

East Suffolk Community Partnership Board

Community Partnership Board Priorities

December 6, 2021

Introduction and Background

1. At the last meeting of the Board on 6 September, a report was presented which outlined that over £300,000 had been allocated for priority projects identified by the Covid Recovery Task and Finish Group. The Board also revisited the priorities identified by seven strategic partners at the June meeting of the Board.
2. At the Board Visioning Event, held at Trinity Park on 5 November, a revised data pack was presented to delegates and an exercise undertaken to identify key messages and priorities emerging from that presentation. The Data Pack is attached as Appendix A to this report for further consideration by Board Members, particularly those who were unable to attend the visioning event.

Strategic Partner Priorities for Covid Recovery

3. At the June meeting of the Board, eight 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 identify three priorities/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.
4. The nine priorities collectively identified by these seven partners are as follows:
 - Isolation and Loneliness (priority for the Board)
 - Mental Health and Wellbeing (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

Priorities based on revised Data Pack

5. Through the exercise undertaken on 5 November with Board Chairs, Vice Chairs and Communities Officers, seven key themes were identified with multiple comments plus a number of other important ideas.
6. It is, however, important to note that updated data was not available for some key themes e.g. transport and travel, environment and climate change and community safety.
7. These key themes are outlined in more detail in the attachment at Appendix B but, in summary, are as follows:
 - Young People – houses, jobs, affordability, attracting and retaining young people, mental health, support for families
 - Ageing Population and Older People – planning ahead, income deprivation, sustainable transport, services to people
 - Obesity – prevention, healthy eating, movement, wellbeing hubs, hot spot areas
 - Deprivation – understanding ‘hot spot’ areas, income deprivation, low wages, access to food (food poverty, pantries, banks, rural areas)
 - Climate Change emergency – urgent action required, what is the role of the Board? hydrogen, green sciences, eco-friendly housing
 - Mental Health – prevention, link to income deprivation, community support
 - Life expectancy – understand contributing factors and weighting

Combined Priorities

8. As expected, there is a significant overlap between the two lists of priorities and therefore a combined list is shown below

Priority	Existing Board Priority	Covid Recovery Priority	Priorities from 05/11
Isolation and Loneliness	Yes	Yes	
Sustainable Transport	Yes		
Mental Health and Wellbeing	Yes	Yes	Yes
Young People	Yes	Yes	Yes
Health Inequalities / Life Expectancy		Yes	Yes
Vulnerability / Deprivation		Yes	Yes
Health and Wellbeing, including Obesity		Yes	Yes
Covid Community Recovery	Yes	Yes	
Domestic Abuse		Yes	
VCSE / Town and Parish Council Resilience		Yes	
Ageing Population / Older People			Yes
Climate Change emergency			Yes

N.B. The other theme in the top five in the 2019 vote was ‘Community Hubs, buildings and spaces’ which cuts across many of the other priorities including ‘Isolation and Loneliness’, ‘Young People’ and ‘Health and Wellbeing’.

Proposed Way Forward

9. There is clear evidence for a continued focus on the two priorities that have been the focus of the Board and many of the individual Community Partnerships to date, namely Social Isolation and Loneliness and Transport and Travel.
10. There is also strong support for renewed focus on the Board's third priority which is Mental Health and Wellbeing. Suffolk Mind are presenting at the Board meeting on 6 December, and it is likely that one or more outcome proposals will be forthcoming around this theme in addition to the two already funded – Student Life Peer Ambassadors and Self Neglect and Hoarding (Access Community Trust).
11. It is recommended that the Board ends both the Covid Recovery Task and Finish Group (and absorb some of the outstanding actions into future work) and the Hidden Needs Group that met under the auspices of the East Suffolk Partnership prior to Community Partnerships being formed.
12. It is proposed that the Board set up a new Tackling Inequalities Task and Finish Group to focus on four key areas:
 - Young People
 - Ageing Population and Older People
 - Income Deprivation – all age groups
 - Groups vulnerable to Covid-19/likely to be left behind in Covid Recovery
13. A discussion at the most recent Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages Community Partnership – summarised in Appendix C to this report - highlights the impact of cumulative cost of living rises on residents in that Community Partnership area. Specific areas of focus (and potential inequality) include Universal Credit uplift removal, food prices, heating fuel costs, petrol diesel price rises, the challenge of making healthy meals on a budget and transport to school costs. The Community Partnership asked that the issue be escalated to the Board for further consideration, and it would seem to fit very well with the focus of the new Task and Finish Group.
14. It is clear that health inequalities is a key issue and therefore it is proposed that this be identified as a key area of focus and influence for the Board for 2022/23. Health inequalities, population health management and the wider determinants of health will be a focus for both parts of the two new Integrated Care Systems that will cover East Suffolk from April 2022 – Norfolk and Waveney and Suffolk and North-East Essex. It is proposed that partners use their influence in these structures, specifically the Integrated Care Partnerships, to ensure that priority is given to tackling health inequalities, including differences in life expectancy.
15. It is proposed that specific focus be placed on healthy weight and tackling obesity and that, working with Suffolk Public Health and other key partners (including the two East Suffolk leisure providers Places and Everyone Active, as well as Active Suffolk), projects are developed/continued in the following areas:

- Lowestoft – work with partners to secure the necessary funding to implement the Shaping Places proposal in Harbour and Kirkley wards in Lowestoft. Shaping Places is rooted in the Amsterdam model of healthy living for children and young people, families and communities with a focus on access to healthy food, opportunities to move, access to water and the importance of sleep
 - Saxmundham and Leiston – build on the work being undertaken through the Saxmundham and North East Integrated Neighbourhood Team, which also uses the fundamentals of the Amsterdam model as its starting point
 - Felixstowe – newly identified as the CP area with the highest level of overweight and obese children -scope out what could be done in conjunction with Public Health
16. With a range of partners, including Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council and a growing number of Town and Parish Councils in East Suffolk, declaring a Climate Emergency, mitigating against and adapting to climate change has become a priority. Individual partners are already working on this, and the Board itself is supporting a small number of outcomes around sustainable transport and travel. In addition, individual Community Partnerships are supporting a range of ad hoc projects that either directly or indirectly support the move to a low carbon future (e.g.: BACT Community Transport market day service, Katch EV Taxibus pilot, and the Martlesham, Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley Environmental Care Working Groups on Green Communities, Advice Hub and Rewilding).
17. It is therefore proposed that a specific Task and Finish Group be convened, in conjunction with key influential partners including Greenprint Forum, to consider where the Board and the eight Community Partnerships will have most impact in supporting a collaborative approach to tackling the climate emergency in East Suffolk.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board:

- 1) Consider the data pack attached as Appendix A to this report and reflect on any additional key messages and priorities (particularly Board Members unable to attend on 5 November)
- 2) Note the priorities identified through the exercise following the data presentation attached as Appendix B and summarised in paragraph 7 of this report
- 3) Agree the proposals set out in para's 9 to 14:
 - a. That the Board maintain its focus on Social Isolation and Loneliness, Sustainable Transport and Travel and Mental Health and Wellbeing
 - b. That a new Task and Finish Group be convened to consider various 'hidden Needs' and inequalities, absorbing the outstanding work of the Covid Recovery Task and Finish Group and previous focus on Hidden Needs, and taking a wider perspective on vulnerability
 - c. That Board partners work through the new Integrated Care System structures in order to emphasise importance of work around health inequalities
 - d. That specific focus be placed on healthy weight in the places with the highest levels of children and adults who are overweight and obese – namely

Lowestoft and Northern Parishes CP, Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham CP
and Felixstowe Peninsular CP

- e. That a specific Task and Finish Group be convened to consider the issue of climate change and the role of the Board in tackling the climate emergency

Nicole Rickard, Head of Communities

East Suffolk Council