

ECC July Report 2025

Adult Social Care services rated as good



The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has rated our Adult Social Care services as good.

This follows an assurance process that started in May 2024 and included a three-day onsite visit in December 2024.

This is a new process taking place across the country where all adult social care in all councils in England will be assessed by the CQC before the end of 2025.

This is the first review of this kind for 15 years. Its main aim is to assess how well we are performing against our duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014.

[Read the report.](#)

The report highlights our commitment to putting people at the heart of our Adult Social Care services. Some key findings from the report include:

- experiences of Adult Social Care were mostly positive
- people felt listened to, particularly by their social workers
- good structures and processes were in place to support people to remain independent and live healthy lives

- effective safeguarding systems and processes were in place to protect people from abuse and neglect
- a home first approach was prioritised for increased independence and low rates of admissions into permanent residential or nursing care
- a stable political and adult social care leadership system was in place
- partnership working and relationship building with the local authority and local partners was strong
- employees were passionate about what they do and feel supported
- a strong technology offer was in place.

The CQC also praised us for our future planning. The report highlighted how we are looking ahead to sustainably support our residents now, and into the future.

Councillor John Spence, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Adult Social Care, Public Health and Integration said: "We welcome today's report by the CQC and are pleased to have received a good rating for our Adult Social Care services.

"This is our first assessment of this kind. We have welcomed the opportunity to share what we are doing to support adults in the county to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.

"What really shone bright throughout the report was how those we support feel listened to, included and supported. This is a testament to the dedication and hard work of all those working in our adult social care services. They strive every day to provide the highest quality care, with kindness, professionalism and respect in all they do.

"We remain committed to continuous improvement and welcome recommendations from the CQC. We will now explore the findings to see where improvements can be made to ensure the best possible care is available for our residents now and into the future."

Our Adult Social Care services support:

- older people
- people with disabilities and long-term health conditions
- people recovering from a stay in hospital

Find out about [support available](#) for adults in Essex.

Donate tech for offline residents



You can now donate unused devices and help residents get online to bridge the digital gap.

Currently, 20% of our residents are offline. This is because they don't have the technology, connection or skills needed to go online.

Our Digital Essex team supports the government's new [**IT Reuse for Good charter**](#). Its aim is to help bridge the digital divide across communities.

Devices will be refurbished for children in Essex schools to help them learn. This includes those receiving benefits such as free school meals.

Digital inclusion is part of the [**Essex Year of Opportunity**](#). This is our campaign to remove barriers into work, education and career advancement.

The campaign opens doors to essential skills by promoting resources for all ages.

You can donate old electronics like phones, tablets and laptops by contacting devices.donations@essex.gov.uk

Councillor Louise McKinlay, our Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Economic Growth and Prosperity, said: “Having access to laptops and other digital devices is key in today’s world and all part of developing a skilled, digitally strong workforce to help us grow the Essex economy.

“Since we first launched the scheme in 2020, nearly 9,000 devices have been given to vulnerable young people and local organisations. Our brilliant Essex businesses and schools have been key to our success, and I thank them for all of their generous contributions. They have supported our efforts to get more people online and provide access to devices.”

Councillor Tony Ball, our Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability, said: “We are excited to support the Devices Donation Charter. It’s a great way for businesses to give back and make a real difference in young people’s lives.

“The Essex Year of Opportunity shows our commitment to our children’s future. By donating devices, we provide access to technology and create endless opportunities for the next generation.”

Give your views on crime in Greater Essex



We need your views to help police and local authorities tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in Greater Essex.

The anonymous Community Safety Survey by [Safer Essex](#) runs every year. It helps seek solutions, focus resources and build a picture of crime and anti-social behaviour in Greater Essex.

Last year, 46% of respondents said they had been a victim of crime. This was an increase of 18% from 2023.

According to Essex Police, there were around 9,000 fewer offences in the last year. Across five years, there have been 20,000 fewer offences.

82% of 2024 respondents named fraud and scams as a top concern, which is a rise of 5% from 2023. This is consistent with a 6.1% increase in fraud crime between 2023 and 2024, [according to Action Fraud](#).

The rise represents 9,604 fraud offences in 12 months - an increase of 552 - and a loss of £68.5 million. As a result, the Multi Agency Approach to Fraud (MAAF) [has engaged with residents](#).

We urge you to complete the anonymous Community Safety Survey 2025. The results will help police and local authorities develop solutions. This has included [neighbourhood policing teams](#) in response to concerns about police presence.

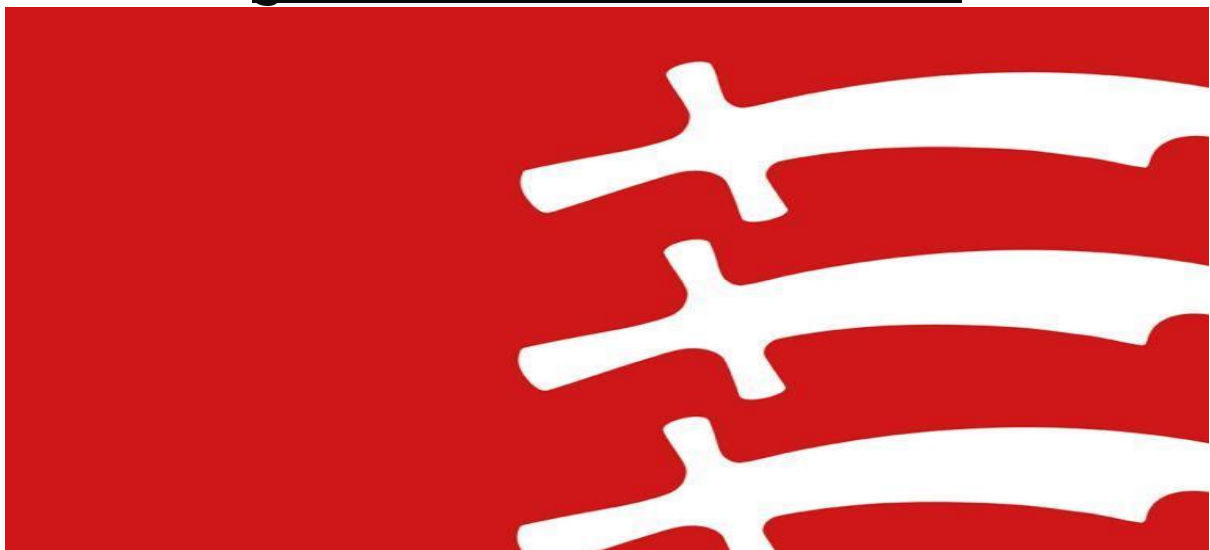
You can [take part in the Community Safety Survey online](#) until 3 August 2025.

Councillor Louise McKinlay, our Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, Communities and Business Engagement, said: “With a sharp rise in the number of residents saying they’ve been victims of crime, it’s essential their voices are placed at the centre of any action taken to tackle issues.

“Resources must be directed towards dealing with crimes that concern people most, such as anti-social behaviour, burglary and drug dealing, and ensuring reported crimes receive a timely and meaningful response.

“I urge all Essex residents to take part in this year’s survey to inform the police of what truly matters and bridge the gap between official statistics and real-life experiences.”

Residents’ views sought to shape future of local government in Greater Essex



The below information is shared on behalf of all Greater Essex Council Leaders and Chief Executives.

15 councils across Essex, along with the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, are this week beginning to gather residents' views and priorities to help shape local government reorganisation across Greater Essex.

A telephone and written survey of 1,400 residents is currently being undertaken. The work is being carried out independently by the National Centre for Social Research ([NatCen](#)), the UK's leading social research organisation. Participants are being recruited to ensure representation from across the Greater Essex population. The feedback will inform business cases being developed by the councils, which are due to be submitted to the Government in September.

The Government is currently reviewing how councils in Greater Essex are structured and believes reorganising and simplifying councils can help grow the economy while delivering better public services.

Reorganisation would replace 15 councils that currently serve Greater Essex with a smaller number of 'unitary' authorities. These new councils will be responsible for providing all local government services in their areas. The change will not affect police and fire and rescue services, NHS services or the work of very local Town and Parish councils.

It will be for the Government to decide on the final future council structures in Greater Essex. It has outlined criteria that proposals must meet:

- Create councils with logical geographical areas
- Improve efficiency and financial sustainability
- Deliver high quality and sustainable services
- Reflect local identity and respect cultural and historic importance
- Support devolution
- Enable better engage and empower local communities

In addition to the representative survey, NatCen will also conduct workshops with residents and hold focus groups involving under-represented communities such as young people, ethnic minorities, and disabled residents. These in-depth sessions aim to explore views in greater detail and ensure all voices are considered.

Councillor Graham Butland, Chair of the Essex Leaders and Chief Executive Group and Leader of Braintree District Council, said: "Listening to residents' views on an impartial basis, before any options are finalised, is a critical element of the evidence gathering process."

Councillor David King, Vice Chair of the Essex Leaders and Chief Executive Group and Leader of Colchester City Council, said: “Ensuring the voices of residents, businesses and key partners are heard is essential before final business cases are finalised.”

Local government in Greater Essex

Currently in Greater Essex, local government services are split up.

- Essex County Council is responsible for delivering services such as special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), roads, public transport, social care, libraries, and recycling centres across the county.
- Twelve borough, district or city councils are responsible in their areas for delivering services like bin collections, street cleaning, parking, leisure services, local planning, council housing, and helping homeless people.
- In Southend and Thurrock, all these services are run by the unitary councils of Southend-on-Sea City Council or Thurrock Council.

This research to support local government reorganisation planning in Greater Essex is being conducted by the National Centre for Social Research ([NatCen](#)), the UK’s leading independent social research organisation. NatCen will carry out a combination of quantitative and qualitative research to ensure robust and representative resident insight. This will include:

- the representative resident survey will gather the views of 1,400 residents across Greater Essex and participants will be recruited to ensure broad geographic and demographic representation of the population of Essex.
- the survey will be conducted online and by telephone to improve accessibility and reach.
- a workshop involving residents will explore views in greater depth. Participants will be recruited to ensure broad geographic and demographic representation of the population of Essex.
- focus groups will be held involving an additional residents from under-represented groups, including young people, ethnic minority communities, and disabled residents, to ensure perspectives are included.

Free courses to build essential skills



Essex residents of all ages can now access free learning opportunities.

The Essex Year of Opportunity promotes more than 30 courses, certificates and resources. The aim is to open the door into work, education and career progression for millions of people.

Opportunities includes:

- Aerospace Careers Programme
- Engineering a Career Course
- Functional Skills – Pathways to Success
- Greater Essex Careers Hub
- HSBC UK Financial Education Certificate
- My Future Programme – introducing primary school children to the world of work
- Post-16 GCSE Maths Resit
- Step into STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Maths)
- TechSheCan – improving the journey of young women into tech careers

- University of Essex resources for students and teachers

This new campaign follows the successful Essex Year of Reading and Essex Year of Numbers.

[You can access the new Essex Year of Opportunity directory online.](#)

Councillor Tony Ball, Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability, said: “Essex is an ambitious and innovative county, but it only thrives when its people thrive. One of our greatest challenges is helping people not currently in education, employment or training.

“Essex residents of all ages should have the opportunity to expand their skills, try something new and follow their passions without barriers. I am therefore very proud to be launching this directory from the Essex Year of Opportunity.

“Much like the hugely successful Essex Year of Reading and Essex Year of Numbers, this campaign opens doors through exciting new projects and partnerships with local businesses. I encourage all residents to make the most of what’s on offer and take a look at our new directory.”

7th July 2025

Cllr Giancarlo Guglielmi
ECC Member for Tendring Rural West
Chairman of the D&R Committee
Vice Chairman of Essex County Council
Vice Chairman of the People and Family Committee

TDC Ward Member for Lawford, Manningtree, and Mistley
Chairman of the Planning Policy and Local Plan Committee
Vice Chairman of Tendring/Colchester Border Garden Community