

## COUNCIL

Tuesday 17 July 2018

### **CABINET MEMBERS' REPORT AND OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT TO COUNCIL (CL 20/18)**

#### **Cabinet Members' Report to Council**

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of the Council
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#### **Local Government Association – Annual Conference - 3-5 July 2018**

There were two sides to this year's Local Government Association conference, and I don't mean political sides.... I'm referring to the conference itself, and then the East Suffolk presence at the LGA conference. The Local Government Association conference is the annual conference for local councils, and is attended by delegates from across the country.

Although the conference itself didn't have quite the same range of high profile speakers as previous years, there were several key messages from Ministers, on important topics.

The Conference welcome and opening address was provided by the Vice Chairman, Cllr Nick Forbes, as the Chairman - Lord Porter - had only recently has a triple heart bypass. However, Lord Porter was present, and he was as irrepressible as he always is, and - against doctors advice - he promptly provided an ad hoc introduction to Cllr Forbes, which was very warmly received by conference.

#### Minister for Homes, Communities and Local Government

James Brokenshire MP, who has only recently taken on the role of Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, emphasised his admiration for the work that local government does. This is rooted in his family history, as his father was Chief Executive of a London Borough Council for many years, and other family members had been councillors.

The key points of his speech were:

**Finances:** 2020 will be a big year given the spending review, and the results of the Fairer Funding Review. This will include the potential for increasing Business Rates retention to 75%.

**Digital transformation:** Reference was made to how councils need to embrace smarter use of technology, although Rishi Sunak MP would formally announce the 'Digital Declaration' the following day.

**Council reform:** The Minister confirmed that he has no intention of forcing local government to re-organise. He wants to see more 'best practice' shared, and is keen to support councils who are taking

the initiative themselves. In the summer a new 'Civil Society Strategy' will be launched, but the Minister was a little coy about its detailed contents. However, he also commented that further 'Devolution' would be the basis for "...a shift in power from Government to Communities..".

**Housing:** The need to "...fix the broken housing market.." was a top priority for Government, and there was a need to focus on affordable homes. He commented that there would need to be a reform of planning processes to speed up the delivery of homes. As part of this it is intended that Homes England will enter into new, longer term partnerships, with Housing Associations.

**Brexit:** The Minister announced that a 'Delivery Board' was going to be set up to consider the impact of Brexit on the local government sector

Finally, during his speech the Minister referred to the remarkable way that Councils had responded to the continuing challenges of events such as the Grenfell fire. He then referred to his desire to build '..strong, vibrant, resilient, communities..' although recognising that strong local leadership is critical to achieving this. He then concluded saying that he wanted to see "...renewal and renaissance" in local government, commenting that "...I'm on your side, I'm with you..!".

### Minister for Exiting the European Union

Suella Braverman MP gave a robust defence of the progress made by Government so far on Brexit, re-stating the commitment to delivering what was required to leave the EU.

### Minister for Local Government

Rishi Sunak MP, Minister for Local Government, focused on the challenge of 'Digital', and announced 'The Digital Declaration'. This would represent a commitment from local and central government to work together, not only to increase the pace of digitisation of services, but also to do so as efficiently and collaboratively as possible.

A fund of £7.5m will be made available to support this work, as well as a new 'Digital Team' to help provide the skills and support necessary to ensure success.

### Shadow Secretary of State for Education

Angela Rayner, the Shadow Secretary of State for Education, spoke passionately about social mobility and education. Referring to her own experience as someone who left school at 16, and who was a single mum at an early age, she spoke of the importance of educational opportunities at all stages in life, and the need to allow everyone to achieve their potential.

Apart from these key politicians, other speakers included Andy Burnham [ Mayor of Manchester], Dame Louise Casey, Sir David Behan, Lord Best, and many more. These speakers, and other, covered a very wide range of topics, from 'women's suffrage' to 'electric vehicles', but the main recurring themes at the conference, in both the formal sessions and at the dinner tables, were Housing, Health, Commercialisation, and the Financial challenges ahead. The need to fund social care, in particular, was a concern. In one session it was claimed that "...social care is just one of 136 services, yet it consumes 54% of funds, and costs £500m more than the entire council tax receipt for local government". Other meetings considered more innovative options, such as tourist taxes, or the financial benefit of structural reform.

In conclusion, this was another significant conference, and although there were no major policy announcements, or commitments to the local government sector, there were several important messages from Government, and others.

Also, this year, for the first time, we had a stand at the conference, as East Suffolk. This is the second aspect to the conference, which I mentioned earlier. The stand showcased our plans to create a new Council for east Suffolk. The purpose was to share our journey since 2008, which has led to our sector leading transformation in working towards creating a new single Council for east Suffolk from April 2019. The stand and our story generated a huge amount of interest and created a real buzz within the conference, which included the following:

- 120 recorded visitors from 83 different organisations including 50 councils
- 14,000 Twitter impressions
- Many high profile visitors welcomed, including the Communities Minister Rishi Sunak MP, Lord Porter the Chairman of the LGA, and Heather Jameson the Editor of the Municipal Journal (MJ)
- The new Council prospectus document was launched, which explains how the creation of a new Council will benefit our different stakeholders



The Leader of Waveney District Council, Cllr Mark Bee, and I, would also like to express our sincere thanks to Adnams, Stokes Sauces and Munchy Seeds, for their kind donations to the east Suffolk 'goody bags'. The 'goody bags' were an innovative way of showcasing the local produce east Suffolk has to offer and nicely complimented the new Council prospectus document, which was being handed out during the conference.



More information about the impact our stand had at the conference is summarised in the attached infographic.

Our attendance at conference was complimented by a wider communication plan, which included:

- A copy of the new single Council prospectus document was sent to all east Suffolk Cllrs along with the Grant Thornton Case Study and how to create a single Council roadmap PDF
- Email mailshot was sent to 346 stakeholders, which included all town/parish Councils, local businesses and community groups, as well as leading local, regional and national sector figures. The mailshot included the following:
  - East Suffolk Prospectus - <https://www.paperturn-view.com/?pid=Mjk29549&v=1.1>

- Leaders & CEO film - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pr16YtFy97s&t=6s>
- Grant Thornton Case Study and how to create a single Council roadmap
- Daily social media posts across Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn

I would also like to thank the Officers that contributed to the success of the conference.

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## Draft Local Plan Review

The First Draft of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan was considered by Cabinet on 10th July and will be open for public consultation between **20<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018**. It must be stressed, very firmly, that this is a **consultation** exercise and this is **not** the final document. There are many planning hoops to go through before it can replace our current Local Plan in the early summer of 2019. It is, therefore, vital that this document receives full and thorough scrutiny by all members, Town and Parish Councils, developers and the general public. We do need to have a new set of management policies to reflect the changes to planning and to meet the new challenges facing us. The whole document runs to some 365 pages. The first 156 pages contain the policies and the remainder show the proposals for Area Specific Strategies. Naturally, people will tend to concentrate their comments on the latter part of the document (i.e. the proposals for their specific locality) at the expense of the development management policies. We will try to encourage comments on the full document and not cherry pick particular pieces.

All Town/Parish Councils are encouraged to attend a series of consultation opportunities that have been arranged:

1. Briefing Sessions Wednesday 18 July at East Suffolk House

- 17.30 – 18.30 - Member briefing
- 19.00-20.00 – T&PC briefing

2. Drop in Sessions

These are aimed at anyone with an interest in our proposal.

The first of these is at East Suffolk House at 16.00 to 19.30 on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August. Others have been arranged for different venues and will be widely publicised.

2. A series of one hour One – to- One Sessions

There will be the opportunity for T&PCs to have a session with an officer from the team. Thirteen dates between 25<sup>th</sup> July and 30<sup>th</sup> August will be available. In previous exercises this type of direct face-to-face contact has been greatly welcomed and has proved to be very valuable in clearing the air and improving understanding on both sides. I hope that every slot will be taken up!

Details of all the opportunities have now been sent to all T&PCs.

## Suffolk Design

Design is much more than the shape of a building and the materials used in its construction. It is much more than the enigmatic discussions we hear between architects. It is real, and it has a critical role in creating successful vibrant communities rather than just places to live. We need to embrace the opportunities that good design brings with it. Suffolk local authorities are exploring how good design can support the way our communities will function and provide the widest range of social and

economic benefit to all. The initiative called “**Suffolk Design**” is intended to be highly interactive, inspirational and easy to use. It will focus on:

- green spaces and the designed landscape,
- waterways and the coast,
- settlements, villages and towns,
- housing of all scales and types, public transport and major infrastructure to include pavements, lanes, roads and highways,
- public buildings.

The initiative was formally launched on 9<sup>th</sup> July. East Suffolk is fully supportive of this initiative and welcomes the opportunities offered. To kick it off, there is a programme of workshops for officers and members. The first of these was held East Suffolk House on 10 July. The emphasis was on how design could influence planning. Our policy on Design Quality is contained in the new draft Local Plan in Policy SCLP11.1.

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#### **Disabled Facilities Grant performance**

The Council’s Disabled Facilities Grant function is delivered for Suffolk by Orbit Home Improvement Agency. Performance over the last two years has been poor but recent figures show a considerable improvement.

*Table showing end of year figures with last year’s figures for comparison*

<b>Total value of DFG Approved Cases (SCDC)</b>	<b>Total number of DFG approvals</b>
<b>17/18 = £635,285.09</b>	<b>123</b>
16/17 = £426,851.43	72
<b>Total value of DFG Completed Cases (SCDC)</b>	<b>Total number of DFG completions</b>
<b>17/18 = £665,081.61</b>	<b>125</b>
16/17 = £312,701.46	47

There is a new manager in place and Orbit is starting to drive forward some of the other ambitions for the agency which are outside of adaptations – help with re-housing, right sizing, charitable support, income maximisation etc.

There is recognition that DFG allocations are now at a level where they may well exceed the need for traditional adaptations. Work has commenced with Ipswich Hospital and the Ipswich and East Clinical Commissioning Group on an out of hospital scheme. The proposal is to utilise this money to ease strains elsewhere in the system particularly helping patients who’s discharge from hospital is delayed due to issues

with their home. This will follow the model used by Warm Homes Healthy People. More information will follow on this in due course.

### **Backlog cases reallocated from the contractor to be delivered through SCC procured Occupational Therapy services – Current status**

The cases that were taken away from the contractor in August to allow them to demonstrate they could deliver against the business as usual demand, have all now been processed in house. There were in total 118 cases across East Suffolk, these were contacted to confirm their requirements and thereafter only 28 were passed over to Suffolk Coastal. Of these only 18 progressed through to grant applications (7 were closed due to failing the means test and 3 for other reasons). The works on the 18 applications will be completed over the next few months.

### **Warm Homes Healthy People**

This Suffolk wide scheme administered from SCDC supported vulnerable households in the following ways:

266 home energy surveys

30 fully funded boiler replacements

£7200 in emergency fuel payments

Hospital projects to deliver Out of Hospital solutions are being developed and the projects Health Liaison Manager now has honorary contracts in each of the three Suffolk hospitals which facilitate access to all areas and staff.

The Warm Homes Fund for First time Central Heating has launched and funding of £4.3M has been secured for three years. Fuel poor residents will have the opportunity to apply for a more affordable heating option of either gas central heating if mains gas is available, oil central heating or air source heat pump (for suitable properties). The first systems were installed in March 2018.

### **Empty Property update**

The numbers of empty properties go up and down on a daily basis but a count is taken every year in October that can be used as an annual snapshot of the situation. In October 2018 the number of long term empty properties, those empty more than 6 months, was 559, this is nearly 200 less than it had been in 2012 when the Council first started actively reviewing the numbers.

The majority of the 559 properties will be empty while they are being renovated, or awaiting a sale or probate following the death of the owner but a number will be empty for other reasons and will stand little chance of being brought back into use without the Council's intervention. The owners of such properties can be difficult to locate and when they are found may be unwilling to work with the Council to find a way forward. Sustained efforts by the team have however seen three of these owners start to engage with the Council and actively participate in finding a long term solution for the future of their homes. It is hoped that the next few months will see the properties brought to the market where they can be sold, renovated and re-occupied. The numbers are small but the impact can be significant and rewarding for all involved.

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Carol Poulter, Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Green Environment
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## Solar Together Suffolk

Solar Together Suffolk is a pioneering bulk-buying project, supported by all of the councils in Suffolk through the Greenest County and Suffolk Climate Change Partnerships. The project aims to bring affordable solar power to Suffolk and boost the county's renewable energy.

The project has been launched at a time when many residents are interested in exploring solar energy but may have questions and would welcome advice and information from a trustworthy installer when making a decision on whether to invest. As well reliable advice, experience elsewhere in the country has also shown that savings of 25-30% on the cost of solar panel installations can be achieved through a bulk-buying arrangement.

Suffolk residents, small businesses, eligible schools and community groups can all benefit from the scheme which follows smaller successful initiatives in Norfolk and London. The scheme offers an attractive and easy opportunity to invest in renewable technology from a trusted provider.

After a turbulent few years in the solar market, the costs of installation and returns are again beginning to make solar PV an attractive investment for households interested in generating their own renewable energy. Despite the reduced Feed in Tariffs, rising retail electricity prices and lower prices for solar panels are making solar power a more attractive offer again for the UK domestic market. Typically, domestic users can expect their investment in solar panels to be repaid within 10 years.

### How does the scheme work?

- Homeowners, schools, small businesses and community groups have until 21 August to register their interest for free and without obligation at [www.solartogethersuffolk.co.uk](http://www.solartogethersuffolk.co.uk)
- On 22 August pre-vetted UK solar PV suppliers participate in an auction. A large bulk order means they can pass on better savings to registered users.
- From 10 September registered users will receive a personalised offer from the winning supplier.
- 19 October is the deadline to make a decision.
- After accepting an offer, a technical survey will be arranged after which an installation date will be confirmed.
- Telephone and email support is available throughout the whole process and information sessions will allow registered users to make an informed decision in a safe and hassle-free environment.

For further information and registration visit the website: [www.solartogethersuffolk.co.uk](http://www.solartogethersuffolk.co.uk)

The scheme is being publicised widely throughout Suffolk with a mail out to over 150,000 households in Suffolk to promote the scheme.



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### Licensing

The draft revisions of the Council's adopted Licensing Act Statement of Policy and Gambling Act Statement of Principles, and a new policy relating to the regulation of Sex Establishments will have been presented to the Licensing and Health Committee on Monday 16 July and an 8 week consultation synchronised with Waveney District Council will commence on 23 July 2018.

The Licensing and Health Committee will have been asked to consider approving be the introduction of a mandatory training module for all existing licenced drivers, existing private hire operators and new applicants for either category of licence, to initially cover safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and child sexual exploitation; allowing for the course content to change over the years, subject to Government guidance.

In recent years there has been greater awareness about the issue of child sexual exploitation and safeguarding adults at risk of abuse. High profile media coverage of specific cases in the North of England highlighted failures within social services and other public sector bodies. These failures often allowed the abuse of vulnerable children to carry on without being detected or acted upon.

In the wake of such incidents and as a result of the attention that grooming and other forms of exploitation is now receiving, the Government has put an additional focus on combating child sexual exploitation. One area of concern identified in relation to the Rotherham Borough Council investigation was whether or not the Council had made sufficient efforts to ensure that only 'fit and proper' persons were permitted to hold a taxi or private hire licence.

It will have been proposed to the Committee that the compulsory training will be offered as an online module; hosted by the East Suffolk web-site. This would be free of charge to the existing trade if they complete the module within a year; new applicants would pay for the training as part of the application procedure.

I will be able to update Councillors on the Licensing and Health Committee's decisions at Full Council.

<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor T J Haworth-Culf, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customers, Communities and Leisure
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### **Deben Leisure Centre re-development**

Following its successful £3.5m refurbishment, the Deben Leisure Centre recently re-opened to the public. This is a major East Suffolk Business Plan project completed.

To support this project, there was a Communications Strategy and Action Plan, which ensured that all stakeholders were identified, but also ensured they received timely updates on the project. This included using different communication methods and channels, such as press releases, newsletters etc.

Due to the importance of the project, the communications plan was also supported by a comprehensive digital communications drive to not only raise awareness of the re-opening but to also support efforts by our leisure centre partner to generate memberships.

This is the first time that Suffolk Coastal has undertaken such a digital communications drive, and we have worked with Rendlesham based, Bruizer film, to make a range of digital content to enable a comprehensive digital communications campaign. Our leisure partners Pulse and Places for People contributed to the cost the filming.

I am pleased to confirm this approach has been successful. The cost of the paid Facebook campaign has totalled **£125.39** and has achieved over **20,000** views during the campaign duration. The Facebook campaign reach was targeted on Woodbridge and surrounding areas. The Leisure Centre Project Team have confirmed that memberships are also ahead of schedule

## Outside Bodies Representatives' Report to Council

Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	
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### Domestic Homicide reviews (DHR)

The CSP Chairman (Suffolk Coastal), supported by the Community Officer (with community safety specialism), takes a lead on the Suffolk Coastal Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR's), regarding potential homicides that occur within the relevant district. Suffolk Coastal has had two such occurrences in the last three years, with the first review completed and signed off by the Home Office in 2016, which was held up as good practise. The current review is with regard to a homicide in Felixstowe in 2016. After a number of delays, the perpetrator was recently found guilty by the courts of manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility and further judgement is awaited regarding terms of the sentence. The CSP partners have decided to conduct a learning review relating to a further death in Suffolk Coastal, to establish the lessons learnt, albeit this death is not classified as a domestic homicide. East Suffolk is now leading on its third DHR review in as many years. The Suffolk Countywide DHR protocol was recently updated to reflect good practise across East and West Suffolk based on their practical experience of DHR's. Waveney has also completed its first review.

Although the Home Office introduced new guidance to CSPs last year requiring them to also review suicides in the same way as a DHR, where there is a history of domestic abuse suspected, we have fortunately not had such an incident in East Suffolk to review to date.

### CSP Action Plan 2017-20

It remains a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to work in partnership with the Police and partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. We achieve this through the Community Safety

Partnership (CSP), where 'responsible partners' namely the Local Authority, Fire and Rescue Service, Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation, Health and the Police work collaboratively. Although Suffolk Coastal and Waveney still lead their own sovereign CSPs at this time, they do hold joint meetings and work very closely together to promote community safety across East Suffolk. It is recognised that East Suffolk Communities Team take a leading role within the East Suffolk CSPs.

The CSP continue to deliver a number of key projects to address ASB and raise community awareness to safeguard communities against crime and to ensure personal safety. This outcome was supported in 2017/18 with the partnership delivering key projects across East Suffolk including:

- **Anti-Social Behaviour place-based Partnership meetings** have continued in 2017-18 in Felixstowe, Woodbridge (includes Kesgrave) and Leiston. These meetings are held monthly and are jointly chaired by the Police and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. The first part of the meeting - Tier 1, is attended by all partners and local councillors and considers all ASB affecting the area and other community issues raised by the local councillors. The second part of the meeting - Tier 2, is governed by a strict confidentiality agreement and SLA and is attended by the ASB partners. Discussions focus on individuals causing concern and may result in a partnership approach to address an issue.
- **Suffolk Family Focus** - The team continue to work with some of the most chaotic families in the district as part of the Government's Troubled Families initiative. Nineteen troubled families were supported and 'signed off' in 2017-18.
- **PREVENT and Workshops to Raise the Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)** - a series of workshops to raise awareness of the Prevent Radicalisation strategy were delivered by the East Suffolk Communities Team to frontline staff across both local authorities and this year included taxi drivers, Landlords and publicans. The WRAP training informs attendees how to identify those who may be vulnerable to terrorism and radicalisation; how the process works to prevent them becoming involved in or supporting terrorism; and how to report individuals who may cause concern. Approximately 400 frontline staff and Councillors have attended this workshop and the programme continues in 2018-19.
- **Operation Camouflage** - held at Rock Barracks over five days and delivered in partnership with the local armed forces, the programme provided challenging activities including confidence building and social skill development to over 72 young people last year. Some of the young people attending were from the Suffolk Family Focus families, supported by the East Suffolk Communities Team Anti Social Behaviour officer and the Family Intervention officer.
- **Crucial Crew** - again provided learning and advice to nearly 900 year 6 pupils, to raise personal safety awareness. The programme was supported again last year by the local Rotary Clubs. The pupils were instructed on hot topics including road safety, internet safety and the consequences of committing ASB.
- **Crucial Crew Plus** - The project was introduced in 2017 for years 9, 10 and 11 at Alde Valley High School in Leiston, to address and highlight issues affecting young people within the community. Scenarios included self harm, cybercrime, sex education, substance misuse, grooming, healthy relationships, sexting and realities of crime, consent, gangs and self esteem. Years 7 & 8 were also included at the second workshop. Positive feedback was received from children and the attending agencies. Some of the intelligence gathered from

the young people resulted in the provision of support to one family, provided by the Police Gangs Unit.

- **Domestic Abuse (DA)** –. Funding has been secured for Countywide Satellite accommodation and specialist support for DA victims and 3 places have already been secured in Suffolk Coastal.

### Going Forward 2018-19

Some of the previous successful projects will be repeated in 2018-19, together with additional actions identified by the CSP to address the new key priorities across East Suffolk and in support of the police crime plan. Some of this activity will include:

- **Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's)** - Under the new Anti-social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014, a review started late 2017-18 with regard to existing Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs). The review and consultation is being undertaken with each of the effected Town and Parish Councils to consider whether there is sufficient evidence to justify continuing with the new (PSPO's) which automatically replaced DPPO's 20 October 2017. If there is no justification and evidence for retaining the PSPO's, some may not be retained going forward as the Police have alternative and preferred acts that they can use more effectively and in a more timely manner including Dispersal Orders and Community Protection Notices.
- **County Lines** - Class 'A' Drug dealing related gang activity remains a key threat for Suffolk. The supply of class A drugs, from urban hubs to county hubs using mobile phones as *deal lines* are in existence in our Towns. These gangs pose a significant threat to vulnerable adults and children upon whom they rely to conduct and or facilitate this criminality. These gangs can impose high levels of violence, including the use of weapons and firearms to intimidate and control members of the group and associated victims. The East CSP's held a successful joint workshop with partners in July 2018 to discuss related issues and concerns to inform the development of a local Action Plan to raise awareness and to keep our communities safe from this threat.
- **Campaign support** - to promote key community safety messages at local and national level in terms of drink and drug misuse; promote the address of ASB incidents through the delivery of diversionary activities for young people and raising awareness of ASB through education and training. Road safety initiatives will be promoted to support the reduction of speeding and drink driving; and to address emerging issues including youth and gang violence, modern day slavery, radicalisation and domestic abuse.
- **Crucial Crew Plus** – Building on the positive pilot project delivered at Alde Valley High School, discussions are underway to design and deliver a similar event in Saxmundham in the winter 2018, possibly followed by a similar event at the Felixstowe high school.
- **Rough sleepers** – This is an ongoing issue, which is being experienced on an increasing level nationally, with some vulnerable people rough sleeping in some of our Suffolk Coastal towns namely Felixstowe and Woodbridge. Further work to be conducted with communities and partners to address this issue and support those who require and will accept the support offered.

Suffolk County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee	
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### Health and Wellbeing Priorities

Health services in Suffolk are commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Public Health Suffolk. NHS England commissions the contracts for GPs, pharmacists, and dentists, and supports local health services. CCGs plan and pay for local services such as hospitals and ambulance services.

Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, have defined four priorities:

1. Every child has the best start in life.
2. Improving independent life for people with physical and learning difficulties.
3. Older people in Suffolk have a good quality of life.
4. People in Suffolk have the opportunity to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Research shows that approximately 30% of attendances at GP surgeries relate to a non- medical or non-clinical underlying issue, e.g.; financial worry, loneliness etc. Social prescribing allows GP's, nurses, other primary care professionals to refer, or link, people to a range of local, non-clinical services. Social prescribing is designed to support people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs, and schemes are focussed on improving mental health and physical well-being.

### Suffolk Lives Matter

Each year, around 60 people in Suffolk take their own lives. Public Health Suffolk leads a new joint plan bringing together organisations from the voluntary and charity sector, CCGs, local councils, police, HealthWatch Suffolk, coroner's office and mental health services, all working towards reducing suicide.

### Homecare Arrangements

The County Council's Supporting Lives Connecting Communities strategy aims to enable people to remain at home, out of hospital or residential care, for as long as possible, and to this end Adult and Community Services (ACS) are working with NHS partners to develop community care and support services that will enable them to do this.

With an ageing and increasingly frail population Suffolk has an increasing demand for Home Care. Other vulnerable adults such as people with a learning difficulty or a physical disability will require personal care in their home also, to maintain an independent lifestyle.

Staffing of the Care sector is supported in a number of ways; for example, working with schools to promote apprenticeships in the sector, and maintenance of the Care Careers Suffolk website. Also developing a Recruitment Hub which will support providers through the recruitment process.

*A recommendation from the Health Scrutiny Committee is: to **encourage District and Borough Councillors to include "homes for life" in Local Plans.***

### Emotional Wellbeing of Children and Young People

The Needs Assessments published in February 2016, found that 7% of children and young people in Suffolk had serious emotional and behavioural difficulties that significantly impacted on their functioning. The Suffolk Family Focus Psychology Service takes a 'whole family' approach to promote the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people.

## Discharge of Patients

Delays in discharging patients from hospital reduces the number of beds available and can also have a significant adverse effect on elderly patients.

NHS England defines a patient as ready for discharge when:

- a. A clinical decision has been made that the patient is ready AND
- b. A multidisciplinary team decision has been made that the patient is ready AND
- c. The patient is safe to discharge/ transfer

The main reasons for delays experienced by the operational groups are;

**Capacity in the market to pick up care packages** – these delays are primarily related to home care provision and are affected by the difficulties in sourcing home care in some areas of the County.

**Patient choice** – whilst it is important that patients and families are fully involved in their care, delays can occur whilst this happens.

**Complex patients** – those patients requiring specialised input either in their own home or at a specialist centre such as the Coleman Centre in Norwich, where availability can be an issue

**Delay to Assess the patient** – Once a patient is ready for transfer/ discharge there can be a delay of a few days for homes/ agencies to assess the patient before they agree costs or whether they are appropriate to take the patient.

The discharge to access model (D2A) aims to ensure safe, effective discharge to the most independent living arrangements that are possible, and importantly ensures people have clear routes to reablement and rehabilitation before any long term care needs are assessed. The East Suffolk Alliance D2A model has four pathways:

**Pathway zero:** the individual is ready to return to their usual place of residence with their usual support or no support.

**Pathway one:** the individual's needs can be met at home with short term reablement to regain independence or reduce the level of ongoing care needed.

**Pathway two:** the individual needs more intense, short term reablement in a bed-based community service before they can return to their usual place of residence.

**Pathway three:** the individual cannot return home and needs more extensive support out of the acute setting, in order to assess their long-term ability to regain independence or their need for more ongoing support.

The Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INT) bring health and social care services together to provide a single coordinated care response in the community.

The Local Government Association recently published a report on DtoC in East Suffolk:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/tackling-delayed-transfers-care-ipswich-and-east-suffolk>

System partners would appreciate support in promoting the message that our acute hospitals should be for our sickest patients, and that hospital isn't always the best place to be.

## Suffolk & North East Essex STP

### Ipswich & Colchester Hospital Merger

The merger of Ipswich & Colchester Hospitals was completed at the beginning of July, creating the biggest NHS trust in East Anglia employing nearly 10,000 staff. The East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust will manage community services in east Suffolk as well as Colchester and Ipswich hospitals. An outline of how services will work together can be seen at: [www.candohealthandcare.org/](http://www.candohealthandcare.org/)

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for the Suffolk and North East Essex STP continues to keep an oversight of the merger.

Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub-Committee	
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Over the course of the last few meetings, the Sub-Committee has conducted an in-depth examination of the way in which the County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority and statutory consultee on planning applications for major developments) and the Suffolk Local Planning Authorities are working together to implement SuDS legislation and how effective SuDS programmes are.

The Sub-Committee have talked to the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, the Internal Drainage Board and County Highways teams, all of whom have a role to play in managing SuDs (eg EA deals with ground water protection issues, Anglian Water - Sewer flooding, Suffolk Highway teams - runoff or drainage into development sites.)

Senior representatives from two Local Planning Authorities have explained how the procedure of consulting the Floods Team on all major applications, and those minor applications that present a significant flood risk, works in their Council. Through a process of Flood Risk Assessments the Floods Team will identify and evaluate risks and consider how proposed risk management measures, including SuDs, can keep any development safe over its lifetime. They will then recommend one of three options. Responses given to planning authorities will focus on:

- Approval with conditions – SCC maintains a standard set of recommended conditions that meet the majority of cases but can produce bespoke versions as required.
- Holding Objection – when either an applicant has not proved that the development has the appropriate level of flood protection or not provided the required information in order for the officer to assess the application, the response is always accompanied by a clear statement detailing what further information is required.
- Formal Objection – only used after going through the holding objection stage and the applicant is unwilling or unable to provide the required information.

In concluding the review Members looked at how current legislation did not make adequate provision for the long-term maintenance of SuDs. SuDS could be adopted by any body that could take on responsibility for their long-term maintenance, but public authorities, who were not legally obliged to adopt SuDs, were often reluctant to do this because of the financial risk involved and the need to monitor and approve construction. To offset the costs, commuted sums could be required from the developer, but they were hard to calculate, and potentially could be inadequate to cover whole life costs. Private management companies were often set up to be responsible for long-term maintenance, but there was always a risk that they could go out of business, leaving no-one responsible.

In considering other possible options Members learnt that -

- Suffolk Highways was responsible for the ongoing management and maintenance of SuDS taking water draining from roads, but was reluctant to allow water to drain into those systems from nearby properties.
- Anglian Water had initially been interested in taking on the long-term maintenance of SuDs, but their interest appeared to have waned as a result of internal legal advice.

- Internal drainage boards were very good at managing water and keen to take on new responsibilities and in Suffolk they had developed a new policy for adopting SuDs. They were interested in managing whole catchment areas, but this would require changes in legislation.
- Some authorities were adopting a multifunctional approach to SuDS. For example, an area of Public Open Space (POS) could also serve as SuDS and be integral to it. In such cases, the adopting body of the POS could also adopt the SuDS. Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council had been proactive in this regard and had adopted POS/SuDS at various developments in the west of the county, taking commuted sums for the long-term management and maintenance of the developments.

The Sub-Committee's final recommendations focused on

- the need to ensure that SuDS are designed so that future maintenance is easy and affordable
- the importance of prescribing, via planning conditions, clear specifications for the future maintenance of SuDS

While commending the way in which Local Planning Authorities and the Suffolk County Council Flood and Water Team were working together to mitigate the flood risk on new developments they wished to emphasise to Local Authorities the benefits of adopting multi-functional infrastructure which combined sustainable drainage systems and public open spaces, and to recommend that Local Authorities consider adopting this approach in their localities

As a point of interest – it was agreed that, in future, the outcomes from the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Sub-Committee should be circulated to all Suffolk District and Borough Scrutiny Committees for their information.