

Place Partnership Bulletin

FYA Small Grants

Our funding partnership continues with London Marathon Foundation, allowing us to offer grants to those supporting people to get more physically active in their communities.

Through the Active Essex FYA Small Grants fund we will offer funding of up to £2,000 to organisations providing suitable physical activity and sports programmes for individuals looking to increase their activity levels and meeting our operational standards.

(Funding not eligible for Southend and Thurrock. Closing date Sunday 28th September 2025.)

[Apply here](#)



Place and Spaces

Find Your Active Places and Spaces Fund aims to support projects between £3,000-£9,999 that will develop community assets to create greater opportunities for physical activity.

This fund can support Essex local authority area projects that help currently inactive residents to lead active and healthy lives and allow for more inclusive opportunities to take place.

(Funding not eligible for Southend and Thurrock. Closing date Sunday 12th October 2025.)

[Apply here](#)



Click an image below to view place updates:



Basildon



Castle Point



Colchester



Harlow



Tendring



Thurrock

Sport England Visit to Canvey

On the 12th August, Sport England visited Canvey Island to gain a deeper understanding and insight into the work of Active Essex and Place Partnerships. The visit highlighted the impact of the Essex Local Delivery Pilot and the positive engagement with a range of sectors across the Essex system. It also showcased how place working is developing through the deepening of the LDP, the implementation of three new Place Partnerships, and the curating of an Active Essex Universal Offer.

Canvey Island was chosen to host the visit of Sport England Board members because it was selected by Sport England for one of their 80 new Place Partnerships across the country. The visit enabled them to meet the organisations and delivery partners that are bringing the work to life and see some of the Place Partnership delivery in action. Other partners from across the Greater Essex footprint also joined us to show a united effort in achieving a shared goal.





East Cluster Share and Learn Event

Basildon will host a Share & Learn Day on 22nd September for East Region Active Partnerships, offering insights into its place partnership journey. The agenda will showcase key achievements and future priorities, especially around the strategic themes of Children & Young People and Health.

This event also supports FYAB's evolving strategic approach, with plans to hold two such visits annually whereby FYAB strategic partners are invited to join.

Backside to Trackside Returns

This 9-week, award-winning programme is totally FREE! If you've been inspired by Basildon's upcoming Half marathon, and want to get ready for next year - take your first step today. All sessions are delivered on the athletics track by brand new coach James, beginning week commencing 22 September 2025 at Basildon Sporting Village:

- Tuesday 10am
- Thursday 7.30pm
- Friday 7.30pm
- Sunday 8.30am

Finale 5k: Sunday 23 November.

[Click here to book!](#)



Nominate Now - Basildon Activity Awards 2025



Do you know an inspiring individual, club, school, organisation making a difference through sports and physical activity in our borough? Nominations are now open for the 2025 Basildon Activity Awards - celebrating the people and groups who go above and beyond to keep Basildon moving.

Nominations close midnight Sunday 28th September 2025.

[Nominate here!](#)



Basildon Half Marathon



Registration is still [open](#) for the brand new Basildon Half Marathon! Taking place on Sunday 14th September at Basildon Sporting Village and through the town, this exciting event welcomes runners of all ages and abilities. Whether you're chasing a new PB or completing your first ever half marathon, everyone is invited to be part of this fun, supportive race day. There is also a junior/ family friendly event around the track taking place.

Save the Date!

📍 Basildon Sporting Village

📅 Saturday 20th September 2025

🕒 10am-2pm

Get ready for a fantastic day out as the End of Summer Fun Day comes to Basildon Sporting Village - the perfect way to wrap up the summer with family and friends. The event will also mark the end of this year's Summer of Sport, which has brought free and low-cost sporting activities to communities across the borough. Don't miss this fun-filled day of activities, celebrations, and community spirit!



Flex Summer Fest Community Day



To round off the summer, Flex hosted a successful FLEX FEST community day, welcoming over 200 attendees who enjoyed a range of activities and had the opportunity to meet the team. Rapper Professor Green also made an appearance, engaging in conversations about the importance of youth organisations. The season has marked an exciting chapter for the organisation, which continues to respond to the evolving needs of young people and the wider community.

Following a challenging transition to its new permanent premises, the team has gone from strength to strength. With the doors now open, they delivered a packed summer programme of fun and sport, supported by local partners. Young participants enjoyed trips and explored sports such as tennis, football, boxing, and dance. A group also attended the Diversity big show, with plans underway for future collaborations on movement-based projects.



Contact Us

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“ The investment from Sport England brings with it a transformative opportunity for the residents of Canvey Island. It will allow us to expand our movement-based projects (for example artist-led walks, geocache adventures and sound walks) to create more opportunities for a wider range of local people to take part. Through this investment more local people will be able to connect with the unique landscape of Canvey through creativity. We're looking forward to getting inspired and getting moving!

Thea Behrman, Estuary Festival

Scaling best practice through the Place Partnership

Building on insights from the Place Partnership Expansion in Canvey Island, a consortium secured £24,826.50 from the Castle Point UK Shared Prosperity Fund to boost pride of place and improve life chances for young people through physical activity. The initiative will activate green spaces and expand to Benfleet, Hadleigh, and Thundersley, delivering 60 inclusive sessions aimed at engaging 100 participants.

Castle Point Active Wellbeing Membership Now Live

The Castle Point Active Well-Being Membership (CP-AWBM) provides referred residents with 12 weeks of free, unlimited access to Runnymede Leisure Centre in Benfleet, Waterside Farm Leisure Centre in Canvey Island, and Wellbeing Outreach Sessions at The Paddocks Community Centre. Participants benefit from gym, swim, and fitness classes, along with a personalised 1-2-1 assessment and ongoing support from a fitness coach or Wellbeing Team member. This offer mirrors the benefits of a full peak-time membership and is open to:

Adults aged 16+

Children and young people aged 10–15 (with some access restrictions – contact us for details)

Eligibility & Referrals

Eligibility is assessed by the Wellbeing Team on a case-by-case basis. This scheme replaces the previous GP Exercise on Referral pathway.

We encourage GP surgeries and community partners to register on the Essex Frontline platform to refer patients.

[Register here!](#)

Ready by the Sea

The Canvey Best Start at School steering group recently hosted a beachside community event promoting early childhood communication and language development. Families enjoyed outdoor activities designed to encourage talking, listening, and play, with support from Talk Listen Cuddle, who shared practical strategies and resources. Over 30 families attended, engaging in replicable activities and receiving hand-knitted sea-life animals from the Hug in a Shrug Project. Key stakeholders reinforced the importance of everyday interactions, making the event a strong example of collaborative community support to help children start school with confidence and strong communication skills.



CVD action through physical activity activation

The CVD Pilot Scheme at St. Nicholas Church, Canvey Island, supports men with hypertension through tailored physical activity and lifestyle interventions. Run by Everyone Health with Active Essex and Island Surgery, participants aged 30s to 80s receive assessments and structured follow-ups with a qualified exercise professional, plus referrals to services like My Weight Matters, local leisure centres and CAVS.

So far, 47 patients have taken part, with notable outcomes including improved mental health, weight loss, and sustained healthy habits, demonstrating the scheme's powerful impact on personal wellbeing.



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Harlow Update

Since the announcement, we've been working to ensure that each of the six identified priorities including active environments; children, young people and families; communities; accessible and inclusive opportunities; health and wellbeing; and learning and development are beginning to be mobilised locally.

Physical Activity Connector Update

I've been actively involved in the community, working collaboratively with colleagues across Harlow to make a positive impact. Over the past few weeks, I've attended a variety of events and displays, including the Disability Festival and the Up and Down with Downs Summer Funday, connecting with many of our wonderful residents through meaningful conversations.

I truly enjoy being out in the community serving, supporting, and building relationships with the incredible people of Harlow.



Summer Provision - Cycle, Create, Move



On the Canvas

This summer, The Stow was brought to life with colour, activity, and community spirit as over 250 children and families took part in free drop-in art workshops. Held every Thursday during the school holidays, the sessions blended visual art, movement, and collaboration, creating a joyful space for families to explore creativity together. Led by Velo artists Jack Hamilton, Jordan Cook, and Adam Mirsky, the workshops explored art's connection to wellbeing and local identity.

Boxing Meets the Canvas

In a standout activity, Grant and Reggie from Changing Lives introduced boxing as a form of mark-making. Children and adults used paint-dipped gloves to create energetic, collaborative artworks, merging sport with expressive movement.

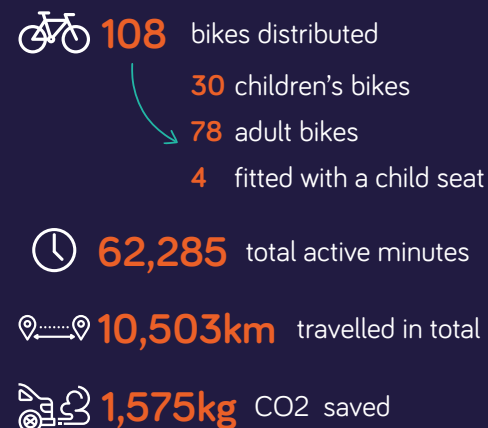
From The Stow to The Gibberd Gallery

Over the course of the workshops participants contributed to a large-scale mural. This vibrant artwork is a reimagining of John Piper's mural 'An Englishman's Home'. It will go on display at the Gibberd Gallery, celebrating the imagination and energy of everyone who took part. The summer workshop are part of our Cycle, Create & Move programme and were made possible with generous support from Harlow Council.

Essex Pedal Power Harlow



Results so far:



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Wheels for All at Old Heath Community Day

Colchester



The sun shone brightly on Saturday, helping to draw a fantastic crowd to the Old Heath Recreation Ground Community Day. Over 50 people tried out our trikes during the four hours we were there — a brilliant turnout!

It was a joy to speak with so many enthusiastic locals, all showing great interest in our plans for the mini hub. We were thrilled by the positive feedback and even identified some promising leads for local volunteers.

With new bike storage on the horizon, we're hopeful that many of the people we met will return to cycle with us soon. It was a truly successful event, and Wheels for All Colchester is excited about the future of the Recreation Ground and the opportunities it will bring for inclusive cycling in our community.

Mental Wellbeing Hubs: Embedding Movement into Support Services

Building on the learning from the pilot in Tendring, we're now working to expand and evolve the Mental Wellbeing Hubs across North Essex. These hubs are being shaped to better integrate physical activity into their offer, ensuring that movement becomes a core part of how we support mental health and wellbeing in our communities.

Children's Weight Management: Building Sustainable Pathways

We've also convened our first system-wide meeting to explore the children's weight management landscape in North Essex. This collaborative effort aims to better integrate physical activity into existing pathways and develop community-based models that support long-term sustainability and impact.

Leadership Development: Co-Ownning System Change in Uncertainty

The third and final workshop in the Leadership Day trilogy, titled "Our Place Partnership in Practice: Co-Ownning System Change in Uncertainty," was held with strategic leaders to reflect on their journey and discuss future steps.

The session addressed navigating Devolution and Local Government Reform and emphasised strengthening leadership, enhancing collaboration, and identifying practical steps to maintain momentum in serving communities through change.

Essex Pedal Power

Colchester

We currently have 830 bikes out in the community, including 160 children's bikes – helping families get moving and stay active.

Our regular Monday rides are about to get better! We're welcoming a new Community Cycle Connector to lead inclusive rides with partners like Colchester Borough Homes and Open Road, supporting people who want to get active and connect with others. This summer was full of action! We taught more children to ride and helped 24 local kids earn their Bikeability Level 2. Level 3 training is coming this October. Plus, we partnered with Firstsite for a fun, free Family Ride as part of their HAF programme.

On Monday 1st September, participants enjoyed a scenic led ride through the Moors to Castle Park, soaking in the beauty of the historic gardens and the River Colne. It was a perfect way to kick off the month with fresh air, gentle exercise, and great company.



Tendring

Essex Pedal Power had a packed summer, teaching over 30 children and adults to ride. They also supported Harwich's HAF programme with puncture workshops and bike chain art, in partnership with the Active Wellbeing Society.

The team had a blast at Clacton Carnival, dressing up for the Lion King and earning second place in the charity and community group category. We also joined events like the Healthy Habits Hub at Clacton Airshow and Inclusion Venture's #MeetMovePlay, featuring our smoothie bike and toddler bike giveaways.



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Big Lunches

Collaborating with a strong working group (Thurrock Council, Start Thurrock, Thurrock CVS, Impulse Leisure and Active Essex), 6 Big Lunch events were delivered in communities across the district and included artistic shows, physical activity opportunities, local provider stands with face painting, hair braiding and community sellers, Council and Health support, as well as a DJ playing summer tunes to keep the Summer mood high.

Over 6,000 people attended this years Big Lunch events, including children from the Essex ActivAte clubs who were able to enjoy the day with their friends, and a free meal provided by the on site cafes. These free events brought communities together, with families staying for the whole afternoon to enjoy the music, watch the artists on stage and join in the activities.



Thurrock Essex ActivAte - Summer 2025

This Summer Essex ActivAte delivered 37 clubs across Thurrock offering 11,000 free funded spaces to eligible children on income related free school meals. The delivery included 21 clubs for primary aged children, 5 clubs for secondary aged children, 3 SEND specialist Clubs, 1 Mental Wellbeing specialist club and 7 youth specialist clubs and outreach provision. The Thurrock clubs delivered a fantastic range of activities including Multi Sports, Dance, Creative Arts, Day Trips, Water Activities, Music and Cooking lessons to name just a few. Thurrock Essex ActivAte Children were also invited along to the Thurrock Big Lunch events where they were given wrist bands to collect a free meal at the Blackshots and Averley sites.



Jason's visit to Thurrock



On 21st August, Jason Fergus, Director of Active Essex, visited Thurrock to explore local physical activities and open spaces. Guided by Mel, Physical Activity Coordinator, the tour included Essex ActivAte clubs in Tilbury and South Ockendon, Koala Park, the Tilbury Walking Group's litter pick with Chosen CIC, Chadwell's Parkrun and new play area, The Pyramid Resource Centre, and Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre. The day concluded in Purfleet with visits to the Military Centre and the Basketball Youth Outreach programme on River Green. The visit highlighted the impressive community impact and dedication of local organisations.

Outdoor Gym Activation

To highlight the free facilities available to the public and to support anyone who may feel nervous to try on their own for the first time, Mel hosted summer drop in sessions at some of the outdoor gym sites across Thurrock. This was a great opportunity to hear people's views about their local green space and to ask about their usage of outdoor gyms.



Intergenerational Project

Tilbury Library Hub and Chosen CIC have teamed up to encourage intergenerational connections. Their first joint activity on 21st August brought together the Tilbury Walking Group and Chosen CIC Young Leaders for a community litter pick, which received enthusiastic feedback. Next, they're exploring a link between the Hub's Knit and Natter group and Chosen CIC children.



Summer Prize Draw

To encourage feedback and promote local services, partners donated prizes for the Find Your Active Thurrock survey's August prize draw. With over 100 entries received, spot prizes will be awarded throughout September. The year-round survey continues to gather valuable insights to shape future physical activity programmes in Thurrock.



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