

From: Childrens Trust [mailto:childrenstrust@essex.gov.uk]
Subject: Local Priority Fund - Project Guide for Practitioners -

Dear Partner,

The Children's Trust in Essex recently set up the **Local Priority Fund (LPF)** to directly benefit our most vulnerable children and young people. From 1 October, 124 services are delivering prevention and early intervention services that are outcomes-focussed and support the objectives of the Essex Children and Young People's plan.

To assist practitioners and our partner agencies access the wide range of services the Children's Trust has published the **LPF Guide which lists by area the services, organisations and contact details**. These services can be easily accessed by practitioners to help support vulnerable young people across Essex.

The LPF is the result of a new approach to commissioning services for children and young people in Essex. Contracts have replaced a system of annual grant applications for different funds including Connexions, Children's Fund and Social Care.

In May, organisations predominantly from the voluntary sector made funding applications to deliver projects which focussed on early intervention and preventative support for our local children, young people and their families. These were assessed by the local Children and Young People's Strategic Partnerships (CYPSP) and included valuable input from children and young people in the decision making process.

This innovative localised, partnership approach received tremendous support from the Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS) as well as practitioners and managers across Childrens Services in Essex and was so successful that applications for funding were five times oversubscribed.

The success of this programme has meant that not all of the 450 bids submitted could be met. However, **124** organisations were successful with their applications and a total of **£7.8 million** has been commissioned for projects over the next 2.5 years. There is such a wide range of services, from self esteem building and counselling to sports for young people with disability, and play schemes. We would encourage all practitioners to look at what is available in their area and make contact with the providers.

All of the groups, started in October for 2 ½ years and will be required to report back on how their project is making a **real** difference to children, young people and their families.

The **LPF Guide** and further information can be found at the Essex Partnership Portal <http://www.essexpartnershipportal.org/>. You can also contact the Local Priority Fund team by email: LPF.childrenstrust@essex.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

**Wendi Ogle-
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**Director for
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**Schools, Children &
Families**

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Working together for all our children and young people



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