



ESSEX
CRICKET IN THE
COMMUNITY

**APPOINTMENT OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER (BARKING &
DAGENHAM)**

FROM JANUARY 2026



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SUMMARY

About the club

Essex Cricket was founded in 1876 in Chelmsford. It has three arms: club, community and foundation. The Men's side plays in Division 1 and has had major successes and claimed multiple trophies. In 2024, the ECB announced a top-tier for Women's cricket which Essex joined and competed in the inaugural season in 2025.

At Essex, it's all about punching above our weight, making a big impact and pushing the boundaries.

What ECIC do

Essex Cricket in the Community (ECIC) run the recreational aspect of Essex Cricket spanning across Essex and East London. The five departments cover youth cricket, women and girls' cricket, ability cricket, safeguarding and network development. Each department works to ensure inclusive, accessible and fun cricket for all in our region.

From running junior competitions to training coaches to aiding club development, ECIC is a dynamic and influential initiative that embodies the spirit of the sport and extends its reach far beyond the cricket pitch.

As Essex Cricket in the Community looks to the future, its commitment to youth development, community engagement, inclusivity, and overall community wellbeing remains steadfast. The organisation is poised to continue building on its legacy, reaching new communities, and touching the lives of even more individuals who will forever carry the spirit of cricket in their hearts.

Overview of the role

The Community Development Officer plays a major role in East London through growing and sustaining cricket. Although this role is predominantly Barking and Dagenham, the officer will also have bordering work. The role focusses on both emerging and established teams to becoming fully compliant through ECIC's Community Ownership Model, while contributing to the County Facilities Strategy. This position will also drive engagement with diverse communities, schools, local authorities, and strategic partners to ensure cricket is accessible, inclusive, and thriving in the region.



PURPOSE, VISION, MISSION, STRATEGY & VALUES

Across both the Club and Community at Essex Cricket, we all share the same aims, mission objectives and values. Our strategic plan, named the Game Wide Plan, is our four year plan for sustainable growth and long-term successes across the East of England. You can view it [here](#).

Purpose

Use the diverse passion for cricket for the benefit of all individuals and communities in the region, through on-field success, off-field growth and home-grown inspiration.

Vision

Our purpose drives us towards our vision to "Be the Number **ONE** Cricket Region".

Mission

To provide individuals with the opportunity to 'Fly Like an Eagle'.



Strategy

ECB Strategic Objectives



Essex Strategic Objectives

Values

Stay Above The Line | Respect, Attitude, Effort.



ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES

Club and Team Development

- Support new teams to transition into fully compliant cricket clubs through the Community Ownership Model.
- Ensure all existing cricket clubs in the region remain fully compliant with governance and operational standards.
- Identify and nurture emerging teams in new areas to expand the reach of cricket.
- Support clubs with volunteer recruitment, facility development, league engagement, and player recruitment.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- Lead the delivery of boroughwide cricket development plans, ensuring alignment with external partner strategies (e.g., football clubs, community hubs, education providers, councils, Mayor of London office).
- Engage with key stakeholders influencing cricket participation, venues, funding, governance, and access.
- Develop strong links with non-traditional cricket sites, community hubs, and multi-sport organisations.
- Build partnerships with strategic bodies such as ACE, ACCC, and local role models to increase engagement in cricket, particularly within the Black community.

Participation Growth

- Create and implement a Tape Ball Cricket Development Plan by identifying venues, stakeholders, leaders, and participants already active in informal formats.
- Expand playing opportunities for women and girls across the boroughs.

Talent and Facility Support

- Work closely with Essex Cricket's London Talent Identification programme to link community participation to talent pathways.
- Support the County Facilities Strategy by identifying, upgrading, and repurposing venues for sustainable cricket activity.

Other Areas of Responsibility

- Promote EDI throughout the work of Essex Cricket linked to the Eagles Way.

Full Job Description

- To view the Job Description please click [here](#).



PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

Essential Skills and Experience

- Experience of working in community sport development, ideally within cricket or similar participation-focused roles.
- Strong understanding of community engagement within diverse and low socio-economic communities.
- Excellent relationship-building skills with a wide range of stakeholders (clubs, local authorities, schools, community groups).
- Ability to design, deliver, and monitor development plans and community projects.
- Good knowledge of governance, compliance, and structures within grassroots sports clubs.
- Strong organisational skills with the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously.
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Office software
- Coaching qualifications (minimum ECB Foundation I Coach or willingness to achieve).
- DBS and Safeguarding certificates (or willingness to undertake).

Desirable Skills and Experience

- Experience working with underrepresented groups in sport, including Black and minority ethnic communities and women & girls.
- Understanding of informal cricket formats such as tape ball cricket.
- Knowledge of safeguarding and safe sport environments.

Key Attributes

- Passionate about community sport and cricket development.
- Inclusive, approachable, and culturally aware.
- Proactive and able to work independently as well as part of a team.
- Flexible in approach, including willingness to work evenings and weekends where required.

NOTE:
This role profile is not exhaustive; it will be subject to periodic review and may be amended to meet the changing needs of the business. The postholder will be expected to participate in this process, and we would aim to reach agreement on the changes.



BOARD & LEADERSHIP

Our Board

Our board is chaired by **Rachel Lewis** and consists of 12 board members including 1 Executive director

Our Team

ECIC has a team of around 30 members who are led by our Senior Leadership Team:

- **Ben Wallis** – Director of Network Operations
- **Natalie Samaranayake** – Director of Community Cricket
- **Pat Ward** – Head of Community Engagement
- **Arfan Akram** – Head of Player Liaison & East London Strategic Lead

This team is joined by the Senior Management team and the Essex Cricket Chief Executive Officer.

Your Team

The role of Community Development Officer (Barking & Dagenham) sits within the Cricket Network Operations team made up of:

- **Rob Jones** – Senior Manager of Network Support
- **Graham Pryke** – Cricket Development Manager (Clubs & Leagues)
- **Steve Dolben** – East London Cricket Development Manager & EEP / District Lead (Boys)
- **Mabs Alam** – East London Cricket Development Officer (Newham)
- **Angela Tuff** – Umpire Development Officer
- **Andy Thurogood** – Play-Cricket & Competitions Support Officer
- **Dave Byford** – Coach Development Workforce Lead

All teams are supported by:

- **Kate Morphew** – County Safeguarding & EDI Officer
- **Phil Knappett** – County Safeguarding Officer
- **Caroline Fardell** – Business Support Officer
- **Matilda Bishop** – Brand Marketing Executive (Community and Women's Team)



OTHER INFORMATION

What this role can give you

Alongside working in a nationally recognised high-performing community team, this role has many benefits including:

- A welcoming, diverse and inclusive workplace with equality of opportunity for all
- Initial 20 days annual leave increasing to 25 days after 2 years plus bank holidays, recognised religious days and additional days for the Christmas break
- Employer pension contributions of 8% of base salary
- Opportunities for personal and professional development and growth
- Employee Wellbeing initiatives
- Free onsite car parking
- Club Branded Clothing
- Complimentary tickets for home matches



Commitment

This contract is a full time role. The successful applicant will be required to work 37.5 hours per week. This may include weekends and/or bank holidays if required.

Location

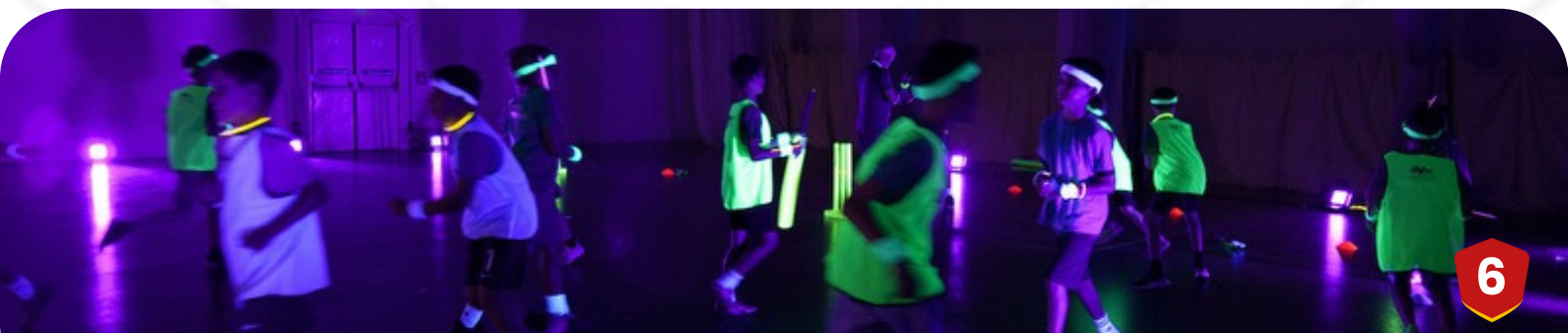
The role's 'normal place of work will be split between the Ambassador Cruise Line Ground and Leyton Cricket Hub, Leyton, with the option of Flexible Hybrid Home Working. You may also be required to travel around East London and Essex.

Remuneration

This position's remuneration will be competitive dependant on experience. Reasonable expenses will be covered.

Commencement

This position's likely start date will be the Monday 5th of January 2026.



HOW TO APPLY

How to Apply

To apply for the Community Development Officer (Barking & Dagenham) role, please complete this [form](#).

- Please note the deadline is **17:00 on Friday 28 November 2025**
- Interviews will be held during the week commencing **Monday 8 December 2025**

For an informal conversation about the opportunity please contact Arfan at arfan.akram@essexcricket.org.uk



Safeguarding Statement

Essex Cricket is committed to safeguarding and protecting the children and young people that we work with. As such, all posts are subject to a safer recruitment process, including the disclosure of criminal records and vetting checks. We ensure that we have a range of policies and procedures in place which promote safeguarding and safer working practice across our services.

Equality Statement

Essex Cricket will ensure that all existing and potential employees receive equal consideration and is committed to the elimination of unlawful or unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, gender, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, disability, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion/belief or sexual orientation.





CONTACT DETAILS



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SOCIAL CHANNELS



[@essexcricketcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/essexcricketcommunity)



[@essexCCB](https://twitter.com/essexCCB)



[@essexCCB](https://www.facebook.com/essexCCB)



[Essex Cricket in the Community](https://www.youtube.com/EssexCricketintheCommunity)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ESSEX CRICKET



www.essexcricket.org.uk

