

## COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT PORTFOLIO REPORT

### 1. Suffolk Volunteering Strategy

The Council have been, and are continuing to be, proactively involved in the Strategy, agreed by the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, and are currently planning a range of activities to raise awareness of and highlight volunteering across our Teams for both Councillors and Staff. This has included features in the Working Together Newsletter and the Staff & Councillor Survey being launched in the Autumn.

### 2. Connect update

The Connect model which brings together primary care, social care and community healthcare practitioners supported by the wider public sector in a locality to provide more integrated services and support is now being rolled out across the Mid Suffolk area. A bid for Transformation Challenge Award funding for 2.7 FTE temporary Connect Programme Implementation Managers has been successful and at the time of writing recruitment for these posts is ongoing.

There will be a total of 13 Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) established across Suffolk to provide co-ordinated care for people in their locality. The Mid Suffolk area is covered by the following INTs: Eye and North West, Stowmarket (which includes Needham Market) and Bury Rural (this includes Thurston and Woolpit).

Stowmarket INT is up and running and the potential for colocation opportunities is currently being explored. Bury Rural INT is progressing well with Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings established in all GP surgeries including Botesdale Health Centre. Bury Rural INT operates from 3 main bases in Woolpit, Botesdale and Derbyshire House in Bury. There are no plans to co-locate at present although this may be revisited.

### 3. Transformation Challenge Award – Community Resilience

This element of the TCA programme is continuing to work towards the pooling of locality engagement resources across the Suffolk System. Planning and development of this work has commenced on how this may be introduced in the Mid Suffolk and Babergh areas. Officers appointed through the Suffolk County Council Team led by Sara Blake are taking the opportunity to work alongside the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Communities Team at our Offices to develop shared agendas, shape the delivery of activity and plan future practices.

#### **4. Dementia update**

As part of the Council's ongoing 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 now 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.
- We have worked with the Suffolk Cinema Network, Suffolk Community Foundation and The Regal in Stowmarket to present a series of relaxed Dementia friendly film screenings during this autumn. These are open to everyone and anyone. For those without their own transport, Community Transport is available.
- 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. These Living Well classes take place every Monday afternoon at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre.

#### **5. Great Run Local – Needham Lake**

Sport England's Active People Survey suggests that participation levels in sport and physical activity have been improving in Mid Suffolk. Locally we are seeing increasing levels of participation particularly in walking and running. This is being helped by a number of walking and running initiatives in the area for people to take part in from beginner level up to elite athletes.

One example supported by the Council is the Great Run Local held at Needham Lake. This weekly event has attracted increasing numbers of runners with as many as 800 participants completing 2km and 5km runs each month. Open to people of all abilities, this community event prides itself on getting new-starters into running by walking or jogging the 2km course, and gradually moving up to a 5km. Runners are offered a free wristband which logs their progress, and helps them improve each week. This is a great example of how we can encourage people to be more active, more often and in doing so to improve a key health and wellbeing outcome.

## **6. Suffolk Community Foundation Event**

On Wednesday 19 October 2016 the Council are hosting an Event at Lavenham Village Hall to promote the external funding opportunities through the Suffolk Community Foundation. The Event will include a formal presentation with the opportunity for Workshop Learning Sessions and Networking. Bookings are currently underway through the Team. This will help attract more external funding into our district and build further community capacity.

**Councillor Julie Flatman**  
**Community Capacity Building and Engagement Portfolio Holder**

**Councillor Diana Kearsley**  
**Community Activities Member with Special Responsibilities**