

Disability Strategy

Provider Forum Update

October 2023

What is the Disability Strategy?



A Strategy is not a budget, but it does explain the things that we are working to make better. Our Strategy needs other people to work with us, we cannot make everything better on our own.

The Strategy explains how Essex County Council will support adults to do the things that are important to them and how we will know if this is working.

The Disability Strategy explains what people told us good looks like for adults with a disability and our ideas to make things better.

The Strategy was designed based on what people told us good would look like for them and the changes they would like to see.

Developing the Strategy

18

Engagement: 18 people took part in 1:1 conversations with the Qa Research team to help design the focus areas.

213

169 people took part in our consultation online or by phone, with a further 44 participating in our focus groups and 1:1s.

86%

Mostly, people agreed with our draft strategy, but gave us some additional ideas to think about.



What people told us



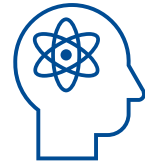
Autism, we specifically asked if autism should be included in our Disability Strategy. We concluded (based on responses) to adopt an identification approach.



Partnership working. ECC staff told us that there are opportunities to focus more on partnership working as a way of achieving better outcomes.



Where people live is important. People highlighted a number of things that the local housing market could do better.



Gap in knowledge around reasonable adjustments. Our staff also told us there is more to be done to promote reasonable adjustments, such as with public transport.



People told us there is more to do on inclusive communities. This is tricky, but people suggested we could support more by encouraging connections and supporting staff.



Technology and form filling. People told us that there is a gap in support for help with utilising technology or filling in complicated forms (which may or may not be online).

Delivering the Disability Strategy

Some of the things we are working on...

What is in the Strategy?

Our Strategy is written in four different themes:



Good relationships

Because people told us that they want to grow and keep good relationships with people they get on with.



Being Active

Because people told us they like to do things that are important, people told us they want to feel part of something.



Staying healthy, safe and well

Because people told us looking after health and being able to get help with being unwell are important.



A place to feel at home

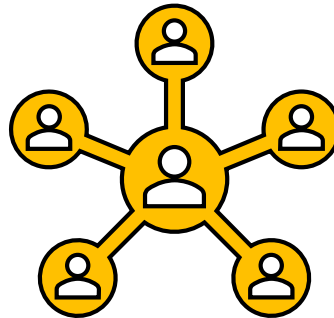
Because people told us that where they live is important, it needs to feel safe and feel like home.

Delivering the Strategy

Good relationships: here are some of the things that we are working on



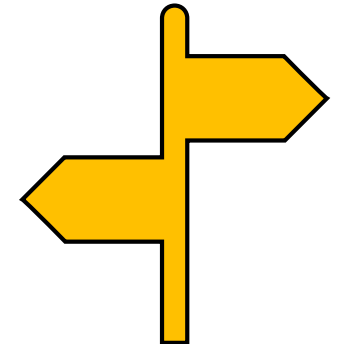
BFriends service has supported nearly 50 people to make new friendships and learn new skills.



Our new Autism Navigation Service includes more peer support opportunities.



A new service to support carers is on the way. This service was co-designed with carers.



Our Local Linked Support team are busy helping people access more community opportunities.

Delivering the Strategy

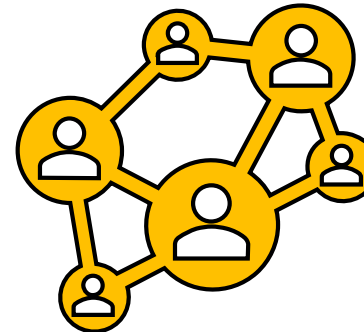
Being Active: here are some of the things that we are working on



We are refreshing our day centre offer to give people more choice and to learn new skills. We are looking for people to get involved in helping us with this.



We have lots of employment projects running. We have so far helped over 330 people find work and have just launched a new service.



We are redesigning our domiciliary care offer to help make sure people are better connected with their communities.



We are working to design a new service that supports people with disabilities get physically active.

Delivering the Strategy

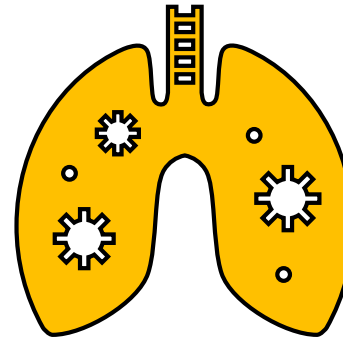
Staying healthy, safe and well: here are some of the things that we are working on



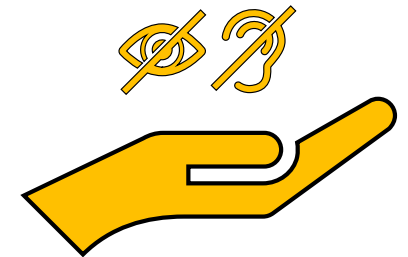
We are working with health on an End-of-Life sub-group to promote training and improve the information and resources available.



Vulnerable victims service has supported over 30 people at risk of exploitation.



Long covid process is now in Year 2. This way of working makes it quicker for people to get the therapy they need.



A new sensory service has been co-designed and will focus on quicker assessments, care technology and better transitions for young people.

Delivering the Strategy

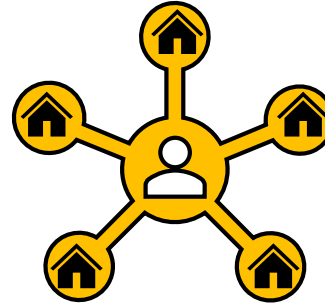
Somewhere to feel at home: here are some of the things that we are working on



We are refreshing our Housing Related Support offer to provide short-term support to prepare people for independent living.



Move on workers are helping people move on to live more independently.



A new Accommodation Hub makes the process simpler to find the right accommodation for the right person.



We have updated our standards so that all supported living spaces are good quality.



Any questions?

Development in AWD Services

Essex County Council are continuing to seek growth in key services for adults with disabilities, with a priority on services that will provide the most independence to adults that utilise them. We centralise all of our information to providers as far as possible and up-to-date information on needs and demand can be found on the Provider Hub (<https://www.essexproviderhub.org/>).

Specific areas of need are noted below:

Category	Brief	Links
Supported Living	<p>Development of new services is required across Essex to meet the needs of adults with learning disabilities and physical/sensory impairments.</p> <p>There are particular needs in care for adults with complex needs, and for people that need self-contained accommodation. We supply demand bulletins to the market based on who is looking for accommodation at this time.</p>	<p>https://www.essexproviderhub.org/adults-with-disabilities-hub/supported-living/supported-living-demand-bulletin/</p>
Residential Care	<p>We have recently developed a framework for complex placements and this is periodically reopening for new providers to enter. We have the need for high quality residential care settings across Essex for adults with complex needs.</p> <p>There is also a need for a smaller number of services for adults with acquired brain injury, physical and/or sensory impairments that require specialist care.</p>	<p>https://www.essexproviderhub.org/adults-with-disabilities-hub/learning-disability-residential/awd-residential-demand-bulletin/</p>

Key Contacts for AWD Procurement and Contract Management

Category	Lead Contact	Email Address
AWD and Mental Health Services	Nick Green, Procurement Specialist	Nick.Green@essex.gov.uk
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