



FAMILIES INFOCUS (ESSEX) E-BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2016
ISSUE

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, sending warmest wishes this season to our wonderful families and friends, all the very best to you in 2017.

Message from the CEO, as we look forward to the year ahead, I wanted to take time to reflect on the past year and to express my gratitude to the many people who continue to help make our charity so successful. Firstly, I would like to thank all my wonderful staff, who approach their work with enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to the hundreds of families they support. Their continued focus and tireless work has allowed the charity to both maintain the level of support and to respond to the significant increase in demand from new families. And a huge personal thank you to our great team of highly valued Volunteers and Trustees, who are vital to our success and without whom, many of our activities could not take place.

Thank you to the many families who took part in our family sponsorship challenge in September which raised over £400 and everyone who came along to our first ever Charity Ball in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Families InFocus (Essex). I am delighted



to say that over £3,500 was raised from the evening and a great time was had by all!

I am also hugely grateful to our numerous funders, fundraisers and the many businesses and individuals who have made donations, either

financial or in kind, or took part in fundraising events during the year.

We operate within a complex environment, with ongoing financial challenges and major changes with Social Welfare and Special Education Needs Reforms. However, I am confident that we will continue to provide vital support and help families navigate through these changes. Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Rachel Ellis, CEO.

CELEBRATING A MILESTONE

Many congratulations to a number of Staff and Trustees reaching milestones with Families InFocus (Essex).

Carol Avis and Karen Saye both Trustees and Volunteers for 5 years and Staff member Julie Neilson celebrating 15 years.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication over the years, you are greatly appreciated by us all.

Activity Club

We are looking for Volunteers for our Activity Club to assist with setting up and assisting the children with playing with the equipment available.

If you would like to volunteer for Families InFocus or are interested in helping with fundraising events and activities, either on a one-off basis or regularly, please call Sharon on 01245 353575 or email: sharon@familiesinfocussessex.org.uk

THE NEXT BRAINTREE DROP IN MORNING

Come and join us and other parents for a chat, a therapist will be offering free treatment and a trained Family Support Adviser will be on hand to discuss any queries you may have. Pre-school children welcome.

BRAINTREE: Alec Hunter Academy Learning village, Stubbs Lane, Braintree, CM7 3NR.

Date: **11th January 2017**

Time: 10am – 12noon



Kidzspace Events

Activities for the siblings aged 8+ living with a child who has a disability or special need.

**Next event to be confirmed in
January 2017**



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Apex Parent Support Group

Is for families whose children have social communication difficulties which may involve the autistic spectrum. Meet monthly on Thursdays at: The Apex, Thriftwood School, Slades Lane, Chelmsford, CM2 8RW

Next Meeting dates: 12th January, 9th February 2017
Time: 10am – 12noon

Refreshments from 9.30am but unable to offer crèche facilities.

For further details and directions contact:
clairejsmith13@gmail.com

THE HELPFUL SHOPPER:

Zoe Willsdon has set up a website called www.THEHELPFULSHOPPER.co.uk The Helpful Shopper is a way of fundraising for charities through shopping online. The way it works is that you go through the website to access the retailer's website, you then buy your goods as normal and the retailer will donate a small percentage to The Helpful Shopper who then splits the donations to 3 named charities, one of them being Families InFocus (Essex).

IT REALLY IS AS SIMPLE AS CLICK, SHOP, DONATE

Link to Helpful Shopper:
<http://www.thehelpfulshopper.com/>

Quality Furniture & Appliances

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Essex

Families InFocus
(ESSEX)

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Check website for opening times

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0300 99 99 007

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 @TendringReuse

BASILDON ACTIVITY CLUB FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Weekly club on Fridays starting 21st October 2016

For 12 - 15 year olds
4pm - 6pm

DONATE YOUR FURNITURE OR WORKING APPLIANCES to T.R.E.E:

A charity helping disadvantaged people across Essex through work and training opportunities.

Your donations help alleviate furniture poverty across Essex through shops in Clacton, Braintree and Chelmsford

Call 0300 9999 007

Website: www.tree1.org.uk

TAKE PART IN...

- Arts and Crafts
- Cooking
- Board Games
- Wii competitions
- Outdoor games
- Foot spa/manicure
- Table tennis
- Pool table games

FIND US...

Trenham Community Centre,
Wilsner, Ashlyns, Basildon,
SS13 1HE

BOOK YOUR PLACE

To book your place please contact us on:

Akile: 07423 527385
Lydia: 07970 081178
essex.referrals@coreassets.com

Cost: £3.30 per hour

We look forward to hearing from you!



BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

t: 07423 527385 e: essex.referrals@coreassets.com

www.corechildrenservices.co.uk



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Helping to make a difference

Thank you to all our supporters

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

Legg Mason Global Asset Management who donated £6,500 for the Activity Club nominated by their staff member Jo Stasek

Thank you to Caprice the Essex Wind Orchestra for raising £1,300 with a wonderful programme from the 'Soundtracks of Stage and Screen'

Thank you to the Inner Wheel Club of Chelmsford Mildmay who held a Shoe Sale by Hotfooted Shoes

Masonic Charitable Foundation who donated £4,980 for Family Support projects

Chelmsford Salvation Army who raised £1,322 at their Family Christmas evening of music and song performed by the choir and brass band, with guest vocal soloist Gemma Hinchcliffe and Konverse Dance Group

St James's Place Foundation for £2,790

Adventure Island who donated £2,000 as part of their £40,000 for 40 Years Charity giveaway

Provide Foundation for £4,820

Action Learning is a farm based learning centre for Primary, Secondary and Special Educational Needs students. We also offer training for adults who wish to learn or brush up on previously learnt skills. We provide an accredited alternative learning provision which is based in 10 acres of farmland in Downham, Essex.
<http://www.actionlearningcentres.co.uk/>

INTERACT

Young People Activity Programme
2017 now available

Book activities by calling
01245 608206 or visit website:
www.interact.org.uk/booknow



New Trade School starting 11th January 2017

Are you 14-16 years old and want to try your hand at any of these? Bricklaying, Carpentry, Painting, Tiling. Courses run for 12 weeks on Wednesday from 5.30-7.30pm. Find out more by calling 01245 461700 or visit the website: www.essexyouthbuild.co.uk



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AGM

Thank you to all who attended our AGM and the guest speakers Dr Karen McCarty, Consultant Clinical Psychologist from NELFT NHS Foundation Trust, who spoke about 'The Need to Talk About It: Emotional-wellbeing and Mental Health' and Ryan Crouch, Paralympic Finalist, Swimming Men's S9 50m Freestyle at Rio 2016 who has mild cerebral palsy, shared his inspirational story of challenges and successes in achieving his dream.



Rachel Ellis CEO and Ryan Crouch

HOT NEWS:

Our bid to Henry Smith Charity has been successful, £115,200 over 3 years to fund our Family Support Projects across Essex.

**Families InFocus (Essex)
ACTIVITY CLUB
Closed for the Christmas Period
Re-opens
SATURDAY 7th January 2017**



3.30pm to 5.30pm

For further information please email:
helpline@familiesinfocusessex.org.uk

Families InFocus (Essex)

HELPLINE

01245 353575

Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Or Email

helpline@familiesinfocusessex.org.uk

WEBSITE

www.familiesinfocusessex.org.uk

FOLLOW US ON



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Families-Infocus-Essex/135545906596117?rdr>



We post up to date information for the Activity Club and all the latest news regarding Families InFocus.