



## East Suffolk Community Partnership Board

### Community Partnership Board Covid Recovery Priorities

September 6, 2021

#### Introduction and Background

1. The Covid Impacts Task and Finish Group met four times - in August and October 2020 and February and April 2021. This Group has, on behalf of the Board, spent time considering and mapping the impacts of Covid-19 on East Suffolk communities and during this process identified a number of priority areas and gaps.
2. On the basis of this mapping, a number of projects to address these gaps have been identified by the Task and Finish Group and funding allocated by the Board based on their recommendations. These projects are:
  - £50,000 towards the East Suffolk Hidden Needs Grants Programme
  - £25,000 for the purchase of additional Grandpads (simplified tablets for older people)
  - £100,000 for the East Suffolk VCSE 'Bounce Back' Fund (now a Suffolk wide Community Restart Fund)
  - £5,853 to fund an East Suffolk Volunteering Campaign delivered by Community Action Suffolk
  - £20,000 towards the EAST (Everyone Active, Supported, Together) Bag project led by East Suffolk Council
  - £10,369 towards the 'Buddy Up' project delivered by Community Action Suffolk
  - £18,000 towards the Employment/Work Readiness project led by East Coast College (additional funding from the former East Suffolk Partnership)
  - £30,827 towards the Volunteering Pathways project delivered by Community Action Suffolk
  - £25,000 for MENTA to deliver the Ambitions to Employ project
  - £15,750 towards the School Peer to Peer Mental Health Ambassador programme developed by Student Life
3. This means that the Covid-19 Task and Finish Group has supported and influenced the allocation of £300,799 of Community Partnership Board funding across three financial years (2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22).
4. At the last meeting of the Board, in June 2021, seven key strategic statutory and voluntary sector partners (Suffolk Community Foundation, Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Suffolk Police, Suffolk County Council, Norfolk and Waveney CCG, Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG and East Suffolk Council) were asked to

identity three priorities/key areas of demand for them as we move into Covid recovery. They each summarised their priorities at the Board meeting and explained why they were important for their organisation/sector.

5. These priorities are summarised in the table below:

Suffolk Community Foundation	Community Action Suffolk	SALC	Suffolk Police	Suffolk County Council	Norfolk and Waveney CCG	Ipswich & East Suffolk CCG	East Suffolk Council
Isolation and Loneliness	Social Isolation and Loneliness	Delivering high quality specialist support to local councils advice, communications, guidance and training	Victims of domestic abuse	Community recovery-emphasis on health and wellbeing and support for isolated / vulnerable people	Vaccine inequality uptake in deprived areas, migrant communities, younger, high risk & harder to reach communities	Long-term Covid impacts e.g. supporting communities; mental health, job losses, frailty long Covid	Isolation and Loneliness, including digital exclusion
Declining Mental Health	Young People	Engage and represent local councils across the sector-partnerships and collaboration	Partnership liaison share information & joint patrols to dynamically tackle emerging vulnerability issues	Addressing health inequalities as part of the community recovery	Admission avoidance and waiting well-support to remain in the community or ensure once discharged they remain healthy	Long waiting lists for elective care – supporting people to remain fit and well whilst waiting	Physical Disabilities, Frailty and Long Term Conditions, including impacts of inactivity
Changed Financial Circumstances	VCSE Resilience	Improvement and development for local councils	Increased instances of acute mental health related issues	Enabling the VCSE to play an equal and active part of the Suffolk system in recovery	Addressing health inequalities-particular focus on inactivity and link to LTC's	Children and Young People's education, physical activity and emotional well-being	Mental Health and Wellbeing

6. The nine priorities collectively identified by these seven partners are as follows:

- Isolation and Loneliness (top priority for the Board)
- Mental Health and Wellbeing (third priority for the Board)
- Young People – education, aspirations, emotional wellbeing and physical health
- Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector and Town and Parish Council Resilience
- Health Inequalities, including Vaccine Inequalities
- Community Recovery – health and wellbeing, employment, financial insecurity, long Covid
- Health and Wellbeing, Admission Avoidance and 'Waiting Well'
- Domestic Abuse
- Vulnerability

7. Since the Board meeting in March, further work has been undertaken to map what activity is already happening against each of the priorities and seek ideas about what else the Community Partnership Board could do to support these themes. This mapping is summarised in Appendix A to this report.

8. A number of areas have been identified as potential projects for future investment from the Community Partnership Board and other sources. It is therefore proposed to convene a final meeting of the Task and Finish Group, plus any strategic partners not members of the Covid Recovery Task and Finish Group who wish to participate to develop project ideas and outcome proposals for the December Board meeting.

9. Although Mental Health in East Suffolk will be the main focus at the December Board meeting, the Board is asked to consider the Outcome Proposal attached as Appendix 2 for funding from the 2021/22 Board allocation. The need for this Hoarding project has been identified by District Council and VCSE organisations during the pandemic.
10. Through the project, Access Community Trust will work with 30 individuals/households to tackle severe self-neglect and hoarding behaviours and provide support to implement life-changing actions. In addition, onward referrals will be made to other agencies providing help/support, including Adult & Community Services, Fire service, mental health support, furniture project, minor works grants, energy efficiency grants, income maximisation support and energy switching, some of which will involve individuals who do not need the intense support this project requires but can be supported by other agencies.
11. Match funding of £37,500 is already available through MHCLG and the ESC Covid Community Recovery Plan and the ask of the Board is therefore £22,500.

## **Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the Board:**

- a) consider Appendix 1 which provides an overview of current activity and potential project areas against the nine collective priorities identified**
- b) identify any priority areas for development by the Task and Finish Group when it meets to consider the ideas in Appendix 1 prior to the December Board Meeting**
- c) consider and agree the Self Neglect and Hoarding Stage 1 Outcome Proposal attached as Appendix 2 to this report**

Nicole Rickard, Head of Communities

East Suffolk Council, on behalf of the Task and Finish Group