
Suffolk Information Partnership Celebrates 100 Partners

The Suffolk Information Partnership is a network of organisations offering information, advice, and services to support people's health and wellbeing in Suffolk.

The partnership was formed in 2010 with five key voluntary sector organisations in Suffolk - Age UK Suffolk, Optua (now Avenues East), Suffolk Family Carers, Suffolk Libraries and Suffolk Mind - alongside Suffolk County Council's Adult Social Care services. Now we have more than 100 statutory, voluntary and independent sector organisations delivering services to support all groups across Suffolk.

The 100th partner to join the network was *Our Special Friends*, a Suffolk based charity that works to help people to benefit from animal companionship during illness, bereavement, or other crises.

The partnership meets regularly to share updates on its services and discuss topics of interest as well as providing peer support and informal mentoring. Being in the partnership also gives organisations access to a toolkit of resources and the Warm Handover referral scheme. The Warm Handover referral scheme allows partners to refer clients directly to another organisation, where they identify that the client would benefit from other support.

The process *supports vulnerable clients* and those who may struggle to contact another organisation if they are signposted to that organisation.

For more information about the Suffolk Information Partnership and Warm Handover, visit: <http://suffolkinformationpartnership.onesuffolk.net/>

The Suffolk Information Partnership is open to statutory, voluntary and independent sector organisations operating across or within local communities in Suffolk. If your organisation would like to join send a short paragraph about what your organisation does, your logo and contact details to suffolkinformationpartnership@suffolk.gov.uk

The Suffolk Information Partnership and Warm Handover Referral Scheme are free to join.

More funds confirmed for children's services, adult care and the environment

The £687.6m package was approved at a Full Council meeting on Thursday 9 February 2023, with a focus on children's services, adult care and the environment.

In an online survey, Suffolk residents said that they would like to see more spent on adult services and children's services, and these areas will receive an additional £35.7m and £13.5m, respectively.

In addition, the council's net zero carbon budget, which had previously been approved by Cabinet, sits alongside the financial budget. It is a report on how the organisation is progressing to its ambitious target of being net zero by 2030, enabling the council to measure its carbon emissions, monitor its environmental impact, and identify actions and costs needed to reduce those emissions.

Ten nominees up for Suffolk's Green Hero award

The award will go to an outstanding individual who inspires others to care for the environment, connects people, and brings environmental projects to life.

Suffolk County Council's Creating The Greenest County Awards for 2023 will see a total of nine awards presented to schools, businesses and communities from across the county. They celebrate the achievements of those in Suffolk who are protecting our environment, reducing their carbon emissions and inspiring others.

The judging panel is made up of previous winners, sponsors and environmental experts and awards will be presented at an environmentally-friendly ceremony to be held in March at The Hold, in Ipswich.

The Awards categories are:

- Green Business
- Green Small Business
- Green Tourism
- Green School (two awards)
- Green Hero
- Green Community
- Enhancing Biodiversity and Landscape
- Waste Reduction and Recycling

To vote for your Green Hero, visit www.greensuffolk.org/hero - voting closes on Friday 3 March 2023.

New highways services arriving in Suffolk as multi-million-pound contract awarded

Milestone Infrastructure, part of M Group Services, has been awarded Suffolk's new highways services contract, which will begin on 1 October 2023.

Following an extensive procurement exercise, Suffolk County Council has confirmed Milestone will be its new contract partner for up to 20 years. The new partnership, which is worth in the region of £800 million - £1 billion, will be delivering highway projects and improvements across Suffolk, including but not limited to maintaining roads, pavements and rights of way, drainage, hedge trimming, construction of new road schemes, snow-clearing and gritting.

When searching for its new highways partner, the county council worked with leading industry analysts to understand the different types of arrangements that other local authorities have in place, to look at which specialist providers are in the marketplace, and to find out what aspects of contract agreement may work best for Suffolk.

The council wanted the new contract to focus on delivering greater social value, utilising local skills and talent, giving young people the opportunity to work in the sector as well as building on the council's commitment to carbon reduction and protecting the environment.

A rigorous procurement exercise was carried out over many months, with various stages of discussions with service providers, to evolve their solutions to meet the various contractual requirements and deliver an effective and efficient highway service for Suffolk. Final submissions were evaluated and extensively moderated before the final winning contract was awarded.

Fire service finalises plan to protect Suffolk's communities

Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection, brought the CRMP to Cabinet (Tuesday, 21 February) to seek approval for its adoption from April 2023.

“We have listened to residents, businesses, partners and stakeholders about what matters to them and where they feel we should direct our resources; without this being to the detriment of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service staff, who already work tirelessly to prevent and respond to emergencies.

Councillor Andrew Reid, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Public Protection

The plan details Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's priorities until 2027, including:

- Updating how response times are reported to include from the time of call and focus on the areas of highest risk, such as dwelling fires
- Addressing climate change to support Suffolk County Council's ambition to be a carbon-neutral authority by 2030, with a view to introducing more non-fossil fuel vehicles in the fleet
- Developing preventative safe and well visits, including continued work with the National Farmers' Union to tailor advice to rural and farming communities
- Assessing how the service works with partner agencies, such as supporting the ambulance service when appropriate and if capacity and resources allow for this
- Reviewing the recruitment and retention of on-call firefighters and specialist support staff to ensure Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service remains a diverse employer of choice

These priorities were identified during extensive research and pre-consultation engagement with staff and stakeholders. In addition, hundreds of Suffolk residents helped to inform the final document by providing feedback on proposals during the CRMP public consultation, which ran from October to December 2022 and included a series of public events held at six supermarkets across the county.

Future of popular Ipswich sports centre secured by Suffolk County Council

Vivify, a school's lettings company, will replace Ipswich Borough Council in the management of the public sports facilities at Northgate. The company has extensive experience of running more than 500 sports facilities across the country. It will manage the bookings system and out of hours service.

The facilities will be formally handed over on April 1st and will reopen on April 17th following site maintenance and cleaning. The final details of the agreement are currently being worked through.

The new agreement will cost Suffolk County Council in excess of £235,000 until July 2024. During this contract period, Suffolk County Council will continue to review the longer term business case.

Eating Disorders Awareness Week - From 27 February to 5 March 2023

Eating disorders are one of the most dangerous and complex mental health issues for anyone to overcome - they should be taken seriously.

See Suffolk County Council's 'Eat Well, Feel Well' advice page for information on eating disorders and where to go for support, and tips to help your community maintain good relationships with food.

Help raise awareness of eating disorders support:

1. Share the [Suffolk County Council's page](#).
2. Share our ['Eat Well, Feel Well' Campaign](#) to help families in Suffolk find tips and advice for improving their relationships with food to prevent eating disorders.
3. Share BEAT Eating Disorders Charity's new ['Men Get Eating Disorders Too' Campaign](#).