

**Feedback from
Strengthening Communities Think Tank
10 June 2013**



ESP 19th June 2013



The Context

The ESP **target** around reducing inequalities in Health, Housing and Crime is vast and complex!

How do we define term inequalities?

A small % of population in Waveney and Coastal are absorbing a greater % of resources



The Focus

- Should be about addressing the issues that determine inequalities - e.g. economic activity, poor health (including mental health), long-term unemployment, housing affordability, access to services, lack of skills, readiness for work, generational family issues- parenting skills
- Resources put into prevention can save ££££'s in the future (e.g. health) - 'invest to save'



The Priorities

- Promote collaboration to address gaps in services to promote added value
- Address underlying and root causes of inequalities and design and embed preventative measures



Adding Value

Current work by partners includes:

- Lowestoft Peer Review
- Suffolk Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- Suffolk Family Focus (Troubled Families Initiative)
- Lowestoft Provision Health Review
- Community Development - promoting Localism



Think Tank Attendees

- Suffolk Coastal & Waveney District Councils
- Community Action Suffolk
- Suffolk County Council (Children & Young People & Business Development)
- Public Health
- Suffolk Constabulary
- North East Suffolk CAB
- NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group
- Orwell Housing (comments)



Issues Highlighted

- Welfare reforms e.g. bedroom tax and reduction in benefits for larger families
- Low aspirations - increase in NEET's
- Insufficient housing stock available to meet need
- Evidence of some tension between sections of the community



Issues Highlighted

- Inconsistent access to mental health services (children's and adult)
- Ineffective, unsustainable previous support
- Isolation and loneliness
- Access to services for rural communities
- Gypsy and Traveller needs in the districts



Barriers to Working

- Schemes not addressing the root causes of issues
 - Just scratching the surface of problems
- Agencies do not understand fully what each other is doing or how they operate
- No formal communication structures between agencies around the customer
- Some communities do not have the capacity, skill set to engage / tackle issues themselves
- Measuring the impact of prevention measures is difficult

Moving Forward - Suggestions

- Keen to focus on system redesign, analysing where blockages, dated processes and handoff's exacerbate problems for customers.
- Health - unplanned admissions and the costs associated with this, coupled with a lack of community/preventative investment.
- So, how can we tackle this based on need and evidence?

Moving Forward - Suggestions

- Select one key issue, agree preventative action and resource to action a *step change*, sustainable difference e.g. address root cause issues such as those affecting young people, debt management, alcohol abuse, drug abuse or mental health awareness?
- Apply the Troubled Families approach and model to provide robust intervention and promote sustainable improvement within lives of disadvantaged communities



What can the ESP do?

- Provide a space for agencies and partners to come together and network on key issues or within geographic locations
- Support partners to develop integrated service models for delivery of key priorities
- Act as a bridge between the two different health structures
- Develop effective and sustained community capacity building/community development



What can the ESP do?

- Campaign on a key preventative, sustainable issue for Suffolk Coastal / Waveney
- Use the ESP as a trusted 'brand' to bring partners together for action
- Lobby for more affordable / suitable housing to mitigate the impact of the 'bedroom' tax
- Data gathering on best practice models in tackling inequalities to showcase to partners



Next Steps?

- Big theme to **raise awareness** between Housing, Care and Health decision makers as to what each area can do and importantly what they cannot do
- To this end facilitating a workshop, seminar or whatever to exchange views and examine the possible and not possible would be a big step forward
- The current level of knowledge between the disciplines is still poor



Next Steps?

- Big issue - The focus on prevention highlights the need for effective and sustained **community capacity building** and **community development**.
- Given current changes and the focus on community resilience at the heart on a lot of current initiatives it is a good time for the ESP to look at how this could work in East Suffolk going forward and perhaps where it may be able to accelerate/enhance what is already happening.
- To this end a collaborative study should be undertaken to review the merit in Community Led Planning work in terms of supporting communities to do more for themselves and explore whether we should proactively be targeting localities/communities where the inequalities are most significant.



How?

- A task group develops and takes forward a work plan based around one or more of the suggested models
- Collaborative study to devise effective and sustained community capacity building/community development going forward
- Commission partners / VCS organisations to undertake specific workstreams based around one of the suggested models



Debate

- Are there more issues to consider?
- What can the ESP do?
- What should be the next steps?
- The BIG question: what does the Board want to see happen?