

Policy E-bulletin

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The policy e-bulletin pulls together the week's news, reports and publications. These are grouped by ECC's corporate outcomes to keep you up-to-date with research and developments in your areas of interest. **Click on the headings to link to the sources.**

Contents

- [Children in Essex get the best start in life](#)
- [People in Essex enjoy good health and wellbeing](#)
- [People have aspirations and achieve their ambitions through education, training and lifelong-learning](#)
- [People in Essex live in safe communities and are protected from harm](#)
- [Sustainable economic growth for Essex communities and businesses](#)
- [People in Essex experience a high quality and sustainable environment](#)
- [People in Essex can live independently and exercise control over their lives](#)
- [Local Government & Devolution](#)

Children in Essex get the best start in life

[Journal of Pediatrics: Influence of Relative Age on Diagnosis and Treatment of ADHD in Taiwanese Children](#)

This analysis of 400,000 children in Taiwan, found August-born children were almost twice as likely to have ADHD as those born the previous September.

The report found that 2.8% of the pre-school and primary school boys born in September are diagnosed with the condition compared with 4.5% of those born the following August. For girls the incidence increased from 0.7% to 1.2%. The birthday cut-off for the school year in Taiwan is the same as the UK, August 31.

People in Essex enjoy good health and wellbeing

[Department for Health: Over £2 million investment in safer maternity care](#)

The government has announced that more than 90 NHS trusts will receive money to buy new equipment, including ultrasound machines and mother and baby monitoring equipment, so any problems can be detected and addressed earlier.

This is part of the government's campaign to halve the number of stillbirths, neonatal deaths, maternal deaths and brain injuries occurring during or soon after birth, by 2030.

[Kings Fund: Bringing together physical and mental health](#)

This report makes a case for a 'new frontier' for integration. Its purpose is to give service users' a perspective on what integrated care would look like and highlights 10 areas that offer some of the biggest opportunities for

improving quality and controlling costs.

People have aspirations and achieve their ambitions through education, training and lifelong learning

[Department for Education: Schools National Formula Consultation](#)

The DfE have published a consultation on proposals to introduce a national funding formula from 2017 to 2018. As part of this, local authorities will receive funding to help with their responsibilities towards young people with high-level special educational needs on a fair and formulaic basis, so that no pupil is disadvantaged based on where they live.

[Department for Education: Participation in education and training - local authority figures](#)

The DfE have released figures on the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds in education and training. According to the figures this saw a small increase on the previous year.

Information collected by local authorities shows that at the end of 2015 91.2% of 16 and 17 year olds were in some form of education or training, a 1% rise on the year before. The figures also show the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds on council databases whose activity was not known fell from 4.8% to 4.3%.

People in Essex live in safe communities and are protected from harm

[Home Office: Ending Violence against Women and Girls](#)

This document provides an overview of the wide range of actions the government will be taking towards its strategy of ending violence against women and girls between 2016 and 2020. Actions include an increase of reporting often hidden crimes, an overhaul of the criminal justice response to vulnerable victims, and to bring more perpetrators to justice.

[London Assembly: Crime on Public Transport](#)

The report found that reported crime on public transport is relatively low. However, despite positive partnership working and falls in recorded crime, perception of the Met's and TfL's response to crime and anti-social behaviour has declined marginally year on year for all modes of transport. The report also found that fear of crime still prevents many people from using public transport.

Sustainable economic growth for Essex communities and

businesses

[IPPR North: How devolving transport policy can transform our cities](#)

This report makes detailed recommendations for how English mayors can improve city transport systems over three terms of office – and how central government can support them, including by giving them more powers. The report recommends investment expanded business rate premium, workplace parking levies, road user charging and a broad range of other revenue raising powers.

[Office of National Statistics: Contracts that do not guarantee a minimum number of hours: March 2016](#)

This report includes the latest figures from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which is a survey of individuals in households. The survey showed that for October to December 2015 there were 801,000 people employed on “zero-hours contracts” in their main employment. This represents 2.5% of people in employment.

People in Essex experience a high quality and sustainable environment

[Department for Transport: Northern Transport Strategy](#)

The DfT have released their annual update of the ‘Northern transport strategy’. New developments in the strategy include investing over £1 billion to upgrade rail infrastructure, progress on the Northern Powerhouse rail, committing £2.9 billion of road improvements for the 5 year period to 2020, plus the role out of smart ticketing over a 9 year period.

[Competition and Market Authority: CMA sets out energy market changes](#)

In a summary of its provisional decision on remedies, the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has set out a package of remedies to address the problems hindering competition, which it proposes to introduce following the conclusion of its investigation in June.

[Business in the Community: Smart Water - A prosperous Future for the Food and Drink Supply Chain](#)

The report calls on food and drink businesses, as well as retailers and caterers to work with farmers to provide support, and to start considering how water is used in the agricultural supply chain.

The report believes that the food and drink sector has significant opportunities to make a positive difference on water quality and offers six steps to achieve this:

- Understand their relationship with water
- Create a plan of action
- Manage water sustainably in their operations
- Work with their agricultural suppliers
- Build resilience to flooding and water shortages

- Collaborate on sustainable water management

[Sheffield City Council: Green Commission Report](#)

The independent Sheffield Green Commission has published its final report and recommendations outlining four key priorities to transform the city. Recommendations include retrofitting existing developments to incorporate more attractive green space, and ensuring new developments have a requirement for good green and blue infrastructure to help future-proof the city against flood risk and heat waves.

People in Essex can live independently and exercise control over their lives

[NHS England: Dementia Implementation Plan](#)

The government has published their dementia implementation plan with the focus on improved care and transparency for people with dementia and their family. The plan will enable families to compare the quality of dementia care in their local area. The Care Quality Commission will include standards of dementia care in their inspections to make sure services are safer for people with dementia 7 days a week. It also says that every person with dementia will receive a personalised care plan.

[University College London: What are the barriers to care integration for those at the advanced stages of dementia living in care homes in the UK?](#)

Research conducted by Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department at UCL, highlights that people with dementia often receive fragmented and inadequate end of life care. The report talks about low staff morale and insufficient training which leaves care home staff feeling unable to recognise and respond to the complex needs of people with advanced dementia.

[AgeUK: Older people face double whammy of unmet needs](#)

AgeUK comment on new research which shows that older people, with care needs who are struggling or without help, are almost two-thirds more likely to have been lonely during the past week.

[London Assembly Health Committee: End of Life Care in London](#)

The London Assembly Health Committee has been investigating the quality of care people receive at the end of their lives. This report summarises the key findings and suggests some areas for further investigation. Recommendations include increasing the focus on end of life with Wellbeing boards and CCGs, and providing End of Life training to all social and healthcare staff.

Local Government and Devolution

[University of Bristol: Examining the role of 'informal governance' on devolution to England's cities](#)

The aim of this Research Commission is to investigate how 'informal governance' is shaping devolution in English cities. This Commission brought together leading academics, learned societies and practitioners to examine this process in detail and to explore the complex inter-play between the formal and informal processes guiding constitutional change in England.

[Taxpayers' Alliance: Councillors' Allowance](#)

Research by the TaxPayers' Alliance looks at the cost of payments to local councillors, which they say amounts to two thirds of a billion pounds over three years. Key findings from the report include:

- At least 238 councils raised the basic rate of allowances paid between 2012-13 and 2014-15.
- Between 2012-13 and 2014-15 the total bill for allowances and expenses has gone up in at least 208 councils.
- The largest percentage increase in the rate of basic allowances between 2012-13 and 2014-15 was 83 per cent in Waverley Council - from £2,454 to £4,501.



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