



Suffolk User Forum  
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5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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 April 2021 board meeting which I hope you will find interesting.

### *Membership*

SUF is first and foremost a membership organisation and this month we looked at our plans for the coming years. We are aiming to grow our membership by 5% a year for the next three years and also to try to balance our membership so that it reflects the population of Suffolk.

We very much value your interest in SUF and try to keep you informed without sending you too many emails and newsletters. The last year has been a challenge but I hope you have felt that we're getting the balance right. Our aim for the coming year is to send you, on average, one email a fortnight. As always, we are keen to hear your views on this.

### *Healthy Together update*

We have known for many years about the physical health issues facing people with significant mental health problems, and so it is very heartening to find that at last action is being taken. We're still in the pilot stage of this project at the moment, but we hope that it will be extended. We gave a presentation to the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) this month which was well received. We will let you know as soon as we have any news.

We recently held an online meeting to draft our 'Equally Well' pledge. This is now being given a final polish and we will circulate the final version next month.

### *Looking ahead*

You may remember that in 2019 we received confirmation of three years' core funding for SUF from the mental health pooled fund. Our current funding agreement ends in March 2022 and although that is nearly a year away, we have been looking at our plans for the year ahead and beyond. This core funding is important because it covers costs like running our small office in Kesgrave and from there we are able to provide specific projects, such as the Healthy Together pilot. It's early days but it is always a good idea to plan ahead, and we will keep you posted on our funding position over the coming year.

Best wishes,

**Guenever**

Guenever Pachent  
Chair of SUF board of trustees