

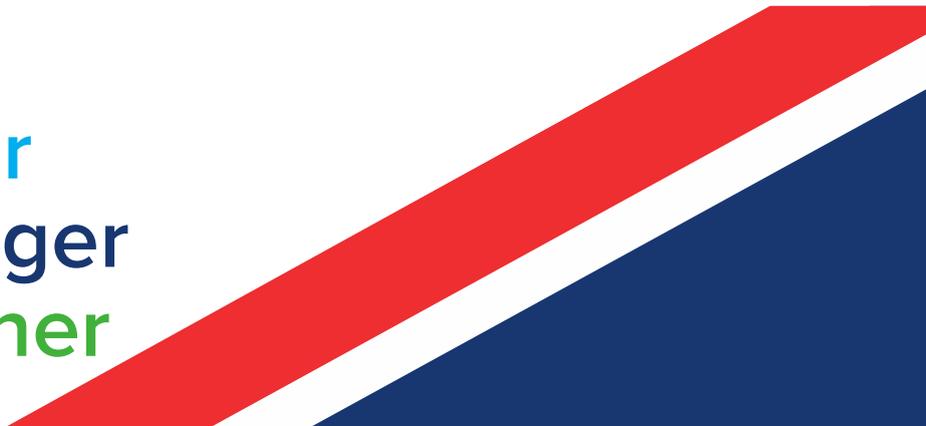
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Samford Division

April Newsletter 2022

Cllr Georgia Hall



Build Back **Better**
Build Back **Stronger**
Build Back **Greener**

Reflections on two years of the Keep Moving Suffolk campaign

April 1st marked the second anniversary of the Keep Moving Suffolk campaign.

Mobilised within nine days of the first lockdown, its ambition has been to help people stay active or become active during the pandemic.

Two years on, the campaign is being celebrated for helping thousands of Suffolk residents to move more in ways that suit them.

Suffolk County Council to freeze post-16 travel costs to schools and colleges

It was announced on April 28th that Suffolk County Council is to freeze charges for travel for over 16s to schools and colleges from September.

The council's Cabinet agreed fares should remain at 2021/22 levels for another 12 months to help families faced with soaring living costs. The decision means costs for the 2022/23 academic year will remain at £930 per year for mainstream transport and £750 for SEND pupils.

The decision will be reviewed in 12 months' time.

The Post-16 Travel Policy applies to full-time learners aged 16-18 years, and those aged 19 years and over if they are continuing the same course started before their nineteenth birthday. It also applies to continuing learners with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) aged 19-25 years.

To qualify for funding under the scheme young people need to continue to study or train in one of three ways:

- Study full-time in a school, college or with a training provider (at least 540 hours of planned learning per year)
- Full-time work or volunteering (20 hours or more per week) combined with part-time education or training leading to relevant regulated qualifications (at least 280 hours of planned learning per year)
- Be working in an apprenticeship, supported internship or traineeship

The council is not required by law to fund Post-16 Travel and does not receive any funding from central government to fund it.

Suffolk digital care project huts unprecedented milestone

A team of social care professionals in Suffolk is making strides in digital transformation by achieving a milestone in referrals for its digital care service.

Suffolk County Council, in partnership with Alcove and Rethink Partners, is pleased to have achieved a landmark number of 1,000 referrals for care technology in under nine months since the ground-breaking Cassius service went live on 19 July 2021.

The service has seen over 1,600 devices installed in people's homes to enable Suffolk residents to stay at home and live independently and delay the need to access additional care or move to supported accommodation.

Devices such as movement sensors, smart watches, wearables, falls prevention devices and other technology are allowing people to stay independently at home for longer and better manage risk when previously they may have needed additional help, such as home care or moving to a residential care home. Pioneering care technology such as this has also helped prevent the need for urgent care, thanks to its smart technology.

Suffolk County Council believes it has saved up to £2.2 million by enabling people to live well at home for longer, rather than having to access formal care and support before they were ready.

'Just say hello, just listen, just reach out'

A new film featuring various partners from across Suffolk has been released which aims to prevent suicide.

The 'Just Say Hello' campaign aims to raise awareness of how a simple 'hello' can make the difference to a person's mental wellbeing, whether it be a loved one or a stranger.

With evidence suggesting that 75% of people who die by suicide have no contact with mental health services, or even their GP within the 12 months preceding their death, it is important that everyone knows they can play their part. Simply reaching out and starting a conversation can be enough to help someone or by interrupting their thought process and encouraging them to get further help.

Featured in the film is Terry Waite who used to work as a hostage negotiator in some of the most dangerous parts of the world and unfortunately was captured and spent almost five years in strict solitary confinement. He says, "Each year in Suffolk alone, 65 people die this way. And those figures are frankly tragic and unacceptable."

This video highlights suicide being the biggest killer for men under the age of 45, with 3 in 4 deaths by suicide being men.