

# Policy E-bulletin

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**Please note that this will be the final weekly Policy and Strategy bulletin.**

Thank you for reading over the past couple of years.

If you are interested to still review information relating to weekly reports etc... please drop me an email ([chris.carpenter@essex.gov.uk](mailto:chris.carpenter@essex.gov.uk)). I would be happy to send you a list of the websites and services that we use.

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## Children in Essex get the best start in life

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### [Association of School and College Leaders: Keeping young people in mind findings from a survey of schools across England](#)

National Children's Bureau (NCB) carried out a survey of schools to gain a greater understanding of the mental health issues they are facing and whether the prevalence of these problems are increasing.

The survey responses highlighted a range of findings, which are set out in this briefing, relating to the prevalence of mental health and well-being problems, access to services, referrals and the new local transformation plans.

## People in Essex enjoy good health and wellbeing

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### [NICE: Diabetes in adults QS \(update\) - Quality Standard consultation](#)

Nice have released a draft version of the Quality standard for Diabetes in adults, which is out for public consultation until 17<sup>th</sup> April. This quality standard will update and replace the existing quality standard for diabetes. The quality standard covers:

- preventing type 2 diabetes in adults (18 years and older)
- structured education programmes for adults with diabetes
- care and treatment for adults with diabetes
- Preventing and managing foot problems in adults with diabetes.

### [Royal College of Physicians: Research for all – Barriers to Doctors engaging with Research](#)

This report draws on the findings of a 2015 UK survey exploring the current barriers to doctors' engagement in medical research.

Findings include:

- Over a quarter of all research hours reported were worked by doctors who are not formally employed in a research role.
- Many more doctors would like to do more research if they could.
- Time and funding are the biggest barriers to doctors doing more research.

#### [Care Quality Commission: Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out unannounced inspections on 20 and 25 November 2015 at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust as part of their comprehensive inspection Programme. The results of the inspection were an overall rating of 'requiring improvement'.

#### [New Local Government Network: Reimaging Place-Based Health](#)

The report talks about the relationships between institutions that need to be built, and about the ways in which services could be knitted together more effectively for people who need them the most. It suggests that, to achieve a 'radical upgrade' in prevention, we need to share the future of the health and care system beyond the borders of our current service silos.

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

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#### [Independent: Article about the quality of Maths Teaching in the UK](#)

The Independent have reported on comments made by Andreas Schleicher, of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development, who claims that Maths teaching in the UK is "superficial" because it focuses on memorising and learning facts, rather than concepts.

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

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#### [Sentencing Council: Dangerous Dogs Offences Definitive Guide](#)

The Sentencing Council have released Definitive sentencing guidelines for use in courts in England and Wales on dangerous dog offences. The new guideline will come into effect on 1 July 2016.

## **Sustainable economic growth for Essex communities and businesses**

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### [Low Pay Commission: National Minimum Wage - Low Pay Commission report Spring 2016](#)

This report reviews the National Minimum Wage (NMW) including the state of the economy and the labour market and the operation of the NMW. It makes recommendations to the Government for the level of each of the following rates of the NMW to apply from October 2016:

- the new minimum wage for 21-24 year olds;
- the Youth Development Rate affecting 18-20 year olds;
- the 16-17 Year Old Rate; and
- the Apprentice Rate

### [Department for Communities and Local Govt: £3.6 million programme to help communities take control of their local pub](#)

This programme aims to support 80 community-owned pubs to open over 2 years and will offer a flexible package of support including access to an advice line, events, workshops, peer-to-peer study visits, and business development advice.

It will also offer flexible bursary awards to fund very early stage activity, such as community consultation work, and a grant and loan package.

### [National Infrastructure Commission: Transport for a World City](#)

The National Infrastructure Commission reviewed the case for additional large scale transport infrastructure in the capital and its region.

The Commission's central finding, subject to the recommendations within the report, is that Crossrail 2 should be taken forward as a priority. Funding should be made available now to develop the scheme fully with the aim of submitting a hybrid bill by autumn 2019. This would enable Crossrail 2 to open in 2033.

### [Department for Communities and Local Government: First areas to push for faster brownfield land development](#)

Councils are to help lead the way in bringing forward derelict and underused land for new homes. 73 councils across England will pilot one of the new brownfield registers, which will provide house builders with up-to-date and publicly available information on all brownfield sites available for housing locally.

## **People in Essex experience a high quality and sustainable environment**

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### [Department for Environment: Fish free to roam our rivers could boost biodiversity](#)

Rivers across England could benefit from new Government plans to help address declining freshwater fish stocks so native species can thrive. This month the Government is setting out proposed new legislation to remove obstructions or build fish passes to provide a route around or through these hurdles, such as weirs or water intakes.

### [BBC News: Black Country Garden City to get 45,000 new homes](#)

The BBC have reported on an announcement in regard to the Black Country Garden City which is believed to be the biggest regeneration of brownfield sites in the country, spanning over 31 different areas. The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership hopes this will help boost the region, which is to the west of Birmingham, by as much as £18bn over the next decade.

### [Centre for European Policy Studies: Transition to a low-carbon economy and systemic risk](#)

This report talks about the need for substantial reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions over the next few decades, believing that to reduce emissions, economies must reduce their carbon intensity.

### [University of Southampton: Targeted tree planting to combat flooding](#)

This research funded by the Environment Agency and led by the universities of Birmingham and Southampton found that strategic planting of trees on floodplains could reduce the height of flooding in towns downstream. The research says that more extensive floodplain forest and river restoration (for example in 20–25 per cent of the total river length) will result in a reduction in flood peak height of up to 20 per cent.

### [South Tyneside Council: Waste Service Landfill Reduction](#)

Over the past year, South Tyneside Council has reduced the amount of waste that is sent to landfill from around 66 per cent in 2010 to three per cent.

They say that this has been achieved through sending more of the material that cannot be recycled to an energy-from-waste treatment facility in Teesside, which opened in April 2014. The facility forms part of the £250m Strategic Waste Partnership between South Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland councils.

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

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### [King's Fund: End-of-life care and physician-assisted dying](#)

This is the final part of a three volume report of a project covering both end-of-life care and physician-assisted dying. The purpose of this volume is to reflect on some of the points emerging from the public dialogue research commissioned by the BMA with doctors and the public and to see what lessons can be learnt and what changes are needed to ensure that BMA members are able to provide high quality end-of-life care for all of their patients.

### [Journal of Alzheimer's Decease: Study found that physical activity can cut Alzheimer's Risk in Half](#)

A new study, from UCLA Medical Centre and University of Pittsburgh, suggests that a variety of physical activities, from walking, to gardening and dancing, can increase brain volume. The researchers studied 876 patients aged on average 78, across four research sites in the United States. Participants were asked questions about their physical activity habits and had MRI scans of their brains, which were analysed to measure the volumes of brain structures including parts associated with memory and Alzheimer's disease. The relationship between physical activities, from gardening and dancing to riding an exercise bike at the gym, were compared to the brain's volume.

## **Local Government and Devolution**

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### [Department for Communities and Local Government: Councils given flexibility to use sales of surplus property to improve services](#)

This updated guidance published by the government, shows how councils can use new spending rules to make improvements to local services.

In the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor announced changes to the rules for use of 'capital receipts'. Now for a 3-year period from the 1 April, local authorities will be able to spend any revenues they generate from selling

surplus assets – like property or shares and bonds - to fund the costs of improvements to things like housing and children's services.



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