

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD UPDATE – 5 SEPTEMBER 2022

HELD AT: THE CONFERENCE ROOM, RIVERSIDE, LOWESTOFT

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. Report from the Tackling Inequalities Task and Finish Group

The Board received an [Update on the Cost of Living Programme](#)

The Task and Finish Group, supported by staff in the Communities Team at East Suffolk Council, had previously developed an outcome proposal focussed on the four key areas for Action identified through an initial workshop held to scope the programme - Money, Food and Essentials, Energy and Fuel and Housing - and £100,000 of funding had been allocated to the programme.

More detail about the proposed approach and funding allocation for each of the key projects were presented at the Board meeting, plus an update on other associated activities as part of the East Suffolk Ease the Squeeze programme, including a roadshow visiting each town in the district in September, October and November. It is also proposed to hold short, virtual briefing sessions for key partners including businesses and Town and Parish Councils about the programme.

Presentation here: [Cost of Living Crisis](#)

Detailed outcome proposal here: [Outcome Proposal](#)

All eight Communities Partnerships, particularly those who have identified tackling the rising cost of living within their revised priorities are invited to consider whether they wish to supplement the funding available at District level with funding from their budget to enable additional activity in their Community Partnership area.

3. Focus on Community Partnerships

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

The Board then received a short presentation from the [Beccles Bungay Halesworth and Villages Community Partnership](#) and the [Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley Community Partnership](#)

4. Tackling Isolation and Loneliness – Next Steps

The Board received a presentation and report

Report here: [Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness - Next Steps](#)

Presentation here: [Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness PowerPoint Presentation](#)

When the Community Partnerships were formed in 2019, Social Isolation and Loneliness was identified as a priority by seven of the eight individual Community Partnerships and has been

a priority for the Board ever since. The Covid-19 pandemic, specifically the national lockdowns, shone a spotlight on isolation and loneliness and its impacts are still being felt by people of all ages. There is also evidence that significant numbers of people in Suffolk do not feel that it is safe to return to previous groups and activities.

At the most recent Community Partnerships Forum in March 2022, a workshop focussing on Loneliness and Isolation was one of the best attended. The workshop focussed on key data about the topic, including new data relating to loneliness during the pandemic. Some of the key results from this activity had been previously summarised in a report to the June Board meeting and more detail was provided this time.

Board members had a discussion to consider any gaps/additional ideas and each Board member was asked to complete and return a survey on existing activity to tackle isolation and loneliness, gaps and priorities for action.

It was agreed to convene a focus group of residents, reform the Task and Finish Group to consist of Board members and key partners and develop an outcome proposal for the December Board meeting.

5. Youth Voice

The Board received a presentation on some of the key findings from the Youth Voice initiative to engage with young people about what is important to them.

Youth Voice is a district wide forum with a difference that provides a conduit where young people can submit their concerns for their local area and ideas on how to improve it. The main avenue is the Youth Voice form online, however, there is also direct engagement with young people in various settings such as school visits, out of school clubs and high school assemblies.

Key themes that had been raised included:

- Safety on the streets and in skate parks
- Social activities and facilities for young people
- The environment and litter
- Support around mental health, including people students can talk to

There had been considerable progress in relation to some of the concerns raised.

Presentation here: [Youth Voice Presentation](#)

6. Transport and Travel Task Group Update

The Board received a presentation regarding the work of the Transport and Travel Task Group.

It was noted that Transport East, a member of the group, had been requested to review rural transport across the whole of the UK.

The Task Group is working on what can be done to improve community transport in East Suffolk. It had decided to focus on Demand Responsive Transport and BACT had recently launched the 'Lowestoft Buzzabout' pilot in the North of the District. Work is also underway to develop an App. to help improve access to, and use of, Demand Responsive Transport services.

The Board then received an update on the Katch pilot, and it was noted that a new contract had been agreed in May to extend the pilot to the end of the year. There had been a change in subsidy arrangement and a new route added towards Snape.

Presentation here: [Transport and travel Task Group Presentation](#)

7: SPOT Wellbeing

The Board endorsed an outcome proposal and request for £12,600 to fund health and wellbeing courses delivering appropriate exercise, health information and socialising for the over 50s to stay as healthy as possible, both mentally and physically.

Proposal here: [SPOT Wellbeing Outcome Proposal](#)

LKB September 2022