



MID- ESSEX PILOT PROJECT UPDATE

The 'Village Agents' Project will be piloted in the Mid Essex area and is on schedule for 'Go Live' in mid-October.

The project is jointly funded by Essex County Council, Braintree LSP and NHS Mid Essex and the Project will deliver key Health and Wellbeing outcomes for the Partners. Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) has been selected by the Partners to deliver the project. RCCE has 80 years' experience of serving the rural communities of Essex.

The Village Agents will be operate in the rural areas of Braintree, Maldon and Chelmsford districts to provide face to face information and guidance to traditionally 'hard to reach' groups. The role of a Village Agent is seen as one which will complement existing lines of communication and services and that the Village Agent will become a trusted friend of the community undertaking targeted and make appropriate referrals to statutory, non-statutory, 3rd sector and voluntary organisations where required as well as providing sign-posting, information and advice on local amenities, groups and facilities.

A successful conference was held on the 17th June at The Towerlands Conference Centre Braintree to launch the start of the project. The conference was attended by more than 120 delegates from an invite list of all rural parish councillors, 3rd sector agencies, village hall management committees, local government and NHS Mid Essex.



Brian Goodwin has now been appointed as the operational Village Agent Manager for RCCE and will start work with RCCE on the 10th August. The project is also in the process of recruiting 12 village agents with interviews scheduled for the middle of August.

RCCE have also been successful in securing two 'Shell Step' graduates to work on the data analysis and evaluation of the project for 6 weeks.

Local Stakeholders are requested to get involved in deciding where the Village Agents will be located within the 3 districts and Stakeholder group meetings are going to be arranged for the end of August.

For more information about the pilot project or if you wish to attend the Stakeholder Group events in August or on becoming a Agency Referral Partner please contact: villageagents@essexrcc.org.uk or Jane Hurt, Village Agents Project Manager on 07824 867579

