Colchester Community Updates



March 2025

Welcome to our newsletter for March.

Our Team's contact details are at the end of the newsletter, so please do let us know if you'd like us to promote an event for you, or if you have anything you'd like us to share with all our readers.



Contents:

A new layout! Simply click on the section you are interested in, and you'll be taken to the relevant pages.

NB: Some articles will be repeated as they fall into more than one category.

- Babies & Toddlers
- Kids & Young Adults
- Adults & Older People
- Health and Support Services
- Legal
- Armed Forces Updates
- Cost of Living Support
- Community Funding
- Our Team
- Employment
- Unsubscribe









EVERY TUESDAYS BEGINNING ON TUESDAY 1ST OCT. 2024 @ 10AM TO 2PM







Suffolk and North East Essex Maternity and Neonatal Services











MHS DENTAL









CHECK-UPS

FREE FOR UNDER 18 YEAR OLDS

Ensure your child's smile is healthy and bright with a dental examination. Our experienced dentists will check for cavities, gum health, and provide tips on proper oral hygiene.

Limited slots available.

CONTACT INFO



Q 01206 577696

or visit our website to book online www.smileclinicgroup.com





Oral Health Training for Social Care Teams Supporting Young Children

Community Dental Services



The Oral Health Team have been commissioned by Essex County Council to deliver oral health training to social care teams supporting young children. The training will provide 1 hour CPD.

Tuesday 25th February - 2:00pm-3:00pm

Wednesday 5th March - 1:00pm-2:00pm

Monday 17th March - 1:00pm-2:00pm

Click <u>here</u> or scan the QR code to choose and register for a training date.



Course objectives

The webinar will aid social workers in feeling confident to advise clients on good oral health for children including:

- Be aware of how poor oral health can affect a child's general health and well-being
- Identify the main causes of tooth decay
- Have an increased awareness of dental neglect
- Have an increased confidence of delivering the key oral health messages in line with Delivering Better Oral Health 4th Edition PHE
- Recognise the importance of delivering oral health promotion within your role

We would highly recommend using a laptop, PC or iPad to join the training and avoid using a phone, as previously there have

been issues with viewing and hearing the presentation and videos.

Attendees will receive an oral health certificate including CPD hours on completion.

If you would like to know more about our training

opportunities, please contact us on ohimp.essex@cds-cic.nhs.uk or visit our website: TOI

Community Dental Services - OHI

(©)Community Dental Services CIC, 2025



COLCHESTER WHEELPOWER SPORTS FESTIVAL

Wednesday 12 March 2025

Colchester Sports Park, Northern Gateway, Cuckoo Farm Way, Colchester

WheelPower's Sports Festival is open to anyone with a physical disability, from the age of 5 years to Adult.

Wheelchair Cricket, Table Tennis, Boccia, Tennis & Golf

Click **HERE** to find out how to get involved!

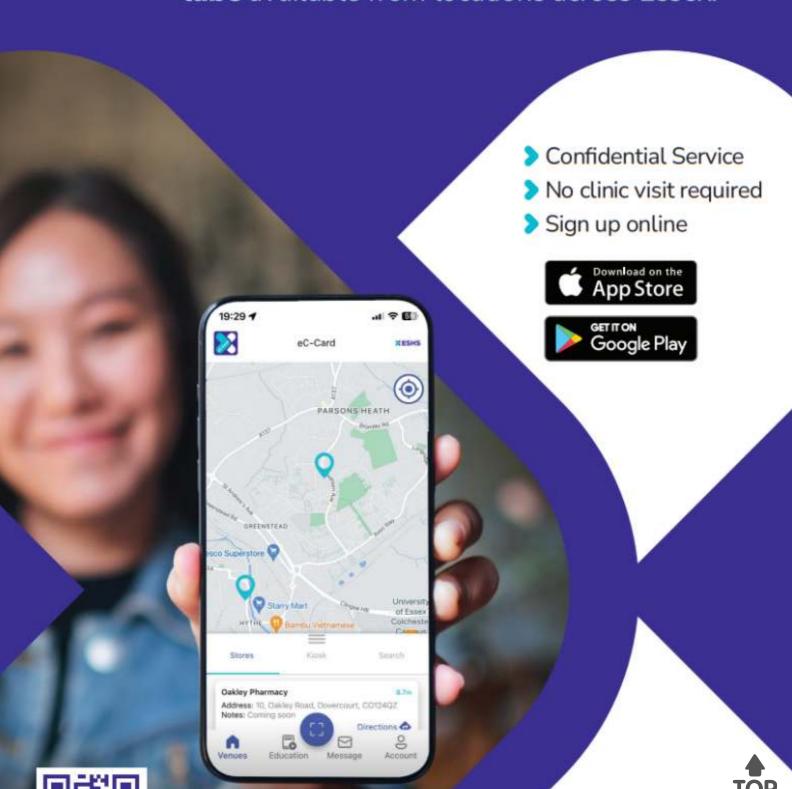
Registration to take part ends 07.03.25





The eC-Card Scheme

The scheme provides **young people** aged 16 to 24* with access to **FREE condoms** and **lube** available from locations across Essex.



To find out more visit

ec-card.org.uk

* if you are under 16 and interested in the scheme please contact your local

sexual health service for further advice

and information.





SCAN ME

Premier League Kicks provides **FREE** football sessions that inspire and engage young people through sport. Our programme promotes physical activity, teamwork and personal development in a safe and supportive environment.

TO INSPIRE, ENRICH AND UNITE OUR COMMUNITIES





DAY	TIME	VENUE	GENDER	AGE
Monday	18:00 - 19:00	Job Serve Community Stadium	Mixed Mile End	14-17
Tuesday	17:00 - 18:00	Colchester Academy Greenstead	Mixed Greenstead	11-14
Tuesday	17:00 - 18:00	Colchester Academy Greenstead	Mixed Greenstead	14-17
Wednesday	17:00 - 18:00	Clacton Leisure Centre	Mixed Clacton	8-11
Wednesday	17:00 - 18:00	Clacton Leisure Centre	Mixed Clacton	11-14
Wednesday	17:00 - 18:00	Clacton Leisure Centre	Mixed Clacton	14-17
Wednesday	17:00 - 18:00	Clacton Leisure Centre	Girls Clacton	11-17
Thursday	18:00 - 19:00	Harwich and Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Mixed Harwich	8-11
Thursday	18:00 - 19:00	Harwich and Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Mixed Harwich	11-14
Thursday	18:00 - 19:00	Harwich and Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles	Mixed Harwich	14-17
Friday	17:00 - 18:00	Shrub End Community & Sports Centre	Mixed Shrub End	11-14
Friday	17:00 - 18:00	Shrub End Community & Sports Centre	Mixed Shrub End	14-16
Friday	17:00 - 18:00	Shrub End Community & Sports Centre	Mixed Shrub End	16-17

To sign up, either visit the link below or scan the QR code above:

colchester-united-fitc.class4kids.co.uk/term/81

TO INSPIRE, ENRICH AND UNITE OUR COMMUNITIES





Could you bring back the light to a child's life?

Help guide a child out of the shadows and give them a safe place to call home. Children in Essex need you.

0800 801 530

www.essex.gov.uk/foster

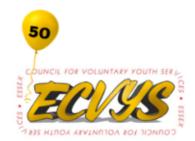
Scan me







Find a group near you and get involved!







Free CSCS Training for 16 – 19-yearolds in Colchester

2 Day course includes HSCE Level 1, CSCS Test and Card
HSCE Level 1 – Thursday 10th April, 9:30am to 16:30pm
Test Practice/Booking – Friday 11th April, 9:30am to 16:30pm

There will also be Employment and Apprenticeship opportunities with a range of employers including OCS, Clarion Housing, Wates, Equans and more...

*You must have photo ID to take part on this course (Passport, Drivers Licence/Provisional and Citizens card all accepted)

Course will take place at Hythe Community Centre, 1 Ventura Drive, Colchester, CO1 2FG

For more information

Contact Jonathan Richmond
Email: jonathan.richmond@clarionhg.com











Get Walking This Year!

Working with Active Essex and CVST to offer community walks in your area!

Tiptree Wellbeing Walk 1 hour circular walk

Where: Meet at Tiptree Medical

Centre

When: Every 3rd Tuesday of the

month at 10,15am

(Dates: 21st Jan, 18th Feb, 18th Mar, 15th

Apr, 20th May, 17th Jun)

Cost: Free!

No booking required, just turn up!

This is a gentle walking group for all ages and abilities. Come along and make new friends from your local community, have fun and get active!





DISCLAIMER: This group holds no responsibility and is not liable for any incidents which may occur during a group walk and individuals participate of their own risk. Although any group routes will be suitable for all abilities, walkers should ensure that they are fit to participate.



Get Walking This Year!

Working with Active Essex and CVST to offer community walks in your area!

Brightlingsea Wellbeing Walk

Where: Meet at Colne Medical

Centre

When: Every 3rd Wednesday of

the month at 2.30pm

(Dates: 15th Jan, 19th Feb, 19th Mar, 16th

Apr, 21st May, 18th Jun)

Cost: Free!

No booking required, just turn up!

This is a gentle walking group for all ages and abilities. Come along and make new friends from your local community, have fun and get active!



DISCLAIMER: This group holds no responsibility and is not liable for any incidents which may occur during a group walk and individuals participate at their own risk. Although any group routes will be suitable for all abilities, walkers should ensure that they are fit to participate.





Get Walking This Year!

Working with Active Essex and CVST to offer community walks in your area!

Rowhedge Wellbeing Walk 1 hour circular walk

Where: Meet at Rowhedge

Medical Practice

When: Every 4th Thursday of the

month at 1.15pm

(Dates: 30th Jan, 27th Feb, 27th Mar, 24th

Apr, 29th May, 26th Jun]

Cost: Free!

No booking required, just turn up!

This is a gentle walking group for all ages and abilities. Come along and make new friends from your local community, have fun and get active!



DISCLAIMER: This group holds no responsibility and is not liable for any incidents which may accur during a group walk and individuals participate at their own risk. Although any group routes will be suitable for all applifies, walkers should ensure that they are fit to participate.

COVID-19 DAY OF REFLECTION FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2025

2025 marks five years since the pandemic began, and we continue to honour and remember those affected. Join us on Friday, 7 March 2025, for the 'Covid-19 Day of Reflection' at Firstsite. This is an opportunity to come together to remember those who have lost their lives since the pandemic began and to honour the tireless work and acts of kindness shown during this unprecedented time.

The event is suitable for all ages and will feature activities such as crafts and rock painting, providing a meaningful way to share memories and experiences. Everyone is welcomed.

Date: Friday, 7 March 2025 Time: 11:00AM - 2:00PM

Venue: Firstsite Gallery, Lewis Gardens,

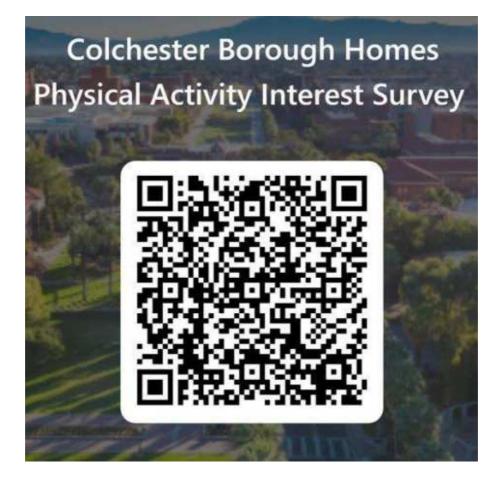
High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH















Our Kinder Essex coaches link local people in creative ways to help reduce loneliness and increase connections across the county.

Working together for Essex:









bringing people together

- to start a new social group
- Would you like to start a new social group or community project in your area?
- Could you help encourage local acts of kindness?
- Do you run a community group and would like to involve more people?
- Are you a local business who would like to support local projects?

Then contact your Kinder Essex coach who can work with you to make a difference.



see you soon!



You can contact your local coach directly using the details below or find us on social media @KinderEssex

Scan the QR code to follow us on Facebook

H Goodwin (Colchester)









COLCHESTER WHEELPOWER SPORTS FESTIVAL

Wednesday 12 March 2025

Colchester Sports Park, Northern Gateway, Cuckoo Farm Way, Colchester

WheelPower's Sports Festival is open to anyone with a physical disability, from the age of 5 years to Adult.

Wheelchair Cricket, Table Tennis, Boccia, Tennis & Golf

Click **HERE** to find out how to get involved!

Registration to take part ends 07.03.25



Think Carers

Your guide to help support carers

Click **HERE** to read the full guide





Are you an adult looking after someone in Essex?



Click **HERE** to see a map of support services for your area





Click on the image above to book your place



Click on the image above to read more about how the project is progressing

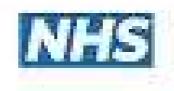




Do you live in Colchester or Tendring? Are you worried about your mental health?

We're here to help.

Www.neesanctuary.co.uk Registered charts number 1964SDS





Click **HERE** for more information about this service



BIGGER, FASTER STRONGER

A 6 WEEK INTRO TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

- Do you want to be more physically active but feel like your abilities or limitations are not always respected or understood?
- Are you in a bigger body? (e.g. consider yourself to be plus size or have a high BMI?)
- Would you like to feel more confident or empowered when you take part in physical activities?
- Would you like to take part in movement sessions in a small and private group?
- Would you like to work with a plus size instructor who understands the experience of exercise in a bigger body
- Would you like to feel the benefits of physical activity in the body you have now?
- · Would you like it all to be completely free to you?

We can help!

Each weekly session includes a 30 minute low-impact taster session (designed for beginners in bigger bodies) and a 30 minute workshop activity/chat. Each session is limited to just 6 participants.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO:

www.missfitsworkout.co.uk/bigger-faster-stronger

Sessions take place each week at The Movement Hub, Abbots Community Hall, 39 Ladbrook Drive, Colchester CO2 8RW



FREE



Health and wellbeing are central to ensuring carers can sustain the support they give to the cared for over a prolonged period, sometimes, a whole lifetime. Carers often tell us they are at breaking point, physically and mentally exhausted with no respite and very little time nor energy to self-assess and acknowledge when their mental health and wellbeing deteriorates, the pressure becomes too much, and many become overwhelmed. Those that do acknowledge their mental health and wellbeing is at risk, often do not know where or how to access the appropriate support. The aim of our survey is to ask you, the carers about your experiences of mental health and wellbeing both good and bad. What you tell us will help shape and influence better awareness of mental health in the caring community and improve support for everyone. We know and appreciate there is a stigma and discrimination around speaking out but the feedback you feel you can share will give us a clear picture of current mental health issues and we value your participation. Whilst we know the mental health and wellbeing of the cared for has a direct impact on the carer, our survey focuses on the carers mental health and wellbeing and we welcome your feedback. Please contact the Healthwatch Essex Carers Voices team on 0300 500 1895 or email

carersvoices@healthwatchessex.org.uk if you require this survey in a different format.





Team Talk is a **FREE** weekly football and social session for adults looking to improve their mental and physical wellbeing. Combining football and social interaction, this programme creates a welcoming environment that is less intimidating than traditional mental health services.

WHO? Mixed, ages 18+ WHEN? Fridays, 5:30pm-7:30pm WHERE? Shrub End Community and Sport Centre, CO2 9BG

TO INSPIRE, ENRICH AND UNITE OUR COMMUNITIES



www.cu-fc.com/cucf cucf@colchesterunited.net 01206 755160 @ColU_CF •/ColUCF #enrichourcommunities



Could you, or someone you know, be missing out on Pension Credit?

Check your eligibility at gov.uk/pension-credit or by calling 0800 99 1234











And select the option for mental health crisis







If you are over 65 or are a family member, friend or carer that supports an older person then our 'Age Well' guide is for you

The 'Age Well' guide provides information on the support available in north east Essex to help people age well and live healthy, happily and independently for longer.

Use the QR code below to access the guide







OUR TRIPS OFFER

- · Adventure & thrills
- Sun & relaxation
- New experiences
- Social events
- · Great fun and laughs

REGISTER

ABOUT US

Benevolent Care will soon be organising a number of accessible trips designed for adults with disabilities and learning difficulties. We will offer day trips, weekend breaks and week long holidays.

We'd love to meet you and discuss your ideal trip. Register your interest for a free lunch and an informal chat.

benevolentcare.co.uk enquires@benevolentcare.co.uk

WILL YOU JOIN US FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME?



Come and join us at our groups in North Essex

Our community groups are for people with dementia or memory issues and their carers and friends. Why not join us this Winter.

Get information, make friends and have fun. All groups are free to attend.

Singing for the Brain® Colchester

Orchard Baptist Church, Mersea Road, Colchester, CO2 0AE Second and fourth Thursday of the month 2pm - 3.30pm

Singing for the Brain® Mersea

WI Hall, Kingsland Road, West Mersea, CO5 8RB First and third Wednesday of the month 2pm - 3.30pm

Singing for the Brain® Takeley

Priors Green Community Hall, Takeley, CM6 1YE First and third Thursday of the month 10.30am – 12 noon

West Clacton Memory Cafe

West Clacton Library, Jaywick Lane, Clacton-on-Sea, CO16 8BE Second Tuesday of the month 10.30am – 12 noon

Harwich Memory Cafe

Harwich Library, Upper Kingsway, Dovercourt, Harwich, CO12 3JT First and third Tuesday of the month 10.30am – 12 noon

Get in touch to find out more

Email: essexandherts@alzheimers.org.uk

Tel: 0333 150 3456



Together we are help & hope for everyone living with dementia







Click **HERE** to read the flyer in full





Langham Discovery Cafe

Every third Friday of the month: 1030 to 1230, Langham Community Centre, CO4 5PA

Come along for refreshments, home made cakes and chat and an opportunity to meet new people ~ Free entry, no need to book ~ Drinks and cakes for sale!

Everyone Welcome









Everyone is welcome to the case, also Bringing together people living with dementia, their carers, family & friends, to enjoy time together & enable people to live well with dementia.

Langham Discovery Cafe, Colchester Dementia Friendly Communities & COLCHESTER COMMUNITY 360

Meet other people, speak to professionals, ask advice & find out lots of information. Run every 3rd Friday of the month, with interactive activities and guest visitors.











DEMENTIA INFORMATION MARKETPLACE 2025

Come along and chat with service providers about community support for people with dementia and their carers

13th February at the Abbey Field Dementia Cafe
C3 Centre, Ypres Road, Colchester CO2 7FD

10:30am to 12 noon

The Information Marketplace will also visit the following venues

Date	Venue	Time
15/1/25	Wimpole Rd Methodist Church cafe CO1 2DN	9-12
24/1/25	St Margaret's Community Cafe, Stansted Road, CO2 8RA	11-1
1/2/25	St Stephen's Church cafe, Canterbury Road CO2 7RY	10-12
19/2/25	Health & Wellbeing Bus, West Mersea sea front	9:30-1
21/2/25	Creffield Dementia Cafe, Shrub End Community/Social Centre, 252-254 Shrub End Road CO3 4SA	12 noon - 1:30
4/3/25	Fordham Village Hall, CO6 3NN	10-1
19/3/25	Health & Wellbeing Bus, Tiptree, Tesco CP, CO5 0SU	9:30-1
21/3/25	Discovery Cafe, Langham Community Centre, School Rd, CO4 5PA	10:30 - 12:30

For further information please contact: Abbey Field Medical Centre t: 01206-517100 Ardleigh Surgery t: 01206-230224 Community360 t:01206-505250





The North East Essex Digital Access Support Team (NEE DAST) provide a FREE

service that helps individuals gain basic skills and confidence they need in order to use today's technology.

This support is via online and in-person activity, including chat and support sessions, ad-hoc one-to-ones, group gatherings, tutorials, and workshops.

We can help with:

- Understanding how your device works
- Being safe, legal, and secure online
- Using social media and other communication apps
- · Online shopping and Online banking
- Accessing and using Council Services and GP Services
- Uploading and downloading applications

Get in touch today:

- Colchester 01206 282452 Clacton 01255 686497 Mobile 07970 551153
- Digital AccessSupport(ii) colchester gov.uk DigitalAccessSupport@ tendringda.gov.uk
- colchester.gov.uk/dast

















HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

Helpline is a falls response service. If you fall in your home or garden and are unable to get back up, at the push of a button, our dedicated responding team will attend to help you back on your feet using our specialist lifting equipment.

Our trusted Emergency Monitoring and Response service supports:

- Older people and those living with dementia
- People with a physical disability or restricted mobility
- Those living with conditions such as epilepsy or arthritis
- People recovering from illness or returning from hospital
- Those prone to falls
- We attend to customers in Coggeshall, Clacton, Colchester, Dedham, Halstead, Harwich, Manningtree, Mersea, Nayland, Tiptree and more.



For more information call: 01206 769779 Email: helpline@colchester.gov.uk www.helpline247.co.uk













Welcome to Essex Sexual Health Service

We're here to help everyone across Essex access the free information, support and treatment they need to stay safe, healthy and protected.

Click **HERE** for details of the services and advice we offer





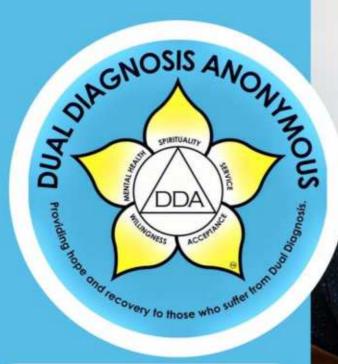
Boys & Men

For Black minority individuals, migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers affected by drug and alcohol addiction

COLCHESTER







What is Dual Diagnosis?

It is when someone struggles with both mental health and addiction/substance use/compulsive behaviour.

Meetings



Location	Day	Time	Address
Colchester	Tuesday	11am - 12pm	Open Road - 5A Queen Street, CO1 2PG
Colchester	Tuesday	7:30pm - 8:30pm	10 St Peter's St, Colchester CO1 1WD
Clacton	Wednesday	3pm - 4pm	Open Road - 132 Wellesley Rd, CO15 3QD







'If you've been affected by cancer, or are supporting someone with cancer,















Safeguarding is the measures to protect the health, well-being and human rights of all individuals which allow people, adults, young adults and children to live free from abuse, harm and neglect. Anyone can be considered to be at risk of harm or abuse, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, sex, or religion and in any environment.

Essex County Council is interested in exploring carers and safeguarding. If you or the person you care for have been through a safeguarding process and would like to share your experiences please complete our questions.

Click **HERE** to complete the survey.





It's the most common cancer in men, but the earlier you find it, the easier it is to treat.

Answer three quick questions **HERE**

to check your risk.





Healthwatch Essex has launched a new project exploring the experiences of people living with mould in their homes, and the impact this has on their health, care and wellbeing.

They would very much welcome contact from anyone with relevant experience

They would also welcome contact from individuals or agencies who have seen the impact on adults and children who have been/ are exposed to living with mould in their homes.

Click **HERE** to complete the survey.





All professionals across social, healthcare, education and the voluntary and community sector are welcome to our networking events.

Agenda of the day:

Professionals only – 1.5 hours

- ECC introduction, quick round up of latest progress and plans
- Informal networking opportunities with other carer professionals

Carers Drop in - 2 hours

 Showcase your services and support offer to carers via market stalls



Please book your place by completing this form forms.office.com/ e/7tu8B51nrb OR scan the QR code

If you have any questions regarding the events please email essex.carers@essex.gov.uk

Location and dates:

MID: Tuesday 18th March 9am - 12:30pm at Little Baddow Memorial Hall, North Hill, Little Baddow, CM3 4TA

SOUTH: Thursday 20th March 1pm - 4:30pm at The Wick Community Centre, Silva Island Way, Salcott Crescent, Wickford, SS12 9NR

WEST: Tuesday 25th March 1pm - 4:30pm at The Link, Great Pardon Community Association, Parsloe Rd, Harlow, CM19 4RT

NORTH: Thursday 27th March 9am - 12:30pm at Acom Hall, The Oak Tree Centre, 252 Harwich Road, Colchester, CO4 3DH





All unpaid carers* are welcome at our drop-in sessions, to learn more about the support available in your local area.

Benefits of attending:

- Market stalls with local carer organisations showcasing the support and services available to unpaid / informal carers
- Information and advice from local carer organisations
- Information on the work to date on the Essex Carers Programme and how you can share your views and experiences to help shape future developments

No need to book - just turn up between the times listed

*Definition of unpaid carer - A 'carer' is an unpaid person who regularly looks after, helps, or supports someone who wouldn't be able to manage everyday life without them. Often this is a relative, neighbour or friend. This is different to a paid care worker.

Location and dates:

MID: Tuesday 18th March 10:30am - 12:30pm at Little Baddow Memorial Hall, North Hill, Little Baddow, CM3 4TA

SOUTH: Thursday 20th March 2:30pm - 4:30pm at The Wick Community Centre, Silva Island Way, Salcott Crescent, Wickford, SS12 9NR

WEST: Tuesday 25th March 2:30pm - 4:30pm at The Link, Great Pardon Community Association, Parsloe Rd, Harlow, CM19 4RT

NORTH: Thursday 27th March 10:30am - 12:30pm at Acorn Hall, The Oak Tree Centre, 252 Harwich Road, Colchester, CO4 3DH





Vision Statement

To be the facility that parents, carers and working age adults choose for themselves in order to fulfil their highest potential in a safe, fun and invigorating environment. By giving reassurance, dependability and flexibility to carers and a stimulating, safe environment for working age adults we enable them to achieve more than they visualise for themselves.

Visit their website <u>HERE</u> to find details of the respite care on offer





FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING



If you are finding life a bit tough, come along to one of our coffee mornings for a chat, some support, understanding and reassurance from our trained volunteers and others feeling a bit low

EVERY MONDAY 1 am - 1 pm

One Colchester Community Hub Long Wyre Street

Please Call 07308 069 609 To Book



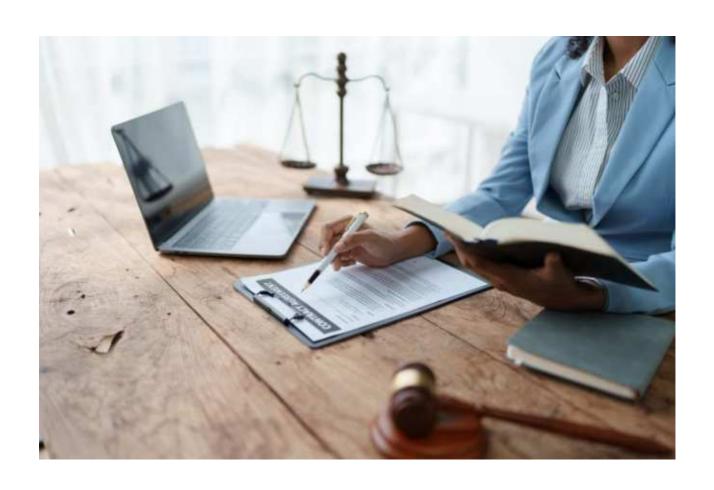
This guide offers details of organisations and charities across Colchester (and nationally), that can support you, whatever your needs.

Click HERE to see the full leaflet

To contact the council:

- © 01206 282222
- customerservices@colchester.gov.uk









Modern slavery is happer around us in Colchester

Gontrolled
Forced
Owned
Abused
Afraid
Isolated
Dehumanised
Constrained
Bought & Sold
Threatened
In debt





Find out more at www.colchester.gov.uk/modern-slavery

CONCERNED SOMEONE COULD BE A VICTIM? DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

For advice or to report concerns call Modern Slavery Helpline 08000 121700.

Email Safer Colchester Partnership on safer.colchester@colchester.gov.uk

For Essex Police report online www.essex.police.uk or call 101 or in an emergency 999.







Callis

Colchester Against Modern Slavery

With an estimated 122,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK, CAMS is partnering towards a slavery-free Colchester.

Would your organisation or group like to join over twenty-five organisations within Colchester? Together we can explore resilience to exploitation.

To explore further contact dan.pratt@colchester.gov.uk

Free Modern Slavery Training

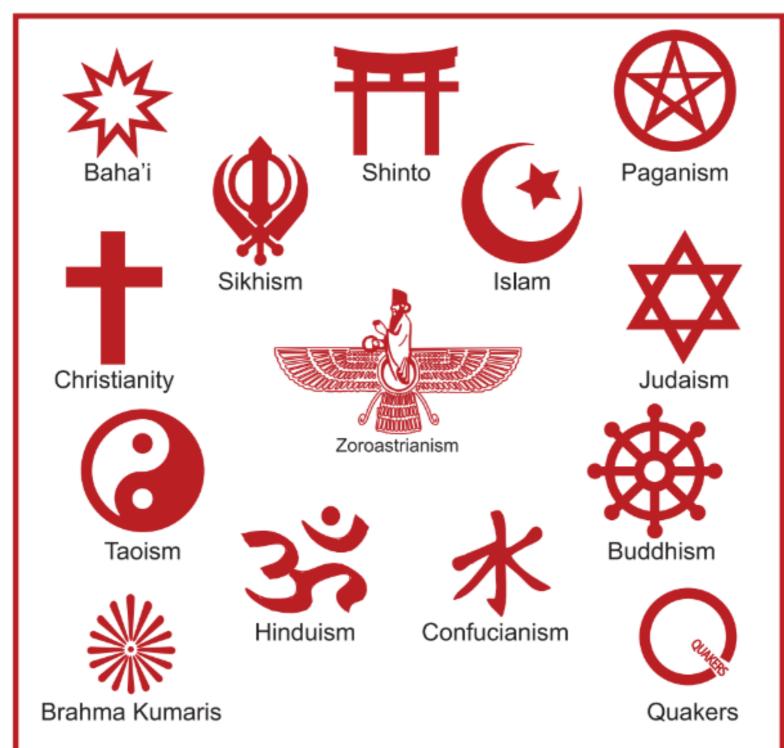
Workshops of between 1-2 hours include:

- Overview of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking
- Types of Exploitation
- Signs of Exploitation
- Victim Barriers
- The National Referral Mechanism
- Reporting Concerns

The training can be on Teams or in-person and tailored to your organisation / group.

Contact: bob.fortt@essex.police.uk or dan.pratt@colchester.gov.uk





Faith Is Welcome. Hate Is Not. SEE IT. REPORT IT.







ESSEX LAW CLINIC

Access free legal help

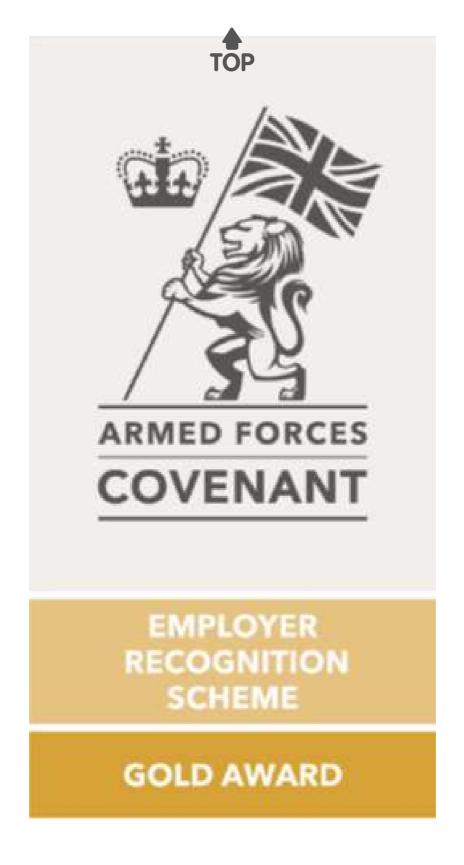
Are you struggling to access
legal help?

The Essex Law Clinic can support you. Click <u>HERE</u> to get in touch today.









Click <u>HERE</u> to see the Colchester City Council Armed Forces Page





Veterans' News and Communications Hub

The Hub enables forces-friendly organisations across all sectors to showcase the continued value of the UK's highly skilled veteran community.

Click **HERE** to read more.







Armed Forces Insight Event – 18 March



Are you a member of the armed forces community? Are you interested in working in the NHS?

Join North East London NHS Foundation Trust (NELFT) and Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) for an insight event.

Date: Tuesday 18 March 2025

Time: 10am - 12pm

Location: Microsoft Teams

At this event, you will find out more information about NELFT and EPUT, and how we support members of the armed forces community to achieve their professional goals with a positive staff experience.

We will also provide you with guidance on the NHS recruitment process and share the opportunities each organisation has available.

To register your attendance for our insight event, please scan the QR code below, or **click here** to complete the registration form.

If you have any questions about the event, please email: armedforces@nelft.nhs.uk.









'BATTLING the ODDS'

THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT FUND TRUST

ARMED FORCES GAMBLING HARMS SUPPORT NETWORK





Awareness:

Developing understanding and knowledge regarding gambling related harms within the armed forces community through the 'Bet You Can Help' FREE training programme.



Reduce Stigma:

Working to reduce the stigma of gambling harms across the armed forces community and in doing so promote a culture that encourages access to appropriate specialist support.



Increase Support:

Striving to increase the numbers of members of the armed forces community, at risk of, or experiencing gambling related harms in receiving an intervention at the earliest opportunity. Assisting individuals towards professional support and access to specialist provision throughout the National Gambling Support Network.

CONTACT:



Breakeven



01273 833 722



https://www.breakeven.org.uk/



MPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Breakeven proudly supporting our armed forces community



'BATTLING the ODDS'

ARMED FORCES GAMBLING SUPPORT NETWORK







- · Veterans are 8 times more likely to suffer gambling harms
- Up to 5% of RAF personnel believe gambling is an issue for them
- Members of the Armed Forces may relate to risk taking situations differently than the general public
- · Traumatic events are key links to gambling related harm



Developing understanding and knowledge regarding gambling related harms within the armed forces community through the 'Bet You Can Help' FREE training programme.



Opportunity to protect those working in the Armed Forces community. The Workplace Charter supports the community in developing a positive culture in gambling harms conversation reducing stigma, creating system change and promoting interventions at the earliest opportunity.



Working to reduce the stigma of gambling harms across the armed forces community and in doing so promote a culture that encourages access to appropriate specialist support.

Striving to increase the numbers of members of the armed forces community, at risk of, or experiencing gambling related harms in receiving an intervention at the earliest opportunity. Assisting individuals towards professional support and access to specialist provision throughout the National Gambling Support Network.



CONTACT:



Breakeven



01273 833 722



info@breakeven.org.uk





EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

















Veterans' Group Monthly Drop-In

Open to all Veterans of HM Armed Forces

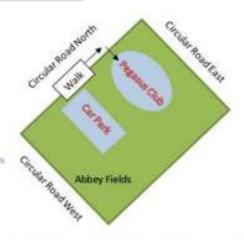
Refreshments generously provided by SSAFA. No booking required.

Venue:

The Pegasus Club Circular Road North Colchester, Essex CO2 7SU

(Garrison Athletics/Hockey Club House)

Directions



Car Park: Sign posted as "MOD Property"

Disabled Parking: Available in front of club house

Bus Stops: Napier Road and Salisbury Avenue Stop

When: Third Wednesday of the month

Time: 10am - 1230pm

Contact: 01206 228 774 or mevs.mhm@nhs.net

With support from:



Veterans' Mental Health Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service























Mental health and wellbeing support for veterans, reservists and Service leavers

For more information, click **HERE**

















We are here to help you

We offer a range of free, confidential financial and employment support to all our residents in Colchester, including:

- Support paying your rent and Council Tax
- Money and debt advice
- Employment and job search
- Accessing food
- Welfare benefit advice and support
- Maximising benefit entitlement

If you need support

you can contact us at Colchester City Council by emailing:

benefits.advice@ colchester.gov.uk

or call us on: 01206 505 855

Open Monday - Friday









Benefits and Finances



- Signpost to any relevant financial support
- Review Council Tax account
- Identify housing support needs, to include sustaining tenancies
- Family welfare Household income maximisation

Click <u>HERE</u> to see how to access these services from Colchester City Council Financial Equality & Wellbeing Team





Could you, or someone you know, be missing out on Pension Credit?

Check your eligibility at gov.uk/pension-credit or by calling 0800 99 1234







PENSION CREDIT

How do I apply?

Pension Credit could give you around £3,900 a year, on average, to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. Plus, you could get the Winter Fuel Payment.

STEP 1

Check eligibility

Use the quick online calculator to check eligibility and how much you could get.

STEP 2

Have the following information ready

- ✓ National Insurance number.
- Information about any income, savings and investments you have
- ✓ Bank details

STEP 3

Apply online

Visit gov.uk/pension-credit to apply online.

Alternatively, you can call the Pension Credit claim line on 0800 99 1234.

STEP 4

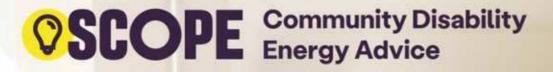
Wait to hear from us

You will be notified by post when your claim has been assessed.

Find out more and get started.

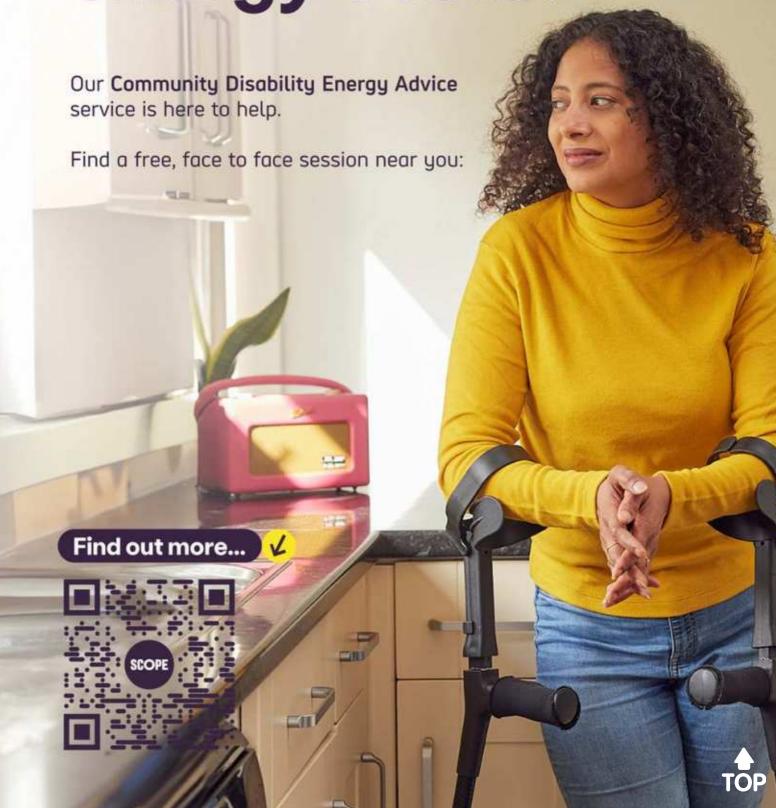








Worried about energy costs?



"What are these people talking about?"

It was so stressful and frightening -I couldn't cope

You don't know what you're letting yourself in for

He beat up my partner in front of my kids

To report an illegal money lender please call

111 555 222

for help and advice. Stop Loan Sharks TOP



WANT TO REDUCE BILLS **AND SAVE ENERGY?**



Drop in for

FREE Energy Advice

When + Where?

+ Book a free home visit + A hot drink on us

Colchester LEAF

27 Priory Walk

Every Friday 12-3pm

Community Energy Colchester

Non profit CIC funded by UKPN

Get in touch:

chris@communityenergycolchester.com martina@communityenergycolchester.com 07799494797

Debt can take its toll on your life.



CCDC can help - call to make an appointment today on: 0300 102 4478 Confidential and free Here to help with budgeting your money and helping you get free from the burden of debt. Learn more at: colchesterdebtcentre.co.uk Freedom from debt Hope for the future email: hello@colchestercmadebtcentre.co.uk





Colchester & Tendring

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

UKPN have provided funding for a free and impartial home visit

This service includes:

An assessment of energy improvements
Assistance with funding application
Income maximisation
Tariff switching

Each household will receive 4 fitted radiator reflectors FREE











To book your visit contact Christopher 07799 494 797 chris@communityenergycolchester.com julie@communityenergycolchester.com



COLCHESTER COMMUNITY SUPERMARKET

HOW IT WORKS:

Step 1 - Sign up

Sign up as a member in store or online, either come in and fill in a form or scan the QR code to do it online



Step 2 - Receive your membership card

Once we have your form we will create you an account and assign you a number, bring this every time you visit.



Step 3 - Shop and Savel

We want everyone to get a share of the savings, for this reason we limit households to one visit per week.



Due to being not-for-profit we are able to offer 30% cheaper prices than any supermarket.





Do you live in Colchester?

Would you like support with making your home more energy efficient, understanding energy bills, budgeting, or fuel debt?

The Energy Advice team can help people negotiate fuel debt repayment, apply for grants to reduce, or clear their debts, or help to resolve disputes with energy suppliers.

Click **HERE** for more details.



WOULD YOU LIKE

TO MAKE YOUR HOME WARMER, MORE COMFORTABLE AND CHEAPER TO HEAT?



Grant funding may be available for improving the energy efficiency of your home using a variety of measures.

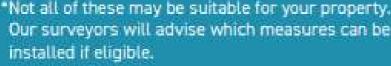
These could include *:

- Insulation for walls, lofts and heating systems
- Draught exclusion
- Changes to windows or doors
- Renewable energy (e.g. solar panels)
- Clean energy systems (e.g. air source heat pumps)

*Not all of these may be suitable for your property. Our surveyors will advise which measures can be installed if eligible.

WE CAN ALSO PROVIDE YOU WITH OTHER TIPS THAT MAY CUT YOUR ENERGY BILLS TOO!

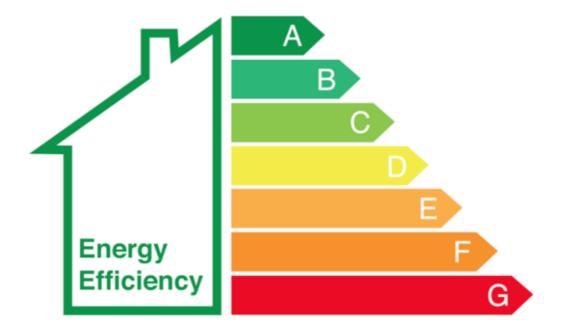
Contact us for FREE and impartial advice on 01206 636956 or email **EnergyEfficientHomes** @colchester.gov.uk











Applications open for eco upgrades to Essex residences

Essex County Council has launched two schemes to help low-income households and vulnerable residents reduce energy costs and emissions.

Residents across Essex can apply to have solar panels, heat pumps and more energy-efficient measures installed for little to no cost.

Click **HERE** to read the full details





HELP PAYING FOR YOUR CHILDCARE



Government help with childcare costs for parents. Whether you have toddlers or teens, you could get support.

Find out more <u>HERE</u> about the help you are entitled to for childcare costs.







SAVE £££ ON YOUR ENERGY BILL

We can help you access **free** energy saving upgrades from the government for your home that could help you make savings on your fuel costs.

DELIVERED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:





CAN I APPLY?

You could be eligible if your household:

Is off-gas for heating (for example, uses oil, LPG, solid fuel heating or an electric heating system)

AND

Has a combined annual income of no more than £31,000 (gross) or, under £20,000 after rent or mortgage costs

AND

Live in a hard to heat home

N.B. If you are not financially eligible, you could still be eligible if you live in defined postal areas.









Join us on a programme and meet your community

Talking to strangers reduces loneliness, improves wellbeing, assists learning, and increases creativity.

Psychology today





- 6 weeks, 12 hours, conversation led sessions
- New friends
- Shared knowledge on how to stretch your money as far as it can go
- Vouchers given upon completion of the programme

hello@trustedmoneyconfidence.com www.trustedmoneyconfidence.com



Karen Jess 07532253540 07425166069





St Margaret's Church

COMMUNITY CAFE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH COLCHESTER FOODBANK

All are welcome to our weekly cafe for free refreshments in the church hall.

We also have various community support groups providing drop in sessions as well as the food bank volunteers who are able to issue food parcels for those in need, whatever the reason.

Come along for a cuppa and a chat!



EVERY FRIDAY 11-1PM

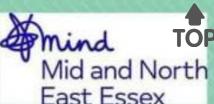














Are you worried you're paying too much for your essential services?

Do you feel like you can't make sense of your bills, and you just don't know what you're looking at?

Are you fed up with spending hours on the phone to your suppliers, only to never get a clear answer to your questions?

Worry no more. The team at the Bill Clinic can provide you with a FREE health check on your utility bills. We are here to save you valuable time and money by simplifying your life, giving you the reassurance that you're not spending more than you should.

Click <u>HERE</u> for more details of how they can help you









Community Funding

All of the funding you need for your organisation can now be found in one place! Just click on the image below, which will take you to our website.

If you are successful in getting a grant, let us know - we can help you promote your project, and inspire others to get involved.







Enovert Community Trust is dedicated to supporting projects that positively impact both the environment and local communities. Through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), the Trust provides grants to a wide range of initiatives designed to enhance community amenities and contribute to environmental conservation.

Click <u>**HERE**</u> for more details and how to apply











Meet The Team

Tom Tayler

Community & Partnerships Team Manager 07956 343985 Tom.Tayler@colchester.gov.uk

Rachaelle Litwin

Digital Access Support Team Leader – Colchester & Tendring 01206 282452

Digital.AccessSupport@Colchester.gov.uk

Roz Clough

Financial Equality & Wellbeing Team Leader 01206 506440 or 07960 779163 Roz.Clough@colchester.gov.uk

Chrissy Henegan

Community & Partnerships Officer

Central – Shrub End, Prettygate, Newtown & Christchurch,

Berechurch and Castle

Thematic lead for Children & Young People and Armed Forces

07966 235791

Chrissy.Henegan@colchester.gov.uk

Mark Healy

Community & Partnerships Officer
North – Rural North, Lexden & Braiswick, Mile End, Highwoods, St Annes & St Johns and Stanway
Thematic lead for Older People, Compassionate Communities, EDI, and Locality Budgets
07817 889992
Mark.Healy@colchester.gov.uk

Jake Mullinder

Community & Partnerships Officer

South – Marks Tey & Layer, Mersea & Pyefleet, Tiptree,
Wivenhoe, Old Heath & The Hythe and Greenstead
Thematic Lead for Physical Activity & Public Health
07890 910455
Jake.Mullinder@colchester.gov.uk

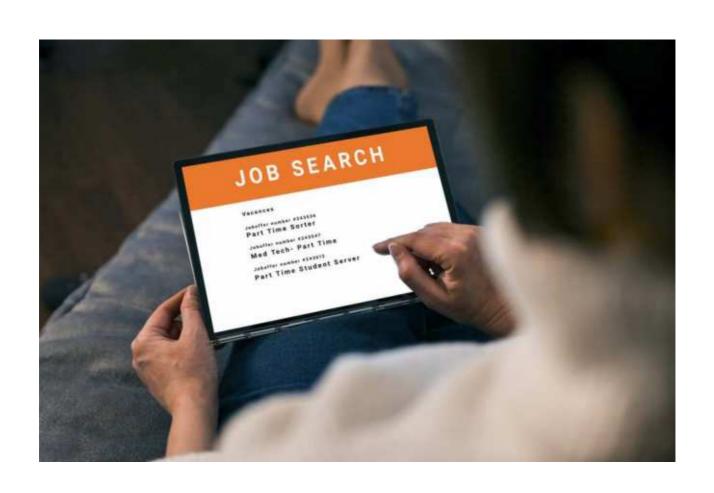
Yovone Cook

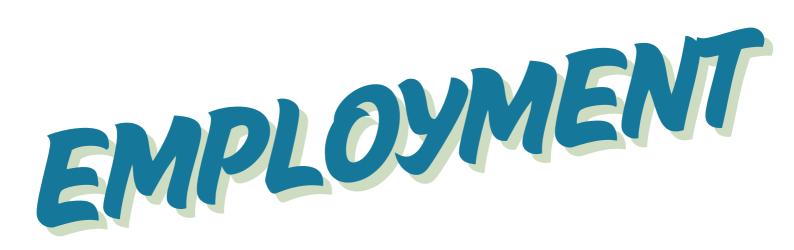
Community & Partnerships Officer
Thematic lead for Resettlement, Faith Groups and Ethnically
Diverse Groups
07976 794789
Yovone.Cook@colchester.gov.uk

Shaz Peacock

Community Integration Support Officer Resettlement & Employment Support 01206 506951 07977 823928 sharon.peacock@colchester.gov.uk









Want to work with us?

the latest
Colchester City
Council vacancies





Greenstead Community Supermarket needs volunteers

Contact the DAM Boaz Project Team for an application form.

www.divineassemblyministries.com Tel:01206326564



Job Club

at 1:30 to 3pm
2nd Thursday of each month
at RAMA House

31 Eld Lane, Colchester, CO1 1LS

Get the help and support you need to prepare for work in the UK

All refugees and Asylum Seekers who live in Colchester are WELCOME!

Any questions? Just email communities@colchester.gov.uk







Employability for Overseas Nationals (EON)

Supporting overseas nationals into sustainable work

Please scan the QR code to download an information flyer in a range of languages:



smp.eelga.gov.uk/migrant-workers/eon/flyers/





BOYS & MEN FREE DIGITAL TRAINING



Free Basic computer & Digital Skills Training to Clients in Colchester

Learn

- Emails
- Office Programs
- Searching Online
- Files
- Study Skills
- Finding a job

Refreshments Available



CONTACT US

Tel: 01206 617013 info@boysandmen.co.uk





Colchester City Council's community & Partnership team

Our community & Partnership team provides support, advice, and assistance to those who need it across the city.

You can contact our community response team by emailing communities@colchester.gov.uk



To **UNSUBSCRIBE** to this newsletter please email communities@colchester.gov.uk

