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**Rural Community Council of Essex**

**Job Description**

**Job Title:** Community Enabler (part time – community based)

**Reports to:** Community Engagement Manager

**Locality:** District wide

**Purpose:** This newly created role is aimed at tackling social isolation and loneliness in a defined locality at a community level. This Essex County Council funded project will be overseen by a partnership of organisations, led by RCCE, who have come together specifically to work on tackling social isolation in target groups at community level. To do this Community Enablers will be employed to mobilise communities through informal volunteering, awareness raising and promotion of inclusiveness (utilising the ABCD approach) with a view to develop an infrastructure that encourages and enables local networks and activities to better meet the needs of those at a high risk of social isolation or loneliness. These high risk groups are: carers, older people, those with learning disabilities or mental health issues.

The project will run until 31st March 2021

**Responsibilities:**

Each Community Enabler will cover a district, thereby creating a network of Enablers across Essex (excluding Thurrock and Southend). Enablers will raise awareness, encourage informal volunteering and build capacity within communities. They will, with the assistance of recruited volunteers and partners link individuals, groups and community assets and help facilitate activities and initiatives where there is a need and none exist already. This will be achieved by:

1. Meeting groups, organisations and individuals to raise awareness of the issues faced by those with a high risk of social isolation and loneliness. Encourage social action within these communities, providing advice and support as required (incl. helping them access any training or specific/expert advice they might require), to create more inclusive and accessible communities.
2. Facilitate the development of local activities and networks which enable people in high risk groups to access and engage in community activities and groups:
3. Work with local volunteer networks to create a range of (inclusive) volunteering opportunities;

iii. Identify, recruit and mobilise a small team of volunteers to work with individuals and groups to improve social engagement and drive impact volunteerism through a variety of activities;

iv. Work with Community Navigators to identify and understand the challenges people at high risk of social isolation, and/or loneliness are facing in accessing community assets, and work collaboratively to enable positive outcomes for the identified at risk groups;

v. Utilise social networks and training opportunities to support volunteers and high risk groups (including acting as relationship managers for the Facebook administration network).

vi. Work with Anglia Ruskin University Health and Social Care Department and other partner organisations to add value to the project;

vii. Provide case studies and monitoring data to the Community Engagement Manager and Steering Group/Project Board as agreed.

**Measures of Success:**

1. Increased number of volunteers (min 20) from the community driving and delivering activities and initiatives that tackle social isolation and loneliness for the priority groups;
2. Increased number of available activities attended by people in the priority groups and increased numbers of individuals attending from these groups;
3. Good working relationships with partners and communities;
4. Attendance at local group meetings (incl. parish councils) with the aim of promoting inclusion and raising awareness of the issues faced by the priority groups;
5. Relevant training attended by volunteers and community members.