities to work with us as partners in making sure people get the best care and support possible
- keep people up to date on what is happening using the Meaningful Lives Matter programme
- test new ideas before rolling them out
- spend money carefully and on the right things

We will make sure that other work going on supports this strategy. This includes work around:

- Social care practice and workforce
- The different services that are on offer. For example, helping to make more places suitable for people with disabilities to live.
- Joining up health and care services. For example, asking health partners to look at how their plans can keep people healthy.
- Technology

- Data and information

We will think about other ways we can make changes. This could include:

- teaching people to be more aware of disabilities and how to make sure services are easy to access
- working with a range of organisations like the police, job centres, and teams that plan new places.
- sharing information with people and communities

The Adult Leadership Team at ECC will be in charge of what needs to happen in Adult Social Care. This group has directors for different parts of Essex. It also has other senior people from ECC.

### **How we'll know it's worked**

We will look to talk with people with disabilities about how things are going in their lives. We will also look at data. We want to understand how things are changing. We want to make sure things get better over time.

At the moment we can measure:

- Number of people with disabilities who have a paid job. We want this to go up.
- % of people with disabilities who live in a care-home. We want this to go down.

In the future we will measure:

- % of people who have help from social care who are moving towards their personal goals. We want this to go up.
- & of people who have help from social care who have three or more 'good' relationships in their life. We want this to go up.

Where we can, we will look at how things are changing in different parts of Essex. We will also look at how things are changing for people of different race, gender, and sexual orientation. This is because we want things to get better for everyone. We want the change to be fair.



# Disability Strategy

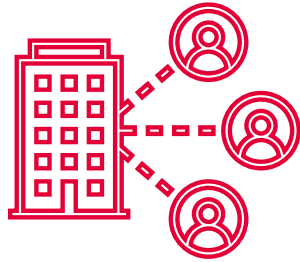
## Engagement

January, 2023



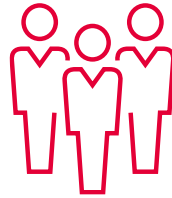


# Who Did We Engage?



## Providers

- Essex care market provider forums
- Survey of Essex care providers
- Physical Impairment Partnership Group
- Sensory Community Partners
- Autism Wider Network
- Autism networking event
- A family perspective



## Residents

- Working Together For Change – Survey of adults with lived experience
- Family and carers engagement survey
- Healthwatch/Collaborate Essex
- Sensory Strategic Partnership Group
- Physical Impairment Steering Group



## Staff and Partners

- Essex County Council staff 1:1s
- Essex County Council staff forums
- Learning Disabilities (LD) & Autism Ops Meeting
- Countywide Practice Forum
- Physical and Sensory Impairment (PSI) managers meeting
- Strategic Partnership Group
- Disabilities commissioning meeting
- PSI South – Pre forum
- LD/ PSI Forum
- Health Inequalities meeting
- South East alliance meeting
- Southend Council meeting
- Thurrock Council meeting
- Basildon and Brentwood alliance meeting
- Adults Leadership Team
- Meetings with quadrants

# How We Shaped The Strategy

During the initial stages of creating the Disability Strategy, as well as looking at existing ECC products such as the Carers Strategy, Meaningful Lives Matter programme, and the Business Plan, we took part in various engagements that helped us shape what the strategy would look like. Below are just some of the ways that our initial engagement has helped to form the first draft of the Disability Strategy:

<b>We have included people with autism in the strategy</b>	<p>During initial engagement it became clear that adults with autism felt they should be included in the strategy in some way, complimenting the already existing Autism Strategy.</p> <p>As such people who have autism as well as another disability are included in this work.</p>
<b>We are focussing on the housing market</b>	<p>The engagement told us that where people live is important. People want to live in a safe place that feels like home. They need their home to work for them. Therefore, we have committed to make improvements to the housing market for adults with disabilities to help people have their own home if they want it.</p>
<b>We want people to find the help they need to keep or make new relationships</b>	<p>People told us that they want to grow and keep good relationships in their life. We will support all staff to think about the good relationships we need and how we help other people connect. We will also work with communities to welcome and include people with disabilities.</p>

# Consultation

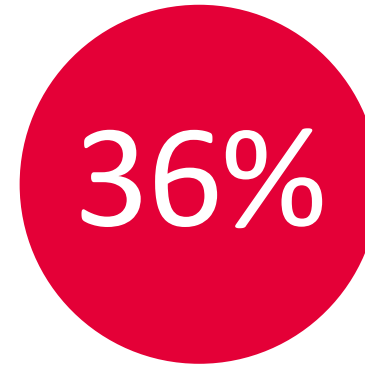
We have sought to make our consultation as accessible as possible with various alternative formats and ways to participate. These include easy-read, large print, and audio versions of strategy, as well as options to participate by telephone or face-to-face at a drop-in. Currently, the main topic that has been fed back to us that is missing is on **financial support**.



We have scheduled in-person events at **10** locations across Essex, including at Colchester, Braintree and Harlow.



**93.75%** of respondents either “strongly agree” or “mostly agree” that our areas of focus in the strategy are correct.



Roughly **36%** of respondents to the consultation either have, or support someone with, a learning disability and autism.

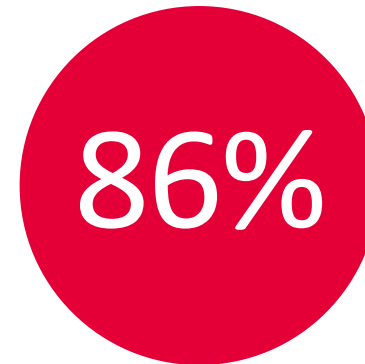


**81%** of respondents strongly agreed that to have good relationships social care staff need to understand that every single person is different



As of Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January we had received **134** online responses to the consultation

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Roughly **86%** of respondents were white-British and roughly **74%** were female

**Executive Summary**

**Title of policy/decision**

*Enter the title as it appears on the decision paperwork*

Disability Strategy

**Date**

*Enter date submitted to Equalities & Partnerships Team*

**Policy/decision type**

*Delete as applicable*

Cabinet Decision / Cabinet Member Action (CMA)

**Overview of policy/decision**

*Summarise here the purpose and aims of the policy / decision (e.g. the proposed issue or change that you are equality impact assessing). Provide brief relevant contextual information, e.g. if the decision is to create a new service, describe the aims of the service and why it is being proposed; Or, similarly, if the proposal is to cease a service or buy a product, explain why this is.*

People with disabilities have the right to a full life but they are often marginalised within society. Whilst our current social care offer enables many good outcomes, we know that these aren't always consistent. Demographics and demand for our services are challenging and we need to use our resources efficiently.

There is opportunity to apply the social model of disability to address barriers in society and to develop our work to better meet what people with disabilities want from their lives. A clear strategic ambition and commitment to people in Essex will help enable us to focus our efforts on delivering a more holistic, person-centred and lifetime approach for people with disabilities.

Meaningful Lives Matter (MLM) is a well-established brand that is respected for its work with and in support of people with learning disabilities. We plan to refresh and redefine its meaning and purpose in enabling people with a wider range of disabilities, including physical and sensory impairments, to live their lives to the fullest.

**What outcomes is the policy/decision hoping to achieve**

*Describe what difference the decision will make on people, communities, localities.*

The strategy aligns closely with ECC's Everyone's Essex 4-year plan for levelling up as it seeks to promote independence for adults with disabilities. It also aligns to the strategic framework set out within the Adult Social Care business plan and other related strategies such as the Carers Strategy and All-age autism strategy.

Engagement with people with disabilities and the carers, providers and partners that have a role in providing support to people, has taken place over the last few years and given indication of what people want in their lives and what their main strengths and challenges are. Whilst more focused engagement is underway, our learning in this area so far suggests four outcomes that are likely to be of key importance. These are:

- Meaningful relationships within a community, including with families, partners, friends, groups of people with similar interests and paid or unpaid carers
- A suitable place to live and call home, whether that is a person's own home or another accommodation that best allows their needs to be met
- Ability to maintain as good health and wellbeing as possible and personal safety.
- Access to meaningful activity during the day, such as education, employment and volunteering, or other fulfilling day activities, which may include opportunities to contribute to society and the economy.

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

<b>Executive Director responsible for policy/decision</b> <i>Delete as applicable</i>			
Nick Presmeg (Adult Social Care)			
<b>Cabinet Member responsible for policy/decision</b> <i>Delete as applicable</i>			
Cllr John Spence (Health and Adult Social Care)			
<b>Is this a new policy/decision or a change to an existing one?</b> <i>Delete as applicable</i>			
New policy			
<b>How will the impact of the policy/decision be monitored and evaluated?</b> <i>Factors to consider include the systems set up to monitor any resulting Impact; timetable for action; how the findings will influence policy, practice and delivery.</i>			
<p>We will continue to engage people with disabilities to understand how things are going in their lives and whether things are improving. We will also look at what our data and insight is telling us.</p> <p>At the moment we can measure:</p> <p>Number of people with disabilities who have a paid job. We want this to go up.</p> <p>% of people with disabilities who live in a care-home. We want this to go down.</p> <p>The number of adults with a learning disability and/or Autism known to ASC who have moved from a residential care package to a community services package. We want this to go up.</p> <p>Number of adults who have received a learning disability health check by the GP practice and have been provided a health action plan. We want this to go up.</p> <p>The percentage of adults referred to LLS who were signposted/ connected to resources and the intervention completed with no onward referral for ASC services. We want this to go up.</p> <p>The average percentage change in adults 'happiness index' pre/post LLS intervention. We want this to go up.</p> <p>Number of new Shared Lives placements. We want this to go up.</p> <p>The number of out of county placements for supported living and residential care. We want this to go down.</p> <p>In the future we will measure:</p> <p>% of people who have help from social care who are moving towards a goal. We want this to go up.</p> <p>% of people who have help from social care who have three or more 'good' relationships in their life. We want this to go up.</p> <p>Where we can, we will look at how things are changing in different parts of Essex. We will also look at how things are changing for people of different race, gender, and sexual orientation. This is because we want things to get better for everyone. We want the change to be fair.</p>			
<b>Will this policy/decision impact on:</b> <i>Tick as appropriate</i>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Service Users		✓	
Employees		✓	
Wider community or groups of users		✓	
<b>What strategic priorities will this policy/decision support?</b> <i>Delete as applicable</i>			
Health, well-being and independence for all ages			
<b>What geographical areas of Essex will the policy/decision affect?</b> <i>Tick as appropriate</i>			
All Essex	✓	Epping Forest	
Basildon		Harlow	
Braintree		Maldon	
Brentwood		Reckford	

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

Castle Point		Tendring	
Chelmsford		Uttlesford	
Colchester			

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

### Equalities - Groups With Protected Characteristics

For more information on protected characteristics <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/protected-characteristics>

#### Nature of impact

Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative impact, or if there is no expected impact

Characteristic	Positive	Negative	None
Age	✓		
Disability (including learning disability, mental health issues, physical impairment and sensory impairment)	✓		
Gender reassignment			✓
Marriage / Civil Partnership			✓
Pregnancy / maternity			✓
Race			✓
Religion / belief			✓
Sex			✓
Sexual orientation			✓

#### Extent of impact

Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g.

- Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population?
- Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives?
- Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage?

If no impact identified above, select N/A for that characteristic.

Characteristic	High	Medium	Low	N/A
Age		✓		
Disability (including learning disability, mental health issues, physical impairment and sensory impairment)	✓			
Gender reassignment				✓
Marriage / Civil Partnership				✓
Pregnancy / maternity				✓
Race				✓
Religion / belief				✓
Sex				✓
Sexual orientation				✓

#### Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact

Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. Describe the approach to the consultation and research: the methods used; who was consulted, why and how; and sources of data/evidence collected. What does the data tell you?

The impact of the Disability Strategy has been assessed based upon the group it is focused on and its scope and aims in this area. The strategy includes all people in Essex with a learning disability or physical and sensory impairment and aims to set the strategic direction for initiatives to improve outcomes for these groups over the next four years; therefore the impact has been assessed as high and positive. The strategy will align with the ageing well approaches for adults with disabilities and includes adults in older age with disabilities within its scope, therefore the impact for older people is positive and medium.

Engagement with people with disabilities and the carers, providers and partners that have a role in providing support to people, has taken place over the last few years and given indication of what people want in their lives and what their main strengths and challenges are. More focused engagement over the last few month has helped us to take a co-productive approach to developing the strategy. The draft strategy has been published as part of a 12 week (including the Christmas period) public consultation on

its content. The consultation includes options to participate online, by telephone and in-person and audio, EasyRead and large print versions of the information to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities to participate. As of 31<sup>st</sup> January, 134 people have completed the consultation online or by telephone and 139 people have been engaged in total.

**(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales**

*If any negative impacts have been identified, it is important to outline the steps that have been put in place to mitigate against these impacts. If no mitigation is practicable and the changed policy /decision will inevitably affect some group(s) more than the population in general, you must seek advice on the legality of the change.*

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?**

*For certain decisions, activity will have been taken prior to this assessment being undertaken to address any immediate issues. It's important to capture all actions taken to mitigate negative impacts.*



## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

### Levelling Up - Priority Areas & Cohorts

For more information on Levelling Up Plans and strategies [click here](#).

#### Nature of impact

Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative impact, or if there is no expected impact

Cohort / Area	Positive	Negative	None
Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)	✓		
Children on Free School Meals			✓
Working families			✓
Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)			✓
Harlow			✓
Jaywick and Clacton			✓
Harwich			✓
Basildon (Town) housing estates			✓
Canvey Island			✓
Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates			✓
Rural North of the Braintree District			✓

#### Extent of impact

Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g.

- Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population?
- Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives?
- Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage?

If no impact identified above, select N/A.

Cohort / Area	High	Medium	Low	N/A
Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)		✓		
Children on Free School Meals				✓
Working families				✓
Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)				✓
Harlow				✓
Jaywick and Clacton				✓
Harwich				✓
Basildon (Town) housing estates				✓
Canvey Island				✓
Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates				✓
Rural North of the Braintree District				✓

#### Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact

Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. Describe the approach to the consultation and research: the methods used; who was consulted, why and how; and sources of data/evidence collected. What does the data tell you?

The strategy includes adults with learning disabilities within its scope, however it doesn't include children or people with mental health conditions who don't have another disability, hence the impact for this cohort is medium and positive. The strategy covers all of Essex and therefore does not target specific geographical areas.

**(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales**

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

*If any negative impacts have been identified, it is important to outline the steps that have been put in place to mitigate against these impacts. If no mitigation is practicable and the changed policy /decision will inevitably affect some group(s) more than the population in general, you must seek advice on the legality of the change.*

### **What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?**

*For certain decisions, activity will have been taken prior to this assessment being undertaken to address any immediate issues. It's important to capture all actions taken to mitigate negative impacts.*

**Equalities - Inclusion Health Groups and Other Priority Groups**

For more information on health inequalities and health inclusion groups

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ltphimenu/definitions-for-health-inequalities/>

**Nature of impact**

Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative impact, or if there is no expected impact

Group	Positive	Negative	None
Refugees / asylum seekers			✓
Homeless / rough sleepers			✓
Offenders / ex-offenders			✓
Carers	✓		
Looked after children			✓
Veterans	✓		
People who are unemployed / economically inactive	✓		
People on low income			✓

**Extent of impact**

Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g.

- Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population?
- Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives?
- Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage?

If no impact identified above, select N/A.

Group	High	Medium	Low	N/A
Refugees / asylum seekers				✓
Homeless / rough sleepers			✓	
Offenders / ex-offenders				✓
Carers		✓		
Looked after children				✓
Veterans				✓
People who are unemployed / economically inactive			✓	
People on low income				✓

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact**

Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. Describe the approach to the consultation and research: the methods used; who was consulted, why and how; and sources of data/evidence collected. What does the data tell you?

The strategy is focused on people with disabilities but by improving outcomes for this group will also impact on unpaid carers who care for a person with a disability. People with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed or homeless. The strategy aims to improve employment and activity outcomes for people with disabilities and to ensure they have a suitable place to live, and so will have a small positive impact on the economically inactive and homeless populations.

Sources of data include:

A 2017 study by Crisis of 14,922 individuals, 70% of whom were homeless while the others were either at risk of homelessness or had a history of homelessness, found that 39% reported having a disability, higher than in the general population.

**(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales**

If any negative impacts have been identified, it is important to outline the steps that have been put in place to mitigate against these impacts. If no mitigation is practicable and the changed policy / decision will inevitably affect some group(s) more than the population in general, you must seek advice on the legality of the change.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?**

*For certain decisions, activity will have been taken prior to this assessment being undertaken to address any immediate issues. It's important to capture all actions taken to mitigate negative impacts.*

### Equalities - Geographical Groups

**Deprivation:** The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England and is part of a suite of outputs that form the Indices of Deprivation (IoD). It follows an established methodological framework in broadly defining deprivation to encompass a wide range of an individual's living conditions. People may be considered to be living in poverty if they lack the financial resources to meet their needs, whereas people can be regarded as deprived if they lack any kind of resources, not just income. Across Essex an estimated 123,640 residents live in the most deprived quintile (20%) nationally, equivalent to 8.6% of the total population. <https://data.essex.gov.uk/dataset/2w89n/indices-of-multiple-deprivation-imd-2019-full-report>

**Rural/Urban:** The Rural-Urban definition (DEFRA) introduced in 2004, defines urban areas as settlements of over 10,000 people. Other settlements are defined as one of three rural types: town and fringe, village or hamlet, and dispersed. <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/the-rural-urban-definition>

**Coastal:** ONS provides the following definition: Seaside towns are those with a tourist beach and associated visitor attractions while the other coastal towns include those focused on other activities such as being a port town or industrial town. For further information <https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/tourismindustry/datasets/coastaltownsineEnglandandWales> <https://data.essex.gov.uk/dataset/e1kmd/essex-economic-commission-dealing-with-challenges-of-coastal-communities-in-greater-essex>

#### Nature of impact

Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative impact, or if there is no expected impact

Group	Positive	Negative	None
People living in areas of high deprivation	✓		
People living in rural or isolated areas	✓		
People living in coastal areas	✓		
People living in urban or over-populated areas	✓		

#### Extent of impact

Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g.

- Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population?
- Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives?
- Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage?

If not impact identified above, select N/A.

Group	High	Medium	Low	N/A
People living in areas of high deprivation			✓	
People living in rural or isolated areas			✓	
People living in coastal areas			✓	
People living in urban or over-populated areas			✓	

#### Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact

Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. Describe the approach to the consultation and research: the methods used; who was consulted, why and how; and sources of data/evidence collected. What does the data tell you? Ensure that reference is made to each protected characteristic [link to data repository]

The strategy focuses on people with disabilities across all of Essex which includes the areas listed above, however, its primary focus is on disability not on specific types of area so the impact is low, positive.

#### (If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales

If any negative impacts have been identified, it is important to outline the steps that have been put in place to mitigate against these impacts. If no mitigation is practicable and the changed policy / decision will inevitably affect some group(s) more than the population in general, you must seek advice on the legality of the change.

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

### **What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?**

*For certain decisions, activity will have been taken prior to this assessment being undertaken to address any immediate issues. It's important to capture all actions taken to mitigate negative impacts.*

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

<b>Families</b>				
<b>Nature of impact</b> <i>Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative impact, or if there is no expected impact</i>				
<b>Group</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>None</b>	
Family formation (e.g. becoming or living as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)	✓			
Families going through key transitions (e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition)	✓			
Family members' ability to play a full role in family life (e.g. fulfilling parenting and other caring responsibilities)	✓			
Families before, during and after couple separation			✓	
Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown	✓			
<b>Extent of impact</b> <i>Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g.</i> <i>- Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population?</i> <i>- Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives?</i> <i>- Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage?</i>  <i>If no impact identified above, select N/A.</i>				
<b>Group</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Family formation (e.g. becoming or living as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)			✓	
Families going through key transitions (e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition)		✓		
Family members' ability to play a full role in family life (e.g. fulfilling parenting and other caring responsibilities)			✓	
Families before, during and after couple separation				✓
Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown			✓	
<b>Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact</b> <i>Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. Describe the approach to the consultation and research: the methods used; who was consulted, why and how; and sources of data/evidence collected. What does the data tell you?</i>				
<p>The strategy will focus on supporting meaningful relationships for people with disabilities and therefore will support family formation, relationship sustainability and family life but only for families where a person has a disability; this will include families that are going through a transition where a person has been diagnosed with a disabling long term health condition. As this only accounts for a part of these groups the risk is mainly low and positive.</p>				
<b>(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales</b> <i>If any negative impacts have been identified, it is important to outline the steps that been have put in place to mitigate against these impacts. If no mitigation is practicable and the changed policy /decision will inevitably affect some group(s) more than the population in general, you must seek advice on the legality of the change.</i>				

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?**

*For certain decisions, activity will have been taken prior to this assessment being undertaken to address any immediate issues. It's important to capture all actions taken to mitigate negative impacts.*



## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

### Digital Accessibility

*Accessibility regulations mean public sector organisations have a legal duty to make sure their websites and mobile applications meet accessibility requirements. Further guidance can be found in the council's [Digital Accessibility Policy](#)*

**Is the new or revised policy / decision linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?**

*Delete as applicable*

No

**(If yes) What steps have you taken to meet the accessibility requirements?**

*Outline the specific actions taken to meet the digital accessibility requirements – for further information visit <https://accessibility.campaign.gov.uk/> or contact [accessibility@essex.gov.uk](mailto:accessibility@essex.gov.uk)*

**(If yes) How have you tested accessibility?**

*Outline the actions taken to test accessibility.*

**(If yes) How will you monitor and maintain accessibility once it has gone live**

*Outline how accessibility will be monitored and maintained*

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

Climate			
For more information on Energy, Climate and the Environment visit <a href="https://www.essex.gov.uk/topic/energy-climate-environment">https://www.essex.gov.uk/topic/energy-climate-environment</a>			
<b>Does your decision/policy involve elements connected to the built environment / energy?</b>			
<i>Delete as applicable</i>			
No			
<b>(If yes) Do you know what products, materials, and qualified built environment professionals you will be using?</b>			
	Yes	No	N/A
Are you maximising the opportunity to source materials locally and maximise use of sustainable materials such as wood?			
Are you using a qualified architect/design team/consultant with the experience and capability to design and secure planning permission to deliver to the highest carbon zero building standards?			
Are you clear that the builder, sub-contractor is qualified and capable of delivering climate resilient buildings (noting risks including subsidence, flooding, overheating), to the highest net zero carbon build quality?			
<b>(If yes) Is your proposed development / building using the best practice guidance and advice on design quality, climate change and health?</b>			
<i>Addressing the building quality, including addressing climate change requirements not only reduces future retrofit costs, it will also reduce the operational running costs of your school, homes or business and will directly reduce the impact on fuel poverty.</i>			
	Yes	No	N/A
Are you using the design quality and advice provided by the Essex Design Guide?			
Are you using the Climate Change guidance and advice provide by the Essex Design Guide?			
Are you providing a policy compliant development which accords with the District Local Plan policies?			
Are using the Health and Wellbeing guidance provided by the Essex Design Guide?			
Have you provided a costed net zero option for consideration?			
<b>(If yes) Is your proposed development/ building as efficient as possible?</b>			
	Yes	No	N/A
Is the Energy performance Certificate (EPC) rating of the achieving and EPC A+ or net zero carbon standard?			
Have opportunities to reduce energy use through the use of smart digital systems been considered?			
Does your development by design avoid the need for air conditioning?			
Does your new development have water efficiency measures in place?			
<b>(If yes) Do you know where your energy is coming from and how much of it comes from renewable sources?</b>			
	Yes	No	N/A
Are you maximising opportunities to use onsite renewable energy (e.g. roof top solar panels) to deliver this service?			
Is your new or extended development using a renewable heat source i.e., district heating or a form of heat pump?			

<b>(If yes) Is your development resilient to climate risks including flooding, overheating and subsidence?</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Is your site at risk of coastal erosion? Is there a plan in place to protect the coastline: if the coastline is being allowed to erode, this may impact the lifetime of your site?			
Have you reviewed environment agency to ascertain your flood risk? Do you need to put in place mitigation such as sustainable drainage?			
Water is scarce and needs to be absorbed into the land wherever possible. Are you prioritising nature based flood risk mitigations such as sustainable drainage, water butts, planting and ponds which protect against water scarcity?			
Are you using external planting, green walls and green roofs to insulate the building and provide shading to cut risks of overheating?			
<b>(If yes) Is your development supporting active travel and minimising pollution?</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Does your site allow connection to key public transport and active travel routes?			
Are you using Green Infrastructure to interrupt the pathway of carborne pollutants to the public e.g. use of hedges, shrubs and trees?			
Have you provided space for secure cycle parking, showering, cycle and walking pathways on site etc?			
Does the building have adequate space for recycling and waste separation?			
<b>Does your decision/policy involve designing service provision and procurement to minimise freight and staff travel and enable use of active and public transport options?</b>			
<i>Delete as applicable</i>			
No			
<b>(If yes) Where are staff coming from and how are they travelling?</b>			
<i>Using local staff to reduce travel needs, use of sustainable modes of travel to get to site. Where car journeys are essential, can staff be incentivised to car share?</i>			
<b>(If yes) Are you specifying electric cars?</b>			
<i>Delete as applicable</i>			
Yes / No			
<b>(If yes) Are you specifying transition to low emission vehicles for heavier vehicles as these become available?</b>			
<i>Delete as applicable</i>			
Yes / No			
<b>(If yes) Does your decision/policy involve elements connected to waste?</b>			
<i>Delete as applicable</i>			
Yes / No			
<b>(If yes) Do you know what products or materials you will be using and where these come from?</b>			
<i>Materials and products all have different greenhouse gas impacts it is therefore important we consider the environmental performance when taking decisions.</i>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Are you maximising the opportunity to source locally?			
Are you specifying goods or materials with a recycled/reused content?			

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

Are you able to utilise repurposed (second-hand) equipment when delivering this decision?			
Are the materials being used easy to recycle at the end of their life?			
Have you selected materials that minimise environmental impacts – e.g. minimising one use plastics?			
Are you purchasing in bulk to reduce the number of trips?			
<b>(If yes) How much waste are you expecting this activity to generate? Generally the more waste produced the greater the greenhouse gas impact. It is therefore important to consider how you can avoid waste when designing services, buying goods and delivering infrastructure.</b>			
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Are you able to measure the amount of waste being generated and set targets to reduce?			
Can the service be operated in a digital way or redesigned to reduce the use of material resources?			
If purchasing goods, are they durable and long lasting, and can they be easily maintained and repaired?			
Are you able to share goods and service with others to reduce resource use?			
Are you avoiding over-packaged or difficult to recycle goods and single use items?			
Can you donate or sell materials and products that are no longer required?			
<b>(If yes) Will any waste be generated by this decision?</b> <i>Delete as applicable</i>			
Yes / No			
<b>(If yes) Most of our activities will generate waste so it is important that this waste is managed properly to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. What approaches are in place to maximise reuse, recycling and composting of any waste generated by this decision?</b>			
<b>(If yes) Where is waste being treated and disposed of?</b> <i>Using local disposal points minimises the transportation of waste which is likely to reduce GHG emissions.</i>			
<b>Nature of impact</b> <i>Select whether the policy / decision will have a positive or negative impact, or if there is no expected impact</i>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>None</b>
Built Environment / Energy			✓
Sustainable Transport / Travel			✓
Waste			✓
<b>Extent of impact</b> <i>Select whether the extent of impact of the policy / decision will be high, medium or low e.g.</i> <i>- Scale of the activity - does it affect a large number of the population?</i> <i>- Scale of the impact - does it affect people in one or more important aspects of their lives?</i> <i>- Severity of the impact (even if it affects only a small number of people) - can it put some people in the community at a severe disadvantage?</i>  <i>If no impact identified above, select N/A.</i>			
<b>Group</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>
Built Environment / Energy			✓
Sustainable Transport / Travel			✓

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

Waste				✓
<b>Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact</b> <i>Outline how the assessments relating to impact were made. Describe the approach to the consultation and research: the methods used; who was consulted, why and how; and sources of data/evidence collected. What does the data tell you?</i>				
The content of the strategy does not impact upon built environment, transport or waste.				
<b>(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales</b> <i>If any negative impacts have been identified, it is important to outline the steps that have been put in place to mitigate against these impacts. If no mitigation is practicable and the changed policy /decision will inevitably affect some group(s) more than the population in general, you must seek advice on the legality of the change.</i>				
<b>What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?</b> <i>For certain decisions, activity will have been taken prior to this assessment being undertaken to address any immediate issues. It's important to capture all actions taken to mitigate negative impacts.</i>				

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

### Sign Off

<b>ECIA Author</b>	
Name	Rachel Williams
Job Title	Senior Policy Advisor
Team	Strategy and Innovation
Function <i>Delete as applicable</i>	Adult Social Care
<b>ECIA Approver</b>	
<i>The ECIA approver needs to be a different person to the CIA author, ideally someone in a more senior position</i>	
Name	Ruth Harrington
Job Title	Director of ASC for Adults with Disabilities
Team	
Function <i>Delete as applicable</i>	Adult Social Care

<b>Report title:</b> Work Programme	
<b>Report to:</b> People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>Report author:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
<b>Date:</b> 15 February 2023	<b>For:</b> Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer at graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk.	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Not applicable	

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The work programme for the Committee continues to be developed and the current position is outlined below and overleaf.

### 2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider this report and issues under consideration in the Appendix and any further development or amendments.

### 3. Background

Work has continued to identify priorities and future agenda items. This has included discussions with Committee Members, Cabinet Members and Officers. This work has reflected the adoption of the Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025 strategy at Council on 12 October 2021.

### 4. Everyone's Essex

The Committee should take account of the Everyone's Essex – Our Plan for Levelling Up the County: 2021-2025 strategy when considering the work programme and future items. Particular attention should be paid to the strategic ambitions (and associated commitments and performance measures) most relevant to the work of the Committee: 'Health Wellbeing and Independence for All Ages', and 'A Good Place for Children and Families to Grow'. A link to the Strategy is here - [Everyone's Essex: our plan for levelling up the county 2021 to 2025: Foreword from Kevin Bentley - Essex County Council](#)

### 5. Update and Next Steps

- 5.1 See Appendix.

### 6. Appendix

- 6.1 Current work programme.

**People and Families Policy and Scrutiny - Work Programme as at 15 February 2023**

<b>Provisional Date</b>	<b>Topic Title</b>	<b>Lead Contact</b>	<b>Purpose and Target Outcomes</b>	<b>Everyone's Essex Commitment</b>	<b>Cross-Committee</b>
15 February 2023	Disability Strategy	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health/Director of AC for Adults with Disabilities	To consider and input to the draft strategy ahead of going to Cabinet	Promoting Independence, Healthy Lifestyles/ Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety	Not applicable
9 March 2023	Youth Services/Young Carers	Deputy Leader & Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance / Head of Specialist Education Services	Update and to follow up on specific issues relating to youth services and young carers raised in November discussion on All-Age Carers strategy	Carers' commitment/ Family Resilience and Stability/Education Outcomes	Not applicable
9 March 2023	Adult Community Learning	Cabinet Member, Education Excellence, Life-Long Learning & Employability /ACL Principal	To consider work plans for implementation of new strategy, and new curriculum planning.	Education Outcomes	Not applicable
April 2023	Preparation for Care Quality Commission inspection of Adult Social Care	Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health/Head of Strategy and Innovation	To consider preparations for a future inspection.	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety	Not applicable
TBC	Home Education/Children Missing Education	Cabinet Member Education Excellence, Skills and Training	To consider update and links with County Lines and drug gangs	Education Outcomes	Not applicable



<b>Provisional Date</b>	<b>Topic Title</b>	<b>Lead Contact</b>	<b>Purpose and Target Outcomes</b>	<b>Everyone's Essex Commitments</b>	<b>Cross-Committee</b>
TBC	Education	Cabinet Member Education Excellence, Skills and Training	(i) Portfolio priorities (ii) Attainment	Education Outcomes	Not applicable
TBC	County Lines and Drug Gangs	TBC	Use of funds and the work of the Violence and Vulnerability Unit	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety	Not applicable
TBC	Houses for Life	Director Strategy Policy & Integration (People)	See Matters Arising report	Promoting Independence, Healthy Lifestyles	TBC
TBC	Essex Children's Safeguarding Board – follow up	Independent Chairman, statutory partners and the Board Manager	To consider actions arising from discussion in April 2022	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety	Not applicable
TBC	Essex Adults Safeguarding Board – follow up	Independent Chairman, statutory partners and the Board Manager	To consider actions arising from discussion in September 2022	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety	Not applicable
TBC	SEND Strategy update	Cabinet Member, Education Excellence, Life-Long Learning and Employability/Head of SEND Strategy and Innovation	Support available and reflect on launch of new strategy	Family Resilience and Stability, and Safety	Not applicable
TBC	Childcare and Early Years' Strategy	Cabinet Member, Children's Services and Early Years/ EYCC Sufficiency and Sustainability Manager	Support available and reflect on launch of new strategy	Family Resilience and Stability, Education	Not applicable

### **Private briefings**

A schedule of private briefings is also being arranged to give background to issues and subjects ahead of formal items coming before the Committee in 2023. At the time of writing this report, the first three of these have been held on Further Understanding Social Care and Social Care Charging and an initial session on the Care Quality Commission inspection regime. Further sessions are planned on safeguarding, Funding Reforms, and further consideration of the Care Quality Commission inspection regime.

### **Further issues not scoped or currently being scheduled**

Children in care being placed outside Essex

Backlog in Courts and Justice System

Education - academisation

Short Breaks/Respite strategy

### **Possible Task and Finish Group reviews – not scoped or currently being scheduled**

Impact of the pandemic on Essex County Council

Suicides in Essex