

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CHAIR'S BRIEFING NOTE

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 13 JUNE 2022

HELD AT BT, THE HUBBLE ROOM, ADASTRAL PARK, IPSWICH, IP5 3RE

1 Introduction

All eight Community Partnerships are represented on the Community Partnership Board by their respective Chairs. The meeting agendas and papers can be viewed [HERE](#)

2. Vice Chair for 2022-23

Lisa Perkins will continue as Vice Chair of the Community Partnership Board. Lisa is Director of BT Adastral Park and Research Realisation.

3. Focus on Community Partnerships

The Board received the following update on activity of the eight Community Partnerships: [Community Partnerships Summary of Activity](#)

The Board then received a short presentation from the [Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and Villages Community Partnership](#) and the [Framlingham, Wickham Market and Villages Community Partnership](#)

4. Implementation of the Peer Challenge Action Plan

The Board received a verbal update from Nick Khan:

A major step in our development of the Community Partnerships was to invite a team from the Local Government Association to review our progress and make recommendations on what they observed. The review took place over three days 12 – 14 October 2021. At the conclusion of the review, the Team shared insights they had gained through the process and gave recommendations for East Suffolk Council and the Community Partnership Board to consider. Although the review was very positive, there were areas identified where we could do better.

The Community Partnership Delivery Group is delivering the Peer Review Action Plan to address these issues on behalf of the Board. The first phase is structured around three priorities:

1. Each Community Partnership needs to RESET after lockdown:
 - Review / refresh priorities
 - Produce a focussed Plan of what they will deliver
 - Set SMART outcomes
2. Each Community Partnership needs to equip itself to deliver its plan:
 - Build confidence to take a proactive problem-solving approach
 - Engage the right people to get the job done
 - Gain the necessary skills to perform the task well
3. We must all communicate what we do:
 - Between Community Partnerships to share best practice
 - Internally within East Suffolk Council to embed the process
 - Externally to promote the benefits of Community Partnerships to our residents

5. Annual Report 2021-22

Steve Gallant presented the [Annual Report 2021-22](#) which reviewed the progress that the Board and the eight individual CP's have made in achieving their original ambitions.

Covid restrictions and lockdown have had a profound effect on the development of CP's BUT we should recognise the outstanding achievement of all eight CP's and the Board by continuing to operate virtually, finding creative ways to engage online, and delivering tangible support to their communities during the pandemic.

With SALC support we have had successes in engaging Town and Parish Councils – but there is more to do, so we have recommissioned SALC for another 12 months.

We have enjoyed good support from our private sector partners on the Board, but not so much at CP level. The Board set up a small task group to develop proposals on how we can work more closely with our local businesses.

We recognise that we have not publicised the magnificent work that the Community Partnerships are doing enough and are taking steps to address this. Early progress includes:

- Completely refreshed website so that our residents can easily find out more about their Community Partnership.
- Publishing our first quarterly e-newsletter to promote communications between the CP's and partner organisations.

6: Report from the Tackling Inequalities Task Group

Chris Abraham introduced the [Report from the Tackling Inequalities Task Group](#) and the accompanying [Outcome Proposal](#) that included a request for £100,000 this financial year.

Nicole Rickard reported that the Task and Finish Group had used information provided by Suffolk County Council based on their Making Ends Meeting cost of living profile and information dashboard. As a result, four themes have been identified – see below – and it is key to identify any gaps in provision, boost funding available and collaborate with existing projects.

Money:

Key Challenges – Are people accessing the right benefits? Can people budget properly? Do they have access to a bank account? Are people able to afford the relevant ID documentation (e.g. passport or driving licence) they required to access bank accounts and other services? How do we identify and assist those people who were Just About Managing (JAMs)?

Food and Essentials:

Key Challenges - Some people have a lack of cooking facilities, cannot afford to purchase cookers and must rely on food made with hot water. Others are just unable to afford basic items such nutritious food, school uniform / interview clothes or basic items for personal

hygiene, such as a toothbrush. People may also lack the skills to cook with basic, nutritious ingredients. Some people in work are in desperate need of assistance from Food Banks but are not able to attend during their opening hours.

Energy and Fuel:

Key Challenges – The high cost of energy to heat homes and to cook, as well as the high cost of fuel, affecting all forms of transport, both personal and public.

Housing:

Key Challenges – Increased pressure on the home rental sector. More people falling into rent arrears and then facing potential eviction over time. Homes falling into disrepair as homeowners or landlords cannot afford to repair them, which will exacerbate other issues such as poor health

Nicole provided the Board with a list of 65 projects identified by the Task Group for them to consider and the top scoring projects were as follows:

E3 Network of 'Warm Rooms' for Winter 2022/23

F1 Food Network Coordinator

M3 Expand the Family Early Intervention Model

F3 Expand 'Your Local Pantry' across the District

M1 Develop a comprehensive ES Financial Inclusion Framework

E9 Handyperson to fit draught excluders, curtains, LED bulbs etc

F7 Expand 'Cooking on a Budget' classes

H5 Use data to identify people who need support asap

F11 and F15 Fund microwaves and slow cookers (and energy cards)

F5 'Comfort Food' project – a free hot meal and drink at a local café

M8 A fund to pay for people to access ID documents

M7/M12 MECC for key workers / workers to go where people are

F8 Food to Fork projects – community allotments/gardens/planters

E12 Access to clean, warm bedding

M5. Build on digital projects (libraries) to make kit and support from digital champions available

F14 Fund School Uniform, Prom and Interview clothes

The Board agreed that the outcome proposal attached to the report, requesting the allocation of £100,000 to the emerging East Suffolk Cost of Living programme was approved – and that a report on progress be received at the next Board meeting on 5 September 2022.

7: Outcomes from the Annual Forum 2022:

Luke Bennett gave a summary of the [Report on the Outcomes of "Bringing Ideas to Life" the Community Partnership Annual Forum 2022](#)

The Board agreed that the Forum had achieved high impact against its original purpose.

8: Update from the Mental Health Task and Finish Group

Nicole Rickard updated the Board on [Progress in Delivering the Well Minds East Suffolk Project](#) since the Stage 2 outcome proposal was approved in late March 2022

Luke Bennett, Partnerships Manager, East Suffolk Council.