

## Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board

*A committee of Suffolk County Council*

<b>Report Title:</b>	Suffolk Volunteering Strategy Action Plan 2016-2021
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	21 July 2016
<b>Chairman:</b>	Councillor Tony Goldson
<b>Board Member Lead(s):</b>	Nicola Bradford/ Kirsten Alderton
<b>Author:</b>	Carolyn Shaw, Volunteering Field Officer, Community Action Suffolk Email: <a href="mailto:carolyn.shaw@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk">carolyn.shaw@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk</a> ,

### Introduction

1. The Suffolk Volunteering Strategy 2016-2021 was developed in the light of wide recognition of the need for a strategic, whole system approach to supporting more opportunities for volunteering.
2. A partnership of organisations from the public, private and voluntary and community sector brought together a Volunteering Strategy for the whole of Suffolk which was endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2015.
3. Our vision is for Suffolk to be a county where people are encouraged, inspired and enabled to volunteer.

### Brief summary of report

4. The Board in November asked that an action plan involving all partners be brought forward to deliver the Strategy priorities for 2016-2017.
5. The cross System Steering Group which had steered the Strategy to completion met monthly (Jan-Apr) to look at each Objective and the actions and involvement needed in the Action Plan.
6. During this time Community Action Suffolk (CAS) consulted with 335 Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) staff at its Volunteer Network Meetings, Locality Network Meetings, Volunteering Conference and The Suffolk Congress to help inform the Action Plan.
7. Members of the Steering group provided feedback from their staff and clients.

### Action recommended

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. The Board is asked:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To adopt the Action Plan at Appendix A.</li> <li>b) To acknowledge that volunteering is an integral part of the Board's strategies and priorities.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
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- c) To endorse the proposed membership structure of the Suffolk Volunteering Strategy Steering Group which will drive the Action Plan, as set out in Appendix A.
- d) Health and Wellbeing Board members' commitment to integrate volunteering across their own and partner organisations, and nominate a member of staff to be part of the Suffolk Volunteering Strategy Steering Group.
- e) To recognise the need for additional external resources to drive new activities in the Action Plan which are not currently resourced.

### **Reason for recommendation**

9. The Strategy will support the Health and Wellbeing Board's objective of building community resilience, and create the opportunity to build strong neighbourhood networks in Suffolk, contributing to the vision for people in Suffolk to live healthier, happier lives.
10. The strategy and action plan will bring together a partnership of key agencies to maximise volunteering opportunities and the resources that enable volunteering, to enhance the benefits for residents and the services that they need.

### **Alternative options**

11. No alternative courses of action have been identified.

### **Who will be affected by this decision?**

12. All parts of the Suffolk system are asked to support the volunteering strategy. This strategy encompasses a universal offer and some will be targeted towards specific groups and communities

### **Main body of report**

13. The action plan will answer the four objectives of the volunteering strategy which are:
  - **\*To raise the profile of volunteering in Suffolk-** actions will include; brand and coordinate a campaign about volunteering in Suffolk
  - **\*To enable people to volunteer and be more engaged in their community-** training, create Community Connectors/Active Citizens to develop and lead community projects
  - **To engage employers and business leaders in providing and promoting volunteering opportunities-** actions will include creating a single point of contact for business leaders and employers about Volunteering in Suffolk
  - **To deliver enhanced services and opportunities across Suffolk which build social capital and local capacity-** actions will include mapping existing provision and identify any perceived gaps

## **Barriers to success**

14. There are three main barriers to success associated with Year 1 Action Plan to be considered:
  1. Collaborative working is not prioritised by lead organisations
  2. Resources are not secured, and new structural, and innovative ways of working are not developed
  3. The voice of the smaller organisations who are essential to the success of volunteering in Suffolk are less heard and may not be able to engage

### **Sources of Further Information**

No other documents have been relied on to a material extent in preparing this report.

