

Lowestoft Rising Report for the Towns Annual Assembly.

Lowestoft Rising was formed in 2013 following the agreement of the Chief Executives of each partner organisation to form a Strategic Alliance to address some of the issues facing Lowestoft in a more holistic and partnership focused way. The Sponsor Group commissioned a review of partnership working arrangements in Lowestoft by an independent Local Government Associate review team; this helped to inform the way Lowestoft Rising would operate.

Lowestoft Rising is a Strategic Partnership formed between existing Public Sector and Voluntary Sector bodies. The partnership is made up of Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk Council (formerly Waveney District Council), Suffolk Constabulary with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Board and Community Action Suffolk to represent the voluntary sector organisations in the town. In advance of April 19/20 financial years, the partnership agreed that Suffolk Constabulary and Office of Police and Crime Commissioner would merge to act as one partner and hold one vote.

From the 1st April 2022 Lowestoft Town Council have left the partnership and are no longer a member. Consequently, there will be 5 voting sponsors from 1st April 2022. We are now using the new name for East Suffolk Council that came into being on 1st April 2019 following the merger with Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Priorities for the Partnership.

There is much to be done, but the Sponsoring Group has decided, based on the feedback from the Peer Review team and local stakeholders, to focus on the following areas which were reviewed and agreed in December 2021 for the coming period:

- **Improving Mental health and wellbeing, including by providing the role of Mental Health Ambassador for Lowestoft**
- **Maximising the benefits of integration and partnership working for Lowestoft (including the new Norfolk & Waveney ICS)**
- **Supporting vulnerable people (including financial and food poverty, substance misuse and emerging trends)**
- **Supporting aspiration and achievement in young people.**

Progress this year.

- . Integral delivery partner in the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership and Lowestoft Place Board and Waveney & Gt Yarmouth ICS Place Board.
- . £3,923,810 investment directly attributed to the work of Lowestoft Rising and spent in Lowestoft on local projects.
- . East Suffolk Council, Suffolk County Council, Great Yarmouth & Waveney CCG and the Police/PCC have committed funding to March 2023

- . Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing:
 - Strong voluntary network under the Waveney VASP
 - Pit Stop Café for adult men now open at ReUtilise
 - Working with barber shops and Twelfth Man about training for difficult conversations/ signposting
 - 4 x dedicated mental health workers providing support in Schools
 - Literacy Trust work to help with confidence and self-esteem and wellbeing
 - Member of the Norfolk & Waveney Suicide Prevention Group
 - Walk & Talks offers on Sundays and various weekday events

- . Maximising the benefits of integration and partnership working:
 - Structure and function of place in the new ICS will be enhanced, assisting to connect the VCSE to service providers.
 - Will re-connect with primary care networks and align resources where possible
 - Joined up local intelligence and create a new Physical Health and Well-Being Network for Waveney.
 - Co-Ordination of the Food Network ensuring Food suppliers and Food projects work together to maximise use and reduce waste to landfill.
 - Connect the new GP Health & Well-Being Officers to the wider system partners.
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- . Supporting vulnerable people:
 - Rough sleepers – down to 2 with an effective system in place to tackle true rough sleeping and pick up new people
 - No high-risk people currently on the street
 - 8 bed assessment unit and a 7 bed higher support unit in place
 - Sam's Café being heavily by huge range of vulnerable people
 - Thin Ice project extended to end of May – around 30 people a day coming into the café, 4000 free meals since start.
 - Kirkley Pantry created and running well. 2 new Pantries for North Lowestoft being progressed to take pressure off Food bank.
 - Food bank currently doing 1300 Parcels a month, highest ever level
 - Engaged with Ukrainian Host Families Group to offer support to Group.
 - Helping to fund English lessons for new arriving Ukrainian Families
 - Food in School Holidays (FISH) led by Churches providing meal to children and families during school holidays
 - Secured £10,000.00 to assist Food Network help feed vulnerable people.
 - Secured funding for Community Enabler to carry on Food Network work.

- . Supporting aspiration and achievement in young people:
 - Cultural Education Partnership has gone strength to strength with some £700,000 worth of projects delivered

- Special deliver, a project by Suffolk Artlink, working with Schools and care homes on letters from the past.
- Recent round of Teachers CPD events with Princes Trust Institute completed.
- Children heavily engaged in the First Light Festival with numerous schools signed up to be part of opening or the Kite Design project
- Ness Fest Youth Cultural Festival held in October Half term
- Part of the Benjamin Britten as a Boy Statue Committee to raise money to erect Bronze Statue on sea front
- Oral Health Project delivering 1500 sets of Toothbrushes and Toothpaste sets to all Year 1 and Year 2 Children (5- and 6-year olds) across all Lowestoft Schools
- Helping 12 Schools access Community partnership Planter Scheme to grow own vegetables in School
- Connecting with the Pupil Referral Units PRU's to make sure they have support in Cultural and access to Food offers