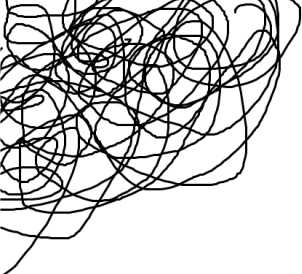




Essex Children In Care Council



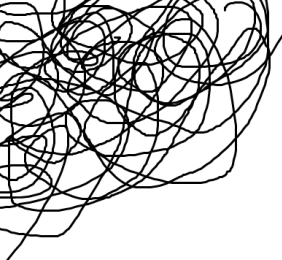
Update September 2026



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- Youth Group
- Proud To Be Me
- Youth Group, Proud To Be Me Black History Month Celebration Event
- CICC Christmas Party
- Jr CICC Trick or Treat
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- Care Leavers Month
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Get Involved With



Youth Group

Come and join our well-established youth group. Young people who have attended the youth group have told us that they have built confidence and self-esteem, developed peer relationship with others in care, can have comfortable conversation about the care they receive, develop services and make friends.

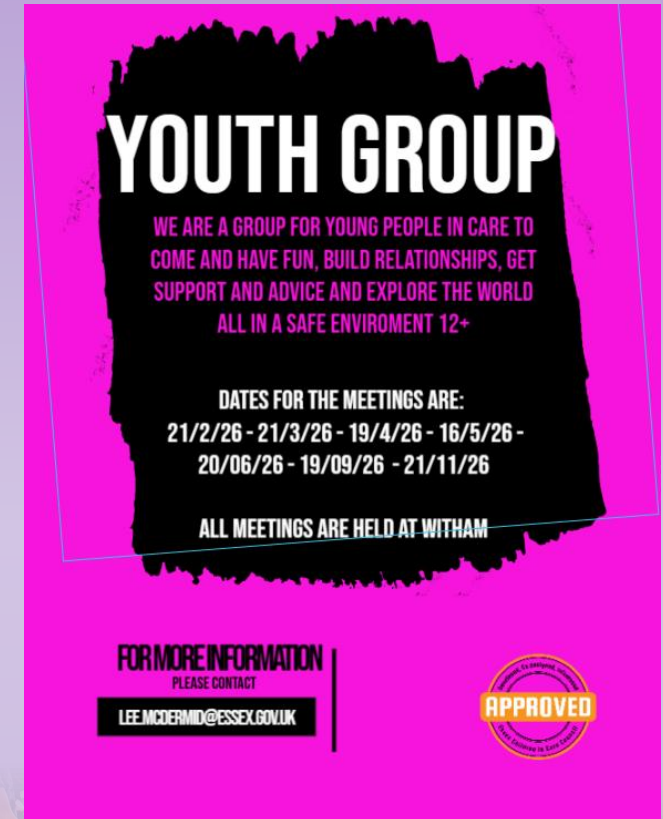
Event	Youth Group
Age	12 to 17 years old depending on need
Cost	Free
Travel	Travel should never be a barrier to your participation. We can help by providing transport in one direction on a case by case basis.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

3rd Saturday of every month
@10:00 – 13:00 – unless
there is a special event

To find out more or sign up;

Email Lee McDermid –
lee.mcdermid@essex.gov.uk



OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Peer Relationships, Feeling part of a community, Resilience, Fun, Learning new skills, having new experiences.

Get Involved With



Proud To Be Me Celebration Group

Come and be a part of something special. Come and feel like you belong. Proud to be me is a safe space to explore and celebrate culture, identity and race with peers. During an evening you can expect fun, games and of course FOOD.

Event	Proud To Be Me
Time	17:00 – 19:30
Age	11+
Cost	Free
Travel	Travel should never be a barrier to your participation. We can help by providing transport in one direction on a case by case basis.

Group dates

10/3/26 – 28/4/26 - 9/6/26 – 29/9/26

Celebration Dates

21st July – Its' My Life Festival

Black History Celebration 17/10/26

11th December Christmas

To find out more or sign up;

Email Natalie Vince –

natalie.vince@essex.gov.uk Or

call - 07584262934



You are invited to Proud to be me, this is a group for children in care who are from different racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, by this we mean children who are black, Asian, mixed or dual heritage. The Proud to be Me youth group is for children and young people aged 11+ to explore their culture and identity through activities, cooking and discussions.

In this group you will take part in fun activities that help you:

- Learn to embrace your culture, ethnicity and heritage
- You will get a chance to voice your views and opinions
- You will get a chance to speak about your experiences with other young people and adults

Dates:-

10th March- Parkside youth centre Witham CM82BH
28th April- Parkside youth centre Witham CM82BH
9th June- Parkside youth centre Witham CM82BH
21st July (JML- at Danbury)
29th Sep- Parkside youth centre Witham CM82BH
17th Oct (BHM celebration)
24th Nov- Parkside youth centre Witham CM82BH
11th Dec (combined youth group- venue to be confirmed)

BOOK ON- natalie.vince@essex.gov.uk or 07584262934



OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Learning and exploring culture
identity, Peer support, Fun, Learning
new skills, having new experiences

Get Involved With



Black History Month Celebration Youth Group, Proud To Be Me

Come and join us for our Black History Month Celebration. Together we'll explore, recognise and celebrate Black history, culture, achievements and contributions. This is a welcoming space for all young people in care to come together, learn, connect and celebrate diversity. During the evening you can expect fun activities, games, great conversations and, of course, FOOD!

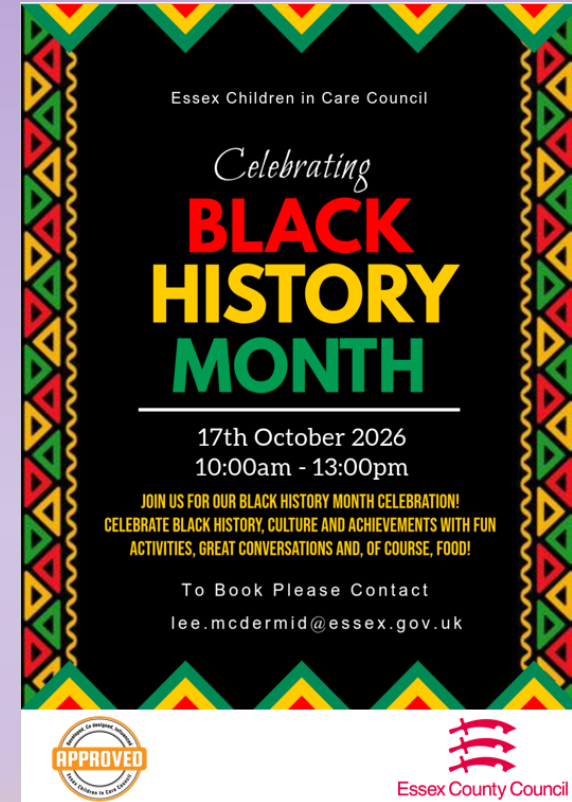
Event	Black History Month Celebration
Time	10:00 – 13:00
Age	11 - 18
Cost	Free
Travel	Travel should never be a barrier to your participation. We can help by providing transport in one direction on a case by case basis.

Celebration Dates

Saturday 17/10/26
10:00 – 13:00

To find out more or sign up;

Email Lee McDermid –
lee.mcdermid@essex.gov.uk Or
call - 07824867612



OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Learning about Black history, culture and diversity,
Exploring culture and identity, Peer support and social
connection, Learning new skills, Having new
experiences, Building confidence, Fun and enjoyment.

Get Involved With



CICC Christmas Party

Come along and celebrate the festive season with other young people in care from across Essex. Enjoy great food, music, party games, festive activities, and our popular Worst Christmas Jumper Competition!

This is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, catch up with friends, have your voice heard, and be part of a supportive community. Whether you're attending for the first time or you're a regular member, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Event Youth Group

Age 12 to 17 years old depending on need

Cost Free

Travel Travel should never be a barrier to your participation. We can help by providing transport in one direction on a case by case basis.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday 11th December
18:00 – 20:00

To find out more or sign up;

Email Lee McDermid –
lee.mcdermid@essex.gov.uk



OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Peer Relationships, Feeling part of a community, Resilience, Fun, Learning new skills, having new experiences.

Junior Children In Care Council



Trick or Treat

Halloween Themed Activity Day and Party

Join us for a spooktacular Halloween adventure designed especially for young people in care aged 8-12! Enjoy a day filled with fun activities, tasty treats, games and plenty of Halloween excitement at Danbury Outdoors.

Event Trick or Treat
Time 11:00 – 15:30
Date 28th October 2026
Age 8 to 12
Cost Free

Booking <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/involvement/halloween-activity-day-26/>

To find out more or sign up;
Email Lee McDermid –
lee.mcdermid@essex.gov.uk Or
call - 07824867612



My Time Activity Camp



We offer exciting residential opportunities for young people in care, for 13–14. These camps run over two nights and are designed to create lifelong memories, build a sense of belonging, and provide a wide range of positive, engaging activities. Each camp is packed with a full schedule of fun experiences and opportunities to try new things. This year, we are pleased to offer three residential camps. Please see the details below.

Base Camp - Danbury Outdoors

13-14 Years of Age

30th to 1st October/November

Come and join us at Danbury where we will spend the day taking part in a full range of activities.

We'll also be heading off-site to make the most of Halloween events happening across the county. Main highlight for this residential is a trip to a Theme Park.

Base Camp - Danbury Outdoors

13 - 14 Years of Age

12th to 14th February

Come and join us at our Danbury outdoor base this February!

We'll spend the day taking part in a full programme of exciting Danbury activities. Along with going off site to make the most of other activities across the county.

To find out more or sign up;

Email Lee McDermid –

lee.mcdermid@essex.gov.uk Or

call - 07584262934

To Book your young person onto the camp

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/involvement/f7e432aa>

ESSEX CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL
The Involvement Service Presents
MY TIME ACTIVITY CAMP

30 - 1 OCT/NOV 13 - 14 year olds
12 - 14 FEBRUARY 13 - 14 year olds

ABOUT THE CAMP
My Time Activity Camp was set up at the beginning of 2017. With a view to give young people in care a choice in respite and the chance to make life long memories with peers from similar backgrounds. We have completed over 10 camps and our feedback has been amazing.

Memories we have already made

- ✓ White Water Rafting
- ✓ Westend Show
- ✓ Thorpe Park
- ✓ Aerial Trekking
- ✓ Chessington World of Adventure

Children in Care Council
Webpage
<https://eicc.essex.gov.uk/>

For Details:
07824867612
lee.mcdermid@essex.gov.uk

TO BOOK



Get Involved With



Care Leaver Dinner and Chill

Come and join the team for our Care Leaver Dinner and Chill. All Care Leavers are invited to come and catch up with staff and friends. You will have the opportunity to cook dinner with others and enjoy the evening taking part in conversations that matter to you. One of the key aims of this session is to help you build a peer support group that will be able to give you help and support when you need it.

Event	Youth Group
Age	Care Leaver
Cost	Free
Travel	Travel should never be a barrier to your participation. We can provide transport.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

3rd Feb, 24th March, 5th May, 22nd Sept, 3rd Nov
@17:00-20:00
Care Leavers Month Celebration November
Christmas dinner 8th December

To find out more or sign up;

Email Natalie Vince –
natalie.vince@essex.gov.uk Or
call - 07584262934



Care Leaver Dinner and Chill

This event is for young people who are care leavers

Date Every 6 weeks
Time 17:00pm - 19:30pm
Venue Parkside, Witham

To book please contact lee.mcdermid@essex.gov.uk



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OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Peer Support, Combating Isolation,
Help and Advice, Independence Skills

Get Involved With



Care Leaver Month Celebration

Leading the Way: From Experience to Empowerment

This year's theme recognises the strength, insight and potential of care-experienced young people, highlighting the journey from lived experience to positive action, influence and opportunity

Event **Care Leaver Month Celebration**

Age **Care Leaver**

Cost **Free**

Travel **Travel should never be a barrier to your participation. We can provide transport.**

Info **We have lots of projects to be involved with – please contact us to be involved**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Throughout November

To be involved please speak to your PA or Natalie.

To find out more or sign up;

Email Natalie Vince –

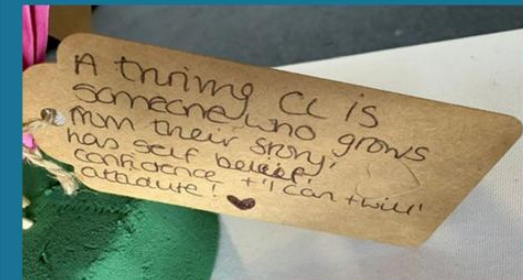
natalie.vince@essex.gov.uk Or

call - 07584262934

CARE LEAVERS MONTH

This year's theme recognises the strength, insight and potential of care-experienced young people, highlighting the journey from lived experience to positive action, influence and opportunity

Leading the Way: From Experience to Empowerment



OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Peer Support, Combating Isolation, Help and Advice, Independence Skills

Get Involved With



Care Leaver Christmas Dinner and Party

Come and join the team for our Care Leaver Christmas Dinner & Party. All Care Leavers are invited to come together, celebrate the festive season, and catch up with staff and friends.

You will have the opportunity to enjoy a delicious Christmas dinner, take part in festive activities, and spend the evening socialising with others in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

One of the key aims of this event is to help you build friendships and strengthen your peer support network, so you can connect with others who understand your experiences and provide support when you need it. We look forward to celebrating with you and making the evening a memorable one.

Event	Youth Group
Age	Care Leaver
Cost	Free
Travel	Travel should never be a barrier to your participation. We can provide transport.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 8th December @ 17:00 – 20:00

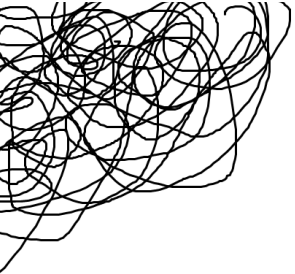
To find out more or sign up;

Email Natalie Vince –
natalie.vince@essex.gov.uk Or
call - 07584262934



OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Peer Support, Combating Isolation,
Help and Advice, Independence Skills



Have Your Say



Listening is Important

It helps us make sure the children in our care receive the support they need and helps us as an organisation understand how well we are meeting our promises to children in care.

Please can you encourage the children and young people you care for to complete a survey and support them if they need help.

Survey for children aged 5 to 11 <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/involvement/hys-children>

Survey for young people aged 12 to 17 <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/involvement/hys-youngpeople>

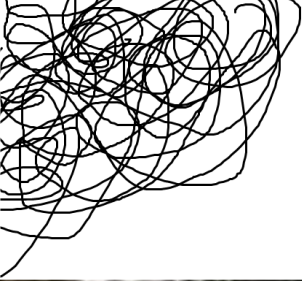
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Please complete by
December 2025

To find out more or to receive a paper copy;

Email - Involvement Service
involvement@essex.gov.uk





Children in Care Council

our offer in ESsex



Make change

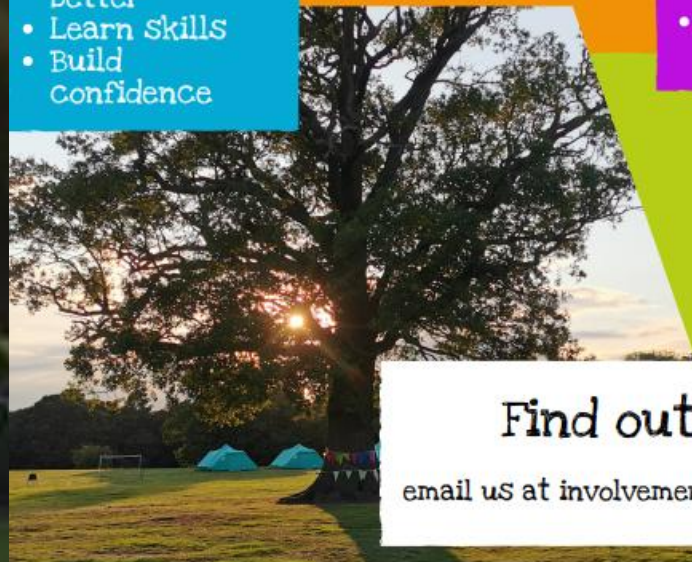
- Talk to decision makers
- Share your experiences
- Be listened to
- Influence change
- Make Services better
- Learn skills
- Build confidence

Relationships

- Make friends
- Build social skills
- Share concerns and worries
- Feel valued
- Build your identity
- Feel part of a community
- Combat isolation
- Build trust with professionals

Activities

- Have fun
- Make life long memories
- In a safe place and space
- Experience new things
- Push out of your comfort zone
- Build resilience



Find out more

email us at involvement@essex.gov.uk

**INVOLVEMENT
SERVICE**

Listening to children, young people and families

out more

[involvement@essex.gov](mailto:involvement@essex.gov.uk)