

ERF weekly briefing note

wc 25 May 2020

The Essex Resilience Forum Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) was put into action to provide coordination and alignment for member services in Essex.

The SCG is chaired by Chief Constable BJ Harrington and Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Rick Hylton. The two Chairs rotate responsibility to provide resilience.

Current SCG Chair – BJ Harrington

The purpose of the SCG is to:

- Minimise the risk to the public by assisting Public Health to contain the spread of the virus and to support the contact tracing.
- Maximise, where practicable, the safety of our staff and partners by providing advice and appropriate PPE where necessary.
- Ensure business continuity plans are in place to enable the provision of key services and continued delivery of essential services to the public.
- To reassure the public by supporting Public Health guidance and Public Health messages.
- To ensure that community tension and intelligence/information is being effectively managed through the strategic co-ordinating group and existing structures.
- To support Local Resilience Forum partner agencies and local communities to mitigate the impacts of the virus.
- To ensure a coordinated approach to any arrivals to UK (By Air or Sea) of persons who pose a Public Health risk arising from Covid-19.
- To promote a return to business as usual and restoration of disrupted services at the earliest opportunity.

To support the work of the SCG and provide consistency of messaging a Multi Agency Information Cell has been formed which provides daily updates from all of the services on who COVID-19 is impacting in Essex. The report covers a UK update, health, East of England Ambulance Service, Essex Police – including community tensions, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, ports, Southend Borough Council, Essex County Council (Covering all 12 districts) and Thurrock Council.

We have an established joined up multi-agency approach in place, that is delivering against the expectations of the government. Our SCG is meeting twice-weekly, and coordinating the plans and response for Essex. This means we are working together, keeping everyone across Essex as safe as we can, and providing the most up-to-date information as possible.

SCG work streams/tactical groups

Five streams continue to be the core focus for the SCG – notes/ issues as below.

- **Excess Death Planning** – the temporary mortuary site at Chelmer Valley Park and Ride will be decommissioned following a decision by the SCG last week. Talks are in place with the contractors around the practicalities of this and a communications piece is being developed to support this work.
- **Shielding the vulnerable** – Essex residents have come out in their thousands to volunteer to help shield the vulnerable. Essex County Council have now recruited around 3,000 volunteers via Essex Welfare Service. The service continues to make emergency food deliveries, give help with essential supplies to people who have asked for help.
- **Care Provision – Adults & Children** – The Every Family Matters Campaign, which provides advice on children’s health and wellbeing, continues. Last week was Mental Health Awareness Week, and parents and carers were encouraged to have a conversation with their child about how they’re feeling.
- **PPE** – We are receiving deliveries each week and have shared the new guidance around its use from Public Health England.
- **Volunteers** – Good practice guidance continues to be available. Volunteers can also continue to find support via the [Facebook Coronavirus Action Group](#). The group is a collaboration between Essex County Council, the Essex Public Health team, and local Facebook group owners.

Key updates from the Chair

Recycling centres - 18 recycling centres in Essex reopened last week. Essex County Council is thanking residents for showing patience and understanding during the first week of recycling centres reopening following the COVID-19 lockdown. New restrictions and strict social distancing controls are in place to ensure the safety of residents and site staff. These restrictions include limiting the number of cars on site at any one time.

Schools – Following the government’s announcement regarding the reopening of education and childcare settings, work is taking place to support reopening in the safest possible way. In Essex, the return will take place on a gradual, phased and small-scale basis, allowing for local flexibility within schools in terms of class size, staffing, and the constraints of school buildings. The Education TCG is meeting again this Friday to pull together a final picture of which settings will open on 1 June and which will delay opening and why.

Recovery - The LRF is planning for return to normal, with specific TCGs being set up across the agencies to approach this in a joined-up way.

Testing - There are a number of ways people can be tested across Essex. These testing sites are to enable key workers to return to work and keep vulnerable and older people safe. Anyone wanting to be tested must meet the eligibility criteria, pre-book an appointment, travel to the centre by car – i.e. not on foot or by public transport. The sites are open to symptomatic people who are: key workers/their household members who have symptoms, people aged 65 and over/their household members who have symptoms, those that are currently having to travel to work who fall outside of the key worker group, and their household members who have symptoms.

The government has announced plans to offer antibody tests to all NHS and care staff in England from this week. Patients and care residents will be eligible for the tests at their clinician's request.

Extending Eligibility for Testing

Everyone in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland who is showing coronavirus symptoms is eligible to book a swab test to find out if they have the virus. People can register for a test at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus , after checking their symptoms. Those in England and Wales who do not have any access to the internet, or who have difficulty with the digital portals, will be able to ring a new 119 service to book their test.

Test and Trace

The government has announced £300 million additional funding for councils in England to support the new Test and Trace Service and to develop tailored outbreak control plans. Work on the plans will start immediately. Plans will focus on identifying and containing potential outbreaks in places such as workplaces, housing complexes, care homes and schools.

Essex plans are being developed between Local Authorities, NHS England and Public Health England with the support of the ERF.

Wider partner updates

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/coronavirus>

www.southend.gov.uk/coronavirus

https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/About_Us/Coronavirus/

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/government-and-health-information>

<https://www.essex.police.uk/news/essex/news/news/2020/march/keeping-you-safe-in-challenging-times/>

Key Focus Areas for communication

The proactive communication of the ERF will focus on four main strands:

- **Protecting the vulnerable;**
 - Community Shield;
 - Engaging volunteers;
- **Staying safe in the home;**
 - Tackling domestic abuse and supporting victims;
 - Prevention and tackling fraud;
 - Preventing exploitation;
 - Fire safety in the home;
- **Social cohesion and communities together;**
 - Paying tribute to frontline workers keeping people safe;
 - Activities which bring people together – volunteering, acts of kindness, community spirit, cultural activity, support to others;
 - Recognising those staying at home and following restrictions;
 - Visible policing in our communities;
 - Accessible and available fire and rescue services;
 - Emergency services working together;
- **Health and social care;**
 - Building capacity within our health service;
 - Keeping frontline worker safe;
 - Maintaining frontline services.

This briefing will focus on providing detail and messaging to help support and amplify these strands of work as the fight against the pandemic continues.

Protecting the vulnerable

Shielding

The Essex Welfare Service (EWS), established by Essex County Council, is now enabling access to more support services across the county.

The county council service, delivered by Provide, was set up to help those most vulnerable during the Coronavirus pandemic and has so far seen almost 9,000 vulnerable people across the county receiving support and over 3,000 volunteers helping to make this happen.

This invaluable volunteer support has ranged from help with shopping, medicine or day to day tasks that has enabled individuals to stay healthy and well whilst shielding at home.

The EWS has seen an increasing demand from residents for a number of different types of support. In response to that EWS has expanded to enable access to a range of organisations that can help those who feel isolated or vulnerable.

Community Engagement

Thurrock Council is continuing to send twice weekly email newsletter to a mailing list of over 100,000 residents updating on health advice, council service updates and other news related to the pandemic and what it means for the borough's residents

Since social distancing measures came into place Thurrock Council has shared 818 social media messages relating to coronavirus. These have appeared on 1.9 million screens and have been interacted with over 14,000 times.

Thurrock Council and [Stronger Together Thurrock](#) have launched an [arts and culture portal](#) to give residents ideas of creative projects they can do at home while the country continues social distancing.

Thurrock Council has distributed over £20 million worth of government grants to 1,566 local businesses. Any business owner who thinks they are eligible for one of these grants and has not yet received it should go to Thurrock Council's [business rates web pages](#) to find out more about the help on offer and update their contact and payment details via an [online form](#).

ECC have a targeted social media advertising campaign to drive take up of business grants due this week. A partnership promotional campaign with Newsquest (online and in print) will be launched to promote support for businesses and the business grants too.

Country Parks

All Essex Country Parks reopened on Thursday 21 May.

Following the easing of restrictions to outside space announced recently by the Government, ECC Country Parks team have been working over the past few weeks to put in place necessary safety measures to ensure the parks can open in line with government guidance, and ensuring visitors and staff can remain safe.

The parks, car parks and toilets are now open to the public, however the children's play equipment, visitor centres and cafes will remain closed, in line with government guidance.

All visitors using the Essex Country Parks are asked to follow social distancing rules, paying particular attention to these in areas such as the car parks and toilet facilities. It is anticipated that the parks will be busy, and so residents are asked to use their judgment in relation to their visit – considering the time of their visit and the park they choose to visit.

Engaging volunteers

Essex County Council continues to support the **Facebook Coronavirus Action Group**. This involves close working with local community Facebook group administrators to create a group of volunteers willing to help those in need. The group is a collaboration between the council, the Essex Public Health team, and local Facebook group owners.

Excess death planning

The temporary mortuary at Chelmer Valley, outside Chelmsford is to be taken down. It was built in case there were more deaths during the coronavirus pandemic than hospitals and funeral directors in Essex, Southend and Thurrock could cope with.

The site has been on standby since 27 April but has not been needed.

The facility was set up at the closed park and ride site at Chelmer Valley as part of the emergency plan for responding to the pandemic. Specialist disaster recovery firm, Kenyon International built the space and was ready to run it if needed.

Social cohesion and bringing communities together

On Friday 22 May, Rick Hylton, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, was interviewed as part of BBC Essex's Essex Unites interview series. Rick highlighted the following:

Essex Resilience Forum

- The Essex Resilience Forum is a multi-agency partnership made up of local councils, emergency services, health providers, the voluntary sector.
- We're all working together and around the clock to keep Essex as safe as possible.

Stay Alert, Save Lives

- I'd like to say thank you to all our residents who are continuing to do the right and safe thing, and for following the national guidance.

- Your continued efforts are protecting the NHS and slowing the spread of the virus.
- We recognise that for many, this has been tough, but we need Essex to stick with it.
- I personally recognise how difficult it is - my children would love to see their friends and grandparents, but I also know that this increases the risk to my family and **your** family too.
- We've launched a campaign across Essex, simply reminding people that we still need to socially distance.
- We also want you to think about others when you're visiting different locations and areas of interest.
- This bank holiday, we're expecting our residents to be out and about - that's good for physical and mental wellbeing.
- But we must also remember what the consequences could be, if we don't do this responsibly.
- If you're out, please keep 2 metres apart from others.
- If you're visiting sites like recycling centres - please expect there will be delays. Be nice to those who are front line workers at these centres.
- Not all facilities are going to be open at parks and places of interest - so check before you travel.
- And do please keep looking out for each other.

Supporting EEAST - Fire service gives 4,000 hours to drive ambulances

- 19 of our firefighters are working alongside the East of England Ambulance Service, to protect Essex residents during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The firefighters started their first shifts on Easter Monday and as they begin their sixth week, the team has worked almost 4,000 hours helping the Ambulance Service respond to an average of 1,970 calls.
- The work that our colleagues driving ambulances are doing is incredible, and they are doing both themselves and our service really proud.
- We are getting some fantastic feedback about the difference that they're making.
- They've attended a variety of incidents - with 2 of our FF's helping deliver two baby boys during their shifts!
- As well as driving ambulances, we're also helping to teach people to become non-emergency ambulance drivers. To date we've trained 27 people to become ambulance drivers - so that's 27 more ambulances on the road for Essex. These people have been paramedic students, military personnel and Community First Responders.

The full interview can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/schedules/p00fz17f#on-now>

Campaign assets #StayAlertSaveLives



This week the Communications Group will be looking at how we encourage Essex residents to take personal responsibility for things like social distancing leading up to the re-opening of our High Streets.

Staying safe in the home

Eid

Muslim communities across Essex and Southend have been extremely active in supporting social distancing during the coronavirus pandemic, by observing Ramadan at home people are saving lives. Eid is a festival where families and communities usually come together to celebrate in mosques, outside and by visiting each other at home. We know that families and communities will naturally feel despondent at the prospect of not being able to celebrate in traditional ways this year. In these unprecedented circumstances, it is imperative that public health is put first. In keeping with the current UK Government's guidance communities are being advised to celebrate Eid-Al-Fitr in their own homes and avoid gathering in congregations at the mosque or any open space to offer Eid prayers, such as public parks.

Mental Health Awareness Week

In the current climate it is so important to take the time to look after ourselves and our loved ones. Many people are missing their friends and family, their hobbies and interests, their routine and their work.

Changes and loss can have a profound impact on our wellbeing – be this loss of a loved one, the change in our relationships – including at home – loss of work and therefore routine or financial stability. Prolonged isolation and limited contact with others can negatively affect our moods and outlook.

These changes to our “normal” will almost certainly influence our mental health, maybe making us anxious, apprehensive and unsure about the future. This is perfectly understandable but there is no reason to suffer alone.

Take time to check in – virtually – with each other, get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine, and if you need further help and support then there is a wealth of resources and organisations out there that have experience in all sorts of aspects of mental health. It’s been said that it is “ok to not be ok” and I think this message is so important as long as we all recognise when we aren’t ok and seek help.

The [Staying well](#) page includes information and advice on:

- looking after your mental health when you are social distancing
- online counseling and mental health services
- national and local organisations providing support
- things you can do to stay active at home
- how to work safely and comfortably from home

If you need support with mental health for yourself or someone you know, the Essex Welfare Service (EWS) is working with organisations across the county to provide support to people regardless of age, health or circumstance.

For anyone without help from family, friends, neighbours or the local community, EWS can connect them to Action for Family Carers, Summit, Sport for Confidence and other organisations.

If you or someone you know needs support you can [request support](#), [refer someone for support](#) or phone 0300 303 9988.

Education

Following the government’s announcement last week regarding the reopening of education and childcare settings, work is taking place to support reopening in the safest possible way.

In Essex, building on the government's plans, the return will take place on a gradual, phased and small-scale basis, allowing for local flexibility within schools in terms of class size, staffing, and the constraints of school buildings.

Teams have been working with Essex schools and early years settings, and partners such as the Department for Education, Ofsted, education professional associations, unions and other local authorities to prepare for reopening. Resources, experiences, and approaches are being shared across all education settings, giving school leaders a wealth of information and support, which will help them to make the best decisions to support their school community.

Every Family Matters campaign

Last week was Mental Health Awareness Week, and Steve Whitfield – a Senior Specialist Educational Psychologist at ECC shared the signs to look out for if you're worried about your child's mental health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's completely normal for children and young people to feel worried or anxious right now, but there is lots of local support available to help children, young people, parents and carers across Essex.

Remember, Every Family Matters and we're here to help you through this. Listen to Steve below and for more information and resources, visit our [Staying Well Children and Families page](#).

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can take many forms, including emotional, physical and sexual. If being at home doesn't feel safe right now, or you're concerned about someone you know, please contact [Essex Compass](#) who will be able to help you.

Fire safety:



Fire Service gives 4,000 hours to drive ambulances

Nineteen Essex County Fire and Rescue Service firefighters have worked alongside the East of England Ambulance Service to protect Essex residents during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The firefighters started their first shifts on Easter Monday and as they begin their sixth week, the team has worked almost 4,000 hours helping the ambulance service respond to an average of 1,970 calls.

Jo Turton, Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive said: “The work that our colleagues driving ambulances are doing is incredible, and they are doing both themselves and our Service really proud. We are getting some fantastic feedback about the difference that they’re making.

Full press release: [https://www.essex-](https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/news/Fire_Service_gives_4000_hours_to_drive_ambulances/)

[fire.gov.uk/news/Fire_Service_gives_4000_hours_to_drive_ambulances/](https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/news/Fire_Service_gives_4000_hours_to_drive_ambulances/)

Fire service shares cooking safety advice following three cooking fires in 24 hours

With kitchen fires accounting for a third of all house fires in Essex, the service is sharing cooking safety advice after three separate kitchen fires related to cooking broke out in the Southend area on Friday, 15 May.

Mark Crouch, Operational and Community Risk Officer said: “If you or someone you know doesn’t have working smoke alarms at home, we can fit them for free during a free home fire safety visit. Head over to www.essex-fire.gov.uk/book for more information.”

Full press release: https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/news/Stay_safe_while_cooking/

Firefighter raises almost £3,000 for children's cancer charity

Steve Bonsor, Crew Manager at South Woodham Ferrers, should have been running the London Marathon on 26 April.

He has put in hundreds of hours of training, overcome a major injury setback after tearing his calf and has raised nearly £3,000 for Children with Cancer UK...only for the event to be postponed due to the coronavirus.

But Steve is determined to complete his first ever marathon, at the age of 44, when the event (hopefully) goes ahead on 4 October.

Full press release: [https://www.essex-](https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/news/Firefighter_raises_almost_3000_for_childrens_cancer_charity/)

[fire.gov.uk/news/Firefighter_raises_almost_3000_for_childrens_cancer_charity/](https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/news/Firefighter_raises_almost_3000_for_childrens_cancer_charity/)

Fire Service welcomes 16 new firefighters

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service have welcomed 16 new recruits into the service.

Jo Turton, Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive said: “Our new recruits have completed their training despite the difficulties that have arisen during these unique and unprecedented times and their trainers have been full of praise for the squad’s professionalism, hard work and dedication during the pandemic.

Full press release: https://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/news/Fire_Service_welcomes_16_new_firefighters/

Health and social care

North East

As you are aware, last week was Mental Health Awareness Week, and the theme for this year is “kindness.” It focuses on the power and potential of kindness which is important now more than ever as we cope with and recover from the impact of coronavirus. Over recent weeks, there have been so many stories and displays of kindness across Suffolk and north east Essex.

Around 2,000 video care phones are in the process of being delivered to vulnerable people in Essex to supplement face to face contact while following social distancing rules. Essex County Council has teamed up with RETHINK Partners and Alcove to roll out these devices to provide virtual care and health and wellbeing support to vulnerable or shielded people. Read more [HERE](#)

‘Pop-up’ style mobile testing units are regularly in operation across the system. Visits to the units are for those currently showing symptoms of coronavirus and must be booked in advance. You will be aware the government has announced that people can request a test for anyone over 5 years of age, who is showing coronavirus symptoms. This includes requesting a test for someone you live with, if they have coronavirus symptoms.

A fantastic short film has been produced by Colchester Borough Council which highlights all of the partners’ achievements in responding to the coronavirus crisis. It really goes to show that our communities are best served when our organisations work collaboratively. Click [HERE](#) to view the video which has been posted on Facebook.

Our partners at Active Essex and the University of Essex have teamed up with State of Life to find out how coronavirus makes people feel about work, health, money, other people, and life in general. They’ve developed a brief survey to gauge views. Click [HERE](#) to take part.

The government has announced £300 million additional funding for councils in England to support the new Test and Trace Service and to develop tailored outbreak control plans. Work on the plans will start immediately. Plans will focus on identifying and containing potential outbreaks in places such as workplaces, housing complexes, care homes and schools. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Healthwatch Essex is working with partners and people across local NHS and social care services to find out people’s experiences of services during the coronavirus pandemic. With so many changes happening across services, it is vital feedback is obtained to understand local people’s experiences. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

55,000 art packs have so far been downloaded from the website of Firstsite art gallery in Colchester.

The project called *Art is Where the Home* was launched in March in conjunction with several award-winning artists including Sir Antony Gormley and Grayson Perry. It aims to provide ideas about getting creative at home. Packs are available to people of any age and is another way local businesses have been supporting the wider community during the crisis.

Mid and South Essex

This week saw the launch of a remote access digital monitoring platform to transform the post treatment care of patients recovering from cancer. An innovative web portal has been commissioned by Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust to allow patients to keep in touch remotely with their clinician after they have been treated for breast, colorectal or prostate cancer. Patients will benefit from “personalised care packages” and have access to all the support, clinical advice and educational resources they need through an app or the portal. Clinicians will be able to track patients against their agreed care plan and retrieve and study their test results.

Please find below links to a video the MSE Health and Care Partnership cancer group have created with support from the incident communications team featuring local cancer specialists to reassure patients about what will happen if they receive an urgent cancer referral whilst we are responding to COVID-19. Please share and cascade this amongst your own communication networks and channels. The YouTube version can be found here <https://youtu.be/oKGWRutGMuU> and the download link for the file is here if you want to use your own social media <https://we.tl/tqpy4ntlWGM>

A reminder that information on services changes across the partnership can be found coronavirus.msehealthandcarepartnership.co.uk. The website, developed to support communication to local healthcare professionals during COVID-19, is continually updated and will be vital as we begin our reset. All providers are asked to help ensure that details on the restoration of health services are accurate and up to date by sending the information to meccg.essex.incident.comms@nhs.net. The site also has access to inclusive communications resources including sign language, easy read and translated materials for Partners to download and utilise for residents and staff.

System partners are working together to give clear and consistent messaging to all Essex residents about the guidelines they should follow to keep as safe as possible. Simple eye-catching graphics with the #StayAlertSaveLives have been shared by the Essex Resilience Forum for the social media channels of health providers, local councils, emergency services and the voluntary sector. The campaign reminds

people about the continued need for social distancing by staying two metres away from others.

Mental Health Awareness Week has been the focus of a collaborative campaign by communications teams across the partnership to reach out to residents who may have been struggling with their feelings during the coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown. The week is themed around the key message of kindness with reminders that local mental health support is still available via services provided over the telephone, through video consultations and other digital platforms. Details of local and national mental health/wellbeing support services dedicated solely to NHS staff are being circulated through internal communications channels. Help remains available and is open to staff across health and care via a confidential psychological support service set up by Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) This provides immediate help for staff dealing with emotional difficulties in relation to the pandemic. If you'd like to talk to someone, you can call 01375 898837 seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm, or you can email epunft.staffpsychsupport@nhs.net

The extension in testing eligibility to include anyone with coronavirus symptoms is being promoted by system partners on social media channels. All the information on testing services for key workers, care homes and anyone with coronavirus symptoms is on the Mid Essex Health and Care Partnership's dedicated coronavirus website at www.coronavirus.msehealthandcarepartnership.co.uk/health-andcare-staff/. There is also a new process for swabbing of care home staff and social care homes are able to arrange whole home testing via www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-testcare-home. This is swabbing for asymptomatic residents and staff.

Active Essex has launched their 3030 challenge again for the month of June. The aim is to get people moving for 30 minutes a day for the 30 days in June. There are no distances to run, no targets to beat, no calories to burn just 30 minutes of activity, your way. For more information visit www.3030essex.com

West

Testing

The mobile testing units across Essex are being well used and more locations have been added to enable a wider coverage and easier access.

This week (w/c 25 May), units will operate in:

Monday 25 May 2020 - Basildon Sporting Village, Basildon, SS14 3GR and The Civic Hall, Grays, RM16 2JU

Tuesday 26 May 2020 - Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Rayleigh, SS6 9NF, Clacton on Sea Leisure Centre, Clacton, CO15 6DB, Long Stay Car Park 3, Southend Airport, Southend on Sea, SS2 6YE

Wednesday 27 May 2020 - Harlow Football Club, Harlow, CM19 5BE, Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles, Low Road, Dovercourt, CO12 3TA

Thursday 28 May 2020 - Basildon Sporting Village, Basildon, SS14 3GR, Clacton on Sea Leisure Centre, Clacton, CO15 6DB

Friday 29 May 2020 - Harlow Football Club, Harlow, CM19 5BE, Rayleigh Leisure Centre, Rayleigh, SS6 9NF and The Civic Hall, Grays, RM16 2JU

Saturday 30 May 2020 - Long Stay Car Park 3, Southend Airport, Southend on Sea, SS2 6YE

Sunday 31 May 2020 - Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles, Low Road, Dovercourt, CO12 3TA

The CCG has developed content for a testing-specific web page on Essex County Council's Coronavirus Hub which is updated weekly with the venues for the following week. Thurrock and Southend Councils both display a link from their websites to this one for their residents to access further information on testing.

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19>

Antibody testing

The government has announced plans to offer antibody tests to all NHS and care staff in England from this week. Patients and care residents will be eligible for the tests at their clinician's request.

NHS Help Us, Help You campaign

The CCG continues to support and promote the national Help Us, Help You campaign to encourage people to contact their GP and attend hospital appointments with serious and urgent medical needs.

This week the focus is on maternity and encouraging pregnant women to continue to see their midwife and keep their appointments. The CCG will be supporting and promoting this campaign via social media and to staff.

LOCAL MEDIA INTERVIEWS – ERF

Representatives of the ERF have been giving regular media interviews on BBC Essex local radio from Tuesday 7 April.

A regular schedule has been established to ensure local residents are updated on the work of the ERF and the county to help keep them safe in uncertain and challenging times.

Tues 26 May – Cllr Tony Ball, Essex County Council – focussing on local business support

Friday 29 May – tbc but a focus on volunteering ahead of National Volunteers Week next week

HOW YOU CAN HELP US

Volunteering – Essex County Council [Coronavirus Action Group](#) – Facebook

Essex Community Shield – The message will set out the instructions for those people who do not have the support of friends, families and neighbours to register with the Essex Welfare Service (EWS), part of PROVIDE (a health and social care provider), should they need food deliveries. www.essexwelfareservice.org

Good news – Please flag any good news with your local communications colleague for potential highlighting in media opportunities.