

## **East Sussex County Council Report – October/November 2022**

### **From Cllr Keith Glazier**

#### **Children's Services**

##### New Film Released to Encourage People to Become Foster Carers

A new film seeks to reach people who may be interested in working alongside their local authority to provide nurturing and positive homes for children and young people. Entitled 'Childhood', the film follows 'Sophie' and 'Charlie' from a difficult home situation to being supported through foster care to attend school and enjoy their hobbies and interests.

The project was coordinated by The Council Advertising Network and produced by Reel Twenty-Five. It has been jointly funded through a national collaboration between 56 local authorities across England.

View the film 'Childhood' and find out more information about fostering with East Sussex County Council [here](#). (or via the ESCC Fostering website).

##### Career Path Scheme Provides Insight and Experience to Young People

More than 20 businesses have signed up to East Sussex County Council's annual 'Open Doors' scheme. The scheme is aimed at giving young people real-life experience of the workplace as well as the opportunity to learn about possible career paths. Students will tour buildings such as courts, museums and galleries, meet employees and learn about employability skills and available career opportunities.

Supported by the East Sussex Careers Hub, the scheme will run from November 2022 until June 2023, ensuring that as many Year 7 to Year 13 students as possible can benefit. Several industries will be represented in this year's scheme, including accountancy, manufacturing, engineering and consultancy.

Businesses interested in getting involved with Open Doors and welcoming students can contact [OpenDoors@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:OpenDoors@eastsussex.gov.uk)

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

#### **Communities, Economy and Transport**

##### East Sussex County Council Takes Action to Save Vital Bus Service

East Sussex County Council has agreed to subsidise several bus services that were under threat due to falling passenger numbers and rising costs. With bus use struggling to recover to pre-Covid levels alongside significant increases in operating costs, some operators are having to make changes to services – most of which involve reduced service frequencies.

From the end of October, East Sussex County Council will subsidise seven services operating across Eastbourne, Hastings and parts of Rother. The funding will initially be in place until March 2023.

Following the outcome of competitive bids, Stagecoach will continue to run the services which would have been withdrawn with funding from East Sussex County Council. This follows a range of discounts for passengers as a result of County Council funding, including a new £5 East Sussex single operator day ticket, family and group travel tickets, and an off-peak unaccompanied young person £1 flat single fare ticket.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

## East Sussex County Council Approves Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy

On 11 October, the Lead Member for Resources and Climate change resolved to review and approve the County Council's adoption of the Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Policy.

Aligning with East Sussex's Environment Strategy and the Climate Emergency Plan, the policy will prepare prospective suppliers for the environmental consideration changes and expectations that will be implemented into the Council's future contracts. Its implementation is expected to increase environmental considerations across the Council's procurement activity, presenting a significant opportunity to influence a reduction in carbon emissions across the Council's services.

## New Highways Contractor for East Sussex Announced

Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd has been awarded the County Council's new contract for highways and infrastructure services. The contract is valued at £297 million and will run for an initial seven years from May 1, 2023. There will be an option to extend this period to a maximum of 14 years, worth up to £730 million.

Balfour Beatty Living Places will be responsible for maintaining the county's highway network and infrastructure, as well as providing winter gritting and delivering highway improvement schemes. During the extensive procurement process, bidders were asked to demonstrate how they would support the County Council's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, ensure quality of work, provide value for money and improve social wellbeing.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

## South East Business Initiative Programme Boosts Jobs and Profits

Since launching in July 2020, The South East Business Boost "Big Ambitions" programme has helped 85 businesses within East Sussex. The project has helped businesses in a variety of sectors, including beauty and food and drink.

From those enrolled in the programme, 55 businesses reported an increase in total turnover of £5.5 million, as well as the creation of 48 new jobs. The programme is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and East Sussex County Council. It is delivered by Digital Islands and provides advice from subject experts.

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

## Eastbourne Library Event Supports Men's Mental Health

On November 9, the free event 'Let's Talk...Men's Mental Health' will be held at Eastbourne library. The free event will allow an opportunity for men and women to have an open conversation about men's mental health, as well as providing further information and support links.

The event will be supported by the Eastbourne-based organisation ManKind, alongside the Samaritans and The Old Bank Wellbeing Trust, who provide counselling amongst other support services. The evening will be hosted by Paul Roskilly, who established ManKind in 2020 alongside Ian Pickard.

The East Sussex library service maintains a collection of online tools and resources to support men's mental health year-round, including book recommendations, event information, and links to podcasts and forms offering help and advice.

Book a free place at the event [here](#). Urgent mental health help and advice can be found on the [NHS website](#). More information on ManKind, including advice on how to join their meetings, can be found [on their website](#).

More information about this story can be found [here](#).

### Celebration of Apprentices Graduation Ceremony

An East Sussex graduation ceremony on 19 October celebrated the commitment and hard work of those who completed an apprenticeship between 1 September 2019, and 1 October, 2022. Four special awards were presented to celebrate the achievements of all those involved in the completion of the apprenticeships.

The first of its kind since the pandemic, the ceremony marked the importance of apprenticeships within the local economy and celebrates the contribution of local businesses and educators.

The event was organised by Sussex Council of Training Providers and was supported by East Sussex County Council and East Sussex College Group. Other sponsors included NCFE, the South East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network and OHM Energy.

Businesses can find out more information about apprenticeships [here](#).

More information about this story can be found [here](#).