

The EssexWorks Corporate Plan

2012 - 2017

Our priorities

Enabling every individual to achieve their ambitions by supporting a world-class education and skills offer in the county

- helping Essex residents achieve their full potential through learning
- providing opportunities for Essex people to learn throughout their lives
- promoting a culture of aspiration for all

Securing the highways, infrastructure and environment to enable businesses to grow

- supporting businesses to generate wealth, jobs and opportunity
- ensuring the physical and technological infrastructure is in place to enable businesses to flourish
- creating an environment in which economic opportunity is made available to all

Improving public health and wellbeing

- helping Essex residents to live full and independent lives
- encouraging healthy and active lifestyles and tackling the wider causes of ill health
- protecting and enhancing the environment in Essex

Protecting and safeguarding vulnerable people

- enabling vulnerable people to enjoy a better quality of life
- protecting Essex residents from harm and injury
- supporting parents, carers and families to create safe and stable homes

Giving people a greater say and a greater role in building safer and stronger communities

- making Essex a safer county in which to live and work
- encouraging Essex residents to influence decisions and shape their communities
- helping communities play a greater role in shaping, challenging and developing local services

Enabling every individual to achieve their ambitions by supporting a world-class education and skills offer in the county

This matters because:

There are strong relationships between improving education, employment and income, and improvements in health and personal wellbeing. A highly-skilled workforce provides a foundation upon which our future economic growth and prosperity can be built. At the personal level, a good, rounded education and the ability to learn throughout life can help ensure an individual has the tools to achieve their potential.

Working with our partners, we will focus on the following outcomes:

- helping Essex residents achieve their full potential through learning
- providing opportunities for Essex people to learn throughout their lives
- promoting a culture of aspiration for all

Our key activities will include:

- increasing the percentage of children and young people who achieve well in early years education (age 5), at Key Stage 2 (age 11), at GCSE (age 16) and beyond (up to age 19);
- promoting adult learning through the provision of adult community learning courses;
- ensuring Essex libraries continue to offer learning opportunities for all;
- increasing the percentage of residents who feel they have enough information, guidance and support to access education and lifelong learning;
- increasing the number of people undertaking apprenticeships in Essex; and
- increasing the percentage of young people in Essex who participate in post-16 learning, and aspire to lifelong learning and self improvement.

Securing the highways, infrastructure and environment to enable businesses to grow

This matters because:

Private enterprise creates jobs, generates wealth and improves lives. In a time of austerity it is more important than ever that Essex is a place where business can flourish, providing employment opportunities for local residents and, by creating wealth, helping to fund the public services we use.

Working with our partners, we will focus on the following outcomes:

- supporting businesses to generate wealth, jobs and opportunity
- ensuring that the physical and technological infrastructure is in place to enable businesses to flourish
- creating an environment in which economic opportunity is made available to all

Our key activities will include:

- supporting the Essex business community to grow, attract investment and succeed in new markets;
- increasing the number of jobs, and particularly high-value jobs, in the Essex economy;
- ensuring that infrastructure in Essex, including highways, supports businesses to trade and to grow;
- ensuring that the road network is well maintained;
- reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training;
- increasing the availability of childcare to make it easier for parents to choose to go back to work; and
- reducing worklessness amongst key sections of the community.

Improving public health and wellbeing

This matters because:

Quality of life matters. We want Essex citizens to enjoy healthy lives and to live them to the fullest extent possible. But quality of life can present itself in many ways – an individual exerting choice and control over their social care; a rural resident connected to a well-maintained urban centre; a happy and healthy citizen able to enjoy their county.

Working with our partners, we will focus on the following outcomes:

- helping Essex residents to live full and independent lives
- encouraging healthy and active lifestyles and tackling the wider causes of ill health
- protecting and enhancing the environment in Essex

Our key activities will include:

- ensuring that people receive the support they need to regain or maintain their independence;
- ensuring that communities which rely most on local buses receive a punctual service;
- reducing smoking, obesity, alcohol and drug misuse and avoidable illness, death and disability;
- supporting people to live active lives;
- improving residents' experience of Essex's urban and rural environments; and
- reducing our environmental impact and securing improvements to Essex's natural environment.

Protecting and safeguarding vulnerable people

This matters because:

Society has a duty of care to its most vulnerable. Essex County Council works with individuals, charities and the private and public sectors to ensure that those in the greatest need of our protection are safeguarded. We have a moral duty to ensure that these residents can enjoy a better quality of life, that they are kept safe and that we support those who help create a safe environment for vulnerable citizens.

Working with our partners, we will focus on the following outcomes:

- enabling vulnerable people to enjoy a better quality of life
- protecting Essex residents from harm and injury
- supporting parents, carers and families to create safe and stable homes

Our key activities will include:

- ensuring the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of people receiving social care services;
- promoting employment opportunities for adults with learning disabilities;
- reducing the number of older people who are admitted to hospital following falls;
- ensuring our work to safeguard children is externally recognised as 'improving';
- increasing the percentage of children in care who enjoy stable placements or are placed permanently with adoptive families; and
- ensuring that carers receive the support they need to enjoy a good quality of life.

Giving people a greater say and a greater role in building safer and stronger communities

This matters because:

We all like to feel in control of our lives and where we live. Formal and informal connections that bring people together help create a sense of community spirit, belonging, and can increase feelings of personal and social worth. By being part of a wider society – whether through faith groups, sports clubs, charity work or other bodies - we can feel like we are giving something back to the communities and groups that we care about.

Working with our partners, we will focus on the following outcomes:

- making Essex a safer county in which to live and work
- encouraging Essex residents to influence decisions and shape their communities
- helping communities play a greater role in shaping, challenging and developing local services

Our key activities will include:

- reducing the level of crime and ensuring that residents feel safe in their communities;
- combating rogue and dangerous traders;
- making Essex roads safer;
- encouraging residents to get more involved in their communities;
- promoting closer working between local authorities across Essex; and
- delivering key programmes to give citizens greater power to scrutinise and challenge public services.