



Building a better future for **Essex**

Working together to support and strengthen local communities



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Foreword

I was delighted to be asked to write a foreword for this brochure.

Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS) and Essex County Council have worked together for many years to serve the people of Essex, working together in partnership to harness resources, maximise community assets and resilience and to make Essex one of the very best places to live, work and visit.

This brochure has been designed to give greater insight into the work of CVSs who themselves are independent charities but all have the same core functions and whose services reflect the very different communities they serve.

CVSs work across Essex delivering vital infrastructure

“Working together in partnership to harness resources, maximise community assets and resilience and to make Essex one of the very best places to live”

support to local organisations ensuring they have the tools and skills necessary to deliver high quality services that local people want and need.

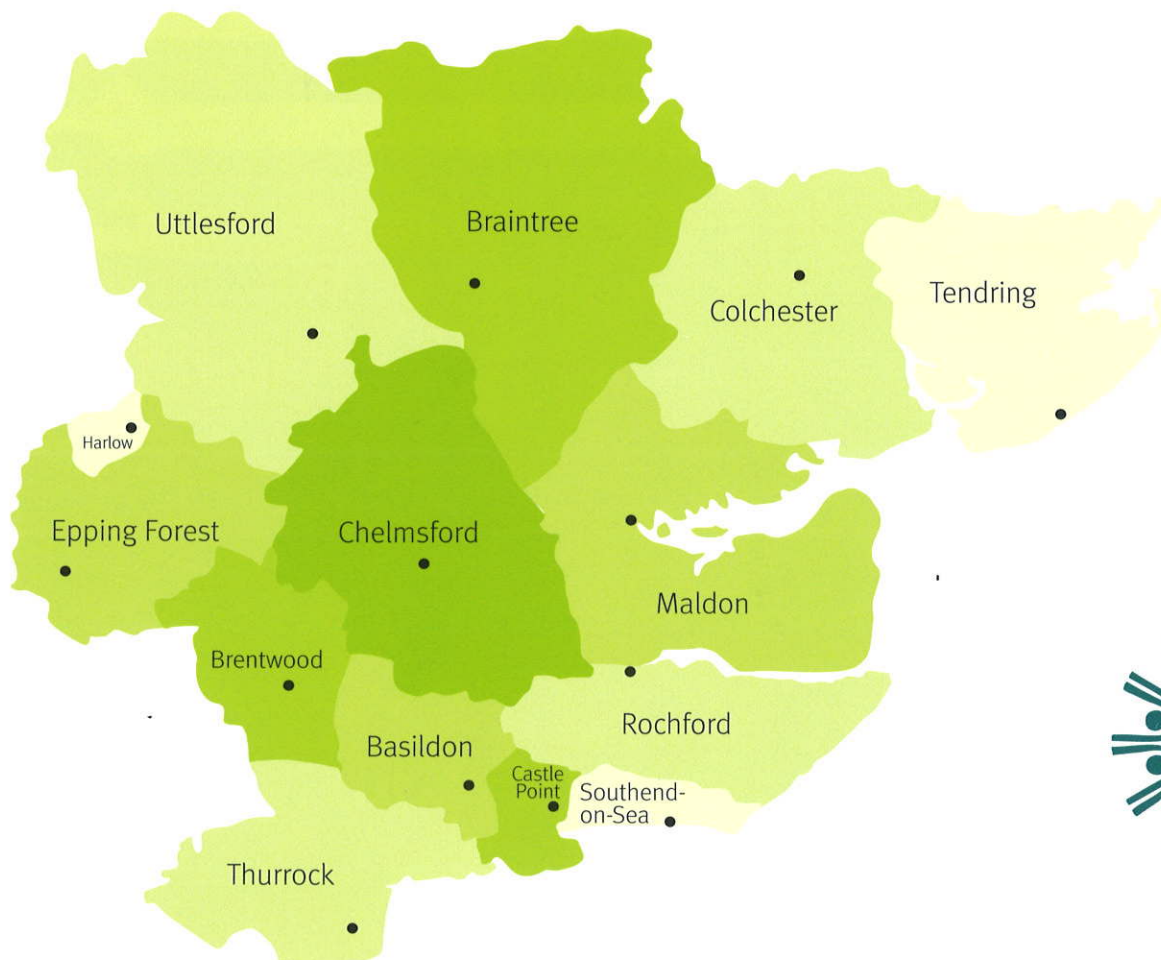
In current times of austerity it becomes even more important that we work together to make the best use of resources to support our local communities.

I would like to congratulate the



Cllr Norman Hume
Chairman of Essex County Council

CVSs for all their achievements and look forward to the future and to continuing our strong and productive partnership for the good of Essex.



Introduction

I have lived in Essex all my life, and one of the many things that make me proud to represent our county as Police and Crime Commissioner is the enduring commitment communities have to volunteering and supporting voluntary organisations.

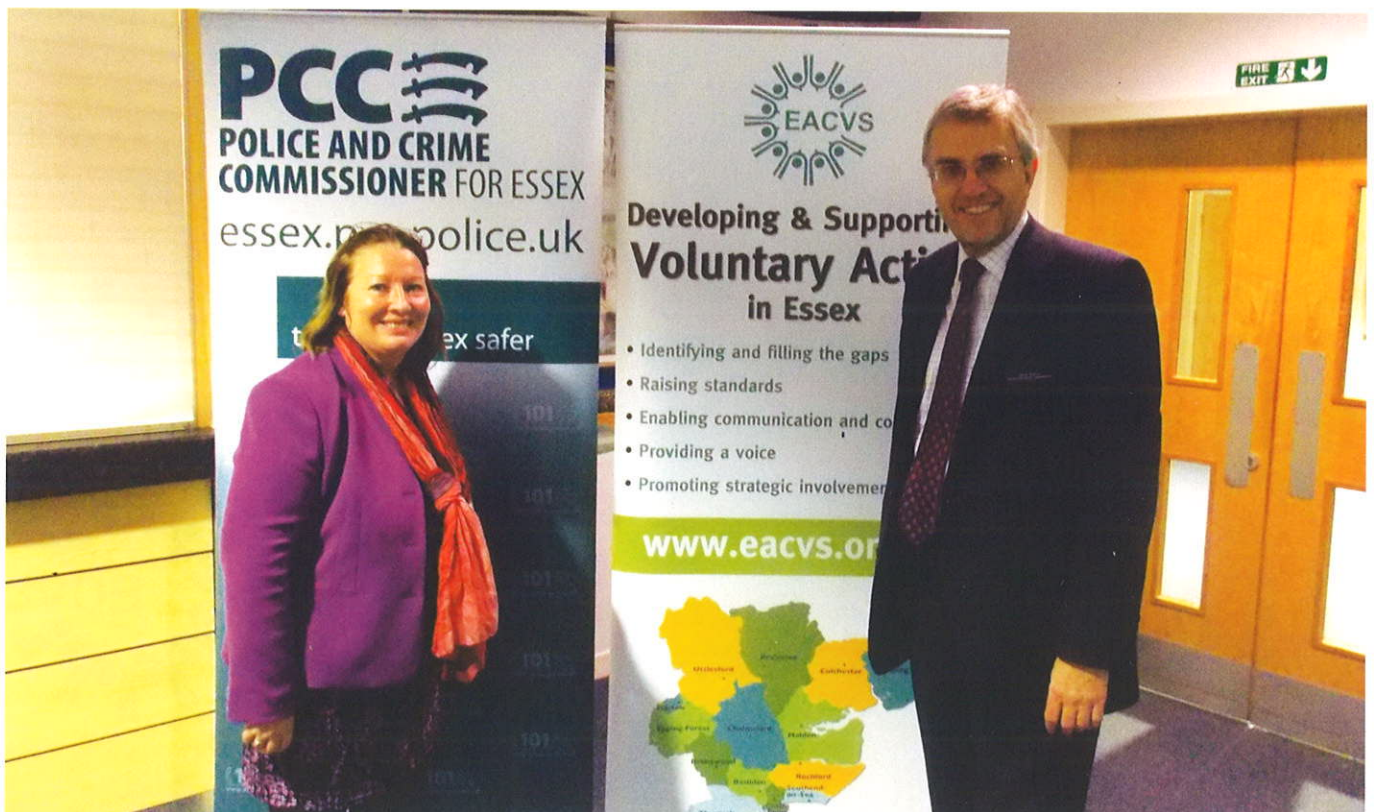
There are thousands of charitable, community and voluntary sector organisations in Essex, ranging from the grass roots to county wide deliverers, and all of them provide a critical service to their communities. Each organisation represents even more people within it who are giving their time to support causes and issues that matter to them and improve the quality of life for everyone who lives and works here. The range of volunteer contribution in Essex is vast, and whether it be through supporting

victims of crime, working with vulnerable animals, helping young people get a positive start in life, or supporting elderly people or people with disabilities, ordinary people are doing something extraordinary to make our county even better.

However, this level of commitment and contribution takes some organising – matching all those skills and interests with the many varied opportunities on offer, and ensuring that community and voluntary sector organisations have the support they need and deserve to continue delivering critical services to communities. It is in no small way thanks to the dedication and infrastructure provided by CVSs that we have the thriving community and voluntary sector we do in Essex, and I am enormously grateful to all those involved.



Nick Alston CBE
**Police & Crime Commissioner
for Essex**



Mission

Essex CVS (ECVS) exists to enable a collaborative approach to the promotion, support, development and voice of the VCS within Greater Essex, whilst encouraging responsive community action for the benefit of our local communities.

Statement of Values

- We will achieve all of the above by presenting a collective voice to relevant stakeholders and by continuously working to strengthen and promote the VCS within Essex, whilst actively supporting each other.
- Where relevant and feasible we will work collaboratively to progress opportunities for the sector, and share information and best practice for mutual benefit.
- Building on our shared principles of equality of opportunity, cooperation and effective involvement, we will raise the profile and importance of local community action in a fair and equitable society.

Voluntary Action in Essex



identifying and meeting community need



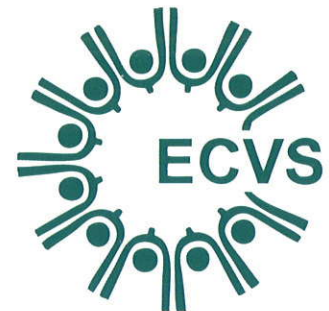
raising standards and building capacity



providing a voice



promoting strategic involvement



Mobilising Communities

There's a new kid on the Essex VCS block and its called "Mobilising Communities". It is slipping into every presentation, it's on every agenda, and we are all talking about it like a best friend but what exactly does it mean?

We all know that the demand for health and social care services is rising to unprecedented levels, and we are informed that demand will outstrip supply any time soon, so how will "mobilised communities" ease the pressure.

Actually it's about good old community action, from the ground up, people taking control of things within their own lives, within their own

communities and organizing mutual support systems. This type of work has gone through a few name changes—community development being its most recent recognisable form, but this time it is being seen as the answer to many of the health and social care challenges. BUT some assume that it is an instant fix and local people are ready and motivated to take up the challenge. That's where the CVSs come in. They know their patch, their local groups and the issues that present the biggest challenges within their communities. Currently it's certainly the biggest game in town but it would be short sighted to assume it's the only game!

Basildon, Billericay and Wickford Council for Voluntary Services

To promote, develop & facilitate a thriving, effective, sustainable & influential voluntary sector



What we do

Basildon, Billericay and Wickford Council for Voluntary Service (BBWCVS) was formed in 1979 as an independent registered charity that exists to promote, develop, support and represent a thriving, effective, voluntary and community sector in the borough. Guided by values that promote equality of opportunity, participation, cooperation, partnership and democratic involvement we aim to improve the quality of life for all of Basildon's communities and citizens.

A scan of recent annual reports highlights the significant and important role the BBWCVS plays in supporting local community and voluntary organisations in the borough. It also demonstrates the important leadership role that the BBWCVS continues to provide not just locally but across Essex, and the broader South East Local Enterprise Partnership area. For example, we provided a Secretariat for the Talent Match Partnership covering Essex,

Kent and East Sussex securing £6.8million investment in the area.

As well as securing much needed investment in our area we have also championed a series of national initiatives. As a result we are currently the Trusted Local Organisation for the Big Local, host four Community Organisers on behalf of Locality, and manage two local community funding panels for Community First.

Much of this work is the result of effective partnership working so our thanks are due to the many partners with whom we work and will continue to work to the benefit of the local community.



£1,023,000

Assisted groups and Partnerships secure £1,023,000 new money (2013-14).

62

Assisted on average 62 groups per quarter in the 12 months 01/04/13 to 31/03/14.

£1m

Trusted Local Organisation for the Heart of Pitsea managing £1m investment over 10 years in a resident led Partnership.

400

Recruited 400 volunteers and worked with 44 groups on suitable placements.

33,950

Manage two Community Panels investing £33,950 in two wards in Basildon.

OUR CORE FUNDERS:

- Basildon Borough Council
- Essex County Council
- Essex County Council (Public Health Grant)

Other funders:

- Locality
- TCHC (ESF)
- the Big Local
- Talent Match

“We provided a Secretariat for the Talent Match Partnership covering Essex, Kent and East Sussex securing £6.8million investment in the area”

CASE STUDY 1

Big Local is an exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to use at least £1m to make a massive and lasting positive difference to their communities. It's about bringing together all the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organisations who want to make their area an even better place to live.

Focusing on the Heart of Pitsea, as the Trusted Local Organisation, BBWCVS has worked with residents and partners to develop its first Big Local Plan for the area. We have tried to develop the plan as a way of starting delivery so that local people can start to see the benefits quickly. In this way more and more people will get involved and we can review this plan in the light of new opinions coming in as well as through understanding what is working well and what is not working so well.

Engagement and consultation with our local community and stakeholders has been central to the work so far. We have also developed a team of resident Community Champions who have volunteered vast amounts of time to progress things.

CASE STUDY 2

BBWCVS is a partner for Talent Match, a Big Lottery Funded initiative that will help local 18 to 24 year-olds who have been out of work for more than 12 months.

Talent Match is a £108million investment aimed at tackling youth unemployment in 21 areas of England hardest hit by the economic downturn. It is a five-year investment for young people aged 18-24 who have not been in employment, education or training for 12 months or more, and need particular support to help them into work. The investment was co-designed with young people and will continue to have young people at the heart of decision making throughout the programme.

Together with lead Talent Match partner for the South East, The Prince's Trust, a panel of local young people and a number of local partners from across the voluntary and private sectors have been awarded £6.8 million to deliver local solutions for long-term unemployed young people living locally. The partnership aims to engage, inspire and support those who are furthest from the labour market and we are focusing on local areas with high unemployment – Medway and Kent Coastal, Hastings, East Sussex Coastal, Southend, Thurrock, Harlow, Basildon and Tendring.

KEY DISTRICT STATISTICS

- **Basildon District was formed in 1974 and includes the towns of Basildon, Billericay and Wickford. It is the second district in Essex by population. It is a major player in the Thames Gateway region. A priority area for regeneration, it is recognised as the business and economic hub of South Essex.**
- **Basildon is ranked 136th nationally and 5th within Essex for overall deprivation. The borough is ranked 2nd within Essex for rank of extent which indicates the proportion of people living in seriously deprived areas. Basildon is also ranked 2nd for both income and employment deprivation.**



Basildon, Billericay & Wickford | CVS

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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Charity number 802116
Company number 8028602

Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency (BDVSA)

Supporting and strengthening the voluntary and community sector



78

78 organisations were assisted in the year 2013/14.

361

361 people are registered with our Volunteer Centre.

338

338 mailshots are sent on a fortnightly basis.

What we do

BDVSA is the infra-structure organisation covering the Braintree District. The organisation provides one-to-one advice and assistance to a whole range of local voluntary and community groups. Such support encompasses one-off advice and longer-term casework.

BDVSA plays an important role in liaising with and representing the voluntary sector at key meetings and forums. BDVSA chairs the Braintree Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership – a forum for bringing together the statutory and voluntary sectors.

There are 265 stakeholders in the membership of BDVSA who receive fortnightly e-bulletins and a quarterly newsletter both of which provide information on local and national issues affecting the voluntary sector.

BDVSA's work incorporates a volunteer centre which assists both individuals in finding volunteering opportunities and organisations needing volunteers. The volunteer centre also assists organisations in developing good practice in volunteering.

“BDVSA chairs the Braintree Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership – a forum for bringing together the statutory and voluntary sectors.”





CASE STUDY 1

BDVSA was awarded funding from Essex County Council to support and co-ordinate a winter warmth project for those whose health and wellbeing was most at risk during cold weather. Using its knowledge and links across the Braintree District, BDVSA worked in partnership with other organisations to deliver an initiative to older people most at risk during cold weather.

BDVSA provided warm packs which were delivered by Braintree Community Transport. The packs included winter warmth items, a goody bag from Community Transport, energy saving advice from our local Citizens Advice Bureau, a thermometer and information from Braintree District Council, information on bogus callers and doorstep safety from Essex Trading Standards and a benefits advice leaflet from Age UK Essex. Further work to deliver this winter initiative was carried out by the Village Agents who identified isolated and vulnerable older people and organised a series of shopping trips and outings for them over the winter months.

Overall, 270 people were directly assisted through this work.

CASE STUDY 2

The Volunteer Centre worked with a historical/conservation group which wanted to create a museum focussing on transport artefacts and history. The group needed volunteers with specific skills such as mechanical experience, welding and spray painting. BDVSA's Volunteering Co-ordinator was able to find volunteers with the right skills and refer them to the historical group to assist with the project.

Another health based organisation sought the Volunteer Centre's assistance in devising good practice for their volunteers. The Volunteering Co-ordinator worked with the organisation to establish task descriptions for the volunteer roles and devised policy and procedure documents around the use of volunteers in their work. When all the mechanisms were in place, the organisation was ready to place their opportunities with the Volunteer Centre and suitable volunteers were found.

OUR CORE FUNDERS:

- Essex County Council
- Braintree District Council

KEY DISTRICT STATISTICS

- Braintree District has a population of 147,000 which is expected to rise by 10% in the next 10 years.
- The District is a mix of urban and rural areas, with 62% of the population living in the urban areas of Halstead, Witham, Braintree and Great Notley.
- As the area in Essex with the lowest GCSE attainment, there is an on-going need for policy and services to be maintained and developed to address the issue.



HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

BDVSA, Colne House, 96 Mount Chambers, Coggeshall Road, Braintree CM7 9BY

E: volunteer@bdvsa.org

Volunteer Centre email:

jayne@bdvsa.org

T: 01376 550507

www.bdvsa.org.uk

Brentwood Council for Voluntary Service

Supporting voluntary and community action in Brentwood



CVS Office located in Town hall

What we do

Brentwood CVS is a friendly and approachable local umbrella organisation that delivers professional, value for money support services for the voluntary and community sector organisations in Brentwood.

“To make a positive difference for the community of Brentwood by supporting voluntary and community sector organisations to achieve the very best they can for their beneficiaries.”

Information, development services, funding advice and training are being offered to about 100 voluntary and community groups working within Brentwood. We are determined to make a positive difference wherever we can, always being honest and realistic with our partners and beneficiaries and striving to remove barriers that might inhibit access to our services.

Our mission is “To make a positive difference for the community of

Brentwood by supporting voluntary and community sector organisations to achieve the very best they can for their beneficiaries”.

▼ The CVS Team



60

Last year about 60 local groups received direct assistance with funding and development advice.

70

Five funding workshops were organised along with 4 networking events attracting over 70 groups targeted at developing the skill-base of the local groups.

500,000

Total of over £500k has been raised for the local groups as a result of BCSV's support.

OUR CORE FUNDERS:

- Essex County Council
- Brentwood Borough Council
- ECC Public Health

Other funders:

- BIG Lottery Fund
- Yellow Car Charitable Trust

▼ A recent networking event



CASE STUDY 1

Man Have Rights Too

A new group approached Brentwood CVS back in 2012 with the request to help them with development and funding assistance. The team worked with Gerald Cash, the founder and chairman of the group with training support and networking opportunities, as well as provided funding service to seek financial assistance to kick start the project. The project was successful in receiving BIG Lottery's "Awards for All" funding in May 2014 which will help Gerald to organise an introduction event and series of six training courses designed to raise awareness of male victims of domestic abuse and violence and provide training in working with them.

In his letter to Brentwood CVS team Gerald said: "I should like to say how pleased I am with the help and guidance I have received from Brentwood CVS. At the start of the year I embarked on setting up a help line and related services for male victims of domestic violence. I knew nothing about setting up a charity. It was hard work to say the least, but fortunately I joined Brentwood CVS and I am extremely grateful for all the help and advice I have received as a result.

In addition to the helpful staff in the office, the free courses and breakfast meetings have been an invaluable source of information. Networking is also beneficial as meeting other like-minded people is supportive and encouraging. In a materialistic country such as Britain, it is wonderful that so much is done without a huge cost attached which enables charities to learn how to provide a better service to those in need, a service which would not exist without the hard work and devotion of the many volunteers who devote so much time and energy. Brentwood CVS enables those who wish to help others, help others.

CASE STUDY 2

Part of our core services we provide networking events throughout the year for the voluntary and community sector in Brentwood. These have proven very popular over the years with an increasing number of attendees. Each event has a theme, with guest speakers discussing topical community and/or national issues that affect our local voluntary community in Brentwood. In addition, local groups also have an opportunity to promote themselves. Below are a few of our attendee's comments on these events;

- 'First time at one of these events, brilliant opportunity to network and learn' **Deafblind UK**
- 'First time at this event. I was delighted at how warm and welcoming everyone is. All wanting the best for our community shows in how everyone interacts' **Essex Counselling at Home Organisation**
- 'This was the first meeting I have attended, it was very good and I look forward to attending again' **Family Mosaic**
- 'Very well organised event—thank you very much!' **BOSP**
- 'I look forward to the next one! Fantastic opportunity for us to meet—couldn't do it without you!' **Synergy**

KEY DISTRICT STATISTICS

- Brentwood is located in the London commuter belt, 20 miles (30 km) east north-east of Charing Cross, and near the M25 motorway. According to the 2011 Census, the town had a population of 49,463.
- Brentwood is an affluent suburban town with a small but expanding shopping area and high street. Beyond this is extensive sprawling residential development entirely surrounded by open countryside and woodland.
- Brentwood has been twinned with Roth, Germany, since August 1978, and with Montbazou, France, since March 1994.

Brentwood at a glance

- The health of people in Brentwood is generally better than the England average.
- Deprivation is lower than average, however about 1,500 children live in poverty.
- Priorities in Brentwood include reducing road injuries and deaths, improving breast feeding initiation and increasing physical activity in adults and children.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Brentwood Council for Voluntary Service, Brentwood Borough Council, Town Hall, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AY

E: enquiries@brentwoodcvs.org.uk

T: 01277 222299

www.brentwoodcvs.org.uk

Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services

Supporting the Community and Voluntary Sector



What we do

Castle Point Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS) was formed in 1994 to provide support and guidance to voluntary and community organisations within Castle Point. From the outset we have operated a Volunteer Centre helping to match organisations and potential volunteers.

“With an increasing amount of public services being outsourced through contracts CAVS have embraced the opportunity to create and deliver services which reflect the needs of our local population.”

We have always worked closely with local statutory bodies and the community to identify and develop new services which could be delivered on a not for profit basis. We have worked with existing voluntary sector providers to extend their schemes or, when appropriate, have formed new services as part of CAVS portfolio

of projects which bring benefit to the local population. “With an increasing amount of public services being outsourced through contracts CAVS have embraced the opportunity to create and deliver services which reflect the needs of our local population.”

OUR CORE FUNDERS:

- Essex County Council
- Castle Point Borough Council

Other funders:

- Castle Point & Rochford CCG
- Essex Safeguarding Adults Board
- Family Mosaic
- PCC Office

186

How many groups/organisations assisted in the 12 months 01/04/13 to 31/03/14.

£1,250,000

A total of the amount of funds raised including those raised for CVS .

927

Between August 2013 and July 2014 CAVS referred 927 potential volunteers to voluntary and community sector organisations.

178

CAVS have 178 volunteers who provide the equivalent of £289,641 worth of work (based on 3hrs per week, 48 weeks per year, UK median wage of £11.70 calculated by the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings).

▼ Hadleigh Castle overlooking Canvey Point



CASE STUDY 1

The Mickey Payne Memorial Foundation is one organisation which has benefitted from CAVS services from its inception through to becoming an established organisation.

Thanks to being able to meet with other like minded organisations the MPMF is working in partnership with a number of different agencies to improve the lives of dementia sufferers and their families. "We were first involved with CAVS on recommendation from our local MP, Rebecca Harris, in 2011. I met up with the Development Officer and we discussed my ideas for the Foundation and some suggestions were made about how CAVS could help us to progress. The patience of everyone at CAVS has been immense, and we as a Foundation say thank you to all the staff involved with our journey."

Caroline Dearson, MPMF



CASE STUDY 2

The Befriending Scheme, operated by CAVS, was awarded a £5,000 donation. The grant was provided by Santander which provides grants of up to £5,000 for projects that help disadvantaged people in local communities.

The Befriending Scheme was nominated by Trevor Matthews, whose mother Lilian has been using the scheme for the past six months. Trevor said "The Befriending Scheme has been a lifeline to my 93 year old mother. Her Befriender, Lynda, comes to visit every week to sit and have a chat whilst I am able to get on with things that I need to do. My mother looks forward to seeing Lynda and they have become



good friends. I saw the nomination forms whilst visiting the Hadleigh branch of Santander and thought of the Befriending Scheme straight away. I am really pleased that I have been able to be part of helping the scheme receive this donation".

KEY DISTRICT STATISTICS

- Castle Point is a distinctive Borough located on the north bank of the Thames Estuary. It has a population of 89,600 and comprises two urban areas of Canvey Island and the mainland towns of Benfleet, Hadleigh and Thundersley. These towns have distinctively different landscapes, built environments and social conditions.
- Castle Point's urban area is bound by the Thames Estuary and metropolitan green belt. It benefits from diverse natural environment including six nationally and internationally important sites of Special Scientific Interest, a Special Protection Area and wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.



HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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