

The Essex Partnership System Pledges

Strengthening Communities through Participation

Partners across the Essex system have worked over the last twelve months to articulate their commitment to the Strengthening Communities through participation ambition as set out in the Future of Essex Vision.

The Pledges highlight their individual community priorities set against a philosophy of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) and demonstrate how organisations will work alongside local communities on a broad range of locally relevant issues.

When aggregated up, the pledges demonstrate the strength and collective commitment of the Essex Partnerships to delivering the *Strengthening Communities through Participation* ambition.

Over the next 12 months these Pledges will form the focus of a progress review that will share learning and best practice across the system.

These pledges hope to align with at least one of the following:



Building strength-based relationships



Communities leading



Building system capacity



Acting as an enabler



Supporting sustainable VCS funding



Making safer communities



Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group

Alliance Director, Daniel Doherty

To offer longer term extended contracts to voluntary sector providers to provide long term financial stability to the voluntary sector.



Community 360 / One Colchester

Chief Executive Officer, Tracy Rudling

Our pledges are to tackle the inequalities agenda and our mission statement focuses on creating a “less unequal society”.

We hope to achieve this by:

- 1) Publishing our Communities in Crisis on the 1st September.
- 2) Writing the “*we can't go back*” report as a supplementary which is a call to action.
- 3) Finalising a Marmot leadership forum paper to be launched in the Autumn.
- 4) Organising a conference with Professor Marmot as a key note speaker.



Essex Police

Chief Constable, BJ Harrington

In line with our Crime Prevention Strategy for Southend, Essex and Thurrock, working collaboratively through a whole system approach to prevent crime, reduce harm and create an environment in which communities and businesses can thrive.

To actively promote the concept of unlocking community potential through continued work with the community and voluntary sector. We will promote safer communities; we will cut crime and criminality; we will evolve our workforce, culture and infrastructure; we will support Safer Essex to realise partnership capabilities and capacity; we will support Essex Community and Voluntary Sector to unlock community potential; we will develop and deliver community led solutions through the Greater Essex Crime Prevention Strategy.



Active Essex

CEO Jason Fergus, Kerry McDonald

Active Essex pledge to increase physical activity in local communities by developing citizen led approaches through the delivery of ABCD training for system partners across EPB

- The activities that will deliver this pledge include:
- 5 x Online 8 Module ABCD courses (20 people per course)
- Bespoke ABCD training for the Leading Greater Essex (LGE) Cohort
- Smaller sessions for senior leaders and members (EPB, ECC, Colchester, Basildon, Tendring)
- New ABCD Stewardship Circle made up of 12 system leaders across Essex who value the role of physical activity to improve lives and communities
- New promotional video for system leaders fronted by Cormac Russell and Dr William Bird



Braintree Council

Chief Executive Officer, Andy Wight

Our priority is to build on the strengths of our communities and what they can do to support themselves and help each other, whilst also responding to issues that have emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic increasing long term strength and resilience.



Basildon Council

Head of Culture and Health, Grant Taylor for Chief Executive, Scott Logan

Basildon Council pledge to increase community participation through a place-based way of working, inserting community officers into neighbourhoods and communities that have the greatest need and opportunities and therefore, the greatest impact. Adopting an asset-based community development model and maximising opportunities for community participation through two national programmes with Sport England and The Arts Council are also key parts of our pledge.



Uttlesford District Council

Communities Health and Wellbeing Manager, Fiona Gardiner

Building on the success of the *Good Neighbour Scheme*, and the principles of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), act as a catalyst by working with individual communities who want to work with us, to strengthen what they have and maximise use of existing community assets.



Tendring District Council

Chief Executive, Ian Davidson

To build on the work undertaken by the Health Alliance and partners which provides a Community Asset Map across Tendring and identifies strengths and gaps across the District. Utilise the Ministry of Housing funding to identify, connect and strengthen communities. Use an Asset Based Development Approach when working across communities.

Build on the relationships that have been established as a result of Covid (e.g. groups non-affiliated with recognised community partners) and strengthen the community network across the District. Developing the roles, impact, groups, assets and partners to mitigate the long term impact of Covid, particularly on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities and residents with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Develop the roles of communities in Tendring to address and support Climate Change and an ambition for Tendring District Council to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. To support work across Essex in relation to the Anchors programme, bringing partners together to share best practice, build on the strengths and resilience demonstrated through the pandemic and identify future opportunities.



South Norfolk and North East Essex ICS

ICS Executive Lead & Chief Executive, Ed Garret

Our local NHS, social care and voluntary sector organisations collectively employ more people than any other sector. We operate a very large combined estate of buildings and land and we manage significant amounts of public money. **What this means is that the way that we work really does make a difference to our local communities.** We pledge to work together with other public sector partners in Essex to provide excellent employment, training and opportunities, positively impact on the environment, use local supply chains and to encourage everyone to play a positive role in their local communities. We have committed to do this as health and care leaders through our ICS Anchor Charter delivering a measurable difference year on year to the health and wellbeing of people in Essex. Our focus is specifically on Clacton, where we have our most deprived community, and also in Colchester, where the Borough Council have proposed to a motion to tackle inequality. As part of this work we will empower of CVS Tendring and Community 360 to improve the wellbeing of our population



Essex Faith Covenant

Chair, Ivor Moody

The Essex Faith Covenant upholds to create the right conditions for Faith Based Organisations (FBO) and public services to work together, to understand and to respond to the wellbeing needs of the communities they serve. This will be achieved specifically, but not exclusively, by increasing the representation of faith-based organisations involved in the local delivery of Social Prescribing, by sharing learning and good practice, supporting asset mapping, developing training and communications and supporting co-production.



Epping Forest District Council

Community, Culture and Wellbeing Service Manager, Gill Wallis for Cllr Aniket Patel

Increase community capacity through the Epping Forest Community Champions initiative. Using an asset-based community development (ABCD) approach, build on the success of place-based community engagement initiatives to support the social recovery of the Epping Forest district; building strong, resilient, cohesive and healthy communities.



Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

Strategic Head of Partnerships and Delivery, Greg Myddleton for Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Roger Hurst

Build public participation, support and confidence in our emergency services so our services and the public work seamlessly together to prevent crime, reduce the risk of harm and create prosperous, empowered communities.



Essex Association of CVS

Director at Maldon and District CVS, Sarah Troop

Essex Association of CVS pledge to support Essex partners and colleagues to understand and apply good practice when working within an asset-based model and will continue to provide support to communities to build capacity using local assets and knowledge through advice, training and networking



University of Essex

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Professor of Sociology, Prof. Chris Greer

Education, Skills and Training

We will work with regional partners to identify skills and employment gaps and we will develop flexible courses and training to provide the best possible opportunities for people and communities, businesses and employers. We will particularly seek to enable those from underrepresented groups to access and benefit from the knowledge created within the university through education, skills and training linked to regional employment opportunities.

Employment

We will embed inclusive recruitment practices by revising essential job criteria, using jargon-free language, and proactively sharing employment opportunities across our regional networks. Working with local community representatives and community leaders we will seek to minimise recruitment barriers encountered by those furthest from employment and underrepresented groups.

Procurement

Procurement will, where possible, use local providers and be undertaken in a sustainable manner that maximises social value across the community. As a standard all procurement tenders over £25,000 will ask questions regarding social value and this will be weighted at a minimum of 5%. Consideration will also be given to how student benefit can be further maximised through the procurement process.

Climate Change / Net Zero

On our ambitious journey towards net zero carbon emissions, we will ensure our graduates leave us with the knowledge needed to look after our planet and increase the proportion of research that supports the enhancement and protection of the environment, our staff will be equipped to think sustainably in their working and personal lives, and we will create employment opportunities within the developing green economy.

Health and Wellbeing

In partnership with healthcare providers and service users, local community groups and community leaders, we will make our campus facilities and health, social care and wellbeing services accessible to the local community. Through our many partnerships, we will work to address health inequalities and improve health outcomes and wellbeing through the delivery of high impact research, education, and training across all stages of professional practice, enabling practitioners to deliver evidence-based care, and supporting the development and retention of a highly skilled health and social care workforce in the region. Through inclusive use of our estates we will seek to maximise the benefits of community participation and access to community green exercise.

Regional Economic Growth

We will provide business support and access to finance through the Knowledge Gateway and use our research to enable innovation, creating resilient businesses and leading to high- value employment and local jobs.