

Communities

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**The Communities Service Area includes: Safe Communities (including community safety, anti-social behaviour, safeguarding and the Community Safety Partnership)
Strong Communities (including grants, external funding, community development, and community rights)
Healthy Communities and Policy (including health and wellbeing, health interventions and preventative activity)**

	April - June 2018	July - September 2018	October - December 2018	January - March 2019
Main Achievements	<p>The professional Women's Cycling tour of Britain, passed through Mid Suffolk district on 13th June.</p> <p>The Councils' Health and Wellbeing Team organised two community events, one at Bosmere Primary School, Needham Market and the other at Stradbroke Community Centre; these attracted around 160 visitors in total. Activities included cycle simulators and an open-air cinema screening. There was also a very good turnout of spectators along the route. In addition to these events, the Council supported a range of other community activities through a small grant fund. Many of these took place on the day, including a decorating bikes initiative at Wilby, a school colouring competition (5 primary schools took part) and a tea party held by Stowmarket Town Council to raise money for Stow Dementia Action Alliance and the Alzheimer's Society. Debenham Leisure Centre also hosted a fun packed activity morning for the children at the local primary school which included a 'bikeability' session.</p>	<p>1. The Communities team formed a working group with staff from Ipswich Borough Council and Suffolk County Council to collaboratively organize and deliver a range of health and wellbeing promoting activities for Workplace Health Week held between 10 & 14 September. In addition we also held a Prostate Cancer Day on 12 September to raise awareness of the condition, helping to raise £250 for the East Suffolk Prostate Cancer Support Group (this covers the Babergh and Mid Suffolk area). The event involved a talk by a Macmillan nurse, information on diagnosis and the opportunity for staff to contribute to a local charity by wearing a sports top of their choice.</p> <p>2. The Health and Wellbeing team have been helping to promote bowling as a means of staying active. As part of this work, Stowmarket Rookery Bowls Club hosted some free taster-sessions in indoor bowls for older people living in the Stowmarket area. We worked with the club to identify 6 locations to offer the sessions, including the sheltered housing scheme at Partridge Court and other venues.</p>	<p>1. The 'Stars of Babergh & Mid Suffolk' Community and Business Awards Event was held on Thursday 18 October 2018. Over 150 entries were received for 11 categories and Mid Suffolk had a total of 13 overall winners.</p> <p>2. The Member Locality Awards have currently allocated £ 120,000 of funding awards to support and enable 126 groups and organisations in the Mid Suffolk district.</p> <p>3. 57 Members of Staff have received Child Safeguarding Training Sessions and 48 Members of Staff have received Adult Safeguarding Training during October and November.</p> <p>4. £5,182 has been secured through the Awards for All BIG Lottery Programme for Voluntary & Community Sector Organisations. This is an external funding stream opportunity, our officers provide advice.</p> <p>5. The Mid Suffolk Capital Grant Programme has awarded £ 3,000 to the Rickinghall Village Hall for improvements. Section 106 funds of £4,436.12 to St Edmunds Hall Hoxne and £12,5304.54 to Thorndon Village Hall were awarded.</p>	

<p>Main Achievements continued</p>	<p>Mental Health work has included a successful Mental Health Awareness and Dementia Fortnight in the workplace with many activities in partnership with SCC and HR. 11 staff members now trained as Mental Health First Aiders. The Communities team recently completed a full Section 11 Audit which required the Councils' to evidence how well we are meeting our statutory obligations in relation to safeguarding, duty of care, and promoting the welfare of Children and Vulnerable Adults. The audit takes account of the level of Corporate commitment toward safeguarding and how the Councils' ensure that safeguarding measures are implicit in our procurement processes and embedded into our policies.</p>	<p>2. cont. Venues included venues such as Cedrus House and Hillcroft Nursing home. As part of the initiative, volunteers from the club were trained in first aid and safeguarding. The sessions were very well attended and received excellent feedback. 3. The Make, Do & Friends Project has commenced. With the support of the Communitiesteam, Suffolk Artlink in partnership with the Rural Coffee Caravan and DanceEast are delivering a high-quality arts outreach programme led by artists. The programme which has secured Arts Council funding for two years has been designed for and co-produced with older people, particularly those who are rurally isolated or lonely by providing opportunities for people to get together and try new activities.</p>	<p>6. A new Great Run Local event has been established in Walsham-le-willows, over 50 people took part in a pilot session in December, formal launch due in February. 7. Through the Active Wellbeing programme a Loneliness and Social Isolation training event was delivered in Fressingfield with 25 participants taking part. 8. A Parental Mental Health workshop was also delivered in October, in partnership with Public Health. 9. The Lullaby project which provides early years children with the opportunity to engage with world-class orchestral music, delivered to 286 attendees for concerts in Stowmarket with 73 children involved in 4 workshops. Music and early years training day was also delivered for 8 practitioners.</p>	
<p>Main Achievements continued</p>	<p>The Audit was validated by a Panel of members from the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. The Panel confirmed that Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils provided strong evidence of compliance and agreed we demonstrated a high standard of service. The Health and Wellbeing Team have officially launched a new three-year joint project with Suffolk Sport.</p>	<p>4.The Lullaby project provides children in the early years with the opportunity to experience world-class orchestral music through specially created events. So far 3 Lullaby workshops, each involving two musicians have been delivered in September (1 x Home Start Mid and West Suffolk group and 2 x Stowmarket Library). Music in Early Years CPD training, supporting seven early learning goals, has also been successfully delivered with nine Early Years providers attending. 5. Grants - in the year to date the Communities team has offered £41,000 in capital grants (overall project value £204,000) and Section 106 monies of £180,000 have been granted to a range of community projects. This includes improvements at Woolpit Village Hall and Fressingfield Social Club and new seating for Stowmarket Swimming Club (officially opened in September).</p>		

<p>Impact on communities / the way we work</p>	<p>Active Wellbeing is a bespoke approach to help living in rural communities who are physically inactive into more active lifestyles. The programme will also support the development of new activities, where they are needed, to help older people to become and stay, active. Active Wellbeing will initially work with GP surgeries in Stradbroke and Fressingfield.</p>	<p>1. The Prostate Cancer Awareness event was well received by staff and feedback received demonstrated a positive impact.</p> <p>2. Members of the Stowmarket Rookery Bowling Club Committee and volunteers have become trained Dementia friends and the club is proactively working towards becoming one of the first Dementia Friendly clubs in the county. Many of those attending taster-sessions have become members at their local club, including a sight-impaired bowler who is now the club's disability ambassador.</p> <p>3. Community engagement for the Make, Do & Friends project started in September. The project is working with older people including those living with dementia and is helping to reduce rural isolation and loneliness.</p> <p>4. The Lullaby project has worked with 70 families in Stowmarket and neighbouring villages and is making a positive impact on the wellbeing of participants and the wider community.</p> <p>5. The Council's grant aid programme supports services and projects that benefit our communities and align with our strategic priorities.</p>	<p>The active wellbeing programme is supporting increasing numbers of older residents to improve their wellbeing by becoming active and reducing social isolation and loneliness.</p>	
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