

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

February 2025

COUNCILLOR LIZ WITHINGTON - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY, LEISURE AND OUTREACH SERVICES

For the period up to 28th February 2025

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Community Connectors Portfolio Holder report: activity and achievements in February 2025



PositiviTea:

Thursday 27th February, Adults with additional needs and disabilities PositiviTea, Fakenham library

Outcomes

On this occasion we were joined by 5 organisations who were attending for the first time.

Feedback from the attending library manager was that it was helpful to have the opportunity to speak to NIDAS. She stated that she was not previously aware of the range of services they offered and how she could signpost library members to them.

One visitor advised that she had come along specifically to speak to About With Friends. She commented on how being able to chat with them and speak to one of the service users made her less anxious about where her son could go after school and the available opportunities for him.

Carers from the Dereham Hub (Independence Matters) picked up information and contact details of attending organisations to arrange visits to the Hub, extending the service and support they offer.

It was expressed by one visitor that there is not enough like this locally, everything is Norwich based. "As a carer for my sister, I can't take her that far or travel that far myself, so this is ideal for me."

Why Adults with additional needs and disabilities?

The prevalence of learning disabilities in Norfolk is higher than England and the East of England.^[52]

'It is predicted that there are over 17,653 adults in Norfolk that have a learning disability, of which 12,714 are of working age. Of these it is predicted that there are around 2,892 adults that have a moderate to severe learning disability. Approximately 5,000 adults and children with learning disabilities who could require some form of support are known to Norfolk County Council's Social Services department'

([Microsoft Word - Adults with Learning Disabilities Briefing.docx](#))

Why Fakenham?

Organisations who joined us for our SEND PositiviTea in November 2024, fed back that they would like to attend a similar event specifically for adults with additional needs, and identified Fakenham and Cromer as potential towns to hold such an event

Fakenham library is a well-attended, accessible library in the centre of the town. It is close to First Focus, a charity offering support for the community, where many of its members are adults with additional needs.

Thursday is market day in Fakenham, therefore the day when the town is at its busiest, with people travelling in on public transport as well as community transport.

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/communityconnectors> has upcoming PositiviTea dates.

Falls & Frailty:

Data from the NNUH continues to be received on a weekly basis.

In January, there were 45 referrals for North Norfolk residents of whom 8 went on to decline the service. Officers have made 62 calls.

749 calls have been made to residents to date, plus 11 home visits.

Referrals made for aids & adaptations (5), Active Now (6), Financial Inclusion (1).

Information provided for benefits (7), Blue Badge (2), community group (2), Carer support (1), Energy and Heating Support (3), Good Neighbour Scheme (1), other action (6), safety advice (14) and transport advice (3). Signposted back to GP (1).

This support empowers residents to:

- stay safer in their homes for longer
- maintain and improve activity levels
- connect with others
- maximize their income
- improve their wellbeing

High Intensity Users:

Community Groups Attended: 24

Signposting to Adult Social Services (2), Attendance Allowance (13), Blue Badge (3), Therapeutic listening (27), Carers support (4), Community Supermarket (1), GP surgery/hospital (4), HIU friendly groups (6), Citizen's Advice Bureau (1), employment support (7), Tech Skills for Life (5), Vision/hearing support (2), Community fridge/larder (4), grief support (1),

community groups (4), community police (1), dementia support (3), weight loss programme (2), Pension Credit (2), menopause support (1), foodbank (1), transport (2), housing team (2)

Referrals made to Cromer Cares (3), Housing Adaptations team (2), Financial Inclusion (10), Everyone Active (2), Active Now (1)

46 referrals received: 17 direct phone call / email, 5 external organisations, 5 out in the community, 1 PositiviTea, 6 Social Prescribing, 7 via a group and 5 Workbench.

Communal Room visits: 2

In the year to date we have supported 124 residents with Attendance Allowance applications.

This has resulted in a combined annual income uplift of over £425,000 for residents.

Age Friendly Communities:

We have been encouraging the community in and around Stalham to provide their feedback to our survey, which will be fed back to the relevant organisations and services, and to the Town Council.

A handover agreement has been arranged for Age Friendly Sheringham with Healthier Sheringham taking the scheme forward.

North Norfolk Health & Wellbeing Partnership:

Upcoming meetings:

Wednesday 5 March, 2pm-4pm in the Council Chamber

Poppyland Radio:

Four shows recorded on:

<https://www.poppylandradio.co.uk/shows/community-connectors>

- the State of the Voluntary & Community Sector in West and North Norfolk Survey
- Your Health Norfolk
- Green Futures: Youth Project
- Pace of Mind

3 Meetings attended

Benjamin court
Portfolio holder Meeting
Dementia Support Group
Eastern England LGA Health and Well being reference Group
Health and Wellbeing Board
Integrated Care Partnership
North Norfolk Health and Wellbeing partnership