



Date: Monday 20 April 2020

Press release: 001

Release date: Immediate

Popular meals service to be extended

A MEALS on wheels service in Mersea has proved so popular it is being rolled out to the villages in the surrounding area.

Set up by Essex Outdoors - which is run by Essex County Council (ECC) - the service is open to all and is currently delivering more than 150 meals a week to over 30 pensioners and vulnerable families living in Mersea.

Due to its success, Essex Outdoors is also working with the independent Essex charity, Community360, along with local care agencies, to extend the service to pensioners and vulnerable families living in the surrounding villages of Peldon, Abberton and Fingringhoe along with Great Wigborough and Little Wigborough.

All of the meals provided are cooked and prepared by the chefs at Essex Outdoors - which has onsite facilities at the activity centre to cater for up to 500 people - and are collected by one of the 13 voluntary delivery drivers and then distributed.

The menu features a stable of firm favourites such as shepherd's pie and beef stew as well as sandwiches and a desert. Pensioners and families who sign-up for a seven-day menu receive a free Sunday lunch, while a two-week menu is to launch by the beginning of May.

Paul Button, Essex Outdoors Operational manager, said: "It's due to the dedication of our volunteers and the support we have received from the Mayor of Mersea, Councillor Carl Powling, that this service has proved so popular.

"A lot of comments we receive is that everyone really enjoys the meals and they are all extremely grateful to our chefs and delivery drivers. We're also delighted to be working with Colchester360 and the local care agencies as it means that more of our meals can reach those who are in desperate need of support during this difficult time. "

-Ends-

Notes for editors:

For more information please contact:

Emma Williams, Marketing & Communications Lead, Emma.Williams@essex.gov.uk or telephone: 07780 493 400

Explore Essex: Explore Essex brings together a unique group of parks and heritage venues which are owned by Essex County Council.

Its mission is to deliver a broad range of exciting facilities and events for the people of Essex. Conservation is also at the heart of what it does. Any money spent with the Explore Essex group of places is ultimately reinvested to help maintain and develop the sites for the benefit of visitors, and the protection of the wildlife within.