

History of the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust

The Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT) is responsible for operating two Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS); providing a flexible life-saving service for both Essex and Hertfordshire and surrounding areas. Specialist Doctors and Ambulance Service Paramedics can be rushed to the scene of an incident with life-saving support equipment and the patient, following assessment, will be flown to an appropriate hospital. Unlike other NHS emergency services EHAAT is a charity relying solely upon the generosity and goodwill of the people and businesses of Essex and Hertfordshire to remain operational and saving lives.

The Essex Air Ambulance charity was established and began fundraising in 1997 with the first Air Ambulance, a Bolkow 105 Db, being launched in July 1998 from New Hall School in Boreham. During the past 12 years there have been 3 aircraft in service. The first two helicopters were Bolkows with bright red livery, later to be resprayed yellow following a sponsorship deal with the AA. In May 2003 thanks to the passion and fundraising of the County, the charity was in a position to commission a new state of the art aircraft, the Eurocopter EC135 T2.

In April 2007 the Essex Air Ambulance charity became Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust responsible for both the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Helicopter Emergency Medical Services.

Hertfordshire was one of the few counties left in the UK without its own Air Ambulance and so in April 2007 EHAAT launched an appeal to enable the people of Hertfordshire to raise funds for their own life-saving Air Ambulance service. A fundraising target of £250,000 was set...the challenge was enormous and was only going to be possible with the help and support of the Hertfordshire community. The Herts Air Ambulance was unveiled on 5th November 2008 at Fairlands Valley Park, Stevenage.

Doctors were introduced to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Crew in November 2008; to work alongside specially trained paramedics from the ambulance service, providing enhanced critical care and increasing the chances of survival and recovery to the most severely ill and injured patients. Enabling life-saving procedures to be carried out which would not otherwise be possible so early in the treatment process.

On 1 June 2010 Essex Air Ambulance launched a new helicopter, an MD902 Explorer, the same model as the Herts Air Ambulance also operated by Medical Aviation Services (MAS).



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Greenfields make the national top five

Greenfields Community Housing has achieved an average of 92% customer satisfaction levels for their £98 million Decent Homes programme, which places them in the top five percent nationally.

Greenfields began carrying out the Decent Homes work at the beginning of 2007, following transfer. The two main contractors, Higgins Construction and Connaught Partnerships, have now carried out work in over 4,000 properties in the district and are aiming for 5,000 by the end of the year.

The Decent Homes programme involves bringing all Greenfields' properties up to the 'Greenfields Standard', which is higher than the Government's Decent Homes Standard. This includes new kitchens, bathrooms, central heating, rewiring, doors and windows, where needed. Prior to work being carried out in an area, Greenfields and their contractors hold events to meet with local residents and answer all their questions.

Martin Norgett, Decent Homes Project Manager at Greenfields, said: "We always like to meet residents prior to us commencing work in their area, to give them the opportunity to ask us questions and find out more about the process. It also helps us to continually improve the service we provide, ensuring we do our best to meet our residents' needs."

Mrs Molly Noy, from Rickstones Road, Rivenhall, recently had a new kitchen and central heating installed in her home by Connaught. She said: "Obviously with both the central heating and kitchen refurbishment taking place, there has been considerable upheaval. However, all of the Connaught staff I have come into contact with during this time have been considerate, responsive and, as far as possible, kept their working area clean and tidy."

Mrs Sandra Smy, from Glebe Road, Kelvedon, has just had new central heating installed and is having her kitchen refurbished. She said: "The kitchen is lovely. Up to now, I am happy with the service I have received. Connaught started the kitchen refurbishment on 27th May and will be finished this week. It's so quick! And I was quite amazed at the choice of tiles and flooring."

Greenfields will have completed their 5-year Decent Homes programme by December 2012.



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