

Community Capacity Building and Engagement Portfolio Report

This has been a very busy period and will continue to be so over the course of the summer with many of the projects and activities which support the Strategic Plan moving forward.

1. Building a Sustainable Future engagement programme

We are in the final week of the ambitious 33 programme of events to engage our communities in the debate around sustainable growth. These events come to a close at the end of this week (W/C 18 July); during this final week we return to Mid Suffolk for community discussions within Stowupland, Debenham and Thurston. We intend to review and assimilate the outcomes and learning when the programme ends and this information will be then be shared with Members.

2. Suffolk Armed Forces Day for Mid Suffolk

The event took place on Saturday 25 June 2016 and was held at the Pikes Meadow site in Stowmarket. This was an extremely successful day, supporting the ambition of the Military Covenant commitment for Mid Suffolk District Council. The Event was undertaken in partnership across the Mid Suffolk Teams, with the Pikes Meadow Friends Group at the heart of the delivery and co-ordination and with terrific support from Councillors. The Working Group supporting the Event developed, planned and co-ordinated the work needed to undertake a high profile day. We have just received a letter of appreciation from the Lead Officer, Colonel Rae Leighton, in acknowledgement of the efforts, energies and co-ordination of the Event.

3. Suffolk Volunteering Strategy

At the Suffolk Show in early June the soft launch of the support of the **Mid Suffolk District Council with the Suffolk Volunteering Strategy** was undertaken. The two days were supported by Councillors and Officers and highlighted the importance and impact of people volunteering across our districts. The Council have been proactively involved in the Strategy, supported through the Health and Wellbeing Board, and are planning a range of activities to raise awareness of and highlight volunteering across our Teams for both Councillors and Staff.

4. Unity Housing Redevelopment

As part of the **Unity Housing redevelopment** taking place in Stowmarket, Haughley and Woolpit, Mid Suffolk District Council has worked with members of the local community to record recollections from residents past and present. Writer Dean Parkin was commissioned to collect memories and thoughts to create a unique book based around the concept of home. It celebrates the era of Unity Housing and the people who lived in them. These were built in the mid-1950s as a 'temporary' housing solution but stood for 60 years. Their demolition is allowing new rented houses to be built in their place. Dean's book **'Every Road Tells a Story'** was launched on Thursday 30 June at the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket. The Museum is holding a year-long exhibition of the project in Abbots Hall to share the stories from the Unity Housing community.

5. Connect update

The Connect model which co-locates social care and health practitioners together to provide an integrated service supported by the wider public sector in an integrated neighbourhood network will now start to be introduced across the Mid Suffolk area following the Sudbury early adoption. The roll-out plan for Connect has been agreed and is now being put into action. There will be a total of 13 Integrated Neighbourhood Teams established to provide co-ordinated and effective care for people in their locality. The Mid Suffolk area is covered by the following Integrated Neighbourhood Teams: Eye and Northwest, Stowmarket and Bury Rural (this includes Thurston). There is already an early success story in reducing duplication and improving efficiency of Occupational Therapy services in Eye.

6. Community Resilience

Officers from both the Communities and Housing (Supported Living) teams participated in a lively multi-agency workshop in Mildenhall to develop options for how we support better joined-up working between the council, health, social care and other local public service partners such as the police and voluntary and community sector across the West Suffolk CCG area. The outcomes from this “Think Big” workshop will inform the ongoing development of the 13 Integrated Neighbourhood Teams across Suffolk and a multi-agency community resilience team for Mid Suffolk and Babergh?

7. Transformation Challenge Award – Community Resilience

This element of the TCA programme will work towards the pooling of locality engagement resources across the Suffolk System. Initial planning has commenced on how this may be introduced in the Mid Suffolk and Babergh areas. A local model to bring together SCC Locality engagement staff, Elements of the Police SNT, CCG resources, CAS resources and District resources will be scoped over the summer.

8. Most Active County

We are currently supporting SCC with a **Most Active County** funded project on commissioning sport and physical activity for mental health and wellbeing outcomes. The project aims to strengthen the connections at a local level between professionals and volunteers/community groups involved in mental health (in the widest sense) and those involved in physical activity, so that more vulnerable, inactive people with mental health issues can be helped to find their way into more active lifestyles and less formal sources of support. Early delivery will focus on people transitioning from work into retirement in the Stowmarket and surrounding area. A progress update will be given at the Suffolk HWB Board on 21 July.

9. Suffolk 40 Project

Suffolk’s Fab 40 Adventures is a Suffolk version of the National Trust’s 50 Things to do before you’re 11¾ to support educational and health and wellbeing aspirations set out in Suffolk’s Nature Strategy. Public Health Suffolk fund the project, as part of the *Being Well in the Wild initiative*, and it has evolved to further encompass the objectives of getting younger and older generations outdoors and active to have positive mental and physical health benefits. Mid Suffolk will be supporting the launch of the Fab 40 project in August and we continue, through a range of activities, events and volunteering opportunities, to

support the *Being Well in the Wild* initiative which aims to reduce health inequalities through providing opportunities to access nature and the countryside.

10. Dementia update

As part of the Council's commitment to support those living with dementia and their families, officers are working with partners and communities to enable a network of Dementia Action Alliances across both districts. Current position and highlights as follows:

- Stowmarket is registered as a DAA alliance with the Alzheimer's Society.
- Eye and Needham Market also have constituted groups and are working towards registration.
- We are also working with a number of parishes to help them take forward their own DAA or link into one of the existing alliances in the market towns.
- We have held Dementia Friends Awareness raising sessions for Town and Parish Councils, Elected members and staff.
- As part of our commitment to Dementia Carers, we have partnered with our leisure operator, Everyone Active, to provide new opportunities for both carers and the cared for to participate in structured leisure and other positive activities.
- The Councils have also worked with Suffolk Family Carers to develop family carer sensitive employment policies and practices.

11. Tackling Isolation - Healthy Suffolk campaign - Loneliness.

We are supporting this Suffolk wide initiative by:

- Raising awareness of the campaign through our various community networks
- Funding and supporting two community based stakeholder events on loneliness and social isolation in Bideston and Eye
- Continued support and funding for the Rural Coffee Caravan project which delivers information and friendship across Suffolk by befriending people and offering access to the information they need to empower them.

Julie Flatman
Diana Kearsley