InterAct, Unit 16, Old Park Farm,
Ford End, Chelmsford, CM3 1LN

Registered Charity: 1048631

Registered Company: 3087233

# IMPACT REPORT 2024-2026

2026

## Our Mission

To create opportunities that empower individuals with greater choice, enabling them to make informed decisions about their lives. We work to support their full participation in the community, helping them achieve their highest potential while fostering greater independence.

## Our Vision

All young people are encouraged to thrive via the support of their local communities

# Welcome

The past two years have been a period of growth, learning and opportunity for InterAct. As we look back on everything we have achieved between 2024 and 2026, we are incredibly proud of the difference our staff, trustees and supporters have made to the lives of the young people and families we work with.

Throughout this period, we have continued to provide safe, inclusive and engaging opportunities for children and young people with additional needs across Essex. From regular youth clubs and holiday activities to new community partnerships and life skills programmes, our focus has remained the same: **helping young people build confidence, develop independence and create meaningful friendships.**

One of our biggest achievements has been the launch of our **Together Club**, made possible through funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. This exciting new provision supports young adults aged 19–25, providing opportunities to develop life skills, increase independence and reduce social isolation as they transition into adulthood.

We have also been delighted to expand our partnerships within the community. Working alongside Roots Allotment has enabled us to introduce our **Plant to Plate initiative**, giving young people the opportunity to grow their own produce, learn practical skills and explore sustainability and the importance of biodiversity, while developing a greater understanding of healthy living. Through funding received from both **Activ'Ate and Summer SEND**, we have also been able to extend our holiday provision, supporting more families, including those on a low income, across a wider geographical area and ensuring more young people can enjoy inclusive and enriching experiences during the school holidays.

As an organisation, we have continued to look for ways to make the best use of our resources. Relocating our office to **Ford End, Chelmsford**, has created a more cost-effective base while also providing a calming environment in the Essex countryside, supporting the wellbeing of our team. These changes have helped us direct even more of our resources towards supporting young people, young adults, their families and communities.

Like many charities, we have also faced challenges. Staffing changes, particularly within our Colchester provision, have highlighted the importance of consistency for the young people we support. Recruiting and retaining minibus drivers has also remained an ongoing challenge. Despite these difficulties, our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to ensure that our services have continued with as little disruption as possible, always putting the needs of our young people first.

While our summer holiday activities were popular and very well attended, InterAct's centre-based **Summer Holiday Club** did not achieve the attendance we had hoped for. However, it provided valuable learning that helped shape the development of our **Saturday Clubs** in Colchester. We are pleased to see this provision continue to grow, with increasing attendance and positive feedback from families. During 2026, we are also developing this provision for Chelmsford.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on these successes. We will continue to develop our services, strengthen our partnerships, reach more families and create even more opportunities for children, young people and young adults with additional needs to thrive.

None of this would have been possible without the continued support of our funders, partners and community. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the **National Lottery Community Fund, Essex Short Breaks, Summer of SEND, The Grocers' Charity, The Freemasons' Charity, SEND Sensations and Roots Allotment** for their generous support. We are equally grateful to our trustees, staff, families and, most importantly, our incredible young people, whose enthusiasm, resilience and achievements inspire everything we do.

# About InterAct

## Who We Are

InterAct is a local Essex charity dedicated to supporting children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), along with their families. Since our beginnings in 1992 and becoming a charity on 1995 we have been committed to creating opportunities that help people build confidence, develop independence and feel connected within their communities.

Today, we deliver a wide range of inclusive clubs, activities, holiday programmes and life skills opportunities across Essex, providing safe and welcoming spaces where young people can thrive.

## What We Do

InterAct's services are designed to reduce isolation, promote inclusion and support young people to achieve their full potential. Through regular youth clubs, holiday activities, and the Together Club for young adults, participation opportunities and community partnerships, we encourage young people to build friendships, learn new skills and gain greater independence, helping people to help themselves.

Alongside supporting young people, we recognise the vital role families play. Our services also provide valuable respite for parents and carers, helping to strengthen family wellbeing and create positive experiences for everyone involved.

## Why It Matters

Every young person deserves the opportunity to feel valued, included and empowered. At InterAct, we believe that by providing the right support, opportunities and encouragement, young people can develop the confidence and skills they need to lead happy, fulfilling lives.

Everything we do is guided by our mission to create inclusive communities where everyone has the opportunity to belong, contribute and reach their full potential. Through collaboration with families, volunteers, funders and community partners, we continue to make a lasting difference across Essex.

# InterAct at a Glance

## Established
1992

## Who We Support
Young people with SEND aged 8–25

## Where We Work
Across Mid and North Essex

## Working With
- Families
- Schools
- Local authorities
- Community partners
- Volunteers

## What We Deliver
- Weekly youth clubs
- Together Club (19–25)
- Holiday activities
- Saturday Club
- Outreach and community events
- Life skills opportunities

## Our Aim
Helping young people build confidence, independence, friendships and life skills while providing valuable support for families.

# Our Impact in Numbers

## 2024 - 2025

Every number tells the story of a young person supported, a family given respite, and a community strengthened.

Total Activity Hours 2808

Unique Young People 163

### Term Time Clubs

Weekly inclusive clubs supporting young people across Essex, helping build confidence, friendships and independence.

Total Activity Hours 3216

Unique Young People 54

### Holiday Activities

Accessible trips and activities giving young people new experiences while providing valuable respite for families.

Total Activity Hours 96

Unique Young People 9

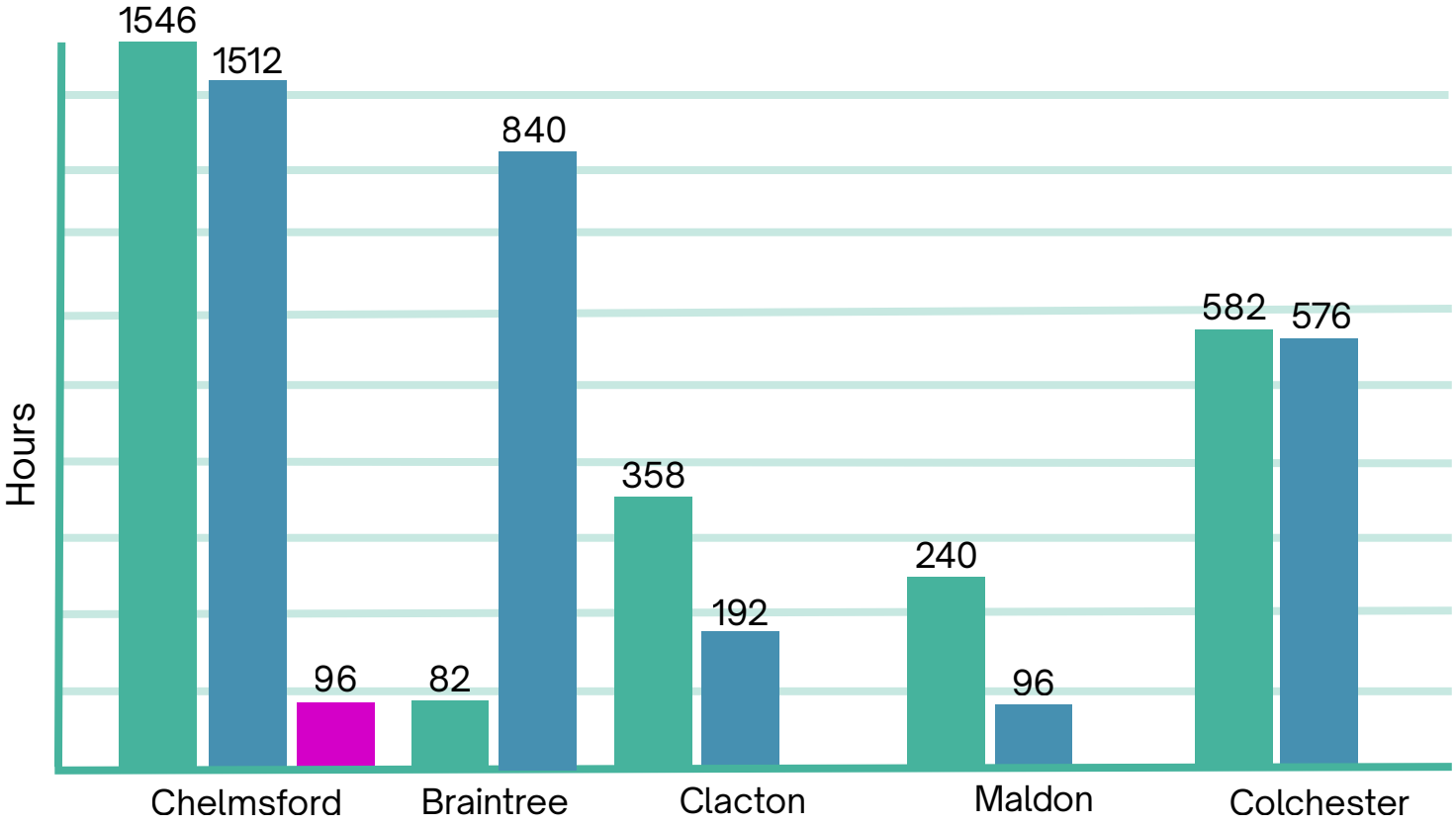
### Together Club

Weekly clubs across Mid and North Essex supporting young adults to develop life skills, build confidence and reduce social anxiety.

# Our Impact in Numbers

## 2024 - 2025

Chelmsford continued to see the highest levels of attendance during 2024–2025, with over 1,500 attendances at our term-time clubs. Colchester and Clacton also demonstrated strong engagement, while our holiday activities reached young people across every area in which we operate.




During 2024–2025, InterAct delivered over 5,900 hours of activities across Chelmsford, Braintree, Clacton, Maldon and Colchester. Alongside our term-time clubs and holiday activities, we proudly launched our Together Club in Chelmsford, creating new opportunities for young adults aged 19–25 and laying the foundations for expansion into North Essex.

# Our Impact in Numbers

## 2025 - 2026

Every number tells the story of a young person supported, a family given respite, and a community strengthened.

Total Activity Hours 2913

Unique Young People 229

### Term Time Clubs

Weekly inclusive clubs supporting young people across Essex, helping build confidence, friendships and independence.

Total Activity Hours 3270

Unique Young People 81

### Holiday Activities

Accessible trips and activities giving young people new experiences while providing valuable respite for families.

Total Activity Hours 1834

Unique Young People 28

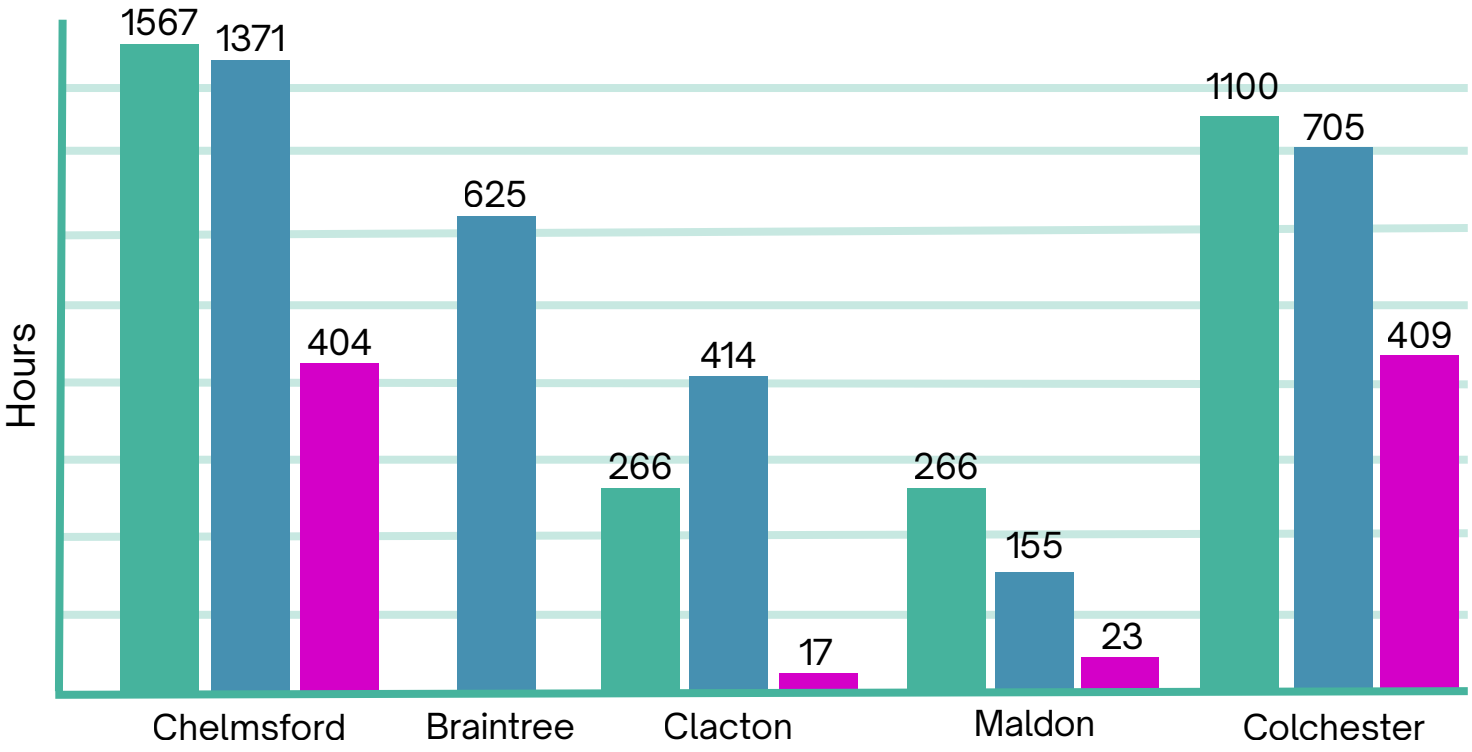
### Together Club

Weekly clubs across Mid and North Essex supporting young adults to develop life skills, build confidence and reduce social anxiety.

# Our Impact in Numbers

## 2025 - 2026

Chelmsford continued to see the highest levels of attendance during 2025–2026, while attendance across our Colchester provision steadily increased. The continued growth of our Lexden Springs After School Club and the introduction of our Oak Tree Club contributed to this success, alongside a significant increase in participation within our holiday activities across Essex.




Attendance patterns reflect the growth of our services. Chelmsford remained consistently popular, while Lexden Springs grew rapidly after launching in September 2024. Attendance in Clacton changed as young people moved from Jaywick into Together Club. Although our Braintree term-time club ended, families continued to engage through our holiday activities.

# Our Wider Reach

## Supporting Young People

Every activity we deliver is about more than just having fun. Through clubs, trips and community activities, young people develop confidence, independence and life skills while creating lasting memories and friendships. These experiences help prepare them for adulthood and encourage them to become active members of their communities.

## Supporting Families

Our impact extends beyond the young people who attend our activities. By providing safe, inclusive sessions, we also offer parents and carers valuable respite. Families tell us that knowing their child is happy, safe and enjoying new experiences gives them the opportunity to rest, spend time with other family members or simply take time for themselves.

*"Making friends doesn't always come easily to him, but coming to InterAct's clubs has really helped to build his confidence. As "O" doesn't enjoy going shopping and it can be hard to be in two places at once. InterAct gives me peace of mind knowing "O" is happy, safe, and engaged."*

## Building Stronger Communities

We believe that supporting young people also means supporting the wider community. Through partnerships with organisations such as Greenwoods Care Home, Roots Allotment, Chelmsford Community Radio (CCR 104fm) and local community groups, we create additional opportunities for the young people and families we support. We also signpost families to organisations such as SNAP Charity and Families in Focus, helping them access valuable advice, information and additional support.

We regularly share information through our Facebook community, which now has over 2,600 followers, helping families discover local events, support services and organisations that can continue supporting them beyond InterAct.

# Connecting with Our Community

Social media has become an important way for InterAct to connect with families, celebrate achievements and share opportunities across Essex. Throughout 2025–2026, our online community continued to grow, helping us reach new families, promote our services and signpost people to organisations that can provide additional support. Our social media continues to play an important role in raising awareness of InterAct, promoting our services and connecting more families with opportunities and support across Essex.

**122,639** Views
Our content reached over **122,000** views, helping more families discover InterAct and the services we provide.

**7,860** Engagements
Our community actively interacted with our posts through reactions, comments and shares.
**1,214** reactions
**247** comments
**362** shares

We now have
**2,616** Followers
an increase of 5**%** compared with the previous year.

Nearly half of the people viewing our content were discovering InterAct for the first time.
**51% Non-followers**
**49% Followers**

Our videos generated **2 days and 1 hour** of watch time.
Video views also increased significantly, with:
**100%** increase in one-minute views
**10,081** three-second views

Where Our Audience Lives
Chelmsford **33.2%**
Colchester **17.6%**
Braintree **12.3%**
Clacton-on-Sea **9.8%**
Maldon **5.4%**
Basildon **5.1%**

# Highlights from 2024–2026

## Together Club Continues to Grow
### *National Lottery Community Fund*

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, our Together Club has continued to expand across Essex.
We now deliver Together Club in Colchester and Clacton, alongside Together Club in Chelmsford and Maldon, providing opportunities for young adults aged 19–25 to develop confidence, independence and lasting friendships.

Together Club goes to see Abba Voyage

Team work activiity at Stubbers

## Strengthening Our Team
### *Consistency for Young People*

Following a period of staff changes, we welcomed a dedicated Together Club Lead to oversee both our Mid and North provisions. This has brought greater consistency across the service, and we are delighted to see attendance and engagement continuing to grow.

## Building Life Skills
### *Learning Through Nature*

Our monthly Life Skills sessions give young people the opportunity to develop practical skills for everyday life. Through partnerships with organisations such as Greenwoods Care Home and Roots Allotment, participants have enjoyed volunteering opportunities, community engagement and our new Plant to Plate initiative, learning how to grow, prepare and enjoy their own food.

Our volunteer day at Green Court Care Home

# Highlights from 2024–2026

Saturday Baking Session

## Saturday Club Success
### *Growing Every Month*

Following valuable learning from our previous holiday club, we introduced a monthly Saturday Club in Colchester. It has been encouraging to see attendance steadily increase, with familiar faces returning alongside new young people joining the group.

## Expanding Holiday Opportunities
### *More Families Supported*

Thanks to Summer SEND funding, we have been able to offer holiday activities to more families across Mid and North Essex. This funding has helped reduce financial barriers, ensuring more children and young people can enjoy fun, inclusive experiences during the school holidays.

Meeting Fairries at WyvernWood

## Thank You to Our Supporters

Our work would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters and funders. We are incredibly grateful to the National Lottery Community Fund, Essex Short Breaks, Summer of SEND-Active Essex, The Grocers' Charity, The Freemasons' Charity, Garfeild Weston Foundation, Essex Youth Trust, Fowler, Smith and Jones Trust, ABBIE, Essex Community Foundation and our community partners for helping us continue to provide life-changing opportunities for children and young people across Essex.

These achievements are only possible thanks to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, families, funders and community partners, who continue to help us create opportunities for young people across Essex.

# Looking Ahead

As we look towards the future, InterAct remains committed to creating opportunities for children and young people with SEND to build confidence, independence and lasting friendships.

We will continue to strengthen our Together Club provision, develop our community partnerships and expand opportunities for young people to gain valuable life skills through volunteering, employment experiences and community projects.

With the continued support of InterAct's families, staff, volunteers, trustees, partners and funders, we look forward to reaching even more young people across Essex and helping them thrive within their local communities.

InterAct

01245 801571

www.Interact.org.uk

Youngpeopleteam@interact.org.uk