

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)

Main Achievements and Outcomes January - March 2020	<p>Toward the end of the Qtr 4 period the Communities team found itself at the forefront of the Council's response to the Covid 19 crisis. With significant pace and energy, the skills and expertise of officers within the team were fully exploited and a revised team structure created to ensure both the strategic and operational developments required could be achieved. This ensured that staff had the capacity to undertake other responsibilities supporting logistics, funding, community intelligence, data collection and wellbeing checks of the shielded and other vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The Communities Team with a pool of redeployed staff has led the Council's response to the Home, But Not Alone service and developed new approaches to support customers with mental health or social care needs, working with CCGs on medicine delivery, distribution of funding support to local groups and foodbanks and the ongoing support to volunteers and community groups reaching those who are in isolation and have vulnerabilities.</p> <p>Prior to the crisis, many Active Wellbeing projects were in progress. In Debenham New Age Kurling was added as new session, more than 50 referrals have been made into the service and good work continued to develop a positive rapport with the G.P. surgery. Continued and ongoing work with Eye INT and partners on the Pre-Diabetes Project starting in Debenham in April 2020 which will also link in with the Active Wellbeing Project. Active Schools, some schools are still being chased but the 4 schools signed up so far are Botesdale, Abbotts Hall, Freeman & Cedars Park & potentially Gislingham/Thorndon.</p> <p>Dementia - Stowmarket DAA are supporting the community by signposting to online exercise sessions run by the Leisure centre and the local Red Gables music group have produced sing a long music videos for people to download to watch. They have also organised a competition for people living with dementia to draw a picture and send in digitally or by post for a 2021 Calendar which will be printed and sold to raise funds for the DAA.</p> <p>The team also worked in partnership with the VASP at the "Time to Talk Day" in Stowmarket Town Centre on 6th February, where they spoke to local people about their mental health wellbeing.</p> <p>Suffolk FA: Working with the Suffolk Football Association, Active Suffolk and other partners on the FA's Football Facilities Plan. County Football Associations are engaging with local partners to map current team locations and pitch provision, to develop a local 10-year plan for football, which will contribute to the FA's National Framework. Local clubs have been consulted with the Suffolk plan being completed in June/July 2020.</p> <p>Funding: Revenue Funding has been approved for 20 organisations including Citizen Advice Bureau's, the Rural Coffee Caravan, Debenham Sports and Leisure Centre and Home Start. Other Community Grants have been provided in this period to support the following projects; Offton & Willisham Village Hall, Museum of East Anglian Village Life, Cotton Village Hall; Buxhall Parish Council; Stowmarket Tree & Light Festival; John Peel Centre; The Mix Stowmarket – Crucial Crew; Eye Park Radio.</p> <p>External Funding: The team worked with Plunkett Foundation to deliver a funding workshop for community pubs and shops in the Cross Keys in Redgrave and they are keen to fund more projects in Suffolk. The Needham Market Train Station Access for All Group have secured £380K by working closely with Greater Anglia to develop a project which not only overcomes the lack of disabled access to one of the platforms, but will also enable the residents of Needham to move more easily to and from Needham Lakes.</p>