



Mid Essex Mapping 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Executive Summary

Mid-Essex is home to many types of community assets, ranging from local social groups to district-wide health and wellbeing support. There are many community venues across the districts that can be used in a variety of ways to support the community. And the community is supported by vibrant groups of volunteers who develop and lead activities which improve residents' quality of life.



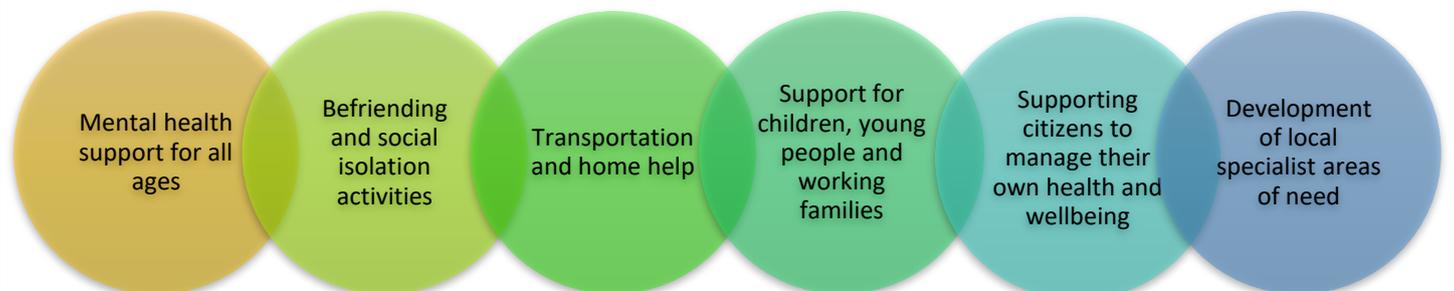
In the development of this report we have identified more than 2,741 assets across Braintree District, Maldon District and Chelmsford and we will count many more as we continue to learn from local communities.

We need to ensure that there is infrastructure support, funding mechanisms and policy level support for many assets so that they can continue to function and support both people affected by the wider determinants of health as well as their staff and volunteers. The report observes that community assets are often looked upon as a first port of call for people in the community and without them they would not know where to turn.

Key Findings



Enhancements



Mid Essex Context

The sources of information from national and county level help to provide the bigger picture and to then focus on the Mid Essex we have utilised information from the Joint Strategic Need Assessments (JSNAs) published in 2019, as well as sources of information from local partners, specifically:

- Braintree, Chelmsford and Maldon District Councils
- Active Essex
- Locally kept directories
- Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service
- The Charity Commission
- Maldon District CVS and Chelmsford CVS membership lists
- Dementia Connects online services directory
- Family Information Service online services directory, Essex County Council
- Essex County Fire Service
- Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services
- Essex County Council
- Parish Council Online Directories

Methods

Community assets have been mapped across different themes to build a picture of what exists across the three districts in Mid-Essex. Key areas that we collected data on included, but where not limited to:

- Type, name and size of asset
- Who is supported and the type of services provided
- Where the asset based
- Mapped against the Live Well Domains – Start Well, Feel Well, Be Well, Age Well, Stay Well and Die Well

Additional categories

Recognizing the wide scale of the offer provide by community assets, in some instances additional categories have been used, such as *Infrastructure, Social, Education, Animals, Heritage* and others. See Page 58 for further detailed definitions.

All information that has been collated is information that is publicly available.

Braintree Specific

Braintree District is a large authority with significant rurality around Braintree town at its centre.



- Braintree resident often have slightly longer travel times to local services compared to the Essex average. There are two assets dedicated to community transport in the Braintree district which may be making it harder to access the real range of assets across the area.
- As many parts of Braintree are rural there is a strong amount of environment assets and outdoor activity identified.
- There are a proliferation of faith groups across the district, positioning them as a significant community asset, but from this categorisation it is not clear who these faith groups are supporting as many of them offer a range of services.
- There are also a number of community venues across the Braintree district, these assets serve a range of functions, so it is important to ensure the strength of these assets is utilized to the full extent. Central and South Braintree are the most urban areas of Mid-Essex. It is surprising they have less community venues than Northern Braintree. This may relate to higher rental prices or multiple community assets using a small number of community venues. There is a lot of work that could be done to utilize these community spaces and ensure that isolated individuals are supported.
- It is not always clear of the cost of access to these assets which may be barrier to citizens accessing activities.
- There are significant needs for younger people and in terms of mental health, 4 assets have been identified as specifically supporting children and young people with mental health needs, but many of the assets identified here support these groups as a primary or secondary function so it is important to ensure that they are accessible.
- It was not possible to ascertain how many community assets operated outside working hours such as evenings and weekends. We would recommend this as an area for consideration for future reviews, such as linking community transport and safer community initiatives

Assets by Domain

- Strong Be Well and Start Well assets in Braintree.
- There were fewer than anticipated Die Well assets across Mid-Essex given the ageing population.
- There are multiple Feel Well assets in Braintree, but the data also shows that mental health services for adults, children and young people are low. Community-based services are crucial ways of supporting children and young people as they help to combat the stigma associated with mental health. These assets need to be utilized further as there are many people who need mental health support in Braintree, particularly on the ground level. But there are also many assets that can have an impact on mental health without being positioned as mental health charities.

Link to the Braintree Maps

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1W1UWYAIGqohnRIUKaMu7th10hWfCX51-&usp=sharing>

Maldon Specific



Of the 521 assets identified in the Maldon district, 187 assets can specifically be located as offering services in Maldon District Town and Heybridge Central, which is the most of all of the geographies identified.

- Maldon District Town and Heybridge are the most urban parts of Maldon District so it is not surprising that many of the assets are located in these areas. These are areas that have a lot of assets that develop, support and network across these spaces, and also support some of the more rural areas of Maldon District.
- Another important point to note here is that despite there being a number of community venues there are not many social clubs identified across these spaces so it is important to consider how these community venues are used and undertake further research to see if there are other social clubs that have not yet been identified, as these can also play a strong role in health and wellbeing, particularly the feel well domain.
- There are also some prominent faith groups and heritage assets in the Maldon District.
- There is also strong need in this area in terms of mental health support so it is important that people are made aware in these areas aware of these assets. However, the influence and reach of these assets needs to be explored further to understand the impact that they have or could potentially have in the future. In-depth consultation and engagement with communities is needed to understand impact of the assets in-depth.
- Many of the health and wellbeing assets that are physical activities may have a significant price attached to them, particularly sailing clubs and golf clubs, so the cost of access for these assets may create barriers for the community, and therefore could be worked with to develop a more accessible offering.
- Additionally, there are only two community transport assets identified, so there may be issues across the community with access to services, particularly because Maldon District has very rural areas. Overall, residents of Maldon District have higher travel times to local services than the Essex average and the longest travel time in the county, so this is access to the range of services identified requires further exploration.

Assets by Domain

The strongest domain in Maldon District that is supported is Start Well, however it is recognised that many of the assets mapped against this domain may not necessarily provide direct services to children and families and further investigation is needed. There are no assets that are considered as specifically focused on the Die Well domain, this is of significance given the age demographic of the population of Maldon District. However, it is important to note the spread of support that Farleigh Hospice offers across the whole of Mid-Essex even though their main base is in Chelmsford.

It is also clear across Mid-Essex that mental health services are lacking. There are some assets that support in this area and there are a lot of Be Well and Start Well assets that will support mental health as a secondary function, such as health and wellbeing assets and social clubs. Further exploration of mental health services in an in-depth manner is important to understand the impact of the assets that do exist and the gaps in greater detail to ensure that there are options for people before reaching a crisis point.

Maldon:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=19QxiCQ05H4ejoqxJ_KdEDJkvg85ySj26&usp=sharing

Chelmsford Specific

The city centre in Chelmsford has the most assets of all of the geographical parts of Chelmsford at 344. In this location there are strong health and wellbeing assets and physical activity.



- We identified 1034 assets in Chelmsford. However, it is important to note that during the research timeframe not all Chelmsford and districts assets could be included, and we also recognise that some assets may have been paused or even closed at the time of the mapping process.
- In Chelmsford, two community transport assets were identified, although the travel time for those living in Chelmsford is lower than the Essex average and may not be seen as significant, there are many rural parts of Chelmsford. The cost of access for accessing transport may create barriers for those living in the more rural areas and therefore could be worked with to develop a more accessible offering.
- People in Chelmsford have high mental health issues across young people, females and males in comparison to the averages across England. Given that there are a lot of services that support mental health and wellbeing as a primary and secondary service we can see that there is support in these areas, that needs to be explored in greater depth. The majority of local services are to help maintain wellbeing.
- People in rural Chelmsford do cross out of the district to access services that are not available in Chelmsford if they are able to get there and also if the offer is virtual.
- People living in Chelmsford have access to a wealth of outdoor spaces that they can use for a range of recreation facilities.

Assets by Domain

In Chelmsford we can see that there are strong Be Well and Stay Well assets. There are more significant Feel Well assets in Chelmsford than other areas, but fewer Start Well assets than have been identified in Braintree and Maldon District. We can also see that there are more significant numbers of Age Well and Die Well assets in Chelmsford.

Chelmsford:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1rR4YaXEqYh6xDeOT0PeTErwejv8SfOYk&usp=sharing>

Recommendations

We need to explore particular areas that have been identified in the development of the report:

- Feel well assets – We need to explore the way that these assets support people’s mental health across Mid-Essex.
- Access to assets –Better understand transport implications for engaging with community assets e.g. by car, bus, walk.
- Community Venues – We need to look at how venues can serve multiple purposes.
- Promotion of our assets –Promotion to the necessary stakeholders and communities.
- Virtual assets – Understanding further the impact of these virtual assets.
- Age well and Die well assets – Understanding impact of gaps/services that have ceased in these domains or where it categorized under a different domain.
- Faith Groups – Further exploration of roles of faith organisations.
- We need to continue to develop an understanding of and a commitment to Asset Based Community Development

Further Work & Research

We need to build on the strengths of the community assets that exist by understanding them further.

Deep dives and future iterations need to consider:

- The need to engage with the community more and trusted community leaders in key areas
- How do we ensure we include our community assets in future decision making?
- How do we account for and map online and virtual assets and add them to this data set?
- Deep dives – by Live Well theme, geography or service?
- Deep dives – night time/weekend community assets, gaps in provision
- Understand how local communities access assets – be it word of mouth, social media or internet searches.
- Develop the asset mapping to include catchment area and numbers of individuals connecting with