

ECC Report July 2017

97% of Essex pre-schools and nurseries judged Good or Outstanding

Essex County Council (ECC) is congratulating Early Years' providers across the county on recent Ofsted results which show 97% of pre-schools and nurseries were judged to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' – 2 per cent above the national average.

The results, which were released on 21 June, also show that childminders in Essex have performed well with 93% being judged as 'Good' or 'Outstanding', which is above the national figure of 92 per cent.

The news comes as ECC is encouraging eligible families to find out more and apply for the government's free early education entitlement for some two and all three and four-year-olds, which is aimed at providing young children with stimulating early learning opportunities.

ECC is committed to ensuring children in Essex get the best start in life and work closely with Early Years' providers across the county to ensure this happens.

Research has shown that if children attend a high quality Early Years environment, they are better prepared to start school and have a strong foundation for high achievement throughout their education.

Attending a pre-school, nursery or childminder also enables children to learn important life skills, including helping them to be more sociable, confident and better able to communicate their needs. The government's free early education entitlement offer is testament to just how important learning these skills early on is to a child's later development.

Parents and carers of two-year-olds can find out if their child is eligible to receive the free early education entitlement on the Essex County Council website:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Early-Years-Childcare/Help%20paying%20for%20childcare/Pages/Two-year-old-Free-Early-Education-Entitlement.aspx>

Parents and carers of all three and four-year-olds can apply for the free early education entitlement and find out if they are eligible to receive the extended entitlement of up to 15 additional hours from 1 September 2017, here:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Early-Years-Childcare/Help%20paying%20for%20childcare/Pages/Free-Early-Education-Entitlement.aspx>

Mural unveiled at Manningtree station

A new mural aimed at brightening up Manningtree railway station was unveiled on Thursday 29th June by Essex County Council Chairman, Cllr John Aldridge; I was also in attendance.

The mural in the underpass shows local attractions in and around the Mayflower branch line, which runs between Manningtree and Harwich Town.

It was painted by residents of Acorn village, a local centre for people with learning disabilities.

The project was made possible thanks to funding and support from Essex County Council, Greater Anglia, Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership and the Association of Community Rail Partnerships.

Essex County Council Chairman, Cllr John Aldridge, officially opened the mural and said to be delighted to have been able to unveil such a beautiful reminder of the wealth of culture available to Essex residents through the train network.

No doubt that this will help brighten commuters' journeys as well as boost Essex tourism.

I paid tribute to the residents of Acorn village for their brilliant work and to all the partner agencies which have helped make this a reality, as well as the huge financial contribution they and the 200 employees make to our community, thought to be in the region of £4 million per year.

New venues on the way for Adult Community Learning in Harwich

New locations and better environments for learning are on the way in Harwich and Dovercourt.

From the end of next month, courses will no longer be provided at the Harwich Adult Community Learning Centre and starting from the new academic year, will move to venues suited to the specific type of course. A full announcement on the new venues will follow during the summer.

Learner enrolment numbers in the Harwich Centre has steadily declined over the years, meaning that it is no longer financially viable for courses to continue to run at the centre. The Harwich Centre will, however, continue to support and manage the on-site pre-school.

The course offering in the Harwich area will continue to include courses in Hair and Beauty, languages, GCSE, IT and Arts and Crafts. Courses range in duration, days

of the week and timings of the courses. Information about the courses on offer in Harwich is available on the website.

People who have already booked courses in this area for the start of the new academic year have been contacted, with tutors looking forward to welcoming students to the new course venues in September. Anyone with queries or needing further information about courses in the Harwich area should call 0345 603 7635.

Essex library fees changing

Fees for library services including overdue book fines are set to change soon.

The fees are set to change after a recent review of comparable charges made by other local authorities.

These fees have stayed the same for eight years, so these changes are necessary, especially as Government funding continues to fall and will be phased out completely by 2020.

Book loans and computer use will remain free for all library customers, but certain charges will rise by a small amount from July 3rd, with a cap applying for books and CDs.

Charges for overdue fines, photocopying, printing, DVDs and book loans from the British Library will rise, and there will be a £1 charge to replace lost or damaged library cards.

Customers will still be able to borrow books and reserve items in stock free of charge.

For more details on the charges, visit <http://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/fees-and-charges-are-changing/>

Category	Current charge	New charge
Fines for late returns of books, audiobooks, and CDs	10p a day	20p a day for each day the issuing library is open for the first week, £1.40 per week thereafter, capped at £7
DVD hire	£1.50 for 1 week	£2 for 1 week
CD hire	£1 for 3 weeks	£1 for 1 week
Children's audiobook hire	80p for 3 weeks	£1 for 3 weeks
Language courses	£3.50 for 12 weeks	£3.50 for 6 weeks
Photocopying		
A4 black and white	10p	15p
A4 black and white over 50 copies	5p	10p
A3 black and white	10p	40p
A3 black and white over 50 copies	5p	20p
A3 colour	£1.20	£2
Printing from people's network computers		
A4 black and white	10p	20p
A4 colour	50p	£1.20
Interlibrary loans	£1	£7
British Library loans	£3	£22, renewals will incur a £4.75 charge
Faxes		
UK and Ireland single page	£1.05	£1.25
UK and Ireland extra page	50p	60p
Europe single page	£2.55	£3.05
Europe extra page	£1.10	£1.30
Rest of the world first page	£3.10	£3.75
Rest of world extra page	£1.70	£2.05
Mobile libraries		
DVD hire	£1.50 for 2 weeks	£2 for 2 weeks
CD hire	£1 for 6 weeks	£1 for 2 weeks

Children's audiobook hire	80p for 6 weeks	£1 for 6 weeks
Language courses	£3.50 for 12 weeks	£3.50 for 6 weeks

What will be changing?

Fees and charges are changing for certain items including overdue fines, printing, photocopying, DVD hire, Children's audio books, language courses, books obtained via interlending and the British Library and faxes. There will also be a charge for replacement library cards.

When will this change take place?

The new charges will be applied from 3 July 2017. When implemented, these will be calculated on the new rate regardless of when loaned. So items taken out and already overdue prior to 3 July will be charged at the new fines rates when returned or renewed.

- On the day that the changes are made this will actually take several hours to implement on the library computer catalogue. They cannot be set up in advance of the date. This means the fines and charges will come into effect throughout the morning. This will be done by prioritising open times as far as possible but charges will not be in place for all libraries prior to 9am opening.

- Customers renewing on line will not get new fines/charges until the location of their Home library has been updated.

What changes will we see on our library computer catalogue?

The new fines and charges will come up automatically once updated. Instructions will be sent out for replacement card charges and for the Sales Items list which has been revised.

Why are our charges changing?

Our charges have not changed since 2009. These increases bring us into line with other local authorities. Income from fees and charges is invested back into the service. These increases in charges allow us to continue to offer a range of library services across the county despite the challenge of reduced funding for local government in recent years.

Why have the charges for books obtained via interlending and the British Library increased so much?

Borrowing items from outside of Essex has always been a costly undertaking. If possible we would always prefer to purchase our own copy for customers to use. However in cases where the item is no longer in the print, the subject is very

specialist, the quality of the publication is poor or the cost is high etc, then we look to borrow from outside the county. We have previously subsidised the costs that this type of loan incurs. Unfortunately as budgets have become tighter we are having to focus increasingly on using our book fund to support our current stock holdings for use by all customers. Therefore a charge for administration and postage has been introduced to offset our costs.

How much will customers placing their own holds have to pay?

There is no charge for customers who place their own holds on existing stock. However there is an increase for books obtained via interlibrary loans and the British Library loans and their renewal to cover the increased administration and postage costs that these services incur.

Ribbon cut on £11 million housing scheme for older people in Tendring

A pioneering £11 million housing scheme for older people in Harwich – the first to be delivered by Essex County Council's £27 million investment in creating new Independent Living homes – is now officially open. The ribbon was cut on Rosebank Park, which offers housing for local people aged 55 and over who have a care need, by its first resident, Julie Beazley, 60, at a celebratory event for residents on Thursday 22 June.

Rosebank Park, located adjacent to Fryatt Hospital, Main Road, is managed by Season and offers 70 stylish apartments designed to meet local people's changing needs in later life. Each self-contained apartment features one or two bedrooms, a modern open plan living, kitchen and dining area and bathroom. Residents also benefit from communal facilities including a residents' lounge, dining room, mobility scooter store with charging points and private courtyard garden.

The scheme was developed by Ashley House ⁽¹⁾ and their funding partner Funding Affordable Homes ⁽²⁾. Essex County Council supported the development of the scheme with a funding contribution of £1.7 million. ECC will invest a total of £27 million to help create up to 1,800 new Independent Living homes to meet demand around the county over the next five years.

Cllr John Spence, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care, Essex County Council, said that the ambition of the Council is to provide the maximum help it can, so that people in later life can have the best quality of life at an affordable cost, a very important element of this Independent Living programme.

This investment will enable people to have the quality of life that they want, in a safe and pleasant environment and Rosebank Park is a living proof of that and only the beginning.

Paul Honeywood, Tendring District Council's Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "It is fantastic news that Tendring is the first to get these new homes and more are to

follow at Walton later this summer. It gives people – especially some of our most vulnerable people – another choice and one that means they can continue to live independently at home. We fully support this initiative.”

Kevin Beirne, Group Director of Housing Care and Support, One Housing (3) said: “These modern, stylish and spacious apartments will help older people in Harwich continue to live independently in a cleverly designed home. I love seeing the huge difference to residents’ lives our Season team has already made, making them smile and helping to build a fantastic community.”

Jonathan Holmes, Commercial Director, Ashley House, said: “Seeing local people today enjoying living in these great new homes is a real privilege and the reason our team work so hard with like-minded partners to deliver schemes like Rosebank Park.”

Julie Beazley and husband Edgar, 64, were the first residents to move in to Rosebank Park in January 2017. She said: “I had numerous falls in our previous home, a first floor flat without a lift, and we felt trapped. When this became available we couldn’t believe our luck because it had everything we needed within one building. It’s given us both a new lease of life.”

A second new Independent Living scheme in Tendring, Beaumont House in Walton-on-the-Naze, is set to welcome its first residents in July 2017. To find out more about Rosebank Park, and Independent Living homes in Essex, visit www.independentessex.co.uk or www.seasonhomes.co.uk.

Video of Opening Ceremony

Includes interview with residents, Cllr John Spence, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care, Essex County Council and Kevin Beirne, Group Director of Housing Care and Support, One Housing:

<https://vimeo.com/222752938>

Embed code:

```
<iframe  
src="https://player.vimeo.com/video/222752938?title=0&byline=0&portrait=0"  
width="640" height="360" frameborder="0" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen  
allowfullscreen></iframe>
```

About Ashley House plc (1)

Ashley House is a leading Extra Care Housing and Health Property Partner working with providers and commissioners in the public, private and community sectors. The Company has 25 years of experience in providing innovative approaches in the resourcing, funding, design and development of flexible and efficient social and community health, care and supported living environments.

www.ashleyhouseplc.com

enquiries@ashleyhouseplc.com

Twitter: @ashleyhouseplc

About Funding Affordable Homes ⁽²⁾

Funding Affordable Homes is a social impact company which builds and acquires affordable housing to deliver financial and social returns for both communities and investors.

www.fundingaffordablehomes.com

About Season – part of One Housing ⁽³⁾

Season offers retirement housing for sale and shared ownership across London and the South East. We build and manage homes that are affordable, vibrant and age-adapted in the UK's most desirable locations. We promote independence and active lifestyles, with the security of our skilled care and support service. We provide a tailored and personalised offering to meet your lifestyle expectations.

Season is part of One Housing – an award-winning housing provider for 50 years – providing housing care and support across London and the South East.

www.seasonhomes.co.uk

seasonenquiries@onehousing.co.uk

Twitter: @Official_OHG

Media Enquiries:

David Gladwin

Marketing & Communications Project Manager: Independent Living
Essex County Council
Telephone: 03330130958 / 07921397188
Email: david.gladwin@essex.gov.uk

Ariella Gomori Jackman

Media and Marketing Officer
One Housing
Telephone: 020 7428 4192
Email: ajackman@onehousinggroup.co.uk

**Land owners reminded of their responsibilities following successful
prosecution for illegal waste disposal**

Landowners have been reminded that they must gain planning permission for waste disposal on their land following the successful prosecution of a Brentwood landowner.

The owner of a site (known as Waterworks Spring Farm), within the Metropolitan Green Belt, was found guilty of the unauthorised deposit of waste and fined a total of £2280 (including costs) after the County Council discovered he was importing and spreading of waste materials on his land in October 2016.

Essex County Council, as the Waste Planning Authority, alongside the Environment Agency investigated the breach of planning control at the semi-rural site following complaints from local residents.

The Council tried to deal with the issue directly with the landowner but eventually was left no choice but to instigate court proceedings.

The outcome of this case has been a reminder for us that landowners cannot just dump waste on their land and get away with it. Breaking planning rules and causing damage to the environment will not be tolerated and the Court's decision is to be applauded. Owning a piece of land in Essex means accepting a responsibility for the surrounding area and all who reside there, be it business, homes or wildlife."

Kevin Rutterford, Environment Manager at the Environment Agency, said: "It's crucial that all businesses understand their duty of care responsibilities for the waste they produce, who they allow to transport it and ultimately where it goes.

"Too often, when these responsibilities are misunderstood or ignored, we see the impact of waste crime where waste is deliberately dumped on land illegally. This can cause serious pollution, put communities at risk and undermine legitimate businesses that are doing the right thing.

"Even if the landowner has no involvement, legally they may still be responsible for that waste and that could mean a large clear up bill."

To find out more information, or to report any ongoing concerns related to minerals and waste disposal activity please visit [here](#).

Anyone suspecting any illegal waste activities, who has been approached to store waste or may currently be storing such waste are urged to contact the Environment Agency via a 24 hour incident hotline 0800 807060. Alternatively they can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Or if related to a breach of planning contact Suzanne.Armstrong@essex.gov.uk

Waste and Minerals – planning enforcement

- The Planning Enforcement Officer checks the planning permissions granted for Minerals and Waste development and investigates complaints relating to active minerals and waste sites as well as any unauthorised minerals and waste activity.
- Any enforcement action is taken in accordance with the policies in our [Local Enforcement and Site Monitoring Plan](#). The plan explains how complaints are investigated and how complaints can be made.
- Essex County Council provides quarterly summaries of enforcement action, and records of action are kept online for one year following their publication [here](#).

Queen appoints new Lord-Lieutenant for Essex

Her Majesty The Queen has appointed a new Lord-Lieutenant of Essex to replace Lord Petre when he retires in August after 15 years as the Royal representative in the County.

Jennifer Tolhurst, a current Deputy Lieutenant, will take over from Lord Petre, who will stand down on August 4 after turning 75 - the obligatory retirement age for the Sovereign's representatives.

Mrs Tolhurst, a former High Sheriff of Essex, who lives in Danbury with her husband Philip, said: "I am extremely honoured to have been appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Essex. It will be a tremendous challenge to follow Lord Petre who has given such wonderful service to the County of Essex, but I will do my absolute best to fulfil the role, and represent Her Majesty the Queen in our very special County."

Mrs Tolhurst, who has three grown-up children and seven grandchildren, launched the Danbury and Little Baddow branch of the NSPCC and chaired the Prince's Youth Business Trust in Essex, while also serving as a Magistrate and Vice Chairman of the Governors of New Hall School.

She remains Vice-President of the Essex Community Foundation, serves on Essex University Court, is an assessor for the Queen's Awards for Voluntary Services and is Vice-Chairman of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee.

Lord Petre, 18th Baron of the Petre family and Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, whose ancestral family home is at Ingatestone Hall, said: "I have every confidence that Jenny will be a most worthy personal representative of HM The Queen in this County.

"She has already proved herself many times over as an active and enthusiastic supporter of a large number of our local institutions and is well placed to give encouragement and backing for all that is best about our wonderful County."

The office of The Chairman and Vice Chairman of Essex County Council provides administrative support to the Lord-Lieutenant, including organising Royal Visits, ceremonies for new citizens, Queen's Awards ceremonies and submitting Honours nominations.

Chairman of Essex County Council, Councillor John Aldridge, added: "For several decades the Chairman and staff of the County Council have worked closely with the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. We all look forward to continuing that strong relationship with Mrs Tolhurst as she takes on this most important and prestigious role.

"For the past 15 years, Lord Petre has served the people of Essex as the representative of HM The Queen for the County. His term of office has been marked by a commitment that has earned him enormous respect and affection throughout Essex. His unstinting work with charities and the uniformed services has only been equalled by his unfailing good humour and ability to put all he meets at their ease.

"Lord Petre has without any doubt been seen by all as truly the 'First Citizen of Essex'.

"I wish him well in his well-earned retirement from this distinguished office."