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Updates and news from YES Colchester & Tendring



**Issue #3
March
2024**

YES TODAY

”New Year, New Challenges, as we enter 2024 with all the changes and challenges in the world right now its good to know that YES continues to open its doors to young people, supporting them, encouraging them and impacting their lives! YES, has an exciting year ahead with new funding partners such as the National Lottery, new friendships with charities such as 4YP and the ever exciting opportunity to meet and help more young people.” - *Dr David Sollis, YES CEO*



Thanks for subscribing to the YES Today quarterly newsletter, the best way to keep up with everything we do here!

This issue will focus on YES being awarded lottery money, the open day at our new Tending office, a huge thank you to those who raised money for us at the end of last

year and what we have planned for 2024!

YES Wins The National Lottery Award

“This is amazing news for the charity and a clear example of how the National Lottery is willing to invest in grassroot charities. At a time of great financial challenges, it shows that YES is a charity worthy of investment, and we look forward to supporting the young people of North East Essex over the next 35 years.” - YES CEO Dr David Sollis



We at YES are delighted to announce that we have won a large grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to support our work with young people around homelessness, teenage pregnancy, and young people's mental health.

"The charity engaged with over 8000 young people in 2023, through its core services

and projects, making it one of the key youth charities in the area.

The new funding will cover the core costs of the charity's two centres in Colchester and Holland-on-Sea. It will also boost investment in key roles within the charity.

Overall, the funding will help to strengthen its main services; assist YES with building new services in Tendring and enable the management team to deliver a new robust business plan for the charity.

YES has now been running since 1988 and is in the process of creating a new Friends of YES group, which is seeking to develop a committed group of supporters who have used the service in the past.

People involved with Friends of YES will be able to tell their own story about their experiences with the life-changing charity. They will also be able to take part in volunteering support for the organisation and undertake fundraising activities if they wish.

YES is keen to expand its supporter base in the future and create a portfolio of legacy stories, to showcase its huge impact on people's lives.

The new funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes and is the largest community funder in the UK, will see YES continue to build on its services and establish new partnerships. This means more young people supported by YES will receive consistently high-quality support."

Chair of Trustees Jacqui Williams said "We are overjoyed to receive such wonderful news. The team has worked incredibly hard to win this bid, which I know was built on the amazing work YES does for young people.

The trustees, staff, and volunteers, deserve a huge well done as we head into what we believe will be another successful year of helping young people".



World Mental Health Day at YES

For #WorldMentalHealth day Dr David Sollis sent out a huge thank you to all of funders, especially the Charlie Watkins Foundation

Watch the full video below 📌

Tap here to find out more about the Charlie Watkins Foundation



OUT AND ABOUT

Social Care event at Essex University

At the end of last year, YES CEO David Sollis represented YES at Essex University.

First year Health and Social care students at Essex University, learnt all about the different organisations that could help in their future placements and jobs.

We joined Community Voluntary Services Tendring (CVST), Summit - TMHS ,Essex Carers Support , and Tendring Specialist Stroke Services (TSSS) at the University and spoke to the students about their charities and organisations and the services they provide.

The School of Health and Social Care at the University of Essex



Thank you!

We would like to dedicate this section of YES today to saying thank you to both Nationwide Colchester and The Sixth Form College Colchester. Both went above and beyond in their festive giving to YES in December 2023.

Just before Christmas we visited Nationwide Colchester to collect the first collection of toys their customers have kindly donated.

Nationwide Colchester's wonderful customers choose a card from their branch Christmas tree which gives the age of a child to buy a gift for 🎁

In the photos YES CEO Dr David Sollis with Julie & Aaron!

Thank you so much to all at Nationwide Colchester & the wonderful Kim who



worked to set up this yearly tradition!

All of us at YES are extremely grateful to the students at Colchester Sixth Form College, who have collected and made all these wonderful Christmas hampers to distribute to young families in Colchester and Tendring.

Each year, we are bowled over by the generosity of the students and the creativity and thoughtfulness they put into these outstanding hampers!

We would also like to thank the wonderful Michelle Perrin (pictured in slide 1) at Colchester Sixth Form who organises the hamper event each year! 📺



Christmas Grotto

While Christmas feels a long time ago now, we wanted to share photos of our Christmas Grotto at our Trinity Street office the week before Christmas.

Our Colchester Mums and Babies group celebrated Christmas in our grotto and made Raindeer Christmas cards and had a visit from Father Christmas!





ACT Charity Film Event

Dr David Sollis was delighted to attend and present awards at the ACT charity Underdog Crew Film event.

David attended as a ACT Vice Chairman and Trustee, but also on behalf of YES as

we are a named supporter of the underdog crew.



“It was a privilege to attend the film awards evening, to see so many gifted young people creating films, music and poetry about their own lives was a real privilege. To be able to give out an award was a real honour.”

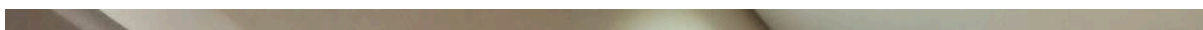


Speed Networking

CEO Dr David Sollis spent a morning Speed networking researchers from the University of Essex at the Wivenhoe House Hotel, Wivenhoe Park, University of Essex. David joined 15 other charities and organisations in undertaking 15 one to one conversations about the work of YES and the opportunity for research.

Dr David Sollis said “Speed Networking is a great opportunity for charities like YES to connect with those inside academia as well as strengthen existing external partners”. Laura Brookes Research Impact Officer - Health:
“University of Essex hosted a perfect event which was so well attended and supported by all parties.”

YES, continues to look at opportunities to build its research and impact evidence reporting and this was a great way to hear fresh ideas....in a speedy way!





University of Essex

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Enabling excellence in research by identifying the latest funding opportunities, facilitating knowledge exchange and supporting you through the grant application process.

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PROPERTY

KTP

KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE

RESEARCH
DEVELOPMENT

ENTERPRISE

COLLABORATION

RESEARCH
GOVERNANCE

PLANNING

CONTRACTS

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AWARDS

FUNDING

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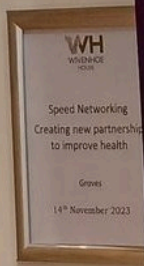
RESEARCH
INFORMATION SYSTEM

PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT

DATA

PARTNERSHIPS

RESEARCH
INTEGRITY





Internal News

Tendring office open day!


Following the opening of our brand new Tendring office last autumn, we celebrated our new space with an open day event! The afternoon was buzzing with local counsellors, funders and board members from the local area. It also gave us chance to congratulate those involved in making the opening of our new office a smooth success!





Our new office:

 **72 Queensway, Holland-on-Sea, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 5JU**

 01255 434601

How to find the new office

Find us on the corner of Queensway and Frinton Road.

By bus: using busses 9,97,97B 98, 98A which stop on the Frinton Road

By car: Parking is available at the property in addition to on road parking and a public car park across the road on Frinton Road

On Google Maps the office is called the Grove Centre - we are using 72 Queensway as our address

Fundraising Superstar

Chris Dunwell

🥊 In December, Chris Dunwell took to the boxing ring on behalf of YES!

Chris fought in a white-collar fight organised in Cambridge. In an incredibly close fight Chris lost out to a referee's final decision but this is not the end of his fighting career or his fundraising for YES.

YES, CEO David Sollis said 💬 “Chris is simply amazing in his commitment to YES and the work we do, I know he has given up so much time, blood and sweat to get into that ring! Amazing effort and a huge thank you to him from the young people, staff and volunteers at YES”

Thank you Chris, you are amazing!





Staff Spotlight

Edie Barnes



Health and wellbeing housing caseworker

For the staff spotlight this issue, we chatted with health and wellbeing housing caseworker, Edie Barnes about what it is like working at YES.

What is it like working at YES?

“It is really nice, a super friendly and warm place. Always a lot of laughter and generally just a really nice place to be.”

What does an average day in your role involve?

“It varies. No day is ever the same! There is always someone coming in with a housing related issue, I have been working at YES for almost a year now and no day has someone not come in with a housing concern. Therefore, I am always busy doing something!”

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

“Last autumn, I just finished my Masters degree, so that has freed up a lot of time for me! Since finishing my Masters I have discovered new hobbies including horse riding, yoga and keeping myself up to date with international affairs and human rights issues.”

Partner Perch

SUMMIT

Founded in 1976, SUMMIT is the registered trading name of Tendring Mental Health Support.

SUMMIT (Tendring Mental Health Support) has its roots in advocacy and began to provide a lifeline for residents in Tendring who experienced mental illness over 47 years ago. One of the oldest mental health Charities in Essex, SUMMIT provided a day centre and drop-in service from Dorson's House (now SUMMIT House) located in the centre of Clacton-on-Sea. This proved to be a successful and much needed service for vulnerable people who faced discrimination, inequality of treatment and exclusion.

In 2020 Gaynor Jarrett became the CEO of SUMMIT, Gaynor has worked in the charitable and voluntary sector since 2005 supporting and co-designing services for vulnerable people. Gaynor is passionate about local service for local people and is delighted to be a part of Tendring Together.

2024-SUMMIT continues to provide a voice for adults with learning disabilities and our neurodivergent community across the county of Essex, working in partnership with adults and their families. Through a range of diverse services, they continue in their mission to advocate empowerment and support independence.



SUMMIT

Clean Up UK

We are so excited to be working with Clean Up UK in 2024. YES, will be hosting and joining in Clean UP UK's community work in deprived areas. Here photographed is YES CEO David Sollis and Sarah Haynes from Clean Up UK who visited us at our Tendring office.

We look forward to keeping you posted with this new project and partnership!



Latest Offerings

Friends of YES

We are currently actively seeking people to join our *Friends of YES group*.

We are looking for people who have benefited from our services, such as previous service users, friends and families, as well as former staff and volunteers. If you have a story that you would like to share with us, please contact friends@colchesteryes.org.uk.

The first Friends of YES meeting is to be held on Tuesday 5th March.

YES GoGreen Winter Garden Film

Filmed by our wonderful volunteer Zach it showcases the GoGreen garden as Amber (YES GoGreen lead and member of our front of house team explains how we ready our garden at our YES Colchester office in Trinity Street for wintertime!



Get Involved

Voluntary Positions

YES is an independent charity, supporting up to around 8000 young people per year. We are always looking for support with time, stories and funding.

Please email us at info@colchesteryes.org.uk if you would like any further information about fundraising or volunteering opportunities.

GAMES MASTERS

Dungeons & Dragons Group

We are looking for volunteers with experience running D&D games as a GM, as part of the ongoing expansion of our D&D Project.

Prospective GMs should be able to commit to a 3-6 month campaign or be willing to run one-shots for groups of young people.

MENTORS

Mentoring Programme

We are currently revitalising the mentoring programme and are now looking for volunteers to mentor young people in Colchester & Tendring. Regular support and training will be provided to all mentors.

To get involved with either position email info@colchesteryes.org.uk

YOUTH MENTORS NEEDED

Could you offer a few hours a week to support a young person to achieve their goals?

We have any exciting opportunity to join our team of fantastic volunteers to make a difference to the lives of young people in the community.

For more information or to apply please email Lauren: 

Volunteer.befriender@colchesteryes.org.uk



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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO
APPLY PLEASE EMAIL LAUREN

VOLUNTEER.BEFRIENDER@COLCHESTERYES.ORG.UK

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