

Initial Outcome Proposal to the East Suffolk Community Partnership Board – FY2023/24

(Stage 1 Proposal)

1. Name of Project/activity that will deliver the outcome(s)

'Box Up' – expanding the 'Box Up' piloted developed and funded through the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership

2. Key outcome(s)

- Improved mental health and wellbeing
- Reduced social isolation and loneliness
- Increased levels of physical activity and participation in leisure/sports
- Increased activity participation with people on lower income

3. How has the need been identified?

A task and finish group was set up via the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes CP to come up with project ideas to address their priorities. The task and finish group undertook extensive research into innovative ways of addressing their priorities (which are focused on physical and mental health and wellbeing and isolation and loneliness) and the favoured option was the 'Box Up' pilot.

The aim of the project is to increase sport and leisure participation as this is known to support positive mental health and wellbeing. As most ball games require others to join in, it is hoped that using the equipment could also help reduce social isolation and loneliness.

It is well evidenced that being physically active contributes to better health and wellbeing outcomes, including reducing the risk of developing major illnesses and managing existing health conditions. There is also a wider value to society and the economy.

“Increasing activity levels is a win/win for individuals, society, for local and national government and the health and social care system. However, getting there can be complex and will take a concerted and joint effort between all partners to overcome the barriers preventing people to be active.”
(Local Government Association)

The Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership has allocated a total of £16,500 for two eight unit 'Box Up' boxes which will be located in Normanston Park and on the seafront (South Beach).

The Box Up project was specifically cited in the Rural Proofing Workshop held at the December 2023 Board meeting as an example of a project that could have a positive impact if rolled out to rural communities, hence the emphasis on rural communities in this bid.

4. Who will benefit from the outcomes?

The main beneficiaries from this project will be:

- Families visiting public spaces in three target Community Partnership locations who can use 'Box Up' to access sports and leisure equipment
- Individuals struggling with their mental health and wellbeing, loneliness and/or isolation
- People on low incomes who may not be able to afford sports/leisure equipment

5. How will the outcomes(s) be sustained after the funding period (if appropriate)?

Following the pilot, the CP areas covered may choose to fund additional locations or extensions of the offer in the current locations. There is the option to relocate the units if they are not well used.

6. Brief description of the project / activity that will deliver the outcome(s).

The purpose of BoxUp is to encourage people to get moving by offering an innovative and autonomous equipment loan system which is totally free to use, with the aim of promoting physical, sporting and leisure activities to the wider public, these boxes can be placed in the heart of green spaces or close to urban areas.



The proposal is that the pilot in the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes CP area would be extended (with one additional four unit box in this CP area), an eight box unit in another CP area and a further two four-box units placed in two other CP areas (interest has been expressed by the Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsular CP in being one of the two locations).

The Units cost £8,100 to rent per year for an 8 box unit and £4,050 for a 4 box unit. This includes a funding allocation for mounting the unit on a plinth (depending on the terrain in the chosen location) and covers use of the App, damage and theft cover (including replacement contents). An allocation of £100 per location has been included for bespoke stickers on the units.

The boxes are solar panel controlled and only Bluetooth is required to use the app. The boxes are made from sustainable material and guaranteed for 10 years. There is the option to buy the equipment after the 1-year rental period, with a price reduction based on the initial rental outlay. Any member of the public can sign up to the Box Up App using a form of I.D (decided by the CP) to loan equipment for a specified time (usually 3 hours). The App allows them to open the box and remove the equipment that they have selected. This could include things like a cricket bat and ball, tennis rackets and ball, Frisbee, football etc.

How to use Boxup?



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New users
register on the
BoxUp
application
available on [App
Store](#) and [Google
Play](#).



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Users select an
available locker
containing the
equipment from
the nearby BoxUp
station.



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The equipment is made
available free of charge to
the population in
accordance with the
general conditions of use.



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The activity ends by
taking a picture of the
material in the locker
through the
transparent glass.

The App used can record key information about usage, for example:

- each time someone loans the equipment (is it being utilised/is it popular?)
- how many hours it was loaned for
- what equipment was used (identify what is popular or not)
- age of the person (target certain age ranges)
- postcode area. (how far are they travelling to use them/target deprived areas)

The boxes can be relocated, or the equipment changed, if the data shows low usage in any given area. The boxes can be used for equipment other than leisure equipment, for example the location in Normanston Park in Lowestoft has waterways adjacent to it – and there has been interest at previous CP meetings regarding nature and wildlife projects.

East Suffolk Services (ESS) are contracted by East Suffolk Council and have been commissioned by the Council to oversee the project. As there will potentially be multiple Box Up locations across East Suffolk, ESS will be best placed to deal with contracts and service level agreements as the supplier of the BoxUp brand is based in Switzerland. Once locations are agreed for the three boxes, ESS will site them and erect the concrete plinth if required. The launch of the BoxUp project will include a pilot 'launch' in Lowestoft where 3 members of Catch22 will invite young people they work with to show them how to download the app and access the equipment.

The BoxUp units will initially be rented for a 1-year period which will give time to establish if the equipment is being utilised. The Lowestoft and Northern Parishes CP Task and Finish Group carried out research into similar concepts and established that there are currently no other providers using this facility/technology together. If the CP decides to purchase the boxes after the rental period, the initial outlay will be taken off the purchase value.

The boxes have an advertising facility on the side which would enable the promotion of CP Board and individual CP projects, as well as other promotional material.



BoxUp will be the first project in the UK and could reach national news. Currently boxes are based in Switzerland (2020) followed by 5 cities in Ireland: Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford. (July 2023). BoxUp will have a launch event comms via the Communities team Facebook Pages and other ESC social media sites.

FAQ's

Do you provide the equipment for the lockers? Is that sourced from a local company near us, or do you ship from Switzerland?

From a local UK company, each station will be delivered empty, and material will come separately from suppliers.

Could you please provide us some data on the most popular equipment across Switzerland and Ireland?

It's hard to tell, it will depend the place and the infrastructure in the area available to the public. Of course, putting ping-pong rackets when you have a table, football when you have a field, basketball when you have a net is always a good idea! If a locker is not really used over time, we are really keen to change/adapt the material if needed.

How do other parks clean the equipment after they've been used? Do they put wipes in the lockers?

Some have someone in charge to check lockers once a week other don't. We don't provide wipes.

How many items can you put in a box/locker? We were wondering if you could have 1 box with numerous equipment (i.e., ping pong & tennis & basketball etc).

Footlockers can have up to 98cm length and 60cm wide items, enough to fit a scooter + a skate. Normal locker is 60x50cm and can welcome up to 2 balls (one adult + one child size for example)

ID - We are still having difficulty with identification as we don't have citizen cards that are as commonly used as they are in Ireland and Switzerland. We think we would need a system that accepts lots of different ID's, would this be possible? For instance, could it accept: Passport, Driving Licence, Student Cards or a Library Card (that may not have a photo?)

We accept all types of ID document (including Passport, Driving Licence, Student Cards or a Library Card). If the IA scanner doesn't recognize the document, user can send it to our chat and our support team will manually register them. We just need to have at least the last name and the birthdate of the user on the document.

We want to use one of the boxes for personal equipment with a local nature organisation, would this be possible? How easy is it for you to set up our own box with our own equipment? How would this work on the app?

No problems we can arrange that. You just have to send us a picture or link of which material will be put in each locker and we will add it on the app.

Start and End dates: Orders would be placed late March 2024 with delivery and installation from June 2024.

7. Who is involved?

Who is involved in developing this outcome proposal?

The membership of the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Task and Finish group have led the development of the officer, supported by the two East Suffolk Council Communities Officers.

Who will deliver the project/activity?

East Suffolk Services Limited (working on behalf of the CP Board)

Name of East Suffolk Community Partnerships Board Member supporting the project:

8. Give information about match funding here:

Source of match funding:	Funding confirmed?	Amount (£)

Total project / activity cost	£24,800
Total of confirmed match funding	*
Total amount of Strategic funding required	£24,800

* the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes CP has already made an investment of £16,200 for two eight box units

9. Identify where the Community Partnership Board Strategic Budget will be spent:

Description of activity or item (by who and by when where appropriate)	Cost (£)
One eight box unit and two 4-box units in 4 different locations, including one in the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes CP area and one in the Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsular CP area	£24,800
Total	£24,800

10. How will the project / activity be monitored, and outcomes reported (including project risks)?

Usage reports will be considered at regular intervals by the relevant Community Partnership and then an overview provided of usage across the five different locations (3 in Lowestoft and 2 in more rural locations)

Community Partnership Board Member Declaration:

I confirm that I support this proposal:

Name:

Signature:

Date: 01/12/23

Lead Organisation Declaration:

I am authorised and eligible to sign and approve this proposal on behalf of the lead organisation and declare the information included in this proposal is true and accurate.

By signing below, the information you have supplied is being collected to allow us to process your application. By completing this form, you consent to East Suffolk using your information in this way.

I understand that in the assessment of this proposal the Council may share information contained within it, with other core funders for funding programmes we have applied too, relevant Council directorates and committees. If you do not provide your consent, we will not be able to process this proposal.

Your information will not be used for any other purpose unless we obtain your consent or unless permitted by law.

Due to corporate retention requirements for financial information, your information will be retained for 7 years. You can request that your information is deleted at any time.

Data will be processed and held securely and in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 (and any updates).

Further information about data protection and the full Communities Team privacy notice can be found on the East Suffolk Website <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Your-Council/Access-to-Information/Privacy-Notices/Communities-Privacy-Notice.pdf>

Please enter your name below only if you agree to be bound by the terms set out in this form. We will treat this as your signature of the form.

Full Name: Nicole Rickard

Signature:

Date:

Please submit this proposal to the Funding Team at grants@eastsuffolk.gov.uk Hard copies can be submitted and returned to: Funding Team, East Suffolk Council, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT.