

Communities

Assistant Director Tom Barker

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

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.

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.

Prior to the crisis, many **Active Wellbeing** projects were in progress with particular success being achieved in Bildeston where the annual target of 52 clients seen was achieved by the end of Qtr3. Community activities such as Yoga and carpet bowls had been set up with Health Walks being planned. It is hoped that Bildeston Surgery will be the first in Suffolk to be an 'Active Practise'. A number of schools are also engaged with **Active Schools** to complete project work to tackle child obesity and encouraging children to be more active.

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.

Suffolk Food Plan: Two projects currently in progress, one in Shotley to encourage mums and bereaved older people to learn how to cook. The project will also encourage participants to take the level 1 Hygiene standard course and learn to reduce food waste. The second project is running in Sudbury. This is a similar project to Shotley looking at mums to learn to cook. The Food bank are working with Pheonix Children Centre so educate people to learn healthy recipes using tinned food.

Funding: A key element of the Grants Review was completed leading to roll of Locality Budgets for Babergh District Councillors. Revenue Grants have been awarded to 16 Organisations in Babergh, including Citizen Advice Bureau's, the Rural Coffee Caravan, Great Cornard Leisure Centre and Home Start. Minor Community Grants in this period have been allocated to East Bergholt Cinema, Freston Parish Council, Peninsula Community Play and Layham Village Hall Contribution

The Creative Young Weavers project started in four Sudbury Primary Schools. Carole Creasey will be working with a local textile designer, Frin Arnold in the schools, with the intention of work being displayed in the Library in the summer.

Three new volunteers have been recruited to lead the planning for the 2021 Sudbury Silk Festival. This will be over three days, 03 to 05 September. We are working with the Economic Development Team to integrate the silk related activity into the Vision for Sudbury.