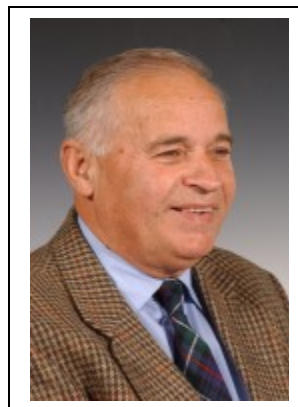


# Parish Report March 2017

## Councillor

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### **New Report Announces Vision for Mental Health in suffolk**

Suffolk's Director of Public Health releases his annual report today (26 January) setting an ambition to improve mental health services in Suffolk over the next 10 years.

Suffolk Minds Matter: Suffolk Annual Public Health Report 2016 will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at today's meeting, proposing recommendations for long-term improvement to mental health in Suffolk. An estimated 1 in 100 people are affected by severe mental ill health in Suffolk and around half of lifelong mental ill health conditions develop before the age of 14.

In the same month that the Prime Minister outlined government commitments to better mental healthcare for young people and the wider population, this new report sets a Suffolk-wide aspiration for improved mental health at all ages. The independent report, which has been produced in collaboration with a range of partners, lists seven cross-cutting recommendations to promote good mental health and reduce demand in Suffolk over the next five to 10 years.

The report is divided into sections that correspond with different stages in people's lives, from pre-birth children to older people's mental health. It recognises that good mental health is a fundamental human right for everyone and that good mental health is essential for good physical health, and vice versa.

### **Suffolk's youngest children have greater online access than ever before**

This year's annual cyber survey results show that 83% of 10-11 year olds in Suffolk now have access to either a smartphone or tablet. This represents a 14% increase in smartphone ownership, however only 58% of ten year olds asked in the survey said they had been taught to stay safe online by a parent or carer. Despite the rising number of young people with internet access, Suffolk is bucking national trends in terms of risk-taking behaviour.

There has been a three year downward trend in nearly all forms of online risk taking behaviour across all ages in the county. The survey, which gathered over 3,000 responses from children and young people in Suffolk, found that the number of young people who feel confident in avoiding risky situations online increases with age. This correlates as the group who will have been exposed to the most e-safety education and advice throughout their lifetimes. The group who encountered the most risky situations online were those who had not received any online safety education either at home or in school.

The responses from children and young people show that online safety education and advice is making a real difference in Suffolk. However there is more to be done. The numbers of parents teaching their children about online safety has remained constant at just over 60%. It is vital that parents and carers continue to provide online safety advice to young people in Suffolk.

This year's results continue to reflect a link between emotional health and online behaviour, a trend first picked up in 2014's cyber survey and backed up by national research. Feelings of depression can double the risk of engaging in harmful behaviour online.

The results were released to coincide with **National Safer Internet Day**. This year's theme is 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet.'

To find out more or to register as a supporter visit: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

## **On Call Firefighter Recruitment**

In Suffolk, on-call firefighters make up 66% of the workforce and are the firefighters who predominantly work in Suffolk's small towns and villages. Changes in society, employment, social and family life means that on-call firefighters are difficult to recruit and then increasingly difficult to retain for an extended period - in the past most on-call firefighters stayed for 10-15 years, the average tenure is now about 4-8 years.

Suffolk County Council have been working hard to develop new material and find effective ways of recruiting new firefighters. These have been successful in increasing the number of applicants, albeit the rigorous standards necessary to be a professional firefighter mean that some of the applicants are unsuccessful through the recruitment process. This recruitment is continuing and we have designed this pack to give you an insight into the role of on-call firefighters in Suffolk and highlight how you can help us to recruit more of them in your divisions.

We would encourage you to promote this recruitment information throughout your area through whatever forum, meeting or contacts you have in place. We are particularly keen to engage with local business, schools and other organisations that are located close to our fire stations. We hope that with your help we can recruit new, good quality firefighters to serve the people of Suffolk. If you have any questions about the pack then please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Hicks, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection [matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk)

## **New Pre-Schools to be built in Lavenham and Stowmarket**

We'll receive a capital funding contribution from the Department for Education toward the cost of building new preschools in Lavenham and Stowmarket.

The two new preschools will provide vital childcare places in these communities and particularly benefit working parents. All parents can get up to 15 hours free childcare per week from the term after their child turns three, right up until they start school. From September 2017 this will increase for eligible working parents to a maximum of 30 hours per week during school term time, or fewer hours per week if spread over the whole year.

Parents recently took part in a survey to say how and where they would use the additional funded childcare places available to them from September. Ofsted registered childcare providers, childminders and schools can choose to offer the funded childcare places for working parents.

For more information on childcare for working parents, go to [www.suffolk.gov.uk/30hours](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/30hours) or phone the Suffolk Family Information Service on **0345 60 800 33**.

## **Suffolk County Council and Suffolk's clinical commissioning groups joint statement regarding the Ofsted and CQC Local Area SEND Inspection outcome**

Suffolk County Council and Suffolk's clinical commissioning groups statement.

We fully accept the findings of the report and apologise that the local area's services and provision have not effectively met the needs of children and young people in our county. Transforming these services is our priority.

Prior to the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission inspection, we identified that significant improvements needed to be made to the way children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families access support. We have been working in partnership with the Suffolk Parent Carer Network to introduce a number of changes covering education, health and social care, and we are beginning to see the positive impact of these. The number of Statements to be transferred to Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) has reduced and production of new EHCPs has increased.

We recognise that it is not just about the speed of production but also improving the quality of the EHCPs produced. We are investing in training across all partners and providers focussing on improving co-production of EHCPs.

Whilst the report recognises the early steps taken to make improvements, it clearly highlights that there is still much more work we need to do and we agree with these findings. Since the inspection, together with the Suffolk Parent Carer Network, we have identified three key areas of focus to bring about the rapid improvements that are needed. We are working together to improve access to information, improve the SEND journey and develop the services and provision available locally.

The three NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Suffolk (NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG, NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG and NHS West Suffolk CCG) have recruited Designated Clinical Officers for SEND who are working closely with both the local authority and health providers to improve the Education Health and Care Plan Process.

Waiting times for child and adolescent mental health services are beginning to reduce and children with complex care needs are being well cared for by the community nursing teams.

Suffolk County Council has a good track record of turning poorly performing services around; 89% of our schools are now judged 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. This rate has been increasing faster than the national average over the last two years and marks a more than 20% increase since the council's Raising the Bar programme (which aims to improve educational attainment) began.

We all want children and young people in Suffolk to reach their full potential. Working together we have full confidence that we will be able to implement the same turnaround to ensure that children, young people and their families can access the support they need, when they need it.

### **Carbon neutral scheme by Suffolk Highways receives environmental award**

Suffolk Highways' first carbon neutral scheme has been recognised by a campaign that promotes and rewards environmental best practice.

The five-week project to reconstruct and upgrade 1.4km of footpath along the old A11 near Elveden picked up bronze award at the UK Green Apple Awards, which recognises environmental best practice. The project aimed to improve and restore the path while also minimising the carbon footprint of the scheme. The project reused all of the material from the existing footpath along with 300 tonnes of surplus material from a carriageway recycling site in Bury St Edmunds.

Traditionally, the carbon footprint of the project would have been an estimated 101.75 tonnes. However, by cutting down on the amount of embedded CO<sub>2</sub> from the materials used, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from vehicle movements and the running of the plant during the project, a carbon footprint reduction of 78.3% was achieved.

Workers recycled the excavated spoil to produce a new base material, transporting it to a local recycling facility, which provided a one-stop shop - receiving the waste spoil as well as producing the recycled material being returned, reducing the total haulage miles by 80%.

The project, which cost just under £128,000, was initiated as part of Suffolk's aspirations of becoming the Greenest County. Although it was slightly more expensive than traditional construction, it was an important trial as this could easily become a cheaper option in the future if the price of raw materials (such as oil and aggregate) begin to increase. So, it was a great opportunity to explore the potential for this greener method to become standard for future footpath reinstatements.

The safety of cyclists has been improved as they can now use the footpath, avoiding the main highway. Due to the method of construction nearby, residents and local commuters also benefitted from the reduction in lorry movements that, in turn, led to reduced levels of congestion in the area.