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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW SOARING TO SUCCESS PROGRAMME IN ESSEX INSPIRES FUTURE AVIATORS AND ENGINEERS

The Air League in collaboration with Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and partners has provided young people from Southend, Rochford, Thurrock and a number of other towns across the county with an inspiring activity, that literally lets their ambitions soar. The Department for Transport (DfT) is supporting this summer's Soaring to Success programme which has seen young people fly in a glider in between 18 – 20 August. Soaring to Success, is a key part of the Air League's youth engagement programme that has a core focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and teaches young people about the career opportunities in the aviation and aerospace industries.

Soaring to Success is the UK's largest scale focused introduction to aviation and aerospace that provides opportunities for flying experiences that for some culminate in a five or 12 hour flying scholarship from the Air League.

Nick West, chief executive of the Air League, said: "The aviation and aerospace industries play a vital role in the UK's long-term economic success and young people are essential to this. The Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and [SAVS](#), are leading the way in connecting young people to this amazing opportunity and we are delighted to help inspire future aviation and aerospace professionals."

Cllr Anne Jones, cabinet member for children and learning at Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, said: “I am very excited to see this project take flight. Providing activities such as this will enable our young people to experience things they may never have considered, and also opens the door for further opportunities in the aviation industry, which plays a vital role in our local economy.

“This is just the start of this exciting project, with further workshops, gliding lessons and competitions to come over the next 10 months, so keep an eye out for further information as and when we promote it.

“The excellent partnership work that has led us to this emphasises of a collective ambition in south Essex to provide fun and engaging activities for our young people.”

The funding from the Department for Transport is part of the Reach for the Sky Programme, which aims to encourage people from all backgrounds into aviation careers.

About

The Air League is a sector leading aviation and aerospace charity focused on changing lives through aviation. Its core purpose is to inspire people from all backgrounds into aviation and to champion the British Aviation and Aerospace industries. Each year many hundreds of people from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit from Air League support to help them start a career, build self-esteem and well-being, make them feel valued and realise what they can achieve.

The Air League fosters interest in the whole field of aviation, aerospace and defence, particularly in developing young people and providing opportunities for the less advantaged.

The Air League supports the UK’s aviation and aerospace communities through the Leading Edge, Air League in Parliament, receptions, lectures and policy papers which articulate the advanced technologies and crucial industry skills which are vital to the economic success of the UK. The Air League is also the UK’s largest provider of flying scholarships and bursaries. Over the past decade, scholarships worth over £2 million have been allocated to young people across the UK. The Leading Edge is designed for members aged under 35 years and complements the Air League

Trust's formal scholarships and bursaries programmes by acting as a wider network for people interested in flying or wanting to pursue a career in aviation.

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