

Rainbow Services – Sharon Summerfield (CEO)

Rainbow services started in 1999 as a charity to alleviate poverty and degradation. It has since developed, but maintaining this main aim.

Early 2000 it became an instructive charity in the area – supporting free-advice, governance.

50% of the work is to build a strong voluntary sector in Harlow

50% to fill gaps in provision. They do not compete with other charities in the area, but do try to enable and support other groups.

Now – there is the community builder project supporting 800 people across the town.

There are 26 clubs run weekly (mainly self-run) with their own themes – e.g. Bingo. Bridge, watch a film whatever the group want to do.

Once a month there is an event organised – e.g. cream tea; trip on Canalability – they organised a Jubilee Tea.

The aim is to reduce isolation – the average age is mid-80s. It helps to make people feel connected. They also work with people with dementia – e.g. dementia walks.

Work with Youth

Set up to support young people who have become disengaged with school.

There are carpentry workshops for ages 14 – 18, where the young people are given good role models and are aided to get qualifications. There's also work with sport / music projects. The aim is to become involved with younger age groups in the future.

Community Builder Project

This is for all ages. During lockdown, people helped each other when a lot of people were in crisis, not just due to covid. Rainbow services worked with other charities such as MRCT for a quick response to an issue whilst examining the root cause of the issues for offering support.

They aim as a charity to give everyone a chance.

Main Prayer issue:

Funding – please pray especially for a successful lottery bid to allow the charity to continue to develop their work.