

The logo for Active Essex features three white, curved lines of varying lengths that sweep upwards and to the right, resembling a stylized 'A' or a signal wave.

# Active Essex

## Chair Recruitment Brief

Our Chair will have the ambition to play a major role in growing the physical opportunities, whilst creating an active Essex to improve everyone's health and wellbeing.





# Welcome

Jason Fergus,  
Director of Active Essex

Active Essex is the driving force in our county to increase levels of physical activity and sport, working to hardwire this into the systems around us, creating significant change in our attitudes and behaviours, and making regular activity part of our daily lives. Everyone benefits from being active - for our personal physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Our current Chair, Azeem Akhtar, has now reached the end of his full term and is retiring after 6 years. We thank him for his commitment and support, which alongside the Board has helped the Active Essex in their commitment to their work and achievements. As they set out upon their new chapter in their Fit for the Future strategy, a new Chair will help evolve the business going forward.

Within the Fit for the Future Strategy, we set out the vision to create an active Essex to improve everyone's health and wellbeing. This will be

underpinned by working together across systems to make physical activity a part of everyday life.

The role of the Chair is to help define the direction of Active Essex and take strategic leadership of the board. The Board provides leadership, takes into account partners interests and sets high standards for the organisation.

Equality and the needs of our population are given full regard in all aspects of our work. We are committed to working with our key partners to ensure that actions are in line with good practice so that equality is and remains an integral part of all aspects of our work.

If you want to make a difference to the lives of people in Essex, have a passion for physical activity and sport, and feel you have the skills to support our mission – we'd like to talk to you.

# About Active Essex

We want to increase people's participation in and enjoyment of activities that benefit their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Active Essex is uniquely placed as the strategic lead for Physical Activity and Sport across the county and is supported by Essex County Council and Sport England.

“ Our vision is to create an active Essex to improve everyone's health and wellbeing. ”

## Our Values

Active Essex values are about:



### WE ARE COLLABORATIVE

We are committed to working with others to achieve our vision. We cannot do it alone. We can achieve so much more when we work together and support each other. We believe in building strong and lasting partnerships based on honesty, trust, and a shared purpose.



### WE ARE INCLUSIVE

We believe profoundly that everyone should have the right to benefit from physical activity and sport regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ethnic background, or ability. By being more inclusive we'll reduce the inequalities in physical activity and sport.



### WE ARE INNOVATIVE

We are adventurous and forward-thinking, committed to continuously learning from our past, our partners and each other. We value a spirit of innovation to inspire the creation of new ideas and new approaches that are shared with our partners.



### WE ARE PASSIONATE

We are passionate about transforming lives and communities through physical activity and sport. We have the energy, enthusiasm and commitment to succeed using innovative methods whilst staying focused on our vision.

## Our Current Strategic Priorities

2021-2031

- Strengthening Communities
- Sport & Physical Activity Sector
- Children & Young People
- Active Environments
- Levelling Up Health & Wellbeing

## Locality Partnerships

Local Active Essex networks in each local authority area who allow us to work dynamically with partners across the Greater Essex ecosystem to create an active, healthier county.

We do this through:

- Promoting physical activity across all age groups & abilities
- Developing sport
- Partnering with the Active Essex Foundation
- Essex Local Delivery Pilot

For more information on Active Essex, click [here](#).



# Role of the Board

The board play a key role in the governance, operations and strategic direction of Active Essex. This is skills based, voluntary group, with a terms of reference.

We operate and adhere to the Sport England 'Code of Good Governance' standards and principals.

The Nolan Principals of public life are central to our values. View our existing board and see where we publish our key documents online, [here](#).



## Key Elements

Active Essex board priorities are:



**Developing strategy** - board members should actively and constructively contribute to and challenge the development of the strategy



**Delegated authority** - ensuring the board operates within the set parameters



**Decision making** - monitoring and evaluating against priority aims and ensuring risk is managed appropriately



**Overseeing results** - ensuring the delivery of planned results by monitoring performance against agreed priority aims and outcomes



**Championing and leading** - on specific areas of work which maybe in liaison with sub groups and/or project groups



**Partnerships** - promote, improve the regional networks and help the board reach sound decisions



**Integrity** - we have a **code of conduct** that all board members are required to sign and adhere to.

# Chair Profile

We are looking for an individual who has and can continue to operate at a high senior level with experience of successful partnership working who can take lead in driving forward participation and further opportunities across Essex, Southend and Thurrock.

Being passionate about sport and physical activity is important, but it isn't enough. The Active Essex Chair will provide strategic leadership, advocacy and management accountability for the Partnership and will, along with board members act as 'champions' within their various spheres of influence, opening doors and creating links.

For more information on the role and to apply, please click [here](#).

Applications must be received by 5th June 2022.

Interviews: Week commencing 13th June 2022.

If you would like an informal discussion with Active Essex's director prior to submission, please email:

Jason.Fergus@activeessex.org



## The Chair will:

- To define the overall direction of the work of Active Essex, setting targets and agreeing a business plan with partners
- To provide strategic leadership to the Board, Chairing its regular meetings and bringing together a diverse range of interests and partners to work together on a common agenda
- To represent the Board to partners

## The responsibilities of the Chair:

Liaison with the Director:

- Setting the agenda - The agenda should take full account of the issues and the concerns of all board members. Agendas should be forward looking and concentrate on strategy and developing the partnership, rather than focusing on management issues
- Ensuring that board members receive accurate, timely and clear information - to enable the board to make sound decisions, monitor effectively and provide advice to promote the success of the partnership
- Supporting and reviewing the work of the Partnership and Director in association with the host agency
- Working closely with the Active Essex Director

## Work with the board:

- Managing board meetings - ensure sufficient time is allowed for discussion of issues, and where appropriate, arrange informal meetings beforehand to enable thorough preparation for the board discussion. It is particularly important that board members have sufficient time to consider critical issues and are not faced with unrealistic deadlines for decision making
- Accountability - Chair is responsible for budget for key strategic partners
- Member Development - taking the lead in inducting and developing individual board members, with a view to enhancing the board's overall effectiveness as a team.
- Member Engagement and Mobilisation - Encouraging active engagement by all members of the board. Setting tasks for members to assist in the achievement of the board's goals
- Ensuring Board decisions are acted upon.

## Working with partners:

- To be a key advocate and spokesperson for Active Essex to media and partners.
- Attendance at key strategic meeting with partners as necessary to show leadership and strategic approach.