



Suffolk User Forum
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Dear SUF community member,

After each SUF board of trustees' meeting I write to members to let you know what we discussed. Here is a summary from our May 2021 board meeting which I hope you will find interesting.

Suicide prevention

This month board members heard from SUF staff member, Siobhan Hemmett, who leads on much of our suicide prevention work. As you may know, suicide prevention has been an important priority for SUF for several years. We have championed initiatives such as the #stayalive app (more information is available here www.stayalive.app) and the 'change the language campaign' (more information here [change the language](#)).

There is also a lot of work which goes on behind the scenes in coordinating the response from the many agencies which are involved in suicide prevention. Siobhan updated the trustees about recent meetings. Those involved include the police, the highways agency, local authorities, the NHS, and of course voluntary organisations like SUF. We were pleased to hear about the proactive approach which Siobhan promotes through her interagency work. It includes examples which show how user involvement has really made a difference to the way service provider think about suicide prevention.

Healthy Together

Healthy Together is the project that we are developing in partnership with the NHS to support people with severe mental health problems to get their physical health service entitlements. The board approved our 'Equally Well' pledge which describes our commitment to this work. The pledge was developed through an online meeting – thank you if you contributed to this. We are already supporting several people and are in discussions with commissioners over the specification details for the future. You can find out more about this project here, [healthy together webpages](#).

Staff changes

I also wanted to let you know that Tina Pointon, who many of you will know, will be leaving us shortly for a new opportunity working in the NHS. We have very much valued Tina's hard work at SUF, and I know that the many people who have been supported by Tina will join us in wishing her all the very best in her new role.

Best wishes,

Guenever

Guenever Pachent
Chair of SUF board of trustees