

# On the road

The newsletter of Open Road published for staff, volunteers, service users, partners and supporters

## Fun and Awards at our Rewards and Recognition Event



Celebrating our People!

Open Road Wins The  
High Sheriffs' Shield

New Southend-On-Sea  
Service Launches!

open road  
your journey to recovery



## Welcome from the Chief Executive

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

We have had an exciting couple of months since our last newsletter. Firstly, we attended the High Sheriff of Essex Awards ceremony in March to receive an award certificate and cheque to work with colleagues in the night time economy to avoid people's drinks being spiked. However, at the event, we were delighted and surprised to be the winners of the prestigious, overall High Sheriff's Shield for 2021/22.

We were also extremely pleased to achieve the Investors in People standard exceeding all the standard areas above the national average, which is a real credit to all our staff and volunteers, as was our annual rewards and recognition event. This event, held at Colchester United Football Stadium in March, was attended by staff and volunteers from across Essex and Kent. A fun day was had by all.

We welcomed a new Patron, John Weir, former High Sheriff of Kent and look forward to working with him in the future and thank John for all his support of Open Road.

A big thank you to Julie Ellis, our North Essex IPS (Individual Placement Support) worker for agreeing to be in the spotlight for this edition – please see page 3 and also Simon Brice, 2021/22 High Sheriff of Essex for appearing in our Funder's Spotlight – see page 4.

We commenced our new service for young people up to the age of 30 in Southend, with Corinne Johns taking the lead, along with our new team of recovery workers. This is an exciting new contract for Open Road in partnership with Forward Trust.

It was a pleasure to welcome our Patron, Harlow MP Robert Halfon, along with councillor Dan Swords to

our walled garden project in Harlow Town Park, where he met both volunteers and members of the Harlow team. Robert and Dan are now assisting us with finding new premises in the town centre.

We have also been successful in obtaining funding for a new Colchester SOS bus to replace the existing one and we are currently exploring a number of avenues to ensure we find a suitable replacement.

Our next newsletter will be published in August 2022 so please do let my PA, Nici or myself have any articles you would like published.

With best wishes,

Sarah Wright, Chief Executive



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## Spotlight – Julie Ellis, IPS Employment Specialist: Colchester and Tendring

I started working for Open Road on 1st of November 2021 as an IPS Employment Specialist. For many years I worked in the Criminal Justice System, and through this I knew about Open Road as I

used to refer clients for support. I also liaised with Open Road, due to working with the same clients and I felt it was a good organisation to work for and heard other organisations speak of the good Open Road do.

I was attracted to the role of the IPS Employment Specialist, as I enjoy working intensively with clients. Also, I have had personal experience with getting support back into work, as I had 9 years off due to having a severe back injury from a snowboarding jump that went wrong. This caused me to be virtually paralysed, which I struggled to cope with. I started abusing my medication and using recreational drugs to cope with it all. After a long battle from addiction and injuries, I managed to get help in coming off the drugs and got support from an Employment Specialist to get back into work. The support I had was invaluable; I got support with preparation for returning to a job, interview skills and getting a job. This helped me so much and I was grateful for the help and support I received. Through this, I got back into work, working in the Youth Offending Service. Once I got the job, my

Support Worker still worked with me for a while, to see how I was getting on and if I needed anything to help me to do my job.

So, when I saw the IPS Employment Specialist job being advertised on the Open Road website and saw the job description, I knew this was what I wanted to do. It was exactly the help and support which I had received, and so I applied for the job. I wanted to give back the invaluable support that I had received to get back into work; to help other people going through addictions to get a job. Also, so that I could help break the stigma and change people's thinking to believe that people with substance misuse can be employed and this can help in their journey to recovery.

I think helping and supporting people into work is invaluable. It helps people with their self-esteem, self-worth and they feel part of the community. Getting paid at the end of the month, or weekly, and knowing that they have worked for it, makes them feel good and proud about themselves.

I am looking forward to my future, working at Open Road as an IPS Employment Specialist. I'm excited to be working with a great team, in a new project, with all the challenges and good times it will bring.

Julie Ellis, IPS Employment Specialist: Colchester and Tendring

## Patron's Visit to Open Road Harlow

In April, we welcomed our longstanding Patron, Harlow MP Robert Halfon and Harlow Councillor, Dan Swords who visited our team in the gorgeous Harlow Park's Walled Garden, where we have a volunteer driven project.

Our Chief Executive, Sarah Wright and Chair of Trustees, John Aldridge attended, along with members of our Harlow team. We were really pleased that Robert and Dan were able to spend time meeting our staff and volunteers, over a light lunch, hearing how the team has supported clients during Covid. Our Walled Garden Volunteer Project Coordinator, Anita Bailey was able to tell Robert and Dan more about this fantastic volunteer-driven diversionary project, where clients volunteer their time to work in the gardens, as part of their recovery journey. More information about the project can be found on page 14.

Thank you to Robert, Dan and everyone who attended, it was really lovely to see you all, and hope you had a great time.



Robert Halfon, MP and Open Road Patron



Councillor Dan Swords

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## Spotlight on our Funders!

*In each edition, we invite one of our amazing funders/supporters to tell us more about their organisation, how they came to be involved with Open Road and how they help us fund our vital services.*

### **In this edition, Simon Brice DL, 2021/22 High Sheriff of Essex**

I have just completed my year as the 841st High Sheriff of Essex, HM The Queen's representative for the judiciary, law and order, the emergency services covering the police, fire and ambulance, the voluntary sector and churches of all faiths. The role of High Sheriff is for one year only and I have now handed over to the 842nd High Sheriff, Nicholas Alston.



I was invited to visit Open Road in Colchester in 2021 and presented a High Sheriff's Award to the Essex Volunteers Group, who were the unsung heroes during Covid and have been a constant mainstay to the charity throughout the last thirty years.

The annual High Sheriff's Awards Evening in March 2022 was an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of voluntary groups from around the county. I was delighted to present The High Sheriff's Shield to Open Road for their outstanding work, helping people who are struggling with an addiction, and for their valuable outreach work on the volunteer-run SOS buses. I also awarded Open Road £2,000 to help fund an awareness and prevention campaign on the issue of drink 'spiking' in Colchester and Chelmsford. Anything which can be done to prevent spiking is going to be positive,

and I am hopeful that the money awarded will help to raise awareness and protect people who may be at risk on a night out.

Having spent time with the staff and volunteers at Open Road during my year, I have been most impressed by the dedication and commitment of the whole team in helping people recover from drug and alcohol addiction. My first hand experience on the SOS bus, when it was in Chelmsford, showed how valuable the service is for preventing people having to go to A&E, and helping to keep them safe when they are vulnerable.

Open Road has grown from strength to strength over the last thirty years. Unfortunately, the addictions it identifies with and treats, are not diminishing and the help and support it can offer remains as vital as ever.

**“Thank you, Open Road, for helping so many people find a better future!”**

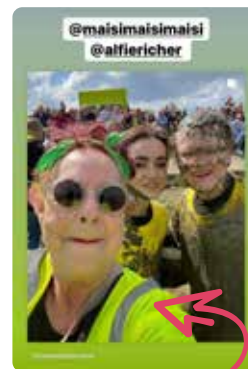
Simon Brice DL

## Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud!

Our SOS Bus team, led by service manager Stacey Banner, was on hand in April to offer first aid and welfare support, if needed, to the very muddy fundraisers taking part in the Maldon Mud Race.

Included in the participants was the one and only Jo Brand, who was supporting family members! A fantastic, positive day was had by all, with many charities benefitting from the fundraising.

Thank you to the team for your time in attending the event and a huge well done to everyone who took part, to raise money for so many amazing charities!



Jo celebrating with family  
(Photo courtesy of Jo Brand Instagram)

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## Celebrating our People!

In March, we held our annual Reward & Recognition event where everyone at Open Road, Essex and Medway, gets a chance to meet and catch up.

Our Chair of Trustees, John Aldridge opened and closed the event and then the day moved onto 'ice breakers' including 'pass the parcel'. Raffle prizes, sweets and vouchers for an extra day's leave were all up for grabs, so the competition was definitely on!

Our event also celebrates our successes over the last year, in supporting our clients on their journeys of recovery, where the last year has included the added challenges of Covid. Our centres' doors have remained open throughout the pandemic, with our frontline teams continuing to ensure we support everyone who has come to us for help. This fantastic achievement, through the dedication shown by our people, is celebrated by our annual awards, where staff and volunteers nominate colleagues and teams who have gone above and beyond. The awards are presented at the Reward & Recognition day, as part of the day's celebrations. For 2022, we received an amazing 115 award nominations; all of which came from current staff and volunteers shining a light on a fantastic Open Road person or team. Our awards are in four categories -

- GEM award – for a staff member who has gone the Extra Mile
- STAR award – for a volunteer who has shown commitment and loyalty
- PREMIER award – for the team who has made a difference
- CEO award – the nomination that is most exceptional overall upon majority vote of the panel and Chief Executive Sarah Wright

Our worthy 2022 winners come from all across the organisation and from a myriad of services. The CEO Award went to Karen Osborne, chosen as the most outstanding winner from all the nominees, for her amazing work in our Harlow based West Essex Team! In April, Karen became our South Essex Manager - we wish her all the very best in her new role.

The day finished with a delicious lunch, before attendees journeyed home with awards, raffles prizes and great memories of time spent with colleagues.



CEO Award Winner, Karen Osborne and CEO, Sarah share a joke



Medway HOPE - award winners, with Sarah



SOS Bus team in the house!



Sarah, left, with Essex AARCS Team members and their award

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Huge congratulations to all of our winners for their very well deserved awards! Thank you to everyone who helped in the planning and on the day, including our Chair John Aldridge and our presenters. Last, but definitely not least, a huge thank you to everyone who attended, for making it such a fun event. See you all again next year!

#### GEM AWARD

Katie Power  
Lorna Barham  
Claire Butters  
Stacey Banner  
Suzanne Donovan  
Leah Vincent  
Luke Mayo  
Michael Hussein  
Paul Childs  
Loren Bassett  
Ben Moss  
Emma Earl  
Scarlett Doherty  
Karen Osborne  
Matt Johnson  
Natalie Amos  
Jamie Lant

#### STAR AWARD

Courtney Ludlow  
Lucy Hewitt  
Cass Piero  
Christine Gunnell  
Gillian Cheasley  
Karen Mason  
Martyn Stringer  
Tim Leggett  
Henry Beck  
Karen Dorsey  
Julia Lucas  
Naloxone Team  
Priya Ramesh  
Anita Bailey  
Nicky Best  
Skye Huffey  
Jamie Morton  
Paul Marshall  
Hannah Flook  
Brian Fuggle  
Jenna Baverstock

#### PREMIER AWARD

All Essex AARCS  
Treatment Centres

Cookham Wood  
Team

Medway HOPE  
Team

#### CEO AWARD

Karen Osborne



South & West Essex Team with Sarah



SOS Bus Volunteer, Paul receives his award from fellow SOS Bus volunteer, Dennis



SOS Volunteer, Hannah with her STAR Award

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## Business 2 Business Training with Open Road



Leigh training session

As part of our charity's work, we offer training to partners and businesses, to raise awareness of substance and alcohol misuse. The training benefits organisations in the voluntary sector as they support clients, and corporate businesses to identify and support staff who might be struggling in their day-to-day role, due to misuse.

Our Mid Essex Manager, Leigh Harvey recently visited Eastlight Community Homes to provide training sessions to their team. Eastlight is a community housing organisation, whose website confirms that they, 'together with our communities, create affordable homes and great neighbourhoods'. The training was a great success and positive feedback was received from attendees; including:

*"I really enjoyed the training it was presented really well; in an open and honest relaxed way and it made it easier to ask questions and get great answers. It was very informative of the way Open Road works and supports, and gave me a better understanding of rehab etc."*

*"It certainly opened my eyes to a lot of subjects I didn't know a lot about and I feel will help me with my Mental Health First Aider role. Well done and thank you."*

Our team is happy to visit any local businesses and provide training to help proactively support vulnerable clients or ensure staff who are struggling due to substance/alcohol misuse, receive any help they need. If our training would be of interest, do please contact us on 01206 369782.

supporting:

**THE ESSEX LOTTERY** **openroad**  
your journey to recovery

**WIN UP TO £25,000**

**Play The Essex Lottery and Support our Cause!**

- Raise money for local good causes!
- Win prizes of up to £25,000!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- 60% goes to good causes in Essex
- Join today it only takes a minute!

To start supporting, visit:  
**[www.essexlottery.co.uk](http://www.essexlottery.co.uk)**  
and search for: **Open Road**  
Supporters must be 18 years of age or over

### You've Got To Be In It To Win It!

The Essex Lottery is giving everyone the chance to win up to £25,000 and support our amazing local charity at the same time. Tickets are just £1 per week, 50% of all ticket proceeds bought on our page go to us, with 10% also going to other worthwhile local charities. It's a WIN WIN!! To get your tickets, please go to -

<https://www.essexlottery.co.uk/support/open-road>

### Make a donation!

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## Open Road's Charity Ball Returns!

Throughout Covid, Open Road's doors in Essex and Medway have remained open, helping vulnerable clients, thanks to our amazing people. Demand has increased year on year and we continue to support everyone who comes to us – in the last year alone, 11,500 people. Our challenge is ensuring there's enough funding to keep helping people who just want better lives and really need our support.

After a three year wait, we welcome back our fundraising Charity Ball, on Saturday 1st October, at Le Talbooth in Dedham. The ball is our main fundraiser for the year and every penny raised supports our frontline services. Tickets are already selling - tables of 10 or 12 are available, with tickets priced at £90. We would absolutely love to see you there, on what is always a really fun, exhilarating night of celebration. The evening includes a very popular fundraising auction and raffle - if you felt able to donate an auction lot or raffle prize, we would be incredibly grateful.

The money raised by the ball helps many people in lots of different ways. As well as supporting people on their journey to recovery from substance misuse, we help their families and communities who are also deeply affected by this issue. Our welfare services support clients as they regain healthier, happier lives back in their communities and the IPS employment service helps people in recovery get back into employment. We support vulnerable criminal justice clients detained in Essex police custody suites and help clients on release from prison to return to their families and local communities, maintaining non-offending positive lives. The Colchester and Chelmsford SOS buses

remain a vital presence in these town and city centres every weekend, as well as now offering community welfare services to the public during the week, throughout Essex.

Please join us on 1st October to celebrate our 31 years of helping vulnerable people to achieve healthier, happier lifestyles – we hope to see you there! To buy tickets, donate to the raffle and auction or find out about sponsorship of the event, please email us on [info@openroad.org.uk](mailto:info@openroad.org.uk) or please ring 01206 369782.



**Open Road**  
**Charity**  
**Saturday Ball**  
**1st October 2022**

Join us for an **evening of excellent fine dining**,  
 followed by a **charity auction and raffle**,  
 winning some top of the range prizes.  
 Then **dance the evening away** to the one  
 and only **The Steve Linton Band**.  
**Reception drinks start at 7pm**  
**See you there!**

**Drinks Reception 7pm Carriages at 1am**  
 Le Talbooth, Gun Hill, Dedham CO7 6HP  
**£900 for a table of ten or**  
**£1080 for a table of 12**  
 Contact us for information on individual tickets

**Dress Code: Black Tie**

To book your tickets contact:  
**01206 369782 / [info@openroad.org.uk](mailto:info@openroad.org.uk)**  
 12 North Hill, Colchester, CO1 1DZ

All proceeds will go towards supporting Open Road's projects to reduce the harmful impact of drugs and alcohol.  
 Registered Charity No. 1019915

**30 YEARS ANNIVERSARY**  
**open road**  
 your journey to recovery

## Make a donation!

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## Open Road Wins The High Sheriffs' Shield

We are absolutely delighted to have been awarded The High Sheriffs' Shield for 2021-22, for the charity's frontline work by our SOS Buses and supporting vulnerable people in Essex.

Our Chief Executive, Sarah Wright attended the High Sheriff's Fund award ceremony in March, hosted by Essex Community Foundation, who manage the High Sheriff's Charitable Fund. The High Sheriffs' Shield was presented to Sarah by 2021-22 High Sheriff of Essex, Simon Brice.

Essex Community Foundation said of Open Road's award, "This is in recognition of their outstanding work helping people who are struggling with addiction and for their SOS Buses." £2,000 awarded from The High Sheriffs' Fund will support our latest awareness and prevention campaign on the prevalent and growing issue of drink 'spiking', which affects many people on nights out across the county.

Chief Executive, Sarah says of the award, "We are absolutely thrilled to be this year's recipient of the prestigious High Sheriffs' Shield. The award was completely unexpected and is all thanks to the very hard work of our fantastic staff and volunteers. Open Road's sole purpose is to help vulnerable people in local communities and we just couldn't do that without the dedication, care and support that our people give to those in need on the frontline. Thank you to the High Sheriff and Essex Community Foundation for this wonderful accolade and for awarding us £2,000 to help create safer night time economies for all to enjoy. We are extremely grateful."



Sarah receiving the High Sheriff Shield from Simon Brice  
(photo courtesy of Essex Community Foundation)



High Sheriff Awards Guests  
(photo courtesy of Essex Community Foundation)



Sarah and fellow winners with the High Sheriff  
(photo courtesy of Essex Community Foundation)

## SOS Paw Patrol Dog Bandanas – Now in Stock!

In 2022 have the best dressed dog on the street and support Open Road! We are really pleased that our fantastic SOS Paw Patrol dog bandanas are now available for £8.50 (small) or £9.75 (large).

To get yours, please go to our website – [www.openroad.org.uk](http://www.openroad.org.uk) or email us on [Info@openroad.org.uk](mailto:Info@openroad.org.uk)

Alternatively, please ring us on 01206 369782 for details.

All sale proceeds help vulnerable people in local communities.



## Make a donation!

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or please call: **01206 369782**

## Funding and Fundraising – News & Events



Volunteer Claire running the London Marathon for Open Road



Afternoon Tea Fundraising



Snowdon Fundraisers

Last year, Open Road had a huge success with the 30 for 30 campaign, we managed to reach our target of £30,000 with many staff, volunteers and supporters hosting events and completing challenges on behalf of Open Road. This year, we are hoping to raise more vital funds and already have a few events lined up; including an afternoon tea, golf day, quiz night, recovery walk and our annual charity ball. If you would like to get involved with any of these events, or host your own, or donate, then please contact Leah Vincent on 01206 369782, or email [leah.vincent@openroad.org.uk](mailto:leah.vincent@openroad.org.uk)

As well as community events, Open Road relies on the generous support of many trusts and organisations funding projects so we can provide quality services to those in need. Below is a list of our most recent successful applications, and we thank each and everyone of you for continually supporting Open Road:

### St James Place

In January, we were awarded £1,050 to go towards purchasing items for our young people's service, this included soft furnishings, games, art equipment, books and much more. The young people's service is there to support young people who are struggling with substance misuse, offering accessible, confidential support and advice.

### High Sheriff of Essex and Diana Tinson Trust – Anti-Drink Spiking Prevention

In 2021, a very concerning increase in the spiking of drinks to abusively incapacitate female revellers in Essex night time economies (NTEs) was very widely reported in the media. Student campaigns have taken place; boycotting NTEs, recognising the severe and clearly prevalent danger to women. To help combat this pervasive issue, Open Road was successfully awarded £2,000 from the High Sheriff's Fund and £3,000 from the Diana Tinson Trust. The money is being used to create leaflets and posters informing individuals about the risks, as well as

purchasing anti-spiking equipment for volunteers to hand out while on the SOS Buses in Essex. Our social media will proactively highlight the risks throughout the county.

### CVST – Chem-sex project

In 2021, Open Road was given the opportunity to create a 1 year pilot project, looking into the barriers of the LGBTQ+ community and substance misuse services. Through this detailed research project came about the high risks of 'Chem-sex' parties within Essex. Open Road knew that this was an issue that needed to be explored further to be able to support those involved and treat accordingly. So, in March 2022, Open Road was awarded £19,494 to employ a worker to undertake the research project. We hope that the findings of this project will enable us to learn more about 'Chem-sex' and for us to be able to train our staff and offer the right recovery support to those in need.

### Vodafone Charities Connected – Sim Cards Campaign

'Vodafone Charities Connected' is an initiative where they are giving any charity in the UK the opportunity to apply for free connectivity to help the individuals and families it supports get online and tackle digital exclusion. Its aim is to connect one million people by the end of 2022. The pandemic has highlighted the scale of digital exclusion and in particular its impact on the most vulnerable in society. Digital connectivity is increasingly essential to access work, education, healthcare and to keep in touch with family and friends, yet 1.5m households (approximately 6% of the UK population) are living without internet access. Open Road has been lucky enough to receive 80 sim cards to distribute to our clients and help them get connected.

## Make a donation!

Text: **OPEN00 £5 to 70070**

Online: **[justgiving.com/openroad/donate](https://justgiving.com/openroad/donate)**

or please call: **01206 369782**



### Tesco Community Grants

Open Road Visions Gillingham – 'More Than My Substance' – this project is supporting vulnerable young people who are struggling with substance misuse issues, by providing them with resources and equipment to move forward in recovery for brighter futures. From the 1st April until the 31st June, you can vote for this Open Road project at Tesco using the blue tokens in any of the following three Medway stores:-

2572 Courtney Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME8 0GX Tesco Extra  
5145 Sturdee Ave, Gillingham, ME7 2HN Tesco Express  
5942 Victory Pier, Gillingham, ME7 1FL Tesco Express

Open Road's young people's service could potentially receive either, £500, £1,000 or £1,500 with your support – if you are in Medway, please pick up a blue token and vote for us.



### Make a Difference - Be The Difference!

Open Road's goal is to improve the lives of people in our local communities, free from addiction, offending behaviour and disadvantage. Every one of our funders, donors and supporters help to fund increasingly vital services and support for our clients. We can't do what we do without donations and fundraising. Can you help?

- **Fundraising** – Whether running a half marathon, holding a sponsored sporting event, coffee morning, quiz or other amazing event for Open Road, we would love to hear from you. Please email us on - [info@openroad.org.uk](mailto:info@openroad.org.uk).
- **Donate Online** - You can donate a one-off amount or set up a regular donation via our secure online form on our website – [www.openroad.org.uk/Appeal/donate](http://www.openroad.org.uk/Appeal/donate). Setting up a regular donation provides a steady income for Open Road to provide help and support to individuals and families affected by drugs and alcohol.

- **Donate £5 by Text** – So simple to do – just text OPEN00 £5

Regular donations help Open Road to provide sustained support to individuals and families towards full recovery from the many problems they face. They also save on administration costs – so that more of your money can be spent on crucial services.

**One Person can make all the difference to Open Road!**



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## How to support us

<p><b><a href="http://www.forgoodcauses.org">www.forgoodcauses.org</a></b></p>  <p>This is a great site where you can donate your retail reward vouchers to your chosen charity, which could be us! On their website, just click the 'Donate My Rewards' button and search for 'Open Road'.</p>	<p><b><a href="http://www.smile.amazon.co.uk">www.smile.amazon.co.uk</a></b></p>  <p>Simply download Amazon's Smile app and every time you shop with Amazon, they donate a small percentage to us - absolutely free to you and a lifeline to us.</p>
<p><b><a href="http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk">www.easyfundraising.org.uk</a></b></p> <p>The Essex Lottery is giving everyone the chance to win up to £25,000 and support our amazing local charity at the same time. Tickets are just £1 per week, 50% of all ticket proceeds bought on our page go to us, with 10% also going to other worthwhile local charities. It's a WIN WIN!!</p> 	<p><b><a href="http://www.recycle4charity.co.uk/InkjetCartridges">www.recycle4charity.co.uk/InkjetCartridges</a></b></p> <p>Do you have an Inkjet printer? Contact us for Recycle 4 Charity envelopes and simply send of your used cartridges to be recycled. It's good for the environment and you raise vital funds for Open Road at the same time!</p> 
<p><b><a href="http://www.essexlottery.co.uk/support/open-road">www.essexlottery.co.uk/support/open-road</a></b></p>  <p>Donate free as you shop online with hundreds of brilliant High Street and well known retailers. It's easy to download EasyFundraising's app. Just chose 'Open Road' as your charity of choice and, without any cost to you, Easyfundraising will donate a percentage of each purchase to your chosen charity. It's as easy as that!</p>	<p><b><a href="http://www.charity.ebay.co.uk/charity/Open-Road-Visions/">www.charity.ebay.co.uk/charity/Open-Road-Visions/</a></b></p>  <p>eBay for Charity has partnered with the PayPal Giving Fund to make it easy for sellers to donate 10% to 100% of your item's final sale price to a certified charity. If you accept the eBay for Charity Seller Terms and Conditions you can create a listing and agree to donate 10% or more of the final sale price (1% for eBay Motors) to a certified organisation in the non-profit directory if the item sells. Or you can make a one off donation to us when you make a purchase.</p>




**WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE**

**Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%**

- We now have a page on The Essex Lottery!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other good causes in Essex!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

To Start Supporting, Visit:  
[www.EssexLottery.co.uk](http://www.EssexLottery.co.uk)  
And Search For:  
**Open Road**



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.

## You've Got To Be In It To Win It!

The Essex Lottery is giving everyone the chance to win up to £25,000 and support our amazing local charity at the same time. Tickets are just £1 per week, 50% of all ticket proceeds bought on our page go to us, with 10% also going to other worthwhile local charities. It's a WIN WIN!! To get your tickets, please go to -

<https://www.essexlottery.co.uk/support/open-road>



Or even easier, if you have a QR phone app, scan this code to access our page!

## Donate £3 by texting 'OPENROAD' to 70085

Texts cost £3 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £3 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text **OPENROADNOINFO** to **70085**

## Make a donation!

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Online: **[openroad.org.uk/donate](http://openroad.org.uk/donate)**  
or please call: **01206 369782**

## New Southend on Sea Service Launches!

We are delighted that, in partnership with Forward Trust, our Southend Young Persons' Drug & Alcohol Service launched on 1st April. Our service is free and confidential, supporting people up to the age of 29 who are affected by, or are experiencing, issues with drugs and/or alcohol.

Open Road's Clinical & Business Development Director, Joni Thompson said, "We are really excited about our new Young Person Service in Southend. We are looking forward to getting into the community to connect and work with young people and partner agencies to ensure that our services meets the needs of Southend."

Our dedicated Southend team is led by Manager, Corinne Johns. We are an outreach service and see young people in the community. We offer various support, including –

- 1-to-1 support and intervention
- Group activities and programmes
- Telephone or virtual intervention
- Criminal Justice
- NEET Support (for those not in education, employment or training)
- Sexual health advice

We are really pleased to have the opportunity to proactively work in partnership with Forward Trust in Essex, as we have already done in Medway. Forward Trust's Head of Business Development, Emma Coulson says of our new service, "Forward Trust are really excited about our new Southend Community Service and partnership with Open Road. We feel that our

partnership will add significant value to the Service Users in Southend. Our Service Model will allow us to increase engagement, provide Service User choice and build a Southend recovery community. We feel that this service has great potential and together with Open Road we will improve outcomes for our Service Users."

We look forward to supporting Southend's local communities and helping vulnerable people to achieve happier, healthier lifestyles. Our Southend team can be contacted for any support enquiries on 01702 431889, through our website [www.openroad.org.uk](http://www.openroad.org.uk), or via email – [info@openroad.org.uk](mailto:info@openroad.org.uk).

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## Getting Bee Ready at Harlow Town's Walled Garden

This spring, Open Road Harlow's Walled Garden volunteers have been busily preparing for the year ahead. With better weather coming, the team have been potting on the first seeds of the season and getting the gardens ready for summer. This year's chosen first veg seeds will be tomatoes, cabbage, beetroot, kale and spinach. From previous years, the garden won't take long before it's a riot of colour and vigorous, growing plants and flowers.

As mentioned in the last edition, we are also supporting the park's beekeeping work and bee friendly plants are well on their way, with healthy seedlings stretching and growing in the garden's poly tunnel.

Many thanks to all our brilliant volunteers, Lead Project Volunteer Anita Bailey and Harlow Town Park Manager, Mike Levett, for all the great work you do in this beautiful public park.



Bee Ready!



Seeds of Choice



Bee food coming on nicely



Anita and her newest piece of kit



Cropping seeds

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## Faces of Recovery



*Our service users' recovery journeys can be incredibly hard, and their strength and determined commitment throughout their journey brings amazing successes.*

CL approached Open Road for help, as he was using up to £100 heroin and £40 worth of crack daily. At this point, he was quite new to substance use and had started using drugs in order to replace his alcohol addiction. At his initial appointment with Open Road, he reported being keen to address his substance misuse but he was really struggling with the addiction. Following this appointment, CL was placed on a script of methadone; while his use reduced, he lacked motivation to stop 'using on top'. In the early stages of his recovery journey, he experienced several challenges, such as increasing his use of crack to up to £300 daily and falling off script, leading to him suffering severe opiate withdrawals for several days.

CL and his keyworker established a good rapport, to support him through these challenges. Ongoing psychosocial support such as care planning, regular check in calls, going through ITEP mapping sheets together, and providing him with workbooks and drug diaries, helped in his progress. He remained consistent with his engagement; he and his keyworker stayed in regular contact.

After several months in treatment, we let CL know about a new clinical treatment trial which he agreed he wanted to go ahead with. He was accepted onto the trial and his treatment commenced; since starting this, he has reported nil use of any crack or heroin for several months, and no desire or temptations to go back to using.

During his most recent appointments, CL has spoken extremely highly of the support he has received at Open Road, and the clinical treatment trial, which he described as "amazing". He is now working full time and is enjoying the work. His relationship with his wife has improved a great deal. He is more motivated to spend time on his hobbies and going to the gym – areas of his life that have all improved because of addressing his substance use issues and engaging with our service.

CL recently talked to his key worker about how far he has come in a short space of time (from using £100 a day of heroin and £300 of crack, down to zero in only a few months). He said that during his initial appointments, he was very low in mood, lacking motivation and struggling a great deal with his addiction issues but now feels like his life has drastically improved. CL says this is as a direct result of the support that he has been receiving from Open Road.

*We are really pleased for CL, whose hard work and sheer determination has given him his life back. Open Road's sole purpose is to help people like CL who come to us, who just want to escape from addictions and negative behaviours to get back to the happier, healthier lives they know they deserve. We are glad that we can offer this vital support.*

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## Investors In People Success!

### INVESTORS IN PEOPLE™ We invest in people Standard

*Our HR & Wellbeing Manager, Nicola Rosewarne tells us about recent work done with Investors in People.*

Investors in People is a recognition that an organisation looks to improve performance and realise objectives through the management and development of its people. This standard is a perfect fit with Open Road's ethos of being 'people centred'. Our people are at the very heart of our work in supporting vulnerable service users in local communities. We felt that the Investors in People standard would be a strong foundation, building on our work to ensure people are supported in their roles, given the positive opportunities they seek to develop in their jobs and above all, the standard would proactively benefit the entire workforce as the charity develops and grows.

Over recent months, Open Road has been assessed against the IIP framework covering areas such as how we support our people, how we lead and how we develop our staff. The last stage of this assessment involved the Assessor meeting with 30 of our staff and volunteers to hear more about their journey with Open Road.

We are very pleased to announce that our assessment was successful and we are accredited with the Investors in People Standard. We received a lot of positive feedback from the Assessor, including the news that every one of our indicators scored positively and over their benchmark figures, quite an achievement!

Simon Allsop, our IIP Assessor was very complimentary about us as an organisation, and about those he met with. Thanking all for their willingness to participate, Simon commented that he heard stories of development and progression, as well as experiences of a supportive management team and appreciation around how we communicate.

There are areas to review, with suggestions from Simon including considering a peer review aspect to our appraisal process, and any learnings from this report will be reviewed and discussed at Trustee level.

Thank you to all who participated with the Assessor, and those who have helped contribute to the success of Open Road as an employer and a great place to work!

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## What is IPS?

### Our IPS Team Manager Matt Gauden tells us more

Hi everyone - Matt here from Open Road IPS team. We recently launched our exciting new IPS service and in this and future updates, I'm looking forward to letting you know more; covering all our news, celebrations and talking points.

What is IPS? very simply: Individual Placement Support. And all you need to know, whether you are a recovery worker, someone our service is already supporting or an employer looking to fill vacancies, is that IPS is all about getting people into work and supporting them in work. No matter their background, skills, or previous experience. We help match people with the job that is right for them.

Our IPS service launched in December 2021 and now has four employment specialists covering North, Mid, South and West Essex as well as Southend and Thurrock. Like Open Road itself, we have started small but are now achieving great things. Since December we've had 85 referrals from our recovery worker teams across Open Road and Phoenix Futures and of those referrals over 10% have started work. Or forget the statistics and let's just tell it as it is; eleven lives transformed because of IPS. We are delighted to have played a part in these outcomes and it is wonderful to see how happy these individuals are and the variety of job roles they have entered including residential care, support work, ceramics, IT, retail warehouse and driving. I think this is testament to the diversity and talent of the people we help and the amount of opportunity there is out there. The people we've supported into work so far have said "without help I wouldn't have had the confidence to start work" and that "knowing I would still receive support when I started work, made all the difference". Another client assumed they couldn't work because of their criminal record, this wasn't the case.

## Do you want to work? We're here to help...



We work with you as an individual to achieve your employment goals. Ask your recovery worker to make a referral today. Even if you've never worked before, a job can transform your life and your recovery.

- You will receive 1:1 support from an employment specialist
- We will provide in work support and job retention services when needed
- Benefits advice included

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But we can do far more than this. We are only melting the tip of the iceberg with our referrals. IPS must be a core part of our treatment service for all OCU and non-OCU service users. It needs a change in mindset to truly start to build the idea of work, the possibility of achievement, and the courage to try into the conversations we have as recovery workers. IPS isn't about getting people protected jobs or jobs that we think they can do; it's about asking that person who would they be if they were working and putting them in touch with the employment specialist that can make that happen. If you are a recovery worker, a volunteer, a peer mentor; start having that chat, no matter how tentative, about work and about how it can be the biggest catalyst to recovery.

*If you are an employer looking to hire motivated and work ready individuals, whether you have a workforce of 2 or 2,000, the IPS team and I want to hear from you. You can get in touch via LinkedIn or directly by email - [matthew.gauden@openroad.org.uk](mailto:matthew.gauden@openroad.org.uk) or by phone - 07538 751338*

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## What Funding Can Achieve – Clacton Street Drinkers Project

In 2020/21, our Clacton street drinker outreach project was set up to tackle the issues associated with street drinking around Clacton. We knew there was a real need to provide support to vulnerable people in the grip of alcohol and substance misuse as well as to the local communities experiencing the anti-social behaviour created by substance misuse in local Tending communities. As always, obtaining funding was a stumbling block and so we were delighted when the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex was able to provide funding for the Clacton service.



- To protect vulnerable people and tackle incidents of harm and to reduce the number of incidents of harm reported to services by this vulnerable group

### Outcomes included...

- All 20 individuals were made aware of local services, how to access treatment for drug and alcohol use as well as housing support.
- 100% of street drinkers registered with GPs and received medical support – improving their health and well-being.
- 100% of street drinkers have received risk management advice – including harm minimisation strategies around safer drinking and drug use, including sign posting to needle exchanges etc.

The project has been very successful in achieving its aims and outcomes. We have supported vulnerable people to engage with professional services and move on positively with their lives, with the support of multiple agencies.

We thank the PFCC for funding this project and allowing us to provide this much needed service to those in need in Clacton.

**Leah Vincent, Fundraising Manager**

### Aims of the project were...

- To reduce anti-social behaviour of street drinkers in Clacton town centre and to improve relationships with local businesses and reduce the impact that anti-social behaviour has on businesses and the wider community.

## New High Sheriff of Essex

In April, our Chief Executive Sarah was absolutely delighted to attend the formal declaration ceremony for Essex's High Sheriff for 2022/23. New High Sheriff, Nick Alston holds the post for the next year, which champions the county and our incredible voluntary sector. The role is an ancient honour bestowed by the monarch, and Nick is the 842nd High Sheriff of Essex.

One of Nick's priorities for the year is highlighting the amazingly dedicated volunteers that we have in Essex, who make the county a great place to live in. Prior to his tenure as High Sheriff, Nick was Open Road's Chair of Trustees, temporarily stepping back from the role, as the year as High Sheriff is an exceptionally busy one. Nick remains a very valued member of our Board.

Sarah says, on behalf of Open Road, "We are absolutely thrilled for Nick and send him every good wish for a positive, interesting and very enjoyable year. To be appointed by HM Queen Elizabeth as High Sheriff of Essex is a wonderful honour. We look forward to following Nick's busy year and of course catching up with him throughout the year."



High Sheriff of Essex, Nick Alston CBE DL

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## Forthcoming Events with Open Road:

### Fundraising Quiz Night

23rd June 2022  
Courtyard Chelmsford

### Fundraising Recovery Walk

June 2022  
We will announce more info soon

### Fundraising Afternoon Tea

1st September 2022  
Further details to follow in our next edition

### 2022 Charity Ball

Saturday 1st October 2022  
Le Talbooth, Dedham

### Open Road AGM

Friday 21st October 2022  
Colchester Stadium

We are planning various fun and exciting events throughout 2022, please follow our social media platforms for more details.

## Open Road Staff and Volunteer Training:

All current training courses are booked up but we ask staff and volunteers to please keep an eye on your inboxes for any upcoming training opportunities.

If any training opportunity emails are of interest, please see your line manager in the first instance.

The next tranche of new training courses will be listed in our newsletter in August.

### Head Office

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## New starters

### We would like to extend a warm welcome to:

- Georgina Reeves  
Recovery Worker (Harlow)
- Amy Brown  
Recovery Worker (Chelmsford)
- Frankie Brown  
Recovery Worker (Harlow)
- Laura Attersley  
Recovery Worker (Vange)
- Mara-Lavinia Paduraru  
Centre Manager (Harlow)
- Kelvin Ubaka  
Through the Gate Mentor (Cookham Wood)
- Mariya Trifonova  
Recovery Co-ordinator (Southend)
- Vicky Elliott  
Young Person's Targeted Intervention Worker (Southend)
- Elaine Bridge  
Recovery Co-ordinator (Southend)
- Nicola Best  
SOS Bus Co-ordinator (Head Office)

## Our Leavers

### We bid a farewell and thank you to:

- Mark Newell
- Una Haznadar
- Jasmine March
- Lisa Colquhoun
- Paul Childs
- Taine Ryan
- Jenny Elliott
- Ahmad Adib Majidzada
- Michael Iremiren
- Sharon Cox
- Lorna Barham
- Louise O'Donnell
- Jodie Millar

The next issue of On the Road will be published in August 2022. Please send any articles, ideas and comments to [sarah.wright@openroad.org.uk](mailto:sarah.wright@openroad.org.uk)

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