Essex County Council

Summer 2026 Heatwaves

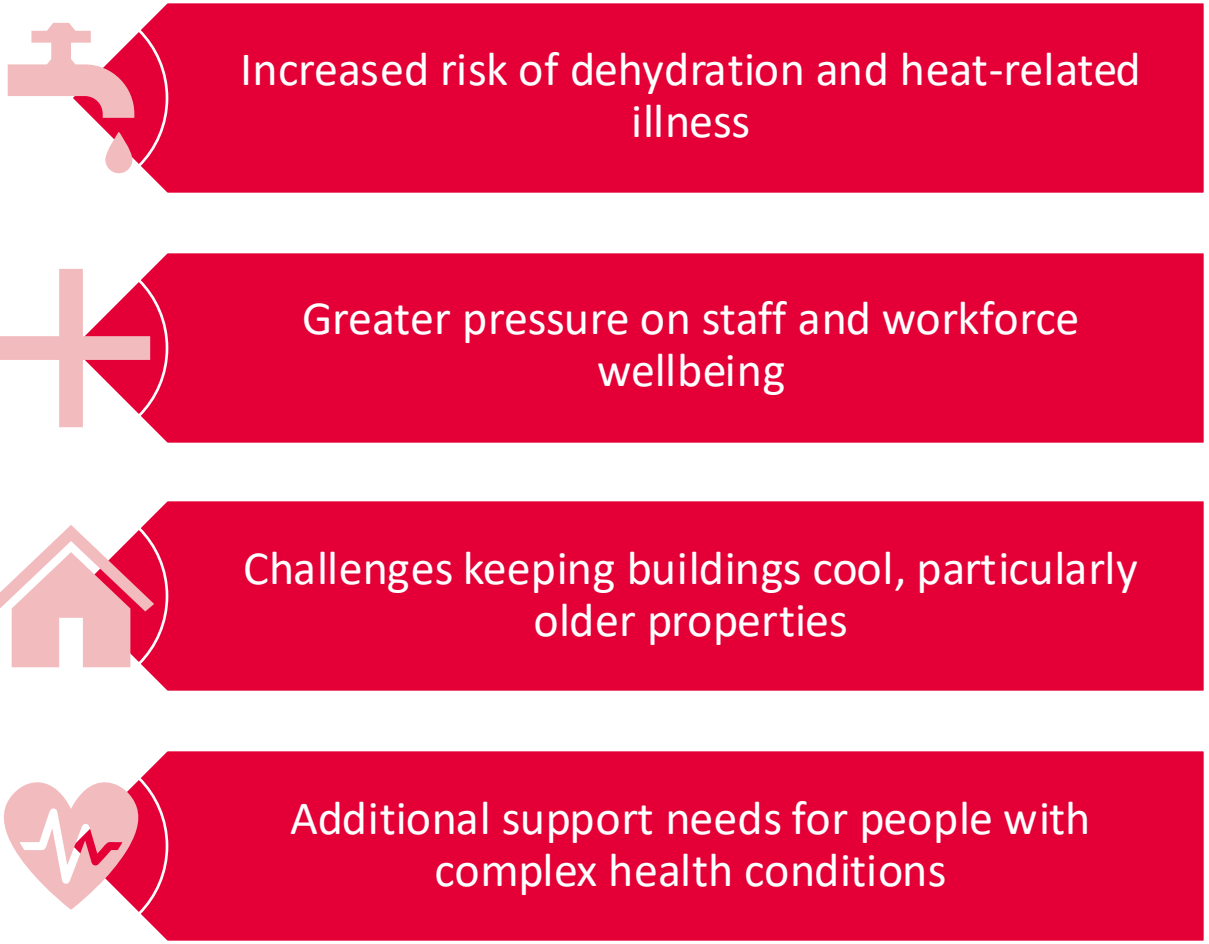


Summer 2026 Heatwaves

A Summer of Extreme Heat

- Summer 2026 was provisionally the hottest summer on record for the UK, with multiple heatwaves occurring between May and August. June saw record-breaking temperatures across England, with temperatures reaching around 35°C in Chelmsford – the highest for Mid Essex.

- Essex experienced several periods of hot weather and heat-health alerts were issued for the East of England due to potential impacts on vulnerable people and health and care services.



"Looking back at this summer, what was the biggest challenge your organisation faced during the hotter periods?"

Summer 2026 Heatwaves

Sharing advice, tips and learning together

1. What worked well?

- What measures helped keep people safe and comfortable?

2. What were the biggest challenges?

- Staffing, buildings and environment?
- Hydration and health monitoring?
- Communication with families or partners?

3. What support would have made the greatest difference?

- Earlier warnings and practical guidance?
- Better coordination across organisations?

- What actions can we all take to improve our response to extreme weather?