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(Local Perspectives have been provided as separate documents)

Introduction to Suffolk's Area Self Assessment

This Area Self Assessment for Suffolk comes at a crucial time for public services nationally and is intended to be used by partnerships and organisations in Suffolk as the starting point for a discussion around successes and areas for improvement, one year on from the launch of Transforming Suffolk, the Suffolk Strategic Partnership's (SSP) Community Strategy.

The Area Self Assessment is not exhaustive and cannot hope to contain all the relevant performance and improvement information, nonetheless it seeks to paint a picture of the priorities in Suffolk, our performance (in our partnerships and as a group of organisations) against these priorities and key areas for improvement. It relies on, and seeks to cross reference, other key sources of information which underpin the assessment.

The Area Self-Assessment has been put together by a number of people in organisational and partnership roles across Suffolk. Similarly to Transforming Suffolk, the Area Self Assessment includes analyses and judgements from the other Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) in Suffolk.

This version of the Area Self-Assessment is a first draft and will be consulted on amongst those who have contributed to this draft. It is the intention that this Area Self-Assessment will be shared with the Audit Commission as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process.

The self-assessment will be updated and sharpened in the run up to the review of Transforming Suffolk and the SSP in the Autumn and will sit alongside other key evidence sources including:

- ↗ The Annual Performance Report for LAA2
- ↗ Go-East's Review of progress against LAA2
- ↗ The Audit Commission's CAA Report

Other sources of information will include performance reviews from LSPs and organisations across Suffolk against their local priorities and information from the Delivery Partnerships of the SSP.

If you have any comments on this draft of the Area Self Assessment, please contact the Planning and Performance Improvement Team at Suffolk County Council.

This Is Suffolk

Suffolk is a largely rural county covering 1,468 square miles in the east of England. The county town of Ipswich is around 70 miles from London. Suffolk has no motorways: the A12 and A14 provide access to London and the north of the country and are major transportation routes for goods routed through Felixstowe port.

The population of 709,400¹ is concentrated in the main towns of Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft and Felixstowe and the market towns of Newmarket, Sudbury, Haverhill, Stowmarket and Beccles. A 6% growth in the population since the 2001 Census has been fuelled largely by in-migration to the county: the largest growth has been in Suffolk Coastal. The age profile of the county is older than for England as a whole, with an average age of 40.3 compared to 39.5. The percentage of over 55's is above the national average whilst children and young people account for 24% of the population, less than the national average. 2.6% of the population is over 85.

Suffolk's population is becoming more diverse. In the 2001 Census 2.8% of the population described themselves as black or from a minority ethnic background. The latest statistics from the Office for National Statistics (2007) show this has risen to 6%, although this is less than half of the percentage across England as a whole (11.8%). A feature of recent years has been an increase in the number of migrant workers from Europe and elsewhere. These workers are not counted in the population estimates, but since May 2004, 19,000 new National Insurance numbers have been issued to foreign nationals in Suffolk. There are also 10,000 USAF personnel and families in the area, and a growing population of migrant workers.

There are around 322,300 homes in the county and the average house price (April 2009 figure) is £143,329.

In April 2009 there were 14,488 people unemployed (3.5%). Over 3,000 redundancies have been recorded in Suffolk between October 2008 and April 2009. Average earnings in 2008 were £19,327 - below the national and regional level. The main employment sectors are public administration (26%); distribution (24%), banking (16%) and manufacturing (12%). Although a rural county, agriculture accounts for less than 1% of employment.

The Port of Felixstowe is the UK's largest container terminal. Lowestoft, once a centre for the fishing industry is the focus of investment through an Urban Regeneration Company and the creation of a £6 million Offshore Renewable Energy Centre. Major companies in Suffolk include BT, Adnams, Bird's Eye Ltd., Bosch, Greene King, William Clowes, AXA and Wisdom.

The countryside includes woods and forests, heaths, marshes, farmland, river valleys and estuaries. The 40 miles of coastline has been designated as 'Heritage Coast' and is largely unspoilt with steep shingle terraces and low crumbling cliffs.

Suffolk has a rich and varied natural and historic heritage with 170 Conservation Areas (areas of special architectural or historic interest); 144 Sites of Special

¹ ONS 2007 mid-year estimates.

Scientific Interest; 900 County Wildlife Sites; 39 Local Nature Reserves; and almost 6,500 listed buildings.

Babergh East

The boundary of Babergh East runs from Hitcham in the north to Nayland with Wissington in the south. The LSP covers approximately half of the Babergh District Council area. Babergh East borders Mid Suffolk and Ipswich Councils to the north and Colchester Council to the south (Essex). The population of the area covered by the LSP is approximately 44,400. The area is largely rural with only one small market town (Hadleigh). The rest of the area is made up of villages, some of which have a range of local facilities, but many people rely on either Hadleigh, Sudbury, or the major towns of Ipswich and Colchester for services. The economy is largely agricultural with a range of small to medium sized businesses located in the larger villages and in the town of Hadleigh.

One Ipswich

Ipswich is an urban area of 121,100 people and is the largest town in Suffolk. Situated on the River Orwell, 12 miles from the North Sea, it has for centuries been part of East Anglia's gateway to Europe and beyond. It is an historic major regional centre for administration, financial services and hi-tech industries, and a hub for transport and distribution. The town has experienced rapid growth over the past few years and is expected to grow even further over the coming decades with key developments such as the Ipswich Waterfront, University Campus Suffolk and Suffolk New College. Ipswich is also a key part of the Haven Gateway Partnership and the Regional Cities East initiative, which is supported by the East of England Development Agency and the Government Office for the East of England.

Mid Suffolk

Mid Suffolk is situated in the heart of the Suffolk countryside to the northwest of the county town, Ipswich. The area covers 336 square miles and a population of 93,800 residents living in 41,000 households within 122 parishes. Outside the towns of Needham Market, Stowmarket and Eye, the population is widely dispersed with an average of 280 people per square mile, making it one of the most rural areas in the county.

Suffolk Coastal

Suffolk Coastal is a diverse area of nearly 124,500 people and nearly 344 square miles. It incorporates countryside, town, suburb, village and 30 miles of coastline. In 30 years, the area's population has risen by around 28,000, a 29% increase (among the higher rates of growth in the country). At just over 21%, the area has a higher proportion of people over the age of 65 than nationally or in Suffolk as a whole. There is a much lower than average number of people between the ages of 18 and 34, because young people leave the area for further education, training or work. Pockets of deprivation in both rural and urban areas need to be addressed. Rural accessibility is a recurrent issue which requires action across a range of services.

Waveney

Waveney is situated in north-east Suffolk and is the most easterly area in Britain. Administratively it is linked with Suffolk County Council in Ipswich, and it is also closely connected with Great Yarmouth, Norwich and the Waveney Valley towns

to the west. Waveney has a beautiful natural and built environment, which draws over 400,000 staying visitors and over 4 million visitors each year. Lowestoft's relationship with Great Yarmouth has been strengthened by working on joint initiatives. Lowestoft is the largest town in Waveney, situated in the north-eastern corner of the area and with a population of 74,280, making it the second largest town in Suffolk.

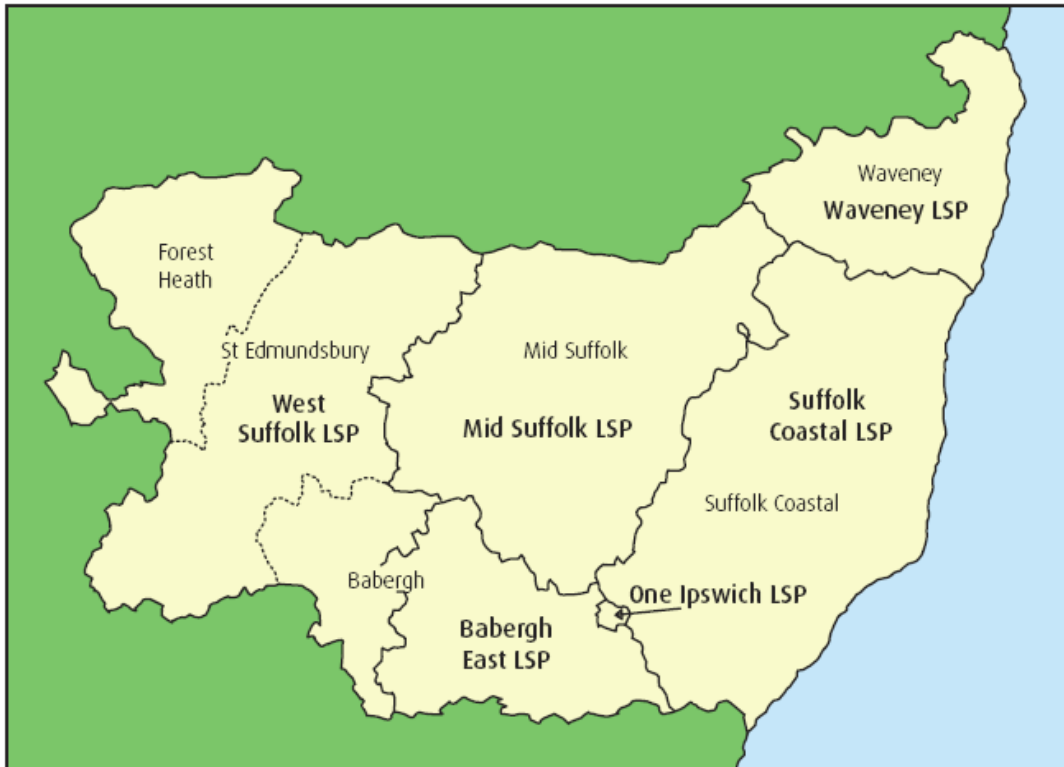
West Suffolk

West Suffolk LSP covers the local authority areas of Forest Heath District Council, St Edmundsbury District Council, and around half of the Babergh District Council area. West Suffolk is one of the safest places to live in the country. It is renowned for its scenery, environment, forests and heaths and has a number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other conservation areas, such as the Brecks and Dedham Vale. It also has a number of historic market towns such as Lavenham and Bury St Edmunds. The area is mainly rural with low population density, with nearly half of the population living in rural areas. West Suffolk also includes the towns of Brandon, Mildenhall, Haverhill and Sudbury which are centres for employment and local services. There is generally good health and low unemployment, but there are pockets of deprivation. Some small areas have health inequalities, high unemployment, low educational attainment and relatively high crime levels. The skills base and wage levels are low in parts of the area, with some communities reliant on a single large employer. Economically, the area is changing and the lack of appropriate skills could affect the ability of IT industries to prosper and expand.

Suffolk Strategic Partnership

At the county level there is the Suffolk Strategic Partnership, which acts as a 'partnership of partnerships' and works to set the long-term vision for Suffolk, focusing on long term and strategic issues. The SSP recently set out the long term vision for the county in the Suffolk Community Strategy; 'Transforming Suffolk'. Part of the delivery mechanism for achieving the ambitions set out in the Community Strategy is through the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Partnership governance arrangements in Suffolk are currently under review to rationalise structures, avoid duplication and ensure that cross cutting issues are not lost.

LSP Boundaries



Challenges for Suffolk

Suffolk is a good place to live and work, and to enjoy a high quality of life. The county has one of the lowest crime rates in the country; diverse and high quality cultural events; and a physical environment that is among the best in the country. However, the county has on occasion been perceived as slow-moving, insular, without ambition and 'get up and go'. Some critical areas of under-performance exist. Average earnings in Suffolk are the second lowest in the East of England and also below the national average. Over 12% of the population have no qualifications at all, and the county is behind national and regional comparators in terms of those educated to degree level. The ageing population in Suffolk shows that people regard the county as a good place to retire, but this brings challenges in order to ensure that people are able to stay in good health and retain independent living. Economically, Suffolk's unique features bring opportunity to become a national leader in industries such as biotech, high quality food, and renewable energy.

Suffolk's Community Strategy sets out wide-ranging ambitions that seek to make Suffolk more dynamic and high-achieving, whilst retaining the special features within Suffolk that make the county unique.

DELIVERING A PROSPEROUS AND VIBRANT ECONOMY	EVIDENCE
<p>THEME PROFILE</p> <p>Suffolk’s approach to delivering a prosperous and vibrant economy is based on making the best of the strengths and the ‘USPs’ of the county and looking to address the long-term weaknesses that exist. This approach has been built up through consultation as part of the development of Transforming Suffolk and, subsequently, through the development of ‘Expanding Suffolk’s Horizons’, the economic development strategy for Suffolk. The application of these strategies is informed by regular information and intelligence about the Suffolk economy gathered across organisations and partnerships and through snapshot studies and research, such as ‘Suffolk Trends’, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and research around the impact of the recession in Suffolk.</p> <p>The ‘Economic Prosperity Delivery Partnership’ leads on the theme as part of the SSP, but there are a number of other partnerships of importance to economic development in Suffolk. These include the Haven Gateway Partnership – part of South Suffolk is recognised as part of the Haven Gateway economic sub-region along with North Essex and this attracts funding and projects to the area. First East is an Urban Regeneration Company covering Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth and leads regeneration in this area. The Suffolk Economic Development Officer Group (SEDOG), although not an official partnership, provides a forum for information and ideas exchange around economic development and has membership from all councils in the area along with organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Choose Suffolk and Business Link.</p>	<p>(1) Community Strategy</p> <p>(2) Expanding Suffolk’s Horizons</p> <p>(3) Suffolk Trends</p> <p>(4) JSNA</p> <p>[link to Haven Gateway website] http://www.haven-gateway.org/</p> <p>[link to First East website] http://www.1steast.co.uk/</p>
<p>PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE</p> <p>Transforming Suffolk sets out the aim for Suffolk to become ‘the most innovative and diverse economy in the East of England’. It identifies 3 focus areas for activity:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↻ Use Suffolk’s USPs to capture emerging markets; ↻ Reduce economic inequalities across the county; and ↻ Transport and infrastructure to support sustainable economic growth. <p>In considering how the priorities for delivering a prosperous and vibrant economy will be tackled, it is necessary to consider the USPs for the Suffolk economy – these have been widely discussed across the county and the</p>	<p>(1) Community Strategy</p>

Performance Management Group (PMG) of the SSP recently considered how to promote these more widely and target actions in these areas. Put simply, the USPs are as follows:

- ↗ Proximity and connectivity to London and Cambridge;
- ↗ Proximity to Stansted, Stratford (cross-London rail link) and Trans-European Network to Midlands;
- ↗ Proximity to Europe (with established trade links and port operations);
- ↗ Extensive coastline with high winds and shallow seas;
- ↗ High quality of life (coastline; Constable Country; safe county)
- ↗ Infrastructure to support and investment in education - 14-19 agenda, South West Ipswich and South Suffolk [SWISS] Centre (now known as 'Suffolk One'), University College Suffolk and Building Schools for the Future/Schools Organisational Review.

Taken alongside these USPs, is the picture of businesses in Suffolk. Felixstowe is the biggest container port in the UK, and Ipswich is the largest agricultural exporting port in the UK. There are strong business sectors such as horse racing and logistics, although the latter is suffering in the recession. There are also strong emerging business sectors with proven market successes. This is where economic development interventions are focused:

- ↗ IT Sector – BT at Martlesham is a widely known centre of excellence and a number of spin-off industries have grown up around BT, but also across Suffolk, in an arc around Ipswich.
- ↗ Energy Sector – Renewable Energy is a growing sector compared to a shrinking economy and the development of the Orbis Energy building in Lowestoft next to SLP, together with the proposals for the Greater Gabbard Wind Farm off the Suffolk coast, present an opportunity for the Suffolk economy. These developments sit alongside the existence of Sizewell and proposals for additional reactors in Suffolk.
- ↗ Food and Drink – As well as a thriving rural food industry, Suffolk hosts market leaders in the drinks industry such as Adnams and Greene King. The development of a Suffolk Food Hub promoting local produce further strengthens the food and drink sector and the links with tourism are strong and developing further.
- ↗ Biotech – West Suffolk's proximity to Cambridge means that companies in this sector, such as Genzyme can benefit from the A14 East/West links and the research opportunities offered at the University. This is very much an emerging sector in Suffolk.

As set out in the profile above, as well as building on USPs and maximising our strengths, we need to address

(5) PMG Jan 2009
Economic Prosperity

weaknesses in the Suffolk economy. Suffolk has a relatively low wage economy when compared nationally and the East of England. This is accompanied by low skill levels and disparities between the rural and urban areas of the county. This is not simply an urban/rural split, but varies across the county, and the nature of the deprivation varies as well. For example, there are pockets of urban deprivation (in Ipswich, Lowestoft, Haverhill) and rural deprivation in mid- and west- Suffolk, whereas South Suffolk is relatively prosperous.

Suffolk is seen as a great place to visit and once discovered, people realise there is more to the county than they initially knew, but attracting and retaining 'high-value' jobs is a challenge. Although proximity to London is a USP for Suffolk, it is of considerable benefit to Ipswich, whereas the transport infrastructure to Lowestoft does not support this benefit.

Tourism, or rather the visitor economy, is an essential sector for Suffolk and it touches wide elements of the community. Without visitors' spend, many local pubs, shops and services could be under threat. The Suffolk Tourism Partnership (STP), a cross sector body linked to Choose Suffolk, leads on the promotion of the sector and focuses not only on marketing initiatives, but also on training and business advice for those in the sector.

Choose Suffolk supports the Suffolk Tourism Partnership activities and also contributes directly to specific activities, such as the London Underground campaign.

The days out and attractions sector accounts for 70 percent of Suffolk's tourism value. The status of Suffolk being a strong festival destination also gives us another linked theme bringing in new visitors to the county. Events such as Newmarket races, Latitude and The Aldeburgh Festival have massive awareness and further raise the profile of Suffolk's offer. Domestic short breaks are therefore a primary focus of external marketing activity for the STP. The Partnership will work with the accommodation sector to encourage visitors to choose Suffolk as a high quality, year round, short breaks destination. Linking back to the arts, heritage and festival offer.

In terms of economic development successes in Suffolk, there are many and the following section outlines some of the most recent and relevant:

The county led on the preparation of the non statutory Framework for Growth for the Haven Gateway Partnership, which provided the basis for the successful submission for Growth Point status. To date the HGP has received £12m through Growth Point funding and this will help facilitate over £300 million of development. £1.5m has been allocated to enable Martlesham Innovation Hub to proceed. The county also takes an active role in the Ipswich Policy Area group which includes senior officer representatives from many local government agencies.

[Link to Choose Suffolk Website]
<http://www.choosesuffolk.com/>

(6) Suffolk Tourism Partnership Strategy 07-09

OrbisEnergy is the flagship building for renewable wind, wave and tidal power across the East of England. Spearheading the region's fast growing renewable offshore energy sector, OrbisEnergy delivers flexible office, boardroom and conferencing facilities for more than 30 small and medium sized companies involved in this fast expanding energy industry sector. The building will allow companies in similar fields to benefit from sharing and developing new technologies, and, through a strong university presence, will link business with research, innovation and skills development. In addition, OrbisEnergy will act as an anchor for the proposed Power Park in the surrounding area, which will aim to further cement Lowestoft's importance to the energy sector by developing grow on space for OrbisEnergy companies as well as encouraging other energy related companies to locate to the area, providing a more diverse sector base.

Framtech (IT/Knowledge) – Whilst the economy of Suffolk is rural, this does not mean that it is not dynamic. For example, the Technology Centre at Framlingham is a purpose built business centre aimed at supporting business growth and acting as an incubation facility for start-up technology focused businesses. Facilities include reception services (phone answering, post & fax services, and admin support), high-spec broadband (1Gb network), networking facilities, flexible office, laboratory and workshop space, meeting rooms, conference suite and IT equipment. The centre was set up in 2001 through a mixture of private and public sector funding, and is now home to 24 separate businesses in diverse fields such as nanocrystal technology, public relations and marketing, product design and development, fibre optics, software and electronics and environmental products. Outcomes from the centre include: 77 newly created jobs, 42 new business start ups, in excess of £16 million world wide trading, over 70 new patents, and a positive effect on the local community and other local business, including the provision of a hub for a local high speed broadband network.

Places such as Framlingham are part of a diverse network of small market towns that service the rural communities in the county. Our approach is to maximise the leverage of additional funds in order to increase the capacity of these towns. Examples include, New Cut Arts/Halesworth Arts Centre.

The “Centreprise” project has built on previous £600,000 European, funding supported by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) resulted in the creation of the “Cut” community arts centre in 2004 that developed over four floors of the Newcut Maltings and totally transformed the building together with a large part of the market town of Halesworth. Further awards of £160,000 ERDF and other funds, followed on the success of the centre, and has meant that the creation of eight business units that have encouraged small private and social enterprises to grow their business within the “Cut” Arts Centre and create many more employment opportunities in the local area. The facility at the same time provides services entirely lacking in the rural Waveney area of

[Link to Haven Gateway Website]

<http://www.haven-gateway.org/>

[Link to Orbis Energy Project Website]

<http://www.orbisenergy.net/>

Suffolk, namely a professional environment for very small PC/high tech-based companies and/or artists. Most of the organisations that have been attracted to “Centreprise” are arts-oriented which has developed as a particularly important and growing sector of the local economy in rural north-east Suffolk and the Waveney area.

Suffolk has a higher than average number of small and micro businesses making up its economy and this represents a very diverse, and often hard to reach, group. Interventions therefore need to be tailored to their particular needs and we have done this by working in partnership with other local authorities as well as with organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Business Link, Choose Suffolk, ISSBA and the enterprise agencies. Schemes that have been supported include:-

- The Suffolk Rural Economy Scheme is a small grants scheme, which in partnership, supports viable shops, pubs and post offices across rural areas of the county. One example of this scheme is that local authority partners have engaged Pub Is The Hub (PITH) to support rural pubs through the provision of business advice in order to diversify their offer, increase their customer base and provide additional services for their community. Following advice from a PITH adviser, the Plough in Wissett recently expanded their offer by opening a village shop, for which they received a Suffolk RES grant, on their land and created an additional service for their village where none already existed and also created a job for a local person.
- Development of business incubator centres where there is insufficient supply through the market. In partnership with enterprise agencies, serviced accommodation has been developed for new and fledgling businesses needing to take the first step in to formal business accommodation.

As part of the Economic Participation there has been a pan-Suffolk approach to assisting those who are disadvantaged either by personal circumstances or by location. As such in order to assist those who are wishing to establish them selves in business there has been a dual approach to prestart and start up support.

A range of incubator centres have been developed through out the county with a total of approximately £1.6million being allocated in capital grant with a similar amount in matched funding for new build or refurbishment projects. These have been established in Lowestoft, Felixstowe and Ipswich with the development of both private sector and VCS sector organizations

As part of the programme of support a consortium approach to delivering advice to prestart/ startup individuals has been delivered working with all the Enterprise Agencies (NWES MENTA) within Suffolk as well as the Princes Trust.

[Link to Suffolk Rural Economy Scheme on SCC website]
<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/BusinessAndConsumer/RegenerationAndCommunityDevelopment/RuralandCommunity>

[Link to EADT coverage on website]
<http://www.eadt.co.uk/content/eadt/news/business/story.aspx?brand=EADOnline&cate>

The previous investment of EEDA EP funding at Halesworth Skills Centre has led to local businesses being able to train individuals directly into specific areas of work as an example Hammond Motor Group based in Halesworth have been able to take advantage of the skills centre and work closely with those who wish to enter into skills or employment within the motor industry or its supply chain. This has had the added advantage of reducing recruitment costs and enabling employers to identify a pool of local labour.

During 08/09 the provision of £2,293,557 Capital and £1,676,731 Revenue (TOTAL £4,021,010) was offered as grant from EEDA. By working closely with key public sector matched funds were generated offering a total funding pot of £7,495,451.

The outputs achieved as a result of these projects are outlined below. It must be taken into account that these figures are not cumulative and are taken as a standalone for the 08/09 annual period.

- 49 jobs created
- 31 jobs safeguarded
- 2299 people assisted to get a job
- 1 new businesses attracted to the region
- 61 businesses assisted to improve performance
- 2 businesses asstd to engage with UK knowledge base
- £788,375 private sector regeneration infrastructure investment levered
- £160,789 other private sector investment levered
- £1,476,090 public sector regeneration infrastructure investment levered
- £1,049,187 other public sector investment levered
- 3,405 people assisted in skills development
- 336 adults gaining basic skills as part of Skills for Life strategy
- 91 adults supported in gaining a first full Level 2 qualification/equivalent

A brief synopsis of the projects that have enabled the accumulation of these outputs have been highlighted below:

Enterprise For all CORE Addressing business start-ups amongst disadvantaged individuals and

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(7) Economic Participation
Programme Report 09

EFA	communities
Enterprise for All INCUBATOR CENTRES	The development / building of incubator centres for VCS sector
MULTI ACCESS CENTRES LEAPS	The establishment of multi agency service access points that will bring together key agencies and buildings to increase access to learning opportunities for young people, adults and improve opportunities for employers to train.
Pathways to Employment	Establishing a Suffolk wide collaborative programme between employers and the education and training sectors. Enabling young people to access a package of training and work experience / employment from 14 years that will be complementary to their general education and raise their aspiration and commitment to continuing their learning beyond 16 through a clear pathway into their chosen employment sector.
Mental Health / Disability	Working with employees and employers to improve their knowledge of mental health issues and change attitudes to ensure that people are supported to retain employment or return to it.
NEET	Second year of funding Linking strands of emerging multi-agency work, linked to key national and local targets, which will promote young people's economic wellbeing, reduce NEET(Not in Education, Training or Employment) and youth exclusion.
LAA Allocation Kick start	Kick Start - rural access scheme for those wishing to access jobs and training - Moped loan scheme
Rural Economy Scheme	Rural Economy scheme- assisting organisations including VCS with specific projects within rural areas
BOSS PROGRAMME	Building one stop shop - in association with JCP+ - developing skills of those currently experiencing difficulty in gaining work within he building sector.
PASSPORT TO SUCCESS	The development of an e-learning mentor and mentee programme for those coming out of educational and wishing to enhance their skills for the employment purposes.

COMMERCIAL RURAL REGENERATION	Development of a programme of support for the renewal of farm land and redundant property.	
University college Suffolk	Development of capital build project, assisting in the development of University Campus Suffolk	
Gypping Valley Skills Centre	Development of skills Centre offering additional skills and qualifications over and above national curriculum.	
Migrant workers Programme	A programme addressing migrant workers within Suffolk utilising a range of delivery networks and providers	
Transition Links	A programme in association with MENCAP assisting those who are disabled and at risk of becoming NEET	
Social Enterprise building	Development of a social enterprise - focusing on the development of individuals skills within the construction industry required specifically for rural areas.	
Corporate Regeneration Fund – 37 have been approved since July 2008 which will lever an additional £9,105,154 into the county. All projects have been assessed against the LAA2 targets. A total of 92 projects have been approved since February 2007.		
RESPONDING TO THE RECESSION		
<p>Suffolk has been proactive in responding to the recession with activity ranging from the provision of research and intelligence to support the development of initiatives, a Suffolk-wide economic summit and the delivery of projects and provision of information to support those affected.</p> <p>The Suffolk Economic Summit, held in December 2008, brought together key players from all sectors across Suffolk to get a better understanding of how the recession was affecting Suffolk. As a result a number of pledges were made and initiatives developed. Partnerships and individual organisations have put in place projects and initiatives that were informed by the summit and other evidence and impacts. Such initiatives include:</p> <p>Additional Funding – In Suffolk the need to channel additional funding to those organisations best placed to help those affected by the recession has been identified, rather than try to do it all directly. Citizens Advice Bureaux across Suffolk have received additional funding. CABx across Suffolk have handled more than £8.6million of debt since awarded extra funds. 648 people have been helped and in 11 cases homelessness</p>		<p>(8) Economic Summit Actions</p> <p>[link to One Suffolk website – Credit Crunch news] http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/creditcrunchsuffolk/news/</p> <p>[Link to EADT website – CAB story] http://www.eadt.co.uk/content</p>

was delayed or avoided. £2.1million of debt was rescheduled and 58 clients were assisted with bankruptcy procedures. Return of £5.71 for every £1 of the money invested.

Bringing together information in one place – Leaflets and information with a ‘one-stop shop’ approach to talking about the effects of recession have been developed. This has also been accompanied by bringing together information together on websites and the development of a dedicated Suffolk Credit Crunch website. Events have also taken place to address the impacts of the recession locally. For example, in Forest Heath, events such as “Here’s Your Opportunity”, a free business event held on 10 Feb 2009 highlighting opportunities available to businesses and the support on offer was run in conjunction with St Edmundsbury BC. The event attracted over 130 attendees. The Brandon Job’s Fair, held in January, is another example of an event which was run with Job Centre Plus and a range of partners and employers.

Supporting organisations and communities affected by the recession – Local authorities in Suffolk together with EEDA have held discussions with Vion about their investment proposals for a site in Haverhill, with a view to investing in the Suffolk pork goods supply chain to limit the knock-on effects of Vion restructuring. We, EEDA and SEBC are developing a joint support package to address:

- support and re-training for people made redundant from the Vion re-structuring
- skills development for companies in the Vion/pork supply chain
- advice on future planning and capital development for the Vion plant
- a long term strategy to invest in Suffolk, ideally to maintain both slaughtering and processing facilities here.

Use of Local Authority Business Growth Initiative funding (LABGI) –

- The county has set aside £2.286m of LABGI funding to support a business development programme for the county. Proposals have been developed which are then assessed against the economic strategy and economic outcomes agreed as part of the LAA. Projects underway include the Martlesham Innovation hub, Haverhill Shop Front improvements and the Business to Business network.
- Suffolk Coastal area has set aside £1.5m of LABGI for an Economic Development Support Fund to fund a two-year programme to promote economic vitality in the area by funding projects supporting economic growth and recovery. The programme is specifically aimed at market towns and population centres in the Suffolk Coastal area (but excluding Felixstowe and Woodbridge).
- Allocation of £427,496 LABGI monies to fund a new Town Centre Manager post in Forest Heath to support town centre businesses and to fund a range of new initiatives off the back of consultation for the local

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[Link to Waveney District Council website – Credit Crunch advice]

<http://www.waveney.gov.uk/my+community/credit+crunch>

<p>Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>Changed working practices – Councils in Suffolk have sought to improve their performance on payment of invoices, particularly for local companies and changing payment terms from 30 to 20 and in some cases 10 days. The County Council put in place a ‘making a difference’ project aimed at raising £2m for recession focused projects in 2009/2010.</p> <p>There are also a number of other local initiatives across the county. For example, in Forest Heath there is the extended the provision of debt advice by also using Newmarket Open Door, as well as the Citizens Advice Bureaux, working with RSLs and private owners, with regard to the use of the upcoming vacant homes on Studlands Park, Newmarket and the use of Rent Deposit Schemes through Havebury Housing Association. In Waveney there is support for local businesses, e.g. Waveney area has supported the expansion of Spectra Plastics in Halesworth. Planning permission has been granted to build new industrial units on seven hectares of land. Significant job creation is expected with 35-50 jobs this year and aspirations to employ 200 people in the longer term. The economic regeneration team have actively promoted Train 2 Gain opportunities and working on investment and business support enquiries. The team are also exploring how the Waveney area might link with Lowestoft College to access funding from the Economic Prosperity Delivery Programme to support the continuation of apprenticeships within the area.</p>	<p>(9) CEDOS Economic Growth</p>
<p>FUTURE PLANS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT</p>	
<p>The focus for delivering a prosperous and vibrant economy at this time, can be split very clearly into 2 areas, to get Suffolk through the recession and out the other side and to support the long-term Suffolk economic strategy. There are a number of large projects across the county which are attracting support, including Snoasis, Innovation Martlesham, Orbis Energy, Sizewell, Building Schools for the Future etc. Other initiatives such as the Business-to-business trading platform aimed at supporting small businesses in Suffolk to work together will come to fruition over the next 12 months. There are also considerable links with the skills agenda and the development of apprenticeships in Suffolk, and, in particular a Suffolk-wide apprenticeship scheme is currently under development.</p> <p>However, it is acknowledged that organisations in Suffolk need to do more in terms of joining up in a coherent approach to economic development. Although there is an Economic Strategy, which was developed in partnership, there is limited buy-in to the delivery of this strategy. Suffolk councils are working together on key projects, but this is often project specific rather than being based on the agreed strategic priorities and targeted</p>	

<p>investment of scarce resources. There are overlaps and gaps in the current arrangement where all authorities do some strategy and some delivery, and we need to decide collectively where we go from here to streamline economic development activity.</p> <p>In common with a number of other areas of the country, there are a number of agencies active in economic development arena and this leads to a dissipation of the investment and funding available. It results in a disjointed approach to attracting inward investment and there is a need to focus on the priorities for Suffolk and develop the right partnerships to target limited resources.</p> <p>Finally, there is a need to influence urban/rural policy making at a regional and national level. There is a clear policy and funding divide between the sub-regional partnerships which touch Suffolk (Haven Gateway, First East and Greater Cambridgeshire) and the 'white space' in the middle of the county. If we are to reduce the inequalities between areas in Suffolk, this needs to be recognised and addressed.</p>	
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DELIVERING LEARNING AND SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE	EVIDENCE
THEME PROFILE	
<p>Suffolk needs a high quality, responsive education and training system across the whole county that will enable each person to achieve their potential and will bring prosperity to them, their families and communities. Partners across Suffolk agreed on this as a vision through the consultation process for the new Community Strategy.</p> <p>An independent research report was commissioned by the LSC to inform the learning and skills plan for the next two years, and the detailed JSNA informed the new Children's Plan (CYPP2).</p>	<p>(1) Community Strategy</p> <p>(10) Independent Adult & Learning Skills Plan 09-11</p>
PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE	
<p>Supporting the Community Strategy, 9 delivery partnerships deliver activities against the themes and cross cutting principles of the LAA2. In respect of learning and skills, two delivery partnerships lead this work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Learning and Skills, and • The Children's Trust. <p>Each Delivery partnership has a plan and the progress against the plan is monitored within the delivery partnership and</p>	<p>[Link to Transforming Suffolk website – Delivery Partnership Action Plans]</p> <p>http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/partnerships</p>

also by the performance management group (PMG) of the SSP. Adult learning and skills was reviewed at the March meeting of the PMG. The meetings are structured in such a way that performance and achievements can be examined and discussed in detail rather than a just a quick overview of all performance information. Each PMG meeting focuses on just one or two delivery partnerships and the work that they have done to date. Both these partnerships work closely with economic prosperity. The outcomes and delivery from the learning and Skills DP were reviewed at a PMG clinic on 19th March that explored both achievements and challenges for the DP.

<http://www.suffolklearningconsortium.org/funding.htm>

Adult Learning & Skills

The Learning and Skills Delivery Partnership is a new partnership that has been established specifically to deliver the Community Strategy and LAA2 outcomes.

The Adults' Learning and Skills Strategy is being used as the basis and focus for producing the group's action plan and future priorities for improvement. The Children's trust Delivery Partnership has responsibility for the learning and achievement of our young people. The delivery partnerships have an action plan that explains what they want to achieve over the next three years. To support this the County Council has developed its own action plans that detail what it will do as part of the delivery partnerships.

There are a number of initiatives in place in Suffolk to improve adult skills and learning as detailed in the delivery plan. The delivery plan is reviewed by the partnership to ensure that activities are on track. Key activities that are being delivered include:

The LSC has supported the formation of **IDEA** a company which will transform training support including apprenticeships to the ICT sector in Suffolk. This will be a partnership between UCS, University of Essex, UEA and BT. 30 apprenticeship places have been secured.

Train to Gain – Take up of Train to Gain in Suffolk in comparison to other counties is above the regional average (see appendix Train to Gain local area performance paper). Actual starts from 1st August 2008 to 31st March 2009 were total 4,153 learning aims (i.e. learning outcomes).

Learning and Enterprise Access points (LEAPs) have been set up across Suffolk to support anyone wishing to return to or continue in learning. They have been set up through a strong collaboration of education providers, strategic partners and funding agencies that include the University Campus Suffolk (UCS), Suffolk Learning and Skills Council, Suffolk CC, and the East of England development agency. An evaluation report is being prepared and will be available on 17th June 2009.

[erships/delivery-partnerships](#)

[Link to Transforming Suffolk website – PMG Papers]

<http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/partnerships/performance-management-group/meeting-papers>

(11) Adult Learning & Skills LAA Update Q4 08/09

(12) Adult Learning & Skills Plan 08-11

(13) SCC Adult Learning & Skills Plan 09-10

(14) Adult Learning & Skills Activity Report 09

The Skills Pledge commits employers to allowing their workforce to achieve Level 2 qualifications. This has been actively promoted in Suffolk and public sector bodies (Suffolk CC, Ipswich BC and the NHS trusts) a re leading the way in Suffolk having signed up to the pledge. Since June 2008, the county delivered the following under the scheme:-

ACS:

- 110 staff achieved Medication management level 2 qualification Further 150 enrolled.
- Further 100 places contracted on short course level 2 qualifications eg Palliative Care, Dementia
- Estimate 150 enrolled on NVQ programmes

Traded Services:

- Aiming for 200 cleaners to be trained in next 12-18 months and up to 40 staff in the Bury public service office.

Following publication of the Hermes Report, £50,000 of provision has been procured by the LSC from a third sector provider to deliver **ESOL** to meet the needs identified in the report.

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce is leading a partnership approach to 2009 - **The Year of Skills**, in a bid to highlight the need to improve skills in the county, engage employers in this agenda and raise the bar in training and skills development. The Chamber is working with public sector partners on a range of initiatives to support this. More information is available from the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce Website. As part of this a number of free seminars are being run to encourage businesses to consider apprenticeships. Prior to this initiative, the skills pledge sign up was low; now commitment to the skills pledge has improved and Suffolk's interest has now risen to 11% of the regional total. On 17th June, "The Big Skills Showcase Event" will be held at Cornhill, Ipswich to celebrate learning and skills achievements in Suffolk. The public will be able to visit over 20 skills market stalls to identify opportunities to develop their learning and skills. This is one of a number of events that will take place during the year to promote skills and learning.

As part of the LSC's **response to redundancies**, nearly £1million of funding will be used by three colleges to deliver employability skills and identify skills training needs for those unemployed for over 6 months. A range of other responses for both employers and employees are being implemented by both Job Centre Plus and the LSC. Suffolk County Council's "*nextsteps*" delivery agency holds the LSC regional contract for information, advice and guidance. Since 01/12/2008, *nextsteps* has also delivered the pilot for integrated employment services across Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

As a partnership, the improvement in skills levels across all of these initiatives is being tracked. During 2008/9, we have increased the take up of train to gain; we have improved adult learner responsive numbers, through work with

(15) Minutes
Executive Group
Meeting May 09

[Link to Suffolk
Learning Consortium
website]
<http://www.suffolklearningconsortium.org/funding.htm>

(16) Train to Gain
Report

[Link to LEAP
website]
<http://www.leap.ac.uk/home>

(17) LEAP
Evaluation Report

(18) LEAP
Performance Report
08-09

<p>employers in Suffolk.</p> <p>There is a PCDL (personal community and development learning) partnership that delivers learning and skills training with a focus on disadvantaged groups. There is a PCDL plan and progress is tracked against funding strands, types of learner, age, and types of learning.</p> <p>Specific plans are in place to support community learning and skills that are being led by the County council. The County leads on plans that are outside of the LSC's remit, such as disadvantaged groups and ensuring that they have access to learning opportunities – Planning for Life- joint partnership project to enable people with LD to chose and access learning from within their personal plan. The County will also be putting in a transformational bid for adult informal learning - notably the development of expertise in local community areas to engage people in learning.</p> <p>UK online centres User Journey Project: The project is aimed at those who have never used a computer and/or the internet before. UK online centres provide courses through a portal (www.myguide.gov.uk) from the basics of using a mouse and keyboard to online shopping, chat rooms, etc. All participants get an email address and are encouraged to progress through the different levels and assessing their progress by doing the Skills Checkpoints. Although the courses are aimed at self-learning, in libraries there is always a member of staff available to provide support and guidance. The project is funded for 1 year, based on the academic year from 1st August 2008 to 31st July 2009.</p> <p><i>"I have enjoyed the course with you and have learnt a lot as I started the course as a complete novice. It will be so useful to me as most of my family live away. Email will be very important as it will give me immediate contact with the family and friends. Knowing how to do searches, keep files, banking, rules and regulations for buying goods online and shopping are all useful in the future".</i></p> <p>The Open Doors programme offers people with learning disabilities taster days and short courses for those possibly interested in working in the creative sector. In addition to the tasters and short courses, the more formal 30 day course based in Ipswich offers training and work experience with a range of creative sector organisations. The aims of the course which starts in September each year are either to facilitate freelance or part time job opportunities for people with learning disabilities within the sector or to inspire and sign post further study. 350 half day sessions have been delivered and 100% of students achieved their OCN accreditation in July '08. 80% of students completed work experience by June'08. 4 participants have been taken on by arts organisations on permanent work placements during the course. These will potentially become paid employment at a later date. 10 Arts Organisations have been involved in the delivery running workshops and professional freelance tutors used to give specific training in the creative arts resulting in 50 per cent more desirable work opportunities for people with learning disabilities.</p>	<p>(19) Hermes Audit Report</p> <p>[Link to Suffolk Chamber of Commerce website – Year of Skills Information] http://www.suffolkchamber.co.uk/developing_skills/year_of_skills</p> <p>(20) Progress towards ALS targets 09</p> <p>(21) LCS Return 07-08</p> <p>(22) LCS Return 08-09</p>
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14-19 Agenda and Higher Education

Education for 14-19 year olds is at a very exciting stage of development nationally and Suffolk is well placed to respond to these new opportunities. A particular feature of the new 14-19 curriculum is the development of opportunities for broader programmes and applied learning from 14 years.

There has been a rise in the number of young people who stay on in education, increasing from 70% to 75%. The University Campus Suffolk has seen a 5% increase in applications to study at our local university in 2009/10 with more than half the applications coming from local young people. For 2010/11 this has increased to 12%. There have been many activities to promote this, including:-

- Last years recruitment campaign 'Read my story' based on case studies of individual students has been short-listed for 'The Times' higher educational supplement's prize for the best student recruitment campaign.
- This year's campaign is entitled 'Positive aspects of recession' and includes targeting local businesses
- 'Aiming higher Suffolk' is a cross cutting 14-19 HE initiative for up to 25 SEN students.
- A student recruitment team visits local schools and colleges to talk to students about HE and the opportunities available to them.
- Open day taster sessions for year's 12-13 students who are able to attend and sample lectures. Individual specialist schools such as the school of Art offer 1 part training.
- 'TEXT IT' is an innovative system for communicating with students with sensory needs, has been introduced
- A re-launch of the universities website to making it more user friendly has recently taken place
- Enrolment workshops aimed at students unfamiliar with using PCs has been introduced to walk them through the online enrolment process.
- 'Bridge to Higher Education' similar to access courses but aimed at level 3 work based learners-to build confidence to enter FE
- 'LEAP' project –aimed at mature market (see website) is a joint partnership project. EEFA funded 7 centres 110 access points for information or learning with the objective to reduce NEET.
- Graduation this year will be in the Ipswich town centre to make the procession more visible.
- UCS is hosting a UCAS national FE market stalls event with representation from other universities that all schools regionally have been invited to
- Apprenticeships- courses are being developed to fit the Apprenticeship programme.

[Link to SCC website – Community Education Information]

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/CommunityLearningAndSkillsDevelopment/IntroductionToAdultAndCommunityLearning.htm>

[\(23\) Project Plan – Planning for Life](#)

[Link to SCC website – 14-19 Information]

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/TeacherInformation/14-19EducationInSuffolk.htm>

[Link to SCC website] http://edms.suffolkcc.gov.uk/press/press.cgi?id=1_61073

In April, an event was held “Road Map to Employment and Skills in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft” to launch Recommendation 15 from the LSC’s Implementation Plan for post-16 provision in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. It was attended by 67 delegates from a range of statutory, private and third sector organisations operating in either or both Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

Schools Attainment and Children’s learning

The second children and young People’s plan sets out a number of commitments in respect of children’s education, building on the work done through CYPP1. In anticipation of the end of CYPP1 (April 2008) and to inform the development of CYPP2, a full review of the performance and outcomes that CYPP1 had delivered was undertaken (see link). This highlighted areas where the Children’s Trust had achieved success, such as extended schools, but also areas where more improvement was needed. A key challenge for Suffolk is that current attainment levels are not keeping pace with the national averages so there are a number of initiatives in place to improve this that are monitored.

The **Suffolk Inclusive Schools Improvement Service** (ISIS) leads and delivers much of this work and has three year improvement strategies in place. Already these have started to show improvement, for example the Leading Teacher National Pilot for writing that has been undertaken in 6 schools has seen a 10% improvement at level 4 and an 8% improvement at level 5. Following the success of this and other pilots, they will be extended to help other schools and pupils. One attainment area where Suffolk does perform well is in regard to looked after children – currently their attainment is improving and is above the national average. Also the number of good and outstanding schools (OFSTED rating) in Suffolk is above the national average.

In 2008 Suffolk CC successfully bid for funding to participate in the Extended Schools disadvantage pilot for 2009-10. Only 18 local authorities were successful, and the funding has been directed to schools in Lowestoft, Forest Heath and Ipswich, addressing both economic deprivation and issues of rural accessibility. Suffolk specified a number of target groups that should benefit from this funding that was delivered at a very local level. For example, in Lowestoft, a steering group was set up to allocate the money, consisting of young people, social workers and schools advisors, who decided how the money could best be spent, with beneficiaries identified by head teachers. Already letters of thanks are being received that explain what a difference it has made to the lives of families, and quickly attendance and behaviour in some schools as shown an improvement. In one school, the teaching assistant supervising an after school nurture club for 10 disadvantaged children has seen reading ages improve – for one child by 2 years in just 6 months. The letter from one pupil shows the real difference it has made to his life after his mother was made redundant.

There are many projects in place to support the educational achievement of groups with particular needs. One

[Link to SCC website]
http://edms.suffolkcc.gov.uk/press/press.cgi?id=1_61093

(24) Road Map to Employment & Skills

(25) Children’s Trust – Enjoy & Achieve

(26) Projects to raise attainment

(27) Final Year Raising Standards

(28) Improving attainment at Key Stage 4

(29) Ofsted Schools Grading

(30) Lowestoft disadvantaged children

(31) Ipswich criteria disadvantaged subsidy

<p>example is the Speech and Language Therapy Team (SALT) that is a partnership between the Primary Care Trust (PCT) and County Council and has created a single place of contact for parents and schools providing advice and expert support for children identified with speech and language therapy needs. The original caseload of the team was 182 which has increased over 18 months to currently 243 pupils with about 20 pupils discharged over this period. Provision for pupils is tailored to need and input ranges from weekly individual therapy, group therapy sessions, devising, monitoring and reviewing programmes that are implemented by school staff.</p> <p>Therapists advise school staff, train up Learning Support Assistants, liaise with school staff about including speech and language targets in Individual Education Plans and the curriculum. The service ensures that the needs of pupils are being met with consistent and appropriate intervention. Parental and school satisfaction has increased as pupils are receiving relevant intervention and therapists work in a collaborative manner so that a cohesive level of service is provided to all schools.</p> <p>The Performance Management Group of the SSP is reviewing the delivery of the attainment strand of the Children's Trust Board on 3rd June and an evidence pack has been prepared providing more information on attainment and improvement strategies.</p>	<p>(32) Speech and Language therapy</p>
<p>FUTURE PLANS AND IMPROVEMENT</p>	
<p>Many of the activities detailed above are still being developed and will continue to deliver outcomes over the next few years. However, detailed below are some key initiatives that will make a significant difference in the future.</p> <p>As a result of a SSP PMG review of learning and skills, the Chief Executives have committed to improving the number of apprenticeships available at their organisations and across Suffolk, and Suffolk CC have taken on a co-ordinating lead for this work and a plan is being drawn up. Not only does this support the development of skills, but also is a response to the recession by creating employment opportunities.</p> <p>There are three key transformational programmes taking place in Suffolk, all of which link together and will form part of the ongoing transformation that is taking place in Suffolk's schools, including curriculum development, teaching methodologies, and new ways of learning through new technology. Building Schools for the Future, Schools Organisational Review and the Review of Special Educational Needs Provision all aim to transform learning in Suffolk.</p> <p>Suffolk will be opening a state of the art innovative sixth form college, Suffolk One, in September 2010, funded by the LSC. It will provide a wide range of academic and applied learning to more that 2000 16-19 year olds. The SWISS Partnership proposal to develop the SWISS Community College (SWISS CC) won the LSC 16-19 Competition in</p>	<p>[Link to Transforming Suffolk website] http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/information-centre/news/74-latest-news/298-pmg-identify-ways-to-help-improve-adult-learning-and-skills</p> <p>(33) Suffolk Apprenticeship Scheme</p>

December 2006 for 100% funding of construction costs. On 30 July 2008 the LSC National Committee endorsed the in principle capital project application and agreed that the development meets the Council's projects criteria. This will provide LSC funding of £59.3 million towards a total project cost of £65.5 million at current day prices. This equates to 100% of the building costs and 90.6% of the total project costs. The county and SWISS CC intend to contribute £6.2 million to finance the acquisition of land and contribution to potential planning requirements.

Building on the funding that has been secured, the development of provision for ESOL in rural areas will be part of THE county's commissioning of community learning and skills development service; that plan will be ready in July to coincide with the new learning year.

The Learning & Skills Council, in partnership, are making an application to Future Jobs Fund – to enhance employment opportunities for 18-24 year olds who are unemployed. The bid will identify the number and type of jobs within Suffolk County Council and other key sectors. If successful, this will make a real impact on both skills and employment in Suffolk – the draft bid will be available shortly.

Following the comprehensive needs analysis exercise undertaken to support the identification of priorities for Suffolk's second Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP2), the following priorities relating to transforming learning and skills were approved for inclusion in CYPP2 by the Children's Trust Partnership Board in March 2009:

- We will increase the rate of improvement in Suffolk schools so that we exceed national attainment levels at all key stages
- We will support more young people to progress to further and higher education or work with training

These priorities support the achievement of the LAA2 target for increasing the participation of 17-year-olds in education or training, as well as the various statutory education and early years targets from the National Indicator Set. Particular focus will be given through CYPP2 to raising achievement levels at the Early Years Foundation Stage, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4, in recognition of these areas of under-performance. The 'Enjoy & Achieve' Outcome Group (chaired by the Head of the Inclusive School Improvement Service) is directly accountable to the Children's Trust Executive Commissioning Group, which will monitor progress against achieving the performance targets included in the Priority Action Plans for these priorities.

Partners recognise that for both educational attainment and adult learning, Suffolk is starting from a relatively low base; there are many projects and activities planned to improve this, but they will need careful performance management in order to see that they are reaping the intended benefits and this will take some time as much of the transformational

[Link to SCC website – SoR]

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/Schools/SuffolkSchoolOrganisationReview/Listing.htm>

(34) Cabinet Paper SEN


[Link to SWISS Centre website]

<http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/swiss/vision/>

[Link to Local Press website] – Story on SWISS centre

<http://www.eveningstar.co.uk/content/eveningstar/news/story.aspx?brand=E>

<p>work is long term. The additional challenge that Suffolk faces is ensuring that everyone has access to services and opportunities – irrespective of where they may live. The development of Children’s Centres across the County in a variety of rural and urban locations one example of a project that has achieved this, and rurality will need to a theme of future project work too.</p>	
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DELIVERING CREATING THE GREENEST COUNTY	EVIDENCE
THEME PROFILE	
<p>On March 23rd 2007 an initiative entitled <i>Creating the Greenest County</i> was launched by a range of Suffolk organisations and locally influential people. On June 5th, 2008 the Suffolk Community Strategy entitled <i>Transforming Suffolk</i> was launched and one of the four priorities in this document is <i>Creating the Greenest County</i>, providing targets around climate change and natural/historic environment. The challenge for the twenty year vision of the Community Strategy is to deliver these targets and an overall aspiration that Suffolk should become the county with the greatest reduction in carbon emissions. By 2025, Suffolk aims to achieve a 60% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.</p> <p>The three key areas that <i>Creating the Greenest County</i> focus on are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Mitigation – reducing the impact Climate Adaptation – managing the change Protecting and Enhancing our environment <p>A Delivery Partnership Executive Group and Board will deliver the LAA2 targets and Community Strategy outcomes. Details are on the <i>Transforming Suffolk</i> website.</p> <p>Further information is also available on the Green Suffolk website</p> 	<p>[Link to Transforming Suffolk] http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/vision-and-priorities/community-strategy)</p> <p>[Link to Transforming Suffolk] http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/partnerships/delivery-partnerships/creating-the-greenest-county</p> <p>[Link to Greenest County website] http://www.greensuffolk.org/</p>
PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE	
<p>Supporting the Community Strategy, 9 delivery partnerships deliver activities against the themes and cross cutting principles of the LAA2. In respect of <i>Creating the Greenest County</i> there is one delivery partnership</p>	

who leads this work:

- Creating the Greenest County.

The Delivery partnership has an action plan and the progress against the plan is monitored within the delivery partnership and also by the performance management group (PMG) of the SSP. The meetings are structured in such a way that performance and achievements can be examined and discussed in detail rather than a just a quick overview of all performance information. Each PMG meeting focuses on just one or two delivery partnerships and the work that they have done to date.

Creating the Greenest County

The *Creating the Greenest County* Delivery Partnership is a new partnership that was established specifically to deliver the Community Strategy and LAA2 outcomes.

The Community Strategy is being used as the basis and focus for producing the group's action plan and future priorities for improvement. The delivery partnership has an action plan that explains what they want to achieve over the next three years. The Delivery Partnership Executive group has responsibility for driving the success of the action plan, for ensuring efficiency of LAA2 expenditure and identifying opportunities to align or pool resources. To support this work the County Council has developed its own action plans that detail what it will do as part of the delivery partnerships.

Innovation:

Wood chip boiler projects: impact of this innovation features in our case studies. We have also covered the positive take-up in our March 2009 staff "Green Matters" newsletter, to further promote awareness.

There is good evidence of proactive work with supply chain partners, installers etc: including securing conference speakers at recent Carbon Trust events and good local coverage in TV news. We also have solid data relating to our performance in relation to carbon and financial savings.

In March 2009 Suffolk and other partners signed the POWER cluster partnership agreement at the award-winning OrbisEnergy building in Lowestoft. Building on the initial POWER programme, POWER cluster is a €4m European project to promote offshore wind energy in the North Sea region. This development was also covered in the March edition of our "Green Matters newsletter. This is supplementary to the ANSWER project that we highlight below.

Waste management

The Suffolk Waste Partnership promotes initiatives to reduce waste and encourage recycling among community

[Link to Transforming Suffolk]
<http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/partnerships/delivery-partnerships>

[Link to Transforming Suffolk]
<http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/partnerships/delivery-partnerships/creating-the-greenest-county>

[Link to Transforming Suffolk]
<http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/partnerships/delivery-partnerships/creating-the-greenest-county>

(35) Spring Green Matters Newsletter

[DVD of TV news article available separately]

[Link to Power Cluster website]
www.power-cluster.net

and school groups. This initiative has contributed to our excellent performance during 2008-09 in waste management, being cited by the Environment Agency as a top performer in England.

Suffolk has also created a website which looks at what we are doing to transform the way we treat waste. This area outlines our key partnerships, our strategy for waste management and recycling and importantly some of the key challenges that we face in the coming year.

Case studies:

We have outlined a number of case studies in our presentation (separate attachment 36MB) that demonstrate community benefit across a number of areas. These are also outlined on the *GreenSuffolk* website.

SUSTRANS:

Suffolk promoted a winning submission to build or improve cycle routes across the Suffolk countryside, so promoting active exercise and alternative travel across the region (more info from Elspeth Gibson).

Green Travel

Suffolk and its partners have been promoting a number of initiatives across the county; for community transport, public travel arrangements in Bury St Edmunds, etc. (more info from Peter Lee)

Green housing

Green Suffolk Fund, Cut Your Carbon (more info from Iain Dunnett)

Suffolk Story

The focus in the Suffolk Story builds on the commitment in the Community Strategy. It recognises the need to protect the Suffolk environment and develop the county in a sustainable manner. The threat of climate change and coastal erosion are very real for Suffolk and we need to respond to these challenges for the wider benefit of Suffolk.

Climate Action Plan

There is a joint climate change action plan which will be jointly launched at the next *Creating the Greenest County* conference in October 2009.

Suffolk has received endorsement for its contribution to regional climate change action from a number of third party sources, including *IDeA*, *BT* and *Forum for the Future* (an independent climate change project partnership). *BT* supported the Suffolk *Greenest County* bid for an *Enterprising Britain Award for 2009*.

Suffolk's joint approach to meeting and combating the "green" challenge, especially in some of the more

[Link to eeegr website]
<http://www.eeegr.com/Partners/POWER-cluster.php>

[Link to Suffolk Recycling website]
<http://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/default.asp>


[Link to SCC website – Future of Waste]
<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/thefutureofwaste>

[Link to Greenest County website]
http://www.greensuffolk.org/case_studies

[Link to Sustrans website]
<http://www.sustrans.org.uk/map?searchtype=search&searchkey=SUFFOLK>

[Link to SCC intranet]
<http://colin.suffolkcc.gov.uk/SuffolkStory/BeTheGreenestCounty.htm>

<p>demanding areas such as those where economic deprivation or migrant communities prevailed, was also recognised and highlighted as a case study by LGA in their <i>“Follow Their Lead”</i> publication, published January 2009. LGA and IDeA used the Suffolk case study as one example of how local authorities are demonstrating excellent environmental leadership at senior levels to inspire others to be innovative and forward thinking.</p> <p>At a European level, the county leads the innovative ANSWER (A North Sea Way to Energy-efficient Regions) Project. This is an excellent example of how we are working with others to develop a sustainable Suffolk. The project started in September 2008 and benefits from €1.8 million EU funding (~£1.4 million) through the Interreg Programme. This will be used to support an ambitious programme developing new approaches to reducing carbon emissions across the partner regions. The project aim is to develop communities across the North Sea region with increased awareness of environmental issues and reduced carbon emissions. We will achieve this through a range of actions to be implemented by partners in Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Norway, as well as the U.K. Importantly, all the partners involved in the project will learn from each others experiences, helping to promote a more sustainable North Sea region.</p> <p>Conferences and Events</p> <p>Two initial conferences in 2007 and 2008 attracted 600 attendees and covered all aspects of the <i>Creating the Greenest County</i> agenda. The 2008 Suffolk Show promoted a strong “green” theme with a Marquee featuring 17 different green organisations and companies from across Suffolk, generating interest and awareness among visitors.</p>	<p>(36) Enterprising Britain</p> <p>[Link to Forum for the Future website] http://www.forumforthefuture.org/the-i-team</p> <p>[Link to LGA website] http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/1339315</p> <p>[Link to Greenest County website] http://www.greensuffolk.org/what_are_we_doing/climate_change/answer_project</p>
<p>FUTURE PLANS AND IMPROVEMENT</p>	
<p>Cross-reference to initiatives outlined in the action plan, available via the <i>Transforming Suffolk</i> website.</p> <p><i>The action plans outline our key challenges and demonstrate that we are on target to achieve our future ambitions.</i></p> <p>In terms of marketing and promotion we have two key areas to address:</p> <p>Promoting the low carbon economy (adaptation & mitigation); we are planning a conference for autumn 2009; the key theme is to be <i>Adaptation</i>; and a similar event in 2010 to promote the low carbon economy (2010 awards conference).</p> <p>Performance clinic presentation (low carbon); this is the projection view of the team as presented to our CEO.</p>	<p>[Link to Transforming Suffolk] http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/files/delivery_partnerships/greenest%20county/copy_of_2009-01-08_greenest_county_action_plan_3.xls</p>

DELIVERING SAFE, HEALTHY, AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES	EVIDENCE
THEME PROFILE	
<p>Suffolk's ambition is for all people to be kept safe from harm, to be able to live healthy lifestyles and to be valued in the community in which they live and work. Partners across Suffolk agreed on this as a vision through the consultation process for the new Community Strategy.</p> 	<p>[Link to Transforming Suffolk] http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/vision-and-priorities/community-strategy)</p>
PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE	
<p>Supporting the Community Strategy, 9 delivery partnerships deliver activities against the themes and cross cutting principles of the LAA2. In respect of <i>Safe, Healthy & Inclusive</i> there are 4 delivery partnerships who lead this work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care, Health and Independence; • Community Cohesion and Inclusion; • Healthy Ambitions; and • Safer Suffolk. <p>Each Delivery partnership has a plan and the progress against the plan is monitored within the delivery partnership and also by the Performance Management Group (PMG) of the SSP. While these areas outlined above have not yet been the subject of a PMG performance clinic (the clinics were only introduced in January 2009 and have initially focussed on areas where there are obvious performance challenges); the group receives quarterly overview performance reports that include current performance and a short commentary for each of the partnerships. The meetings are structured in such a way that performance and achievements can be examined and discussed in detail rather than a just a quick overview of all performance information. Each</p>	<p>[Link to Transforming Suffolk] http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/partnerships/delivery-partnerships</p> <p>[Link to Transforming Suffolk] http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/partnerships/performance-management-group/meeting-papers</p>

PMG meeting focuses on just one or two delivery partnerships and the work that they have done to date.

Care, Health and Independence

The *Care, Health & Independence* Delivery Partnership is a new partnership that has been established specifically to deliver the Community Strategy and LAA2 outcomes.

The 2007-08 Annual Public Health report, published by NHS Suffolk in October 2008, was accompanied by a video presentation at the Health Board to highlight health inequalities such as life expectancy especially in the gypsy & traveller community as a focus group for proactive intervention.

The Health Board is currently considering recruiting and implementing a dedicated gypsy & traveller Health trainer. Recommendations in the report, combined with the long-term Healthy Ambitions Suffolk strategy, were focused at helping to narrow the 12-year difference in life expectancy which currently exists between people living in different parts of the county. Because of the publication date any commissioning decisions were taken and implemented to be effective during 2008-09. The full report is on the NHS Suffolk website at:

<http://www.suffolk.nhs.uk/Home/Publications/20072008/tabid/1330/Default.aspx>.

A progress report reviewing action and successful implementation of initiatives outlined in APHRs from 2006 to 2008 highlighted a number of opportunities for further targeted improvement in delivering better services into the community.

Community Cohesion and Inclusion

Suffolk has promoted and participated in a range of initiatives to enhance social inclusion and community cohesion across the county, some of which are outlined below and some of which are covered in the attached briefing note. These include:

Migrant drop-in sessions providing information and guidance (IAG) in 5 locations across Suffolk. Supported by DC/BC CAB & other voluntary & community sector partners.

The Investors in Communities initiative has a remit of *protecting individuals and reducing inequalities*. Working in partnership, funding is matched to support the scheme currently runs from Oct 2008 to Sept 2009. The county is bidding for funding to extend the project beyond Sep 2009. Analysis shows that ~100 people used the service in the first 6 months of operation.

A lot of good work is going on in the county to reduce the myths & stereotypes across a number of communities to mitigate community tensions. Leaflets have been produced about Gypsies and Travellers,

[Link to Transforming Suffolk]
<http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/partnerships/delivery-partnerships/care-health-and-independence>

(39) Annual Public Health Report 07-08

[Link to NHS Suffolk website]
<http://www.suffolk.nhs.uk/Home/News/Archive2008/APHR/tabid/1763/Default.aspx>

(40) Update on APHR

(41) Social Inclusion & Diversity

Refugees and Asylum Seekers and Migrant Workers.

In the county there is a Gypsy & Traveller steering group. This group aims to identify additional pitch provision for Gypsy & Traveller communities, especially in the St Edmundsbury & Mid-Suffolk areas. We will initiate these schemes through the support of CLG grant funds to provide a new site for these community groups.

Partnership working has provided resources to refurbish the West Meadows Gypsy & Traveller site in Ipswich. The result of this refurbishment is that the site will provide improved living space and opportunity for better quality of life for ~ 40-50 families. The refurbishment project was started during November 2008 and is scheduled for completion in summer 2009.

In Suffolk there is a county-wide Forum for Refugees Asylum Seekers and New and Emerging Communities. Suffolk County Council co-ordinates the activities of this group; an example of which is that a report on the health issues faced by these communities was submitted to NHS Suffolk. Subsequently, the 2008 Annual Public Health Report refers to the needs of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

In Suffolk there is also a Joint Diversity Working Group, which aims to improve the way we provide services to all communities by overcoming inequality of provision and supporting fair access to services for all.

Healthy Ambitions

In the next ten years the number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 33%, with a 34% growth in the number of people aged 85 years and over, which will increase demand for health and social services. One major consequence of the ageing population is an increase in the number of people suffering with dementia. Estimates suggest that, among persons aged 65 years and over, a rise is expected from 9900 in 2008 to 16400 in 2025.

At any time about 1 person in every 6 will be suffering from some form of mental health problem in Suffolk. Prevention of these problems is seen as a major priority for our community. Some communities suffer higher than average rates, e.g. carers and prisoners. In Suffolk about 8200 people claim incapacity benefits because of mental health conditions and there are about 150 emergency hospital admissions for schizophrenia.

During 2008-09 we collaborated with NHS Suffolk and other agencies to promote and improve the health and therefore the life-chances of people in the community; culminating in April 2009 in the launch of the Healthy Ambitions Suffolk Challenge and the pilot tour of the Healthy Ambitions Bus. These initiatives complement the progress made in a number of other joint schemes across Suffolk. Some examples of these include:

(42) Suffolk Health Profile
2009

Our *Health Bus* (pilot) programme finished May 09, initially with funding for activities geared towards secondary and primary school children. We have submitted a Performance Reward Grant bid to continue the initiative through 2009-10 as a multi-function activity vehicle, offering services and facilities to a wider cross-section of the community.

Developing and publishing the CYP section of the Healthy Ambitions website to promote better health among children and families.

NHS Suffolk commissioned McKinsey for lifestyle information; from which participants at a workshop held 21 May 09 agreed that social marketing would be a positive approach to take forward from the survey recommendations.

To improve health in the workplace Suffolk has participated in the "Fit for Work" programme launch, which Ipswich Borough Council had launched in June 2008. The county is bidding for Gold Employer award as recognition for this initiative. We are capturing employee feedback from a web survey, from which participants can receive a free pedometer as a reward for completing the survey. The team is also monitoring HR absence stats in partnership with CSD to identify any areas of concern relating to sickness patterns.

The Healthy Ambitions Business Awards were launched in November 2008 and the opportunities for SMEs and large organisations including public and NGOs as well as private sector companies to achieve Healthy Ambitions Gold, Silver or Bronze Awards are well underway. Five trailblazer companies have signed up to the scheme and our plan is to combine resources and facilities to promote fitness sessions closer to where people work.

The "Get Well Fitness" programme being developed in conjunction with NHS Suffolk.

Safer Suffolk

Suffolk has made significant progress in respect of crime reduction in recent years. Suffolk remains one of the safest counties in England and Wales with total crime reduced by 4% during 2008-09. In reality this means: 90 less people have had their house burgled; 350 less people have had their cars stolen or broken into; 900 less people have had their property damaged.

51% of people in Suffolk are confident that Suffolk Constabulary (and the local council) are tackling the crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter in their area. Our target is to improve this level to 63% by March 2012.

[Link to Healthy Ambitions website]

<http://www.healthyambitionsuffolk.nhs.uk/Business/tabid/62/Default.aspx>

[Link to Healthy Ambitions website]

<http://www.healthyambitionsuffolk.nhs.uk/JuniorsTeensandFamiliesmicrosite/Families/tabid/103/Default.aspx>

Latest British Crime Survey results show that 56.4% and 58.8% of people think Ipswich and Waveney do a good job, which is just below the force total of 59.1%

The East Area has created a 2009/10 plan, which focuses on public confidence and satisfaction, with outputs such as a new Anti-Social Behaviour mapping tool for staff and increased minimum service standards etc.

HMIC report on Neighbourhood Policing

HMIC re-inspected Neighbourhood Policing in April 2008 and Suffolk Constabulary was found to 'meet the standard' under the new three point grading system. An internal review of safer neighbourhoods during 2008 led to structural changes, which have enhanced the teams.

More collaborative/effective partnership working between Policing Areas

The Constabulary entered into a 'preferred partnership' with Norfolk Constabulary, with the aim to collaborate, amongst other things, the Protective Services and the provision of Custody. Within the Protective Services this collaborative arrangement intends to drive out efficiency savings to be reinvested back into those Protective Services carrying the greatest risk. The first year of this project has resulted in the implementation of a joint Major Investigation Team and Witness Protection Unit and work towards a joint Technical Support Unit. Work is now underway to scope further areas for which collaboration business cases will be prepared. Both Constabularies are also working towards a joint Improvement Plan, which again will assess the risks within the Protective Services and will include plans to address these at local and county level as well as collaboratively.

Reducing violent crime (including that related to drugs and alcohol)

Serious violent crime related to drugs and alcohol committed in a public place went up by 9% in 2008/09 (LAA2 target 5% reduction). The detection rate for these offences was 47% (target 50%). The Constabulary and other partners have recognised this as a key priority and this is now a plank of the Force Control Strategy. The Constabulary is focussing activity on 6 priority neighbourhoods and also has an objective to create a safer night-time economy. Research has shown that a disproportionate number of street violence crimes can be directly linked to certain licensed premises and partners are examining opportunities for problem solving, working directly with licensees.

Significant work is currently underway around creating a safer nighttime economy. Examples include the Waveney area's use of ion tracker (drug identifier), an 'SOS' bus project, and Town Pastors (also used in Ipswich, Woodbridge and Newmarket).

Suffolk Police are the county lead for 'Nightsafe' and leads internally on night time economy work. Suffolk

Constabulary also undertakes nighttime impact events, is expanding the use of designated public place orders, supporting pub watch and has had success at closing crack houses. Other examples of activity include work alongside the area to train bar staff, as well as a range of activity falling out of an operational control strategy.

Suffolk Constabulary has been entered in the Tilley Awards 2009 due to the Street Prostitution Strategy. The Ipswich Street Prostitution Strategy is a multi agency approach that has successfully addressed the issue of street prostitution. This has resulted in targeted interventions for those women who were engaged in prostitution allowing support to be provided in areas such as substance misuse, housing, health and other welfare issues. The strategy also agreed a consistent and robust response to dealing with kerb crawlers by arresting them and subsequently dealing with them by way of suitable disposal including cautioning, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, CRASBO's and charging to court if necessary.

Following an external review by ISCRE a Stop and Search working group was established which has produced a new Stop & Search form and database that include quality of service questions; instigated a public governance structure through the establishment of reference groups; and increase internal training and awareness.

Reducing crime relating to dwellings

Dwelling burglaries in Suffolk reduced by 6% in 2008/09 with a 9% improvement in the detection rate. Much of this related to the targeting of specific crime groups and the arrest of a number of prolific offenders.

Considerable work has been undertaken to target burglary dwelling in Lowestoft, which includes daily, weekly and bi-weekly tasking meetings, community safety intervention, monthly partnership meetings and monthly PPO meetings. Key actions include the use of 'smart water kits' which can be used to track offenders, fast track forensic opportunities (3 day turn around rather than 3 months), hotspot mapping led proactive deployment and memo cams.

Suffolk Constabulary also participate in Homeshield (county wide), and have a robust performance framework directed by a Performance Delivery Board attended by all senior managers, which focuses on domestic burglary and associated crime.

Suffolk Constabulary are part of a project team lead by the CSP to target street drinkers, through focussing on persistent offenders, in order to offer support (e.g. re-housing) and to signpost existing services.

Priority and Persistent Offenders

NI30 tracks Priority and Persistent Offender (PPO) re-offending. Performance against NI30 has been very

(43) Priority and Prolific Offenders SCJB report

positive with an 18% reduction (117 offences under target) shown.

Young Offenders

The new Deter Young Offenders (DYO) scheme is now linked to the PPO scheme to ensure positive intervention through initiatives such as the fast track forensic returns. Suffolk Constabulary is currently working with the YOS on a restorative justice style approach for key young offenders.

Significant work has been undertaken around addressing disaffected young people, such as the Yard project, which was nominated for and won the High Sheriff award.

Working with migrants

Suffolk Constabulary undertake a range of activities to ensure support to minority and migrant groups. This includes being part of Lowestoft Together and the Lowestoft International Support Group, creation of a targeted DVD for migrant workings at Newmarket Races (2010/11), bids for migrant worker PCSOs and comprehensive Safer Neighbourhood Team profiles.

Play Your Part

The county has a "Play Your Part" initiative to offer a single contact number for staff and partners to report instances of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour, including noise, graffiti, broken streetlights, pot-holes (especially after heavy rain). Take-up is ~50 calls per month across a range of issues. We are planning to promote this initiative to business and community groups.

Another initiative that tackles these issues is the programme of "IMPACT" events that are coordinated and facilitated by the County Council IMPACT (**Intensive Multi-Partner Agency Coordinated Team**) events are short periods of intensive work with a targeted approach in concise geographical areas. They involve coordinating the work of partner agencies in a strong and robust way to improve communities, reduce crime and make people feel better about the areas in which they live. IMPACT events have a strong emphasis around enforcement and where possible are geared to support long term recovery of communities.

Racial Harassment Initiative

Suffolk Constabulary has undertaken a new racial harassment initiative, and now uses revised hate crime forms. From attendance at the hate crime diversity group, it has been accepted that reported incidents may rise as confidence in the police increases.

The county supports the work of the *Crucial Crews* programme, which is led by local authority partners, with a variety of interactive scenarios.

(44) Homeshield Annual Report Figures 08-10

[Link to Safer Ipswich website]

<http://www.saferipswich.org.uk/ipswich%20Street%20Prostitution%20Strategy%202007%20-%202012.pdf>

Home Shield initiative

Throughout 2008-09 Home Shield has continued to develop with a number of new partners signing up to the project from the voluntary sector; including the British Red Cross with the service it provides for patients being discharged from Ipswich Hospital and the Coffee Caravan, a charity that offers community engagement events to many of the most rural communities with in Suffolk.

Home Shield is currently involved in the training all of ACS Home First Carers to enable them to carry out a referral on all new clients, this has already seen a rise in the number of referrals being received.

Emergency & Contingency Planning and Risk Management

Since implementation of the Civil Contingencies Act in 2005, a countywide Joint Emergency Planning Unit has supported county, district and borough councils within Suffolk and is the only county in the east of England to adopt this collaborative approach.

Our joint emergency planning and contingency management arrangements also support increased coastal and environmental protection through the Suffolk flood management arrangements. Details of this are set out in our *Delivering Creating The Greenest County* statement.

Comprehensive contingency plans are available for all specific risk sights in Suffolk. These include both police managed mitigation and multi-agency managed mitigation. Large sites such as Felixstowe have been split by associated risks e.g. Hazardous Substances incident, Major Road Collisions, Closure due to weather conditions, stacking of lorries on road infrastructure, Calor Gas installation, (due for closure, should be gas free by the end of May 2009), Shipping incident , and Radioactivity activation of Port Portal.

Suffolk Constabulary has comprehensive contingency plans around the potential risk of flooding in Suffolk. Police managed mitigation includes: Provision and resourcing of multi agency Strategic Co-ordination Centre in the LEC; Provision and resourcing of multi agency Silver Command at Halesworth Police Station; and Major Incident Boxes at various coastal Police Stations.

Multi-agency managed mitigation includes: Suffolk Resilience Forum; Multi Agency Strategic Flood Plan; Suffolk Resilience Strategic Generic Response Plan; Suffolk Resilience Strategic Evacuation Guidance; Multi agency support by category one and two responders, voluntary organisations and business operators; Multi Agency IT Incident Management System (AIM's); Local Authority Rest Centre Plan; Multi agency work in response to the Pitt Report, co-ordinated by a project manager; Multi Agency response to live flooding incident November 2007; and Exercise Ariel 2009 to test flood response and recovery issues.

Suffolk Prostitution Strategy

Since the implementation of the strategy, produced in partnership between Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police, health agencies and local charities, more than 40 women have been helped to stop working on the streets and since spring 2008 Suffolk police have effectively eliminated instances of kerb crawling. The *Make a Change* multi-agency team, was a key element of the work to support women in changing their lives and moving out of on-street sex work. A member of the team works on raising awareness and assisting Children's Services teams to identify and prevent children aged under-18 from being sexually exploited. An independent research team from University of East Anglia published a report of their analysis in October 2008 which highlighted the successes of the scheme for street workers, the police and the local community.

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/mac/comm/media/press/2008/oct/ipswich+prostitution+strategy+working,+says+report>

Significant analytical research already undertaken around off street prostitution, which provides a clear profile of the problems across the county. Serious & Organised Crime capability and capacity gaps identified as a strategic priority, which are being addressed through efficiency savings identified through new collaborative arrangements.

Safeguarded / protecting from sexual offences

Sexual offences in Suffolk declined by 8% in 2008/09 however serious sexual offences (tier 1) rose by 16%. Suffolk has the highest level of serious sex offences in its most similar group of Forces and the lowest detection rate (27%). The nature of the offences has been investigated and in over 80% of cases the "alleged offender" is known. Few cases involve offences committed by strangers. The Constabulary is developing its approach to rape investigation and the principles from this will be considered in the investigation of all serious sexual offences.

Reducing Domestic Violence

Increased levels of reported DA indicate an increase in victim confidence in the police. DA forms part of the 'Supporting Vulnerable Families' theme within the operational control strategy and as such is a strategic priority. Examples of good work include: the employment of a DA coordinator in the Waveney area, attendance at the Mid-Suffolk DA forum which deals with issues such as forced marriage, female mutilation etc, change to the Domestic Abuse Risk indicator system used for all crime and non-crime DA (now at 95+% compliance), bi-weekly tasking around DA, links to the new DA courts in Ipswich and Lowestoft, and support of the Freedom Programme.

Protecting vulnerable children and young people

The high number of vulnerable children is a reference to higher than average numbers on child protection plans which is indicative of a proactive and supportive child support framework.

Suffolk Constabulary conducted a young person's survey within all upper schools and colleges during the final quarter of 2008/09. Over 1,200 responses were received, identifying anti-social behaviour as the highest priority. Young people felt slightly less safe than the general population but a higher proportion felt very safe.

Suffolk Constabulary has undertaken a Safer Schools pilot in Felixstowe, which utilises a joint funded PCSO. Part of the PCSO's role, alongside crime and anti-social behaviour reduction work, is to assist students in their transition. All schools have a nominated Safer Neighbourhood Team officer, usually a PCSO. These nominated staff must undertake school visits and record their attendance.

FUTURE PLANS AND IMPROVEMENT

Road safety

Suffolk plans to promote road safety awareness across the county during 2009-10; the Council's Road Safety team and SAVO have scheduled a 'Think Tank' session at 2.30pm on 10 June 2009 at Endeavour House in Ipswich to look at ways that Voluntary Groups could help improve road safety across the community. Ideas and targets will be linked to the Community Strategy.

Homesield

With funding in place, Home Shield Plus HS+ will be launched during August/September 2009, which will allow for the first time Home Shield to provide a proactive service with the ability to take request for a referral from a member of the public. Home Shield Plus visits will be arranged through a co-ordinator and be delivered by a team of 8 agents who will undertake a series of personal health and safety checks at the customer's home. The agents will be able to refer the customer on to a specialist for specific support or advice if needed. Home Shield plus has set itself the target of 6,000 visits in year one. The team plans also to implement a series of Home Shield market stalls in market towns across Suffolk to promote the service.

Healthy Ambitions

A report about the work of the partnership will be presented to Suffolk County Council's Cabinet during July 2009 which outlines the key areas that partners must focus on in order to improve the health of people in the community, especially that of those in harder to reach groups. Implementing the actions in this report will be a significant challenge to members of the partnership. In addition the *Care Health & Independence* Delivery Partnership has agreed a challenging action plan for implementation during 2009-10. Some achievements have already been delivered.

Healthy Ambitions Suffolk challenge

This initiative was launched 22 Apr 09 and is linked to the *Olympic 2012* strategy, it has already achieved a prestigious InspireMark award for innovation and is geared at Primary school children, encouraging them to partake in at least one hour activity per day. The initiative is in response to a PPSID Scrutiny Committee report.

The 2009 Annual Public Health report will focus on mental health as a key improvement area – to be a focus for the Director of Public Health, a post which is jointly funded by NHS Suffolk and Suffolk county council.

As a precursor to national cycle week and linked to the successful *Sustrans* cycle programme, Suffolk is

(45) Health in Suffolk Key Facts

[Link to Transforming Suffolk website]

http://www.transformingsuffolk.co.uk/files/delivery_partnerships/care%20health%20and%20independence/chi_action_plan.xls

[Link to Healthy Ambitions website]

www.healthyambitionssuffolk.nhs.uk

supporting a charity *Tour do Route 51* cycle tour through Suffolk. This follows the *Sustrans* Route 51 which runs east-west across the county and is aimed at promoting active travel and increasing awareness of alternative transport methods. Success will be measured by proxy (number of visits/interaction)

Suffolk is planning a number of initiatives to support older people during 2009-10. These include action to combat issues associated with rurality - isolation, vulnerability, and better access to health services; and also targeting specific local demographic groups to promote healthy activity.

The Suffolk Hate Crime Partnership provides advocacy/support to victims, broadening the Racial Hate Initiative, partnership with Police, Victim Support, CRE, all DC/BC; this initiative is supported by all five Community Safety Partnerships, etc. and is tagged as high-level activity in the Delivery Partnership action plan. The planned outcome is to be able to provide improved/better services to people who report hate crimes.

Participation in the tobacco alliance programme to promote smoking cessation and the joint Drug & Alcohol Abuse Team work on preventing substance misuse.

Key issues for the future dependent on Suffolk's changing demography

Although Suffolk is one of the healthiest areas in England, some of our population still suffer from persistent, avoidable health problems. There are about 2020 premature deaths each year in the county (those under 75 years of age). About 510 premature deaths result from circulatory disease and 870 from cancer.

In 2005-07 the gap in life expectancy between the most deprived 20% of middle-layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs; average population: 7500 persons) in Suffolk and the other 80% of MSOAs was 2.9 years for males and 1.8 years for females. Although the male gap in life expectancy between income groups seems to be starting to reduce, the gap in female life expectancy has increased since 2001. Considerable differences in life expectancy are also seen between ethnic groups.