

Blamsters Farm Rainbow project

The Mid Essex team are very passionate in ensuring the individuals we support are at the heart of what we

do, When the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic became serious in the UK there was no hesitation in the services getting their 'thinking caps' on to ensure we could provide a safe service, that keeps the individuals we support happy and engaged. The idea

started with a pop-up shop which is on site which is very carefully monitored to ensure our staff and individuals are social distancing.



The shop provides cold drinks, sweets, crisps, fresh fruit, DVDs, CDs, jewellery..... (the list is endless).



This started with financial backing from the directors at TLC Care and Support to get the initial supply of sundries. Sabrina, One of the Service Managers, posted an appeal on Face Book and we were overwhelmed with the response that we got. The community of

Halstead got straight to work and provided donations for the shop. A huge thank you for the community support!



This was then closely followed by our **Rainbow Display Project** (which is situated at the bottom of our drive). This started as we identified that our service users and staff should be able to express how they are feeling and the things that they are missing, such as family visits, Coffee shop visits, and community activities.



Some of the individuals we support, chose to use this project to thank the staff that are supporting them, thanking the NHS and local food stores and local businesses that have supported us in a time of need.



The individuals we support and families are extremely grateful to the TLC Central support team that provided tablets with skype facilities to ensure people could be supported by staff to remain in regular contact and still and see their loved ones.



These displayed messages were read by staff and Managers across the organisation which then sparked the next stage of the project...



One of our employees, Sam Raz supported one of our service users to build an 'outside' bowling alley from scratch, again from materials that have been donated from local businesses.



We have now sourced most of the equipment required for our Safe distance **sports day** ... date to be announced 😊and are aiming to have a little coffee shop set up within our grounds for the individuals we support to enjoy.

A few 'shout out' of thanks to some of the Local businesses that have really supported us over the last 3 weeks.

- Eareys Butchers in Sible Hedingham
- The Hook, fish and chip shop donating cod and haddock fillets (60+)
- Braintree KFC – donated cooked chicken meals
- Halstead Lidl
- Halstead Sainsbury's
- Tesco (Marks Farm Braintree) especially with Easter Eggs
- Prima Catering for PPE supplies



Some of our employees have gone above and beyond to ensure we have a good supply of food in the services, with some staying on after their shifts to ensure TLC



Could collect 200 Easter eggs to supply to our service users and staff, kindly provided by TLC and delivered by Paul Hainsworth, CEO and Rainuka Samra, Group Finance Director on Easter Sunday.



Sainsbury's in Halstead, kindly provided some of our staff with Bouquets of flowers to recognise and reward the job they are doing at this challenging time. Blamsters

Farm have also been working in partnership with Meadowview Care

Homes by regularly keeping in contact and sharing good practices, Covid-19 information, as well as sharing ideas and initiatives and sometimes just lending 'an ear' or offer of support to each other.

