

## COVID IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITY IN EAST SUFFOLK

Vulnerability Type	Description/Context	What is already happening?	What else could the Community Partnership Board do?
<b>Digital Exclusion</b>	Some individuals in East Suffolk are becoming more excluded due to lack of access to digital technology and/or Wi-Fi connectivity, particularly children/young people without access to laptop/PC/tablet to do schoolwork and older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Suffolk Grandpads project – funding for 100 simplified tablets for older people without a laptop/PC/tablet and Wi-Fi. <b>£25,000 investment from the CPB</b>, £25,000 from ESC and £50,000 from Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG. Additional funding for 30 devices for CEV individuals, 15 for Learning Disability (IESCCG)</li> <li>• Voice cCloud free digital support to enable people to get online (on their own devices or Grandpads) and access services, activities and support – funded through the Covid-19 Community fund</li> <li>• COMF funding used to supplement the DfE funding to schools to enable access to children and young people that do not otherwise have a suitable device to help them engage in education, training and to stay in touch with supporting services</li> <li>• Individual ESC Councillor Enabling Communities Budgets (and SCC Locality Budgets) used to fund laptops for school children</li> <li>• Unlimited mobile data for EE and BT customers to support education. Can be accessed by applying through their school and will enable children access to any online educational resources they need. For more details and teacher application portal, here: <a href="https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/">https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/</a></li> <li>• Suffolk Digital Inclusion Workstream and project proposals around a Digital Champions Network with local authority and VSCE partners across Suffolk. This network would support staff and volunteers to</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Champions in East Suffolk (COMF-funded) through existing community groups especially in rural villages</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority for potential funding 21/22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the Voice cCloud programme to support families to use new school IT equipment (as well as older people who they are currently working with)</li> </ul> <p><b>Existing projects (could need £)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further expand the Grandpad programme. Funding in place for 45 more, with bids for another 20 pending to Lowestoft Charity, 100 (Suffolk wide) to the Covid Outbreak Management Fund COMF and 100 (Suffolk wide) to national NHS pot</li> </ul> <p><b>Other sources of funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund tablets for our hospitals to enable people to Facetime family whilst in hospital</li> <li>• Fund additional laptops for vulnerable young people to access schoolwork where demand outstrips supply</li> </ul> <p><b>No funding required - None</b></p>

		upskill and train as digital champions in order provide a one to one approach in helping people to get online. Device to Your Door (Suffolk Libraries)	
<b>Financial</b>	Increasing levels of debt and financial insecurity as a result of employment changes e.g. redundancy, furlough, business losses. Importance of helping those on low income to maximise their current income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Citizens Advice and ESC campaign – Money Matters - to encourage people to seek help as early as possible if they are worried about meeting their outgoings or emerging debt</li> <li>• Over £200k core ESC funding for the three East Suffolk Citizens Advice in 2021/22 and c£40,000 SCC funding</li> <li>• Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) project to help people to maximise benefits</li> <li>• Suffolk Advice and Support Service (SASS) to provide information and advice about benefits, employment, housing and debt</li> <li>• £1.5 million Local Welfare Assistance Scheme - help with furniture, white goods, food and fuel</li> <li>• £2 million Winter Payments Fund for food, utilities and keeping warm</li> <li>• Warm Homes, Healthy People aimed at those on low income (homeowners or private rent) – offer includes first time central heating, fuel payments, loan heaters, draught proofing for those who are negatively impacted by their living environment</li> <li>• £50k Suffolk fund for individuals affected by Covid-19 (Winter Payments) for utilities, heating, things to keep people warm</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21 - None</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Priority for potential funding 21/22</b> Additional funding for a tailored debt advice programme through the Citizens Advice Network/SASS</li> </ul> <p><b>Existing projects (could need £) - None</b></p> <p><b>Other sources of funding - None</b></p> <p><b>No funding required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted promotion of existing sources of support e.g. LWAS and SASS to ensure that we reach the right people and reach into communities</li> <li>• Encourage East Suffolk gateway organisations to pro-actively refer people into the LWAS scheme</li> <li>• Follow up Citizens Advice campaign to encourage people to ‘Deal with Debt’</li> <li>• Further LIFT campaigns/work</li> </ul>
<b>Economic</b>	Increasing unemployment, with particular sections of the population (20-34-year olds, over 50’s) and sectors (hospitality, SME’s, self-employed) hardest hit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kickstart provides funding to create new job placements for 16-24-year olds on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment</li> <li>• East Suffolk Youth Employment Service delivered by Inspire Suffolk operating effectively virtually and supporting 16-24-year olds to access</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21 – None</b></p> <p><b>Priority for potential funding 21/22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills development programme with a specific focus on tailoring provision to specific groups - care leavers, 16-24-year olds, 25-34-year olds, 35 to 54 year olds,</li> </ul>

	<p>Increase in low skill, low wage and zero hours jobs. People who have been shielding may be unable to return to their previous employment.</p> <p>Infection and death rates are much higher in the 'Caring Leisure and other Service' and 'Elementary Occupation' employment categories</p>	<p>education, employment, training, volunteering and work</p>	<p>seasonal workers, those whose furlough is ending and over 55's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential CAS employability project focussing on volunteering as a route to employment. Build on the current ES Volunteering Campaign and include mentoring for young people aged 16-24 from Volunteering Matters.</li> <li>• IT Equipment for the Felixstowe Community Training Hub</li> </ul> <p><b>Existing projects (could need £)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build upon and extend the Youth Employment Service offer</li> </ul> <p><b>Other sources of funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Volunteer Suffolk portal – Be Collective - which enables people to develop a social CV that demonstrates the experience and skills gained from volunteering to help with getting into employment.</li> </ul> <p><b>No funding required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Suffolk 'employment support gateway' to help people to find the right information about work, training, apprenticeships and volunteering</li> </ul>
<b>Deprivation</b>	<p>Different geographies have different rates of Covid-19 and underlying risk factors for catching and having</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Inequality Toolkit developed and focus of 2020 Suffolk Public Health Report</li> <li>• Bid for Economies and Health Programme Funding to be submitted end January 2021 focussing on Lowestoft (led by SCC Public Health)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21 - None</b></p> <p><b>Priority for potential funding 21/22 - None</b></p> <p><b>Existing projects (could need £) - None</b></p> <p><b>Other sources of funding - None</b></p>

	<p>serious outcomes from Covid-19.</p> <p>Tables showing the rate of deaths from the virus directly correlate to the level of deprivation i.e. the least deprived 20% are least likely to die from Covid-19 and vice versa.</p> <p>This is due to increased Exposure (long hours worked with limited social distancing in public facing roles), Transmission (areas of higher population density, household overcrowding, challenges isolating), Susceptibility (living conditions and stress) and Vulnerability (health conditions, disability)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted Engaged Communities Funding to reach specific communities re Covid, including Lowestoft</li> <li>• Funding bid to SPSL to extend the SFF Family Intervention Officers at ESC to cover the Waveney/Lowestoft area</li> <li>• Links to the National Literacy programme in Suffolk</li> <li>• Lowestoft Town Deal</li> </ul>	<p><b>No funding required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the Economies and Health programme bid for Lowestoft</li> </ul>
<b>Left Behind</b>	<p>Certain groups within our communities have been particularly impacted by the three national lockdowns and are in danger of being 'left behind' when things start opening up again – this includes the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV), carers, people with dementia, people with learning disabilities, frail</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Suffolk Advice and Support Service (SASS) was set up through the CCB to support the newly vulnerable</li> <li>• Winter Grants payments to support vulnerable families and individuals</li> <li>• Keep Moving Suffolk website - resources, ideas, tips, useful links and positive stories to encourage people to stay active during these unprecedented times.</li> <li>• ESC Digital workstream focussing on new technology to reduce vulnerability</li> <li>• BME Communication Task and Finish Group formed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Isolation Buddies could be developed to be Community Buddies – to help those left behind to access support and their local community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority for potential funding 21/22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop projects to reduce frailty and reduce vulnerability in older people at home, including using technology – linked to work in the INTs in the south of the District and the BT technology trial</li> </ul>

	<p>older people, looked after children and care leavers. There are also challenges getting key messages into some minority communities in Suffolk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are We Missing? Workshops led by I and ES CCG led by and for the BAME community</li> <li>• Free youth work training offer (Level 2/Level 3) funded through the ESP</li> <li>• Suffolk Says Thanks and the Take 5 booklets aimed at supporting the 5 ways to wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Existing projects (could need £) - None</b></p> <p><b>Other sources of funding - None</b></p> <p><b>No funding required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with SODA to update the '3 Vulnerabilities' mapping, focussing on Clinical, Social and Financial vulnerability, to identify key cohorts who are likely to be most vulnerable</li> <li>• Emerging project focussed on low income families in the Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham Community Partnership area</li> </ul>
<p><b>Isolation and Loneliness</b></p>	<p>Linked to the above, there are significant numbers of people who are feeling lonely in their own homes. They can't see friends and family, the groups that they used to attend are not operating and they may not be able to access support online due to digital exclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing work to identify needs through Home But Not Alone proactive and reactive calls</li> <li>• Hidden Needs Grant Programme to support projects to reduce isolation and loneliness. 12 projects supported to date, totalling £83,380. £66,620 remaining for Round 3. <b>£100,000 investment from the CPB over 2 years</b></li> <li>• <b>£20,000 of CPB funding</b> for 2019/20 rolled into the Covid-19 Community Fund – more than 80 projects supported with over £130,000 funding</li> <li>• Almost £10,000 investment in befriending support to reduce social isolation and loneliness through 'Voice of a Friend' in Lowestoft from the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes CP. Extended with funding from the Carlton Colville, Kessingland and Southwold CP to cover this CP area</li> <li>• 'EAST Bag' – 2,000 support packs for older people living alone (or caring for others) and likely to be isolated/lonely - focussed three themes i) eating well, ii) keeping active and iii) active minds,</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buddy Up – Community Buddies to go that step further to help those most lonely to re-engage – link to Good Neighbour Schemes, Meet Up Monday, arts and crafts, social activities etc</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority for potential funding 21/22 – None</b></p> <p><b>Existing projects (could need £)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional East Bags for the District</li> <li>• Additional Hidden Needs Grant funding for Social Isolation and Loneliness projects</li> <li>• Compassionate Communities projects and work around bereavement</li> </ul> <p><b>Other sources of funding - None</b></p> <p><b>No funding required</b></p>

		<p>supported by a 'Buddy Up' system to encourage them to use the contents. <b>£20,000 CPB funding</b>, matched by Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-Isolation Buddies programme led by CAS funded through COMF will have a specialist worker to reach these communities and help those with additional challenges and barriers to self-isolate and re-engage with their community.</li> <li>• Compassionate Communities projects in conjunction with St Elizabeth's Hospice</li> <li>• Bereavement support from CRUSE Bereavement Care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Build Back entry under Voluntary Sector and Community Groups – support village halls, community groups etc to get back on their feet to support vital social connections activities</li> <li>• Projects to build on individual's connections from the support they received during COVID and increase and sustain the good neighbourliness we have witnessed</li> </ul>
<b>Mental III Health</b>	<p>Everyone's mental health has been impacted during the pandemic, but some groups have been particularly impacted, including young people, young adults, women and those with existing conditions. VCSE organisations working in mental health are seeing huge increases in demand for support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust First Response – 0808 1963494 - 24/7 mental health helpline</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.wellbeingnands.co.uk">www.wellbeingnands.co.uk</a></li> <li>• Youth Voice identified that young people want more counsellors in schools and on the internet to provide mental health support</li> <li>• Mental health support and advice from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="https://www.who.int">WHO</a></li> <li>○ <a href="https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk">mentalhealth.org.uk</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Ipswich &amp; East CCG</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Living Life To The Full</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">NHS Practitioner Wellbeing</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Samaritans</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Suicide Prevention Training</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21 – None</b></p> <p><b>Priority for potential funding 21/22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for Student Life peer to peer Mental Health First Aid programme in additional schools in East Suffolk. Explore the idea of a mentor for the organisation to support business planning</li> </ul> <p><b>Existing projects (could need £) – None</b></p> <p><b>Other sources of funding – None</b></p> <p><b>No funding required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteering as a '5 ways to wellbeing' theme – continued programme to raise profile and benefits of volunteering</li> </ul>
<b>Health conditions</b>	<p>People with certain underlying health conditions, like being clinically extremely vulnerable, diabetes, hypertension and obesity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaping Places programme in Lowestoft focussing on environmental influences on activity in deprived communities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Buddies to help people stay well while waiting for surgery, medical intervention etc.</li> </ul>

	<p>have a greater risk of mortality from Covid-19. We know that some people have stopped exercising completely and others are exercising less than they were prior to March 2020, which is likely to impact on long term health conditions</p> <p>Activity levels in young people have dropped significantly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resistance Bands and cards – distributed by Public Health and in the East Bags - Buddy up volunteers supporting with their use</li> <li>Active Suffolk Active Schools model now to be delivered in targeted areas (based on activity levels, IMD, childhood obesity, % Free School meals, Primary Premium mapping etc.) including the 19 Primary Schools and 4 Secondary Schools in Lowestoft from April</li> <li>Generic Active Suffolk offer to all schools - School Games, Active Lives Survey, Topleader – Young Leader programme, PE Premium support and CPD learning events</li> <li>Stepping Home (IESCCG area) to help people to stay healthy at home or avoid DTOC's if in hospital</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 21/22 - None</b></p> <p><b>Existing projects (could need £) - None</b></p> <p><b>Other sources of funding - None</b></p> <p><b>No funding required - None</b></p>
<b>Welfare and Housing</b>	<p>There has been a huge increase in the number of people claiming Universal Credit, many for the first time, due to changes in employment including redundancy.</p> <p>This will have an impact in terms of demand for housing and help to access food and pay for fuel.</p> <p>Financial challenges and insecurity in turn will lead to housing insecurity and it is likely that more people will be living in rented, overcrowded housing, changing the local housing market</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the new Suffolk Welfare Assistance Scheme, which provides furniture, white goods, food and fuel voucher to enable gas and electricity card/key top-ups and Suffolk Advice and Support Service (delivered through Citizens Advice) through the Collaborative Communities Board</li> <li>SCC funding of up to £250,000 made available to support food banks, including food supply from FareShare and Food Banks Officer in post</li> <li>Work to tackle food poverty in East Suffolk through support to a range of food projects including community pantries and a potential community supermarket through the Food Network</li> <li>ESC is working with the Lowestoft Food Bank to secure alternative premises when the current lease comes to an end</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21 - None</b></p> <p><b>Priority for potential funding 21/22 - None</b></p> <p><b>Existing projects (could need £) - None</b></p> <p><b>Other sources of funding - None</b></p> <p><b>No funding required</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue work to identify those who are most vulnerable and in need additional support, including by using data from LIFT, LWAS and SASS and the SODA Vulnerability mapping (see above) to identify gaps and unmet needs</li> <li>Work with SCC to identify and meet food bank infrastructure needs</li> <li>Further work using LIFT, including Discretionary Housing Payments, Transfer to Universal Credit and Free School Meals, Private Renters</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding provided to food banks through the East Suffolk Covid-19 Community Funds</li> <li>Use of the East Suffolk Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT) to identify and support vulnerable individuals and families (during both lockdown and recovery)</li> </ul>	
<b>Crime</b>	District Councils, Police and partners are seeing increased levels of anti-social behaviour. Domestic Violence levels are increasing, with spikes post-lockdowns and increasing concerns about safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. There are scams related to the pandemic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suffolk Domestic Abuse 24/7 Helpline – Freephone 0800 977 5690</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic Abuse training for community volunteers</li> </ul> <p><b>Priority for potential funding 21/22 - None</b>  <b>Existing projects (could need £) - None</b>  <b>Other sources of funding - None</b>  <b>No funding required - None</b></p>
<b>Voluntary Sector, Charities, Community groups and Covid response groups</b>	Voluntary and community sector organisations have been hit hard by the pandemic – both those providing essential services and those involved in preventative work. Many are struggling to cover core costs such as buildings and staffing. Some have experienced a loss of volunteers – particularly older volunteers. Some groups and community buildings are concerned about being able to open	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>£100,000 of CPB funding</b> (and £25,000 ESC funding) for the new Bounce Back Fund to help VCSE organisations to open back up safely and/or transition to new ways of working – focus on community buildings, youth groups and organisations that involve volunteers</li> <li>Suffolk Community Foundation Reviving Our Community Fund - grant funding from the National Lottery and the Department for Culture, Media &amp; Sport to support the work of grassroots organisations open to all charitable and community groups, including Social Enterprises</li> <li>Suffolk Build Back programme including engagement with VCSE organisations to identify key barriers and challenges and Suffolk Says Welcome Back campaign</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priority for potential funding 20/21 - None</b>  <b>Priority for potential funding 21/22</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pot of funding to address any East Suffolk issues arising from the Build Back work?</li> </ul> <p><b>Existing projects (could need £)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional funding into the Bounce Back pot</li> </ul> <p><b>Other sources of funding - None</b>  <b>No funding required - None</b></p>



	<p>back up safely and groups/hubs supporting young people are being particularly impacted. These local, district and county-wide VCSE organisations are essential to supporting all the vulnerable groups identified above</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESP funded Business Planning support for VCSE groups</li> <li>• Refresh of the Suffolk Volunteering Strategy and development of an East Suffolk Volunteering Campaign (led by CAS), including Volunteer Passport (originally ESP funded), Introduction to Volunteering and focus on volunteering as a pathway to work. <b>£6,000 CPB funding</b></li> <li>• Individual CP grant schemes to support VCS capacity / community hubs / local community-based projects / mental health first aid etc</li> <li>• Ongoing work with Covid-19 community response groups, including to fill the gaps e.g. parts of Lowestoft</li> <li>• Enabled community response groups with grants from the <b>ESC Covid Community Fund – more than £130,000 allocated</b></li> <li>• SCC has made a pot of funding available through its Engaged Communities workstream for VCSE organisations to work with specific communities/specific places in Suffolk, currently Polish, Arabic, Lithuanian, Portuguese, Chinese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Bangladeshi, French, Kurdish, Urdu, Pashto, Roma speaking, Gypsy Traveller, Care Leaver, Homeless and Sofa Surfing, Parent Carer, LGBTQI+, Learning Disability, In Care, Supplementary Schools, African and Afro Caribbean, Home Schooling, Lowestoft and Ipswich communities</li> </ul>	
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