



EASTSUFFOLK
COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 28 January 2021

UPDATE FROM THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON INTEGRATED CARE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This is the second written update provided by the members of the Scrutiny Committee's Task and Finish Group looking at Integrated Care.
2. A remit for this Task and Finish Group was agreed by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 16 November 2020.
3. The Task and Finish Group was established in accordance with the Council's Constitution and the Protocol for Task and Finish Groups.
4. The recommendations to Scrutiny Committee from the Task and Finish Group will be received at its meeting in February 2020.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
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Wards Affected:	All
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Report of the members of the Task and Finish Group	Councillor Edward Back, Councillor David Beavan, Councillor Tracey Green and Councillor Keith Robinson
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1. The second meeting of the Task and Finish Group on Integrated Care (inter-agency co-ordination of social care) was held remotely on Wednesday 6 January 2021.

2. **Safeguarding and Family Focus**

At the meeting on 6 January, Councillor Jepson provided an update on the small Suffolk Family Focus Team that operates within the Communities Team at East Suffolk. Together with Head of Service Nicole Rickard they are seeking to establish what funding options are available not just within East Suffolk but with our strategic partners to secure the longevity of this valuable service. The national programme has always been subject to periodic review.

Tracey Green explained that within the geographical area of ESC had five Social Care /Early Help teams; SCC had the legislative powers. These teams were based in Felixstowe, Saxmundham and three teams at Riverside – Lowestoft. An early help team would provide low level social care support – this request for support was generated by a CAF – Common Assessment Framework. Most of these are brokered by schools but not exclusively. For more significant support a Social Work Assessment was provided. Consideration to be given to a potential recommendation to ensure these teams are made aware of the various funding streams and support being offered by ESC.

Cllr Back pointed out that some voluntary sector organisations like the NSPCC were struggling to find new and younger volunteers.

3. **Signposting**

Cllr Beavan agreed to ask Communities for an update on the Suffolk Link service.

Cllr Robinson advised that customer services collect basic data to distribute to other departments as an example of the Council's good practice. Cllr Beavan to check that this still happened.

Cllr Green questioned whether the Council's website was user-friendly. Cllr Beavan mentioned that Citizens' Advice Bureaux and the Access Community Trust were already funded by the NHS to triage and signpost requests for help. He had asked IT to comment on the use of Microsoft Teams to form *ad hoc* MASH-like teams. Cllr Green to ask the Council's Housing team about its multi-agency work.

4. The next meeting of the Task and Finish Group would be held remotely on 25 January 2021 and its final report would be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 25 February 2021.