

Project is claiming success

COLCHESTER'S Haven Project is just that – a haven for people with personality disorders.

And what was initially a two-year Government-funded scheme has turned into a major success story, helping scores of people on the road to a happier, more fulfilled life.

This year has seen the creation of a social inclusion unit, run by co-ordinator Inez Davies, at the Glen Road centre in Lexden.

So far, 35 clients – about a third of those on the organisation's books – have signed up for college course and voluntary work or decided to go into employment.

Two have even graduated from university.

Chief executive Heather Castillo said the group's first annual meeting turned into something of a celebration.

"The majority of these people did not have a good start in life," she said. "So it is quite an achievement really in their journey to recovery.

"They say the centre is the help they never had. Because of its stable environment and sense of family, they are able to take their first steps in the outside world."