

Initial Outcome Proposal to the East Suffolk Community Partnership Board - FY2020/21

(Stage 1 Proposal)

1. Key outcome(s)

Please detail the KEY OUTCOME(S) (Measurable and time specific) the proposal is looking to achieve:

- East Suffolk residents feel more confident about participating in local groups and activities when it is safe for them to do so (Community Buddies)
- East Suffolk groups feel confident about opening back up and providing services, activities and social opportunities for residents (Community Buddies)
- East Suffolk residents are supported to stay well and active in their homes/communities, avoiding hospital admissions (Community Buddies)
- East Suffolk residents feel less isolated and lonely (Community Buddies)
- East Suffolk residents are supported and encouraged to access digital technology (Digital Buddies, Covid-Support and Community Buddies)
- The skills of existing East Suffolk volunteers will be enhanced
- New people will be attracted to volunteering, including as a pathway to work

2. How has the need been identified?

The need for this project has been identified through a range of different sources, including the East Suffolk Community Partnership Board Covid-19 Impacts Task and Finish Group. It builds upon a project developed by Community Action Suffolk called 'Covid-Support Buddies' which has been funded through the Covid Outbreak Management Fund to provide wraparound support from a local 'buddy' to people who are at risk of catching or transmitting the virus because they have tested positive for Covid-19, been on close proximity to someone who has, are clinically extremely vulnerable or struggling with the impact of loneliness and isolation.

The Board has previously identified as a priority to the need to both support community groups to open back up and to support and encourage local residents to attend in the knowledge that it is safe. The Board therefore agreed £100,000 of funding for the Bounce Back Fund which has proved a big success and has supported a number of community buildings, youth groups, sports groups and groups aimed at older people to plan for opening back up again.

The Board has also prioritised digital support for residents, both through our Grandpads and through support from the Covid-19 Community Fund for VoiceCloud who have been helping people to get online using their own kit.

Evidence shows that Covid-19 is likely to have a lasting legacy in terms of deterioration of long term health conditions. The Board has funded East Bags, which include resistance bands and exercise cards to encourage people to stay active in lockdown or shielding. However some residents may need additional support to use this equipment and to more generally keep well, particularly in advance of planned procedures that may have been postponed several times.

3. Who will benefit from the outcomes?

Beneficiaries include a range of residents of East Suffolk who need support with isolation/loneliness, keeping active and well and accessing digital technology. The project will

also benefit existing and new volunteers who will gain new skills and have the opportunity to take on additional roles as 'buddies'.

4. How will the outcomes(s) be sustained after the funding period (if appropriate)?

The intention is to build the capacity of existing Covid-19 community response groups and Good Neighbour Schemes to become buddies. These buddies will receive a range of training related to their chosen buddy role or roles. This capacity will therefore be generated and retained in communities beyond the life of the funded project. However we see this as a pilot for a wider piece of work in East Suffolk.

5. Name of Project/activity that will deliver the outcome(s)

East Suffolk Buddy Up

6. Brief description of the project / activity that will deliver the outcome(s).

(up to 200 words):

The East Suffolk Buddy Up programme will build on the Suffolk model designed and delivered by Community Action Suffolk which in turn emerged from the This Community Can programme. CAS are recruiting three members of staff to lead on their Isolation Buddies programme- one to work across Suffolk, one to focus on BAME and hard to reach communities and a legacy officer. All of these roles are linked to the Covid Outbreak Management Fund ambition to limit the transmission of Covid-19 by supporting people to stay well. The model involves the recruitment of Covid-Support Buddies, initially from Good Neighbour Schemes and mutual aid/Covid response groups.

The East Suffolk programme will augment this model by providing additional capacity to focus on recruiting, training and supporting the following Buddies (this list may be expanded):

- **Community Buddies**
 - to help reduce levels of isolation and loneliness
 - to encourage and support people to have the confidence to return to community groups and activities once it is safe to do so and to support community buildings and groups leaders to understand how they can open back up safely
 - to support people to stay well and active at home and in their community – for example to exercise, maintain mobility and reduce frailty
- **Digital Buddies/Champions** who are trained to support people to use digital technology – these are not experts but someone with basic skills who can help people to get online and access social activities/events as well as services.

These roles are not exclusive, in fact we would encourage Covid-Support and Community Buddies to be Digital Champions to reach more people who would benefit from support to use digital technology. Older people in particular are more likely to accept support with tech from a known and trusted person.

The aim is to support people to stay well and connected during the response phase of Covid-19 and then to support people to re-connect with community groups, activities and facilities during the Covid-19 recovery phase.

Project / activity START DATE: 04/21 END DATE: 03/22

7. Who is involved?

Who is involved in developing this outcome proposal?

Project / activity lead: CAS/ESC


Community Action Suffolk East Suffolk Council Who will deliver the project/activity? Community Action Suffolk Name of East Suffolk Community Partnerships Board Member supporting the project:	Name: Sally Connick Organisation: Community Action Suffolk Telephone: Email: sally.connick@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk Name: Chris Abraham
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8. Give information about match funding here:		
Source of match funding:	Funding confirmed?	Amount (£)
Match funding will be included in individual projects		
1.5hrs per week of Officer time, office space, laptop, mobile phone	Yes	3378
Community Circles Training	yes	1000

Total project / activity cost	14746.16
Total of confirmed match funding	4378
Total amount of Strategic funding required	10368.16

9. Identify where the Community Partnership Board Strategic Budget will be spent:	
Description of activity or item (by who and by when where appropriate)	Cost (£)
Staff Costs	5858.16
Other Staff Costs (training, travel)	300
Core Costs	750
Marketing	500
Volunteer Training	2960

10. How will the project / activity be monitored, and outcomes reported (including project risks)?
<p>The programme will be overseen by Community Action Suffolk and East Suffolk Council and link to the wider Suffolk Isolation Buddies Programme. It has close links to the Bounce Back Fund and to the digital projects that the Board has supported as well as to the revised Volunteering Strategy for Suffolk and specific East Suffolk Volunteering campaign.</p> <p>Outcomes will be reported to the Board on a regular basis.</p>

Community Partnership Board Member Declaration:
<p>I confirm that I support this proposal:</p> <p>Name: Christine Abraham</p> <p>Signature: </p>

Date: 15/2/2021

Please submit this proposal to the Funding Team at grants@eastsuffolk.gov.uk Hard copies can be submitted and returned to: Funding Team, East Suffolk Council, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT.