A message from our Chairman

It was in Halesworth back in July 2012 when I chaired the very first East Suffolk Partnership Board meeting.

Since then I have been very pleased to see how the partnership has developed to influence the way in which some of our local services are designed, commissioned and delivered.

The East Suffolk Partnership is able to do this because it is uniquely positioned to connect organisations and individuals to work together for East Suffolk.

We have enjoyed yet another successful year and in this newsletter we reflect on some of the outstanding achievements of all those involved.

Who is the ESP?

The ESP has developed over the last six years to bring together the public sector, businesses, voluntary organisations and communities, to create a partnership that benefits everyone.

The ESP Board is made up by the following organisations:
- NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group
- Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Waveney District Council
- East Suffolk Greenprint Forum
- Suffolk County Council
- Suffolk Constabulary
- Community Action Suffolk

East Suffolk Business Associations
East Suffolk Youth Priority Action Group
NHS Ipswich and East CCG
Snape Maltings

For more information about the ESP, go to www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk or contact Luke Bennett, Partnership Manager on 01394 444 252 or luke.bennett@eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk

The ESP has a budget to enable the Board to influence delivery of its priorities and unlock additional funding and resources. This year, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have contributed £150,000 through the New Homes Bonus.
**Adult Learning Update**

A very successful conference was held earlier this year, called ‘Future-proofing All Adult Learning in East Suffolk’.

The conference was attended by 30 delegates, including a number of different training providers and support organisations.

The theme of the conference focused on collaboration. This was reflected in both the keynote speech from Stephen Amer from The Voice cLoud, and the workshops, facilitated by Community Action Suffolk and Menta.

Delegates were keen to explore the opportunities that could arise from working together, which resulted in the discussion around forming an East Suffolk Adult Learning Network.

Chris McGuinness, facilitator of the conference, has published a report summarising the outcomes and recommending next steps.

To read the report, go to [www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/assets/Adult-Learning/Futureproofing-All-Adult-Learning-Report.pdf](http://www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/assets/Adult-Learning/Futureproofing-All-Adult-Learning-Report.pdf)

If you are interested in getting involved or have any question, contact Emily Oxborrow on emily.oxborrow@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

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**Micro businesses in east Suffolk**

Research to gain a clearer understanding of the needs of micro businesses, especially in relation to the recruitment, retention and the barriers of employment, was commissioned by the ESP, with support from Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.

The final report provides an evidence base to support the ESP and its Vibrant Economy Task Group in determining future work priorities.

The research involved:

- Undertaking a literature review on the topic of micro businesses, with reference to the UK
- Reviewing the labour market statistics as a means of profiling the area and contextualising the rest of the research
- Engaging support agencies and clients to understand the barriers to employment
- Engaging micro businesses on the issue of recruitment to better understand the factors that might be impacting on this topic
- Examining the issue of retention, such as staff turnover

The research has resulted in recommendations and funding applications relating to trends within the sector, supporting people who work by improving skills and growing the sector to support employment.

To read the full report, go to [www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/assets/Uploads/Barriers-to-Recruitment/Barriers-to-Recruitment-report.pdf](http://www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/assets/Uploads/Barriers-to-Recruitment/Barriers-to-Recruitment-report.pdf)
Leiston Together

Leiston Together, a Coastal Community Team, commenced in January 2017 to address four key areas in Leiston; regeneration of the town centre, support for businesses and enterprises, health and wellbeing of older residents and local opportunities for young people.

Highlights from this year include:
• The launch of post 16 vocational opportunities, provided by Suffolk New College on the Coast, with 40 students enrolled and able to access five different course programmes, from Business Studies to Games Design
• Supporting the launch of Leiston Business Association and providing a monthly business networking meet as well as a Business drop-in event on 31 October 2018
• Leading a Dementia Project and working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly community
• Helping to form a Good Neighbour Scheme to provide advice assistance and support to elderly residents
• The launch of the Sizewell Parkrun, which attracts over 100 runners each week. The 5 km run takes place alongside the stunning beach and amidst the sand dunes on the local coastline. Leiston Surgery is also registered as a Parkrun practice supported by the Royal College of GPs

• The celebration of the NHS’ 70 Birthday. A tea party was held at the Long Shop Museum with invitations to all surgery patients who have their 70th birthday this year

A lot has been achieved, but there is still more to do. Leiston Community Land Trust is aiming to raise £12 million to develop new social housing, a market square and new retailers and library centre in the town.

If you have any questions or want more information, please email elspeth.gibson@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Pathways Care Farm in Lowestoft were commissioned to deliver an exciting project called ‘Embracing Difference’ earlier this year with funding from the ESP and both Clinical Commissioning Groups that cover East Suffolk.

‘Embracing Difference’ promotes the importance of valuing and understanding everyone within our communities. It will encourage people to be more understanding, supportive and empathetic towards anyone behaving differently - whatever the reason - for example, mental ill health, dementia, special educational needs, physical or learning disabilities.

Pathways are working with local partners, including the Lowestoft Mental Health Ambassador, to develop short training sessions and an on-line module aimed at schools, businesses, voluntary sector organisations and community groups.

The aim is to raise awareness and understanding of the huge diversity of people within the east Suffolk communities. They will be piloting some thought provoking and moving film clips exploring people’s very personal experiences at the ESP Forum.
Kate Lacey stepped in as the new Town Clerk at Woodbridge Town Council earlier this year.

She has recognised early on how business training and development is crucial to deliver on the aspirations local Councillors have for this vibrant market town.

The councillors are members of The Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC), and Kate has been able to take full advantage of their knowledge and expertise, helping her to quickly settle into her new role.

“I was fortunate to get a place on the New Clerk’s Course a few weeks in. The two day course was invaluable in training me for my new role as the Town Clerk,” said Kate Lacey.

“Following the course, I have taken every opportunity to do for training with SALC, which is very well-structured, resourced and taught.”

Suffolk’s parish and town councils play an important role in our communities, and now receive national recognition for the value they bring to our public sector.

A parish clerk’s role now includes working in a wider context and managing the needs and expectations of local residents.

SALC also saw new CEO, Sally Longmate join earlier this year. She took the opportunity to work closely with Kate as part of her own induction into the new role.

Understanding the importance professional development plays, she said: “Officers and Councillors alike have to cope with increasing demands as the face of the public sector changes.

“Information is knowledge and we are committed to ensuring that local councils have access to training courses to help them develop.”

SALC work closely with a number of organisations, including the East Suffolk Partnership, to make sure they are always ahead of change and able to guide and support local councils.
New Horizons in

Felixstowe

Felixstowe Forward engages with a wide range of business and community groups to develop a plan which will improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Felixstowe.

Among its aims, Felixstowe Forward will work in the heart of Felixstowe to:

• Oversee the development and delivery of further economic growth
• Seek and support new developments and projects
• Promote Felixstowe as a high quality destination town
• Preserve and promote the heritage of the town
• Support and develop an enterprise and entrepreneurship culture

Felixstowe has seen a host of new developments and significant investment from both the public and private sector in recent years and the Visit Felixstowe campaign has helped people rediscover the resort.

For businesses looking to invest in commercial leisure opportunities, now is the time to start looking at Felixstowe as it is being recognised nationally as ‘one to watch’.

The local district council, Suffolk Coastal takes an active role in driving this dynamic economy through its Economic Development and Regeneration team that encourages new and existing businesses to survive, revive and thrive.

There are exciting new proposals on the horizon from a new iconic leisure centre, to a Business Improvement District, a new garden neighbourhood housing development and improved infrastructure, as well as ideas for developing the South Seafront.

With a bright future ahead, predicted economic growth and prosperity, there has never been a better time to invest in Felixstowe.

Hidden Needs in

east Suffolk

In 2016, a ‘Hidden Needs’ report was prepared for the ESP Board. It summarises the findings relating to poverty, social mobility, groups at risk of disadvantage, rural deprivation, rural services and hidden needs in east Suffolk.

Whilst a number of challenges were identified, much of the information was not new, but was presented in a more useful way. Significant work is already underway or being planned through different organisations and partnerships, including the ESP, to address the issues.

The report enabled us to identify a series of ‘hot spots’ across the district. These indicate where there are more likely to be concentrations of people in need, for example elderly people on low income with limited access to services.

In July 2017, the ESP Board agreed to allocate £100,000 funding to community and voluntary sector led projects to tackle the needs in these hot spots and £20,000 was provided by Suffolk County Council.

The first step for anyone who has a project idea to help address the issues in the hot spots, is to talk to one of our East Suffolk Communities Team officers, who can assist.

For more information and to see the ‘hot spot’ maps, go to: www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/home/hidden-needs/
**Plastics: Know Your Place in the Community**

A Plastic Action event took place at Kirkley Centre in September and was deemed a success in helping us spread our vision of a pollution free environment.

Greenprint Forum is not enemies of plastics, which helps provide employment for over 3,900 people in East Anglia. However, despite positive applications of plastic as a lightweight and cheap material, it is important to remind ourselves of what can happen during and after use.

This event did just that with a showing of the eye-opening film ‘A Plastic Tide’. The film reveals the damage caused by plastic and waste worldwide.

There were also discussions of recycling and waste management in Suffolk and information stalls from local organisations, including Suffolk Coasts and Heaths, Suffolk Master Composters, VeGee Deli, Kirkley People’s Forum, Essex and Suffolk Water, Green Lady Eco Store and Groundwork.

The event closed with a litter pick around the local community covering ground from Lowestoft beach to CEFAS around Kirkley and finishing at the centre.

Volunteers collected 24.7kg of litter and managed to reclaim 0.36kg of this for recycling. Norse collected the waste and the recycling was taken by the Sustainability Officer to rinse and recycle.

Thank you to all the stall holders, organisations, staff at Kirkley Centre and those who dropped in to share and spread our vision. Thank you to Norse for collecting the rubbish and your helpful input during the day taking queries.

It is our responsibility to care for our environment and take action against plastic. Visit our website for further information: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/)

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**How to contact the Greenprint Forum:**

greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

www.twitter.com/GreenprintForum

www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/
TCB project proved a big success

The Thriving Community Buildings (TCB) project ended earlier this year and has been a big success.

The innovative project combined Groundwork’s expertise in charity management and resource efficiency to offer communities in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney assistance to build resilience through their community buildings.

The project offered support in the following areas:

- Energy management and monitoring
- Resource efficiency
- Emergency planning and resilience
- Health and safety
- Governance, trustees and management
- Safeguarding
- Financial management accounting
- Business planning and fundraising strategies
- Employment of staff and volunteers
- Biodiversity and access to wildlife

The project was funded by the ESP, Suffolk Country Council and Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with support from the Environment Agency, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils and Suffolk Climate Change Partnership.

Since the project started in 2016, it supported 33 communities through on-site ‘thrivability audits’ and ‘backroom’ telephone and email support. This was through 19 audits and 14 distance supports.

The support has provided communities with the knowledge, tools and support needed to improve their long term sustainability.

Students investigate careers in crime

Pakefield High School offer their students after-school sessions called “electives”. Members of staff host a subject that they are particularly interested to broaden student’s subject knowledge but also to offer experiences of the world around them and at the same time highlight potential future pathways.

Science teacher Emily Eagle runs a forensics club and wanted to give students some credible experience of what it was like working in the field of forensic science field and showcase some of the specialised roles involved, such as scenes of crime officer and detective.

Lowestoft Risings Change Manager and Enterprise Adviser Phil Aves, a highly experienced former police officer delivered an interactive session with students offering illuminating career insights and some fascinating real-life crime stories. The enthralled students were captivated during the session and all remarked how these sessions provide them with tangible links with what they are learning to real life.

“A massive thank you for the talk you held within our CSI/Forensics Club – it was fascinating and feedback from seeing students this morning is that they “loved it!”. You’ve certainly enthused them to look more into police work & forensics as a career which is exactly what our aim was,” said Mrs L Andrews, Careers Assistant & LRC Manager.
CAS supporting local organisations

Sabrina Ward is a Business Support Officer for Community Action Suffolk (CAS). Her role is to support charitable organisations in their efforts to be sustainable and to continue to move forward to help and support more people within Suffolk.

One of the ways Sabrina is able to do this is with funding from the ESP. Over the past four months she has worked with SouthGen (Southwold), The Seagull Theatre (Lowestoft), Honeypot (Bungay), Involve (Lowestoft) and Area 25 (Martlesham).

These organisations have been allocated ESP funds for business planning and development – enabling them to be more sustainable in an ever changing funding environment. Much of the work is still ongoing, but CAS have been able to look into ways in which these organisations can raise funds, reach more people and promote themselves, as well as different ways to earn an income to continue the great work they do.

“These organisations support local people, and we want them to continue to do so. The need for business planning shouldn’t be underestimated for VCSE organisations – they need it as much as any business,” explained Sabrina Ward.

“We give them the support they need to be able to stand on their own two feet. This way they will get stronger and continue to do the good work they do, without needing to rely on funding streams that may not be available in the future.”

MWT has brought the two towns closer together, with nine cultural partners from Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft, as well as various supporting partners. Together they are delivering 16 bespoke art and heritage activities.

This is made possible through the Great Places Scheme, delivered by Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England, with support from the ESP. Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft are the only places in the East of England to receive this 3 year investment.

MWT is a year in and has many positive and exciting projects emerging in both towns over the next two years.

Making Waves Together (MWT) is a project run by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Waveney District Council. Its aim is to see communities work together to build cultural partnerships and put arts, culture and heritage at the heart of local visions.
Youth Holiday Programme ends on a high

A successful Youth Holiday Activities Programme, delivered by the East Suffolk Youth Priority Action Group (ESYPAG), recently came to the end after two years.

ESP allocated £50,000 to ESYPAG, which enabled them to fund 28 separate youth organisations across east Suffolk, with 48 different projects being supported over 6 rounds of funding.

The amount of matched funding leveraged as a result of the funded projects is £100,463. It is estimated the total number of young people who benefited from the activities is 3400.

The aim of the programme was to improve the variety of opportunities available to young people aged between 11-18 years in east Suffolk, with the ESP supporting the initiative over the two years.

The programme was built on the work of ESYPAG who has been supporting and developing youth participation in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney since 2015.

Activity providers across east Suffolk were asked to get involved in the programme. They helped provide activities including sport, arts and science, as well as activities to improve skills and activities aimed at young people with disabilities.

The programme was led by young people, with support from the East Suffolk Communities Team.

Final decisions on successful applications were made by a panel of young people who benefitted from the management skills they learnt from the programme. Funding was allocated based on the scoring, using an agreed scoring matrix, and decision making by the panel.

Olivia Healey, ESYPAG Panel member and ESP Board Member, has been involved from the start of the two year project.

She said: “I have really enjoyed being a panel member and having the ability to improve holiday activity prospects for young people, which has been a huge reward and an honour. Being on the panel has reinforced the message that you can never be too young to contribute to something or make something happen”.

In 2017 the panel were awarded Anne Dunford OBE Award for Youth Participation by Community Action Suffolk.

They were also shortlisted as a finalist in 2017 for Youth Organisation of the Year at The Stars of Lowestoft and Waveney Awards.
Supporting Businesses in east Suffolk

Around £60,000 of funding has been awarded to local businesses through the Vibrant Economy workstream, helping to support 54 projects across east Suffolk.

The funding has been used on a range of activities for business groups to help develop their organisational capacity and deliver projects to help support and grow the local economy.

More projects have been developed to give businesses in east Suffolk an opportunity to become connected with one another and improve access to shared information, knowledge and resources.

Members of the Vibrant Economy task group include Roger Abbott, Chair of Felixstowe Chamber, Jenny Stockman, representative of Suffolk Coast Business and Framlingham Business Association and Christine Pinsent, representative of Waveney Business Forum and Beccles Business and Events Association along with representatives from the Economic Development Team.

Roger Abbott said: “This collaborative working has allowed invaluable opportunities for business leaders across east Suffolk to discuss mutual challenges and develop practical solutions, which can be shared by all.”

Projects include:

The Wickham Market Partnership received funding to help create a new website for the village. The website is being used to raise the profile of the town and is a major contributor to improving its attraction to tourists and businesses in the village.

Felixstowe Chamber received funding to produce an Information Pack to publicise the Chamber and the benefits it provides to businesses in the area.

Waveney Business Forum received funding to hold a business support event, which focused on the changed in data protection, cyber fraud and ‘Making Tax Digital’. The event also included business support, training and various funding agencies.

Felixstowe Chamber, Suffolk Coastal Business and Waveney Business Forum (WBF) received funding to deliver a series of workshops on the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This was the first joint venture for the three groups and proved to be a real success.

Bungay Events and Business Association received funding towards replacing the MyBungay website. The existing website was outdated and built on old technology. The plan is to make the new website mobile friendly, add a newsfeed, create a mobile app and make it easier for officers of BEBA to update content.