# Continuing collaborative relationships

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| Structures: Information sharing agreement as a volunteer and having to liaise via NHS staff.  CCG supported the idea of an ECLO honorary contract in one hospital in the county.  This provided confidence and evidence to gain a second honorary contract in a second county hospital.  Initial honorary contract for one year with a renewal clause by mutual agreement. |
| Policy: NHS health policy  Foundation Trust policy  Honorary contracts |

2008

2020

2019

2018

2017

2014

2013

2004:

1994:

1920: See timeline information.

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| Processes: Charity staff and volunteers made enquiries with the eye clinics in local hospitals.  Liaising with clinical NHS staff, departmental managers and hospital HR were all pivotal in establishing ground rules and the process.  The CCG were instrumental in supporting an application for the new ECLO honorary contracts.  The original charity staff and NHS staff involved with the information sharing agreement all moved on before the honorary contracts were signed.  The people involved were: volunteers, charity admin staff, ECLO’s, NHS clinic staff, CCG, department managers & NHS HR.    Identity: The original informal information sharing agreement was conducted by means of telephone conversations and meetings.  Negotiations for the formal Honorary Contract took the form of telephone conversations, face-to-face meetings, terms of reference, and were discussed both in-house separately and also jointly. Although the availability of honorary contracts was originally dismissed, finding contacts with a shared purpose was key in establishing the existence of them and the ensuing application process. Once established, it was as straight forward as conforming to the requisite application process before being awarded an honorary contract. |

Time Line information.

1920: Essex Voluntary Association for the Blind (EVAB) founded.

1994: RNIB launches Eye Clinic Liaison Officer training.

2004: EVAB becomes Essex Blind Charity with a Community Support Team formed shortly afterwards. An informal information sharing agreement commences in collaboration with Essex Rivers Health Trust.

2008: Essex Rivers Health Trust becomes Colchester Hospital University Foundation Trust (CHUFT).

2013: Community Support Team rebranded as Essex Sight.

2014: Essex Sight Centre relocates to town centre.

2017: Eye Clinic Liaison Officer (ECLO) Honorary Contract application submitted.

2018: ECLO Honorary Contract awarded.

2019: Renewal of Honorary Contract to be reviewed.

2020: Essex Blind Charity centenary