

# ECC Report August 2024

## *New bus shelter contract for Essex*



We have signed a contract with Clear Channel UK for the maintenance, install and upkeep of bus shelters in Essex. This contract will last 10 years.

As part of this, we will invest £3 million in year one to buy new bus shelters. From late August, the new shelters will be installed.

This will be followed by a comprehensive programme to upgrade and expand bus infrastructure across Essex.

The new shelters will include features such as:

- seating
- motion sensor lighting
- space for prams and wheelchairs
- timetables
- digital real-time information screens and advertising panels

Clear Channel will maintain all shelters as well as install and sell advertising. The revenue generated will be invested in the bus infrastructure network.

Councillor Tom Cunningham, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, said:

*“This exciting contract will allow Essex County Council to bring much needed new and improved bus shelters and infrastructure to the county. It will also mean using a bus will become easier and more accessible as the existing facilities are upgraded.*

*By harnessing the advertising revenues available, we will also be able to replace council money with commercial funding, future proofing the service and providing value for money for Essex taxpayers.*

*By creating better infrastructure and a more welcoming environment for bus users, we hope to see more people using bus services, encouraging sustainable transport choices to support our aim of creating a Safer, Greener, Healthier Essex”.*

Residents can [see which shelters will be replaced and when](#) and all shelter requests go via the relevant County Member through the Local Highways Panel process. I am sure you all have my email address [cllr.Carlo.Guglielmi@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.Carlo.Guglielmi@essex.gov.uk)

You will all have received a pack that outlines the process especially how Shelters will be funded and then prioritised for installation, but in case someone has not received it I have included separately in my email to you all.

***New guide to early years careers for school leavers***



We have launched a guide packed with expert advice to help school leavers kickstart a career in early years and childcare.

The guide features tips from experienced practitioners. It is part of our early years recruitment campaign, '[Make a change. Build a future](#)'. The campaign aims to inspire people to enter or return to the sector. It also aims to support aspiring childminders.

### **Tips for starting a career in early years and childcare**

1. **Start your early years career regardless of prior qualifications.** There are no boundaries to starting in early years. Some courses may require GCSEs in maths and English. If you don't have these, you can still pursue early years and childcare roles. Apprenticeships offer the chance to gain suitable English skills while you study. Find out more about routes into childcare.
2. **Gain relevant work experience.** Spend time volunteering in an early years setting or babysitting to ensure it's the right fit for you.
3. **Consider your pathway.** Choose the learning style that suits you best. This could be an apprenticeship or college course. Apprenticeships offer practical experience and income. College courses combine classroom learning and practical placements. Each job vacancy will outline the requirements of the role. Find out more about [early years qualifications](#).

4. **Choose the right setting.** Research different settings to find one that aligns with your interests. It could be a nursery offering year-round places from birth, a preschool or an outdoor nursery.
5. **Take opportunities to grow.** The sector offers many professional development opportunities. These include courses in first aid, safeguarding, Makaton and special educational needs.
6. **Consider further training to advance in your career.** There are many career paths in early years. With hard work, you could soon be a room leader or work your way up to nursery manager. If you decide to specialise, you could become a special educational needs coordinator. If you're entrepreneurial, you could work to set up your own early years setting one day.
7. **Be flexible.** Early years settings are open from early in the morning to early evening. You'll need to be flexible with your working hours. There are also options to work part-time or term-time only.
8. **Be creative.** Children need to be inspired in different ways so it's important to be creative. Activities vary from exploring outdoors to developing language through nursery rhymes. There's flexibility to design activities and keep every day interesting.
9. **Challenge the stereotype.** Early years offers great opportunities for men to work in childcare. [Only 2% of practitioners in school and group-based providers, and 3% of childminders are male.](#) The sector is keen to welcome more men. Men can provide a positive role in educating and caring for the future generation. This includes helping children to prepare for their next stage in learning.
10. **Have fun and make a difference every day.** A career in early years is fun and fulfilling. If you have a caring nature and a passion for childcare, this could be the perfect path for you.

We offer a range of pathways into early years and childcare. Find out [how to get a job in early years and childcare](#).

## **Youngsters explore future maths careers during university visits**





Over 120 children took part in two events that were organised by the University of Essex team, as part of our Essex Year of Numbers initiative.

An on-site university day began with a tour of the Colchester campus, where Year 5 pupils from Lawford School in Manningtree took part in fun problem-solving activities. The university team were on hand to explain exactly how much the team use maths in their everyday roles. From understanding climate change data to exploring brain development at the University of Essex's Babylab, students even worked with a psychologist to analyse their own brainwaves!

Students from Purford Green Primary School, Pear Tree Mead Primary Academy, Potter Street Academy and The Downs Primary School and Nursery, who were unable to travel to the Colchester campus, visited Passmores Academy in Harlow earlier in the month. They received a visit from the University of Essex team, who recreated the full university experience for them off-site.

Mr Vic Goddard, CEO of PCLC Trust in Harlow, ran a session about the importance of numbers in games during the separate school visit. He said: *"Our aim is to show that mathematics is not only essential but an incredibly exciting and engaging subject for all to enjoy. It was fantastic to welcome the University of Essex team into our*

*classrooms this month. There is no doubt that interactive events like these play a crucial role in inspiring the next generation of mathematicians and problem solvers."*

Roy Blatchford, Chair of the Essex Education Task Force, said: *"Our Essex Year of Numbers goal is to ignite a passion for maths in children at an early age. We hope to demonstrate that numbers really are all around us and can be both exciting and rewarding."*

The Essex Year of Numbers is a countywide campaign that aims to inspire a love of maths and numbers from a young age. The programme also provides support for parents, teachers, and caregivers. Find out more about the initiative here on the [Essex Year of Numbers website](#).

## **Colchester business owner prosecuted for selling alcohol to child**



A Colchester business owner has been fined for selling alcohol to a child.

Jigar Patel, owner and sole Director of London Bottle Shop Ltd, trading as Crouch Street Newsagents, was found guilty of selling alcohol to someone under the age of 18 at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court on Thursday 11 July.

Patel was found guilty in his absence and was fined £650 for the offence. He must also pay a victim surcharge of £274, as well as being ordered to pay £3,000 costs.

In March 2023, Trading Standards Officers visited Crouch Street Newsagents and provided advice and guidance on the law regarding underage sales.

The following month an alcohol test purchase was attempted, and a sale was made to a 16-year-old girl. A warning letter was sent following this test purchase.

On 31 May 2023, another test purchase was undertaken. Another sale of alcohol was made, this time to a 14-year-old female volunteer test purchaser.

Councillor Mark Durham, Essex County Council Cabinet Member responsible for Trading Standards, said:

*“This prosecution sends a clear message to individuals that continue to break the law. Businesses which sell age-restricted products must follow safe practices to ensure that they are not selling to those underage.*

*Essex Trading Standards will not tolerate irresponsible trading and won’t hesitate to take legal action where necessary to protect the public. We hope this prosecution serves as a warning to other shops and businesses of the need to pay proper attention to the law and avoid selling very harmful products to children”.*

If you are concerned that a shop might be selling age restricted products to children, you can report this to Trading Standards. This can be done by the Citizens Advice Consumer Service. [Visit the website](#) or call 0808 223 1133.

**Colchester business prosecuted for selling vape products to child**



Hot N High Ltd, trading as Sheppards, High Street Colchester, appeared at Colchester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 26 June. It pleaded not guilty to selling nicotine inhaling products to someone under the age of 18.

Following a trial, Hot N High Ltd was found guilty of the offence and fined £2,000. It must also pay a victim surcharge of £800 and £12,000 in costs.

In 2023, Essex Trading Standards carried out an underage test purchasing operation in Colchester. This followed a number of complaints about age-restricted products being sold to children.

During the operation, Sheppards sold a vape containing nicotine to a 13-year-old volunteer.

The company was advised on underage sales by Trading Standards between 2021 and 2023. It had also been the subject of test purchasing operations during this period.

A spokesperson for Essex Trading Standards said:

*"Sellers of age-restricted goods including vapes must ensure they are vigilant and always ask to see proof of age before making a sale to a young person."*



*"They must have robust processes in place, including staff training, to guard against any illegal underage sales."*

*"This prosecution shows how seriously we take this issue. Businesses which break the law in Essex will be targeted by Trading Standards."*

You can contact Trading Standards if you think a shop is selling age-restricted products to children. Call the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133 or [visit the website](#).

## **First look at Clacton Civic Quarter project**



Residents can share feedback on exciting redevelopment plans for Clacton Civic Quarter. The multi-million-pound plans will create a civic and community space. They also include much-needed new homes.

Alongside Tendring District Council, we were awarded almost £20 million by the Government for Clacton town centre projects.

The project includes plans for a multi-storey building at the existing Clacton Library site. We will lead this development. It will include:

- a brand-new library
- Adult Community Learning centre
- local registration services
- University of Essex's new Centre for Coastal Communities

A separate application on the neighbouring site, led by Tendring District Council, will showcase the design and layout of 28 new homes at Carnarvon Terrace.

Plans include improvements to the existing High Street car park. They also include the creation of a mixed-use civic and community space, including new creative workspaces. The space will be next door to the new building that will replace the current Clacton Library.

Residents can have their say on the plans via two consultations. We are leading a consultation on the proposals to redevelop the Clacton Library site. Tendring District Council are leading on the consultation on the Carnarvon Terrace scheme.

A joint drop-in consultation event was held at ACL Clacton, in St Osyth Road, from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 20 July, and the public consultation will run until 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

More information at [Have your say on the Clacton Library plans](#) or [find out more about the plans to redevelop Carnarvon Terrace](#).

**Essex partnership helps adults with learning disabilities into work**



A number of adults with learning disabilities have been employed at the Co-op with support from ECL.

ECL and East of England Co-op won a [Municipal Journal \(MJ\) Award](#) for its partnership, which has helped 16 adults achieve paid employment to date.

The partnership comes from [ECL's Inclusive Employment](#) initiative launched in 2020. This gives mentoring and training to adults with learning disabilities and/or autism.

This includes on-the-job training for as long as needed.

ECL's initiative has helped set up 11,913 job applications and 1,730 interviews. This has resulted in 420 paid employment outcomes and 253 work trials.

ECL works closely with Essex businesses to match talented people with business needs. It shows the benefits of hiring the people it supports for more inclusive employment; find out more about [ECL's Inclusive Employment](#) initiative.