



East Suffolk  
Community  
Partnerships  
*Bringing ideas to life*

Aldeburgh  
Leiston  
Saxmundham  
& villages

## **Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages Community Partnership**

### **Action Notes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 9 March 2022 at the Waterloo Centre, Leiston**

#### Core Membership:

ESC Councillors – Councillor Tony Cooper (Chairman), Councillor John Fisher, Councillor Russ Rainger

#### SCC Councillors –

Town and Parish Councils –Councillor Julian Cusack (Middleton Parish Council), Councillor Marianne Fellowes (Aldeburgh Town Council), Councillor Lesley Hill (Leiston Town Council), Caroline Rinder (Clerk, Leiston Town Council), Councillor Mary Schedrin (Friston Parish Council)

Partnership Organisations –Melissa Geater (Vice Chair, Avocet Academy), Sharon Cuthbert (Leiston Good Neighbour Scheme), Stuart Watson (Cyds Project)

Others present –Luke Bennett (Partnerships Manager), Zoe Botten (Communities Officer), Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer)

Item	Discussion
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Roz Barnett (Saxmundham Town Council), Di Eastman (IP17 Good Neighbour Scheme), Cllr T-J Haworth Culf (Suffolk County Council), and Cllr Paul Richards (Snape Parish Council).
2.	<b>Notes of the Meetings of the Community Partnership</b>  The action notes of the meetings held on 15 December 2021 were agreed.
3.	<b>Update from the Community Partnership Board held on 7 March 2022.</b>

	<p>Luke Bennett (LB) updated the meeting on the most recent board meeting and highlighted the following points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zoe Botten (ZB) gave a presentation on the work of this partnership and the work that had been going on in this area, particularly around partnership working and mental health.</li> <li>• The Boards mental health task and finish group updated the meeting.</li> <li>• The Boards tackling inequality task and finish group had met and would be reporting to the Board in June. This group would also cover fuel poverty issues.</li> <li>• Community transport was being expanded into this area</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION –</b> ZB and LB to email group copy of CP presentation and Board mental health report.</p> <p>The Community Partnership raised the following points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whether a mental health first aid course could be run through the Community Partnerships, as this was becoming an increasing concern</li> <li>• Whether this Partnerships priorities should also include fuel poverty and the cost of living, and how the Partnership would be able to take advantage of ‘Levelling Up’ funding.</li> <li>• LB informed the Partnership that this was a Board priority as it was an issue in every area and encouraged this Partnership to feed ideas on this area to the Board through the Chairman or Cllr Rainger.</li> <li>• Information on support that was available was being collated to be distributed to communities and would be shared with the group.</li> <li>• The Partnership considered what could be done in the short term to tackle the issue of the cost of living and asked that individuals were identified and signposted to organisations that offered help.</li> <li>• ZB confirmed that the communities team did signpost people to assistance available via Citizens Advice and food banks, as did other organisations in the Community Partnership.</li> <li>• The impact of food and fuel poverty on mental health should be considered by the Partnership as part of the mental health priority.</li> <li>• The Partnership raised the importance of local businesses such as hairdressers, shops and pubs in distributing information, leaflets or posters should also be delivered here to ensure greater reach</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION –</b> LB to feedback the Partnerships points on fuel and food poverty to the Board.</p> <p><b>ACTION –</b> ZB and LB to arrange for leaflet on support available to be distributed to CP members and communities, CP members to distribute to their networks.</p>
4.	<p><b>Applications for funding</b></p> <p><u>Activ Lives</u></p>

	<p>A task group had met to provide feedback on this project. The Partnership raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How sustainable the project would be going forward once the CP funding had ended</li> <li>• More work needed to be done on rural proofing</li> <li>• The project seemed to be very reliant on volunteers, and there were issues with volunteer availability generally in other groups.</li> <li>• The mapping exercise was not as complete as it could be, and that other community organisations had not been consulted to see what structures were already in place and where there could be partnership working</li> <li>• More groundwork was needed to ascertain community need</li> <li>• Project needed to look at adding value to existing services rather than repeating existing provision.</li> <li>• Transport to activities needed to be considered (and volunteers to run transport solutions)</li> </ul> <p>The Partnership agreed that they would like to support a project which would work more closely with existing services to add value and expand the reach of current projects.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> – ZB to feedback on project and meet with working group on project going forward.</p>
5.	<p><b>Consideration of the Community Partnership's Projects</b></p> <p><u>Talking Benches</u>  Eleven benches had been requested, and an additional £2800 would be required in addition to the £1500 already allocated.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> – The Community Partnership agreed to provide an additional £2800 of funding to provide eleven talking benches</p> <p><u>Healthy Movers</u>  ZB updated the partnership on the project. A minimum of ten locations would be needed and if the minimum number of locations could not be found within this area the project would be expanded to Framlingham.</p> <p>Project did cover all the priorities and would engage both parents and children. As the project trained teachers it could be run over a number of years and reach more children.</p> <p>ZB confirmed that the cost to the Partnership would be a maximum of £5000, and an additional £8000 of funding would be received from Suffolk County Council.</p>

	<p><b>ACTION –</b> The Community Partnership agreed to provide £5000 of funding to the Health Movers project.</p>
6.	<p><b>Update on CP Projects</b></p> <p><u>Leiston Early Minds Project</u></p> <p>Mel Geater (MG) explained that the project targeted a particular year group where 60-70% of the children were identified as vulnerable and where staff had commented that they had never before seen this level of mental health need. The project was to help with a mental health crisis in this year group.</p> <p>The first sessions for staff had happened in February, and all teachers and support staff were able to attend.</p> <p>A document covering the initial feedback had been shared with the Partnership. Staff had commented that following the sessions with Mind, the language around mental health from children had changed and they were using language rather than action to get support. Number of behavioural issues had also dropped.</p> <p>The next step would be to expand the help to families as children were becoming increasingly aware of problems within their families. This session would be purposefully held in person to help break the stigma around mental health.</p> <p>It was clear from this project that there was a need to be able to signpost parents to mental health support, and that children's mental health could not be considered in isolation.</p> <p>MG had been discussing the project with other schools and encouraging them to consider repeating the project.</p> <p>There was a whole school package available for £8000 which embedded some preventative skills for managing mental health as part of the curriculum. There was discussion about whether it would be preferable to repeat this project in a number of other schools or whether to run the one project in Leiston.</p> <p>The Partnership suggested that £10,000 was ringfenced so that the project could be repeated in other areas, to help address the crisis in child, family and teacher mental health. The project would be revisited next year to look at a whole school preventative approach.</p> <p>The project would also be highlighted to the Community Partnership Board.</p>

	<p><b>ACTION –</b> The Community Partnership agreed to ringfence £10,000 to enable the early minds project to be repeated in other schools. ZB and MG would contact other schools who were interested in running the project.</p> <p><u>Dental Health Project</u></p> <p>ZB suggested a project in high schools in partnership with the County Council to focus on dental health and hygiene. It was also suggested that the local Co-Op be contacted and asked to donate toothbrushes and toothpaste.</p> <p>There was a discussion about community dentist provisions. Dentaaid did visit the area, but community dentist provision at Aldeburgh hospital had stopped during the pandemic.</p> <p><b>ACTION –</b> The Community Partnership agreed to provide £1000 to the dental health project.</p>
7.	<p><b>Core membership</b></p> <p>The Partnership considered their membership.</p> <p><b>ACTION –</b> ZB to contact the Citizens Advice Bureau with regards to attending future meetings.</p>
8.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>The Partnerships three priorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and enable everyone to be more physically active and healthy.</li> <li>• Reduce social isolation and loneliness, particularly carers, older people and men over 40</li> <li>• Education, opportunities, and aspirations.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION -</b> A task group would be set up for each priority to look at it in more detail and see what more could be done around the priority in this area.</p>
9.	<p><b>Date of the next meeting</b></p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting would be held on the 11 May 2022.</p> <p>Friston Village Hall was suggested as the next meeting venue and would be confirmed.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note – the date of the next meeting was changed to 18 May 2022.</i></p>

The meeting concluded at 5.01 pm