



Suffolk User Forum
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Dear SUF Community Member

This is my regular letter to keep you informed about the work of SUF's board of trustees. We don't hold board meetings in August, so this is the update from our September meeting.

Update on our finances

As you may remember from my previous letters, we have been working hard to secure our funding for next year (2022/23.) I am pleased to let you know that we've now had confirmation from Suffolk County Council that they will fund us for the same amount again next year as this year. This is an important step forward in securing our finances. It is also a vote of confidence in the value of our work, but of course it is important to note that whilst it covers well over half of our running costs, we are still looking for funding for our other work.

In recent years we have been able to secure income from several varied sources and these have funded our different activities. For example, our non-statutory advocacy work on NSFT's inpatient wards is part of a wider advocacy contract which is currently out to tender. We very much want to be able to continue to provide this support to people on the wards because we know how much it is valued. We will keep you informed when we have more information about this and other funding bids.

Protecting information

Data security can sound rather dull, but it is one of our top priorities at SUF. Even though we are a small organisation we think it is important to have the best possible data protection because we sometimes deal with confidential information.

Over the last few weeks, we have been reviewing and upgrading our IT security arrangements to make sure that we have the best possible systems in place. Of course, IT security is never 'finished' and so we will continue to invest time and funds in maintaining this.

Member survey and newsletter

Thank you to everyone who completed our members' survey this year. The responses always make for very interesting reading. We asked for your views on changing to a more regular but shorter email newsletter and most people thought that it was worth trying. So, we will try this for a year and ask for your feedback in our members' survey next summer. We will include the results of the survey in one of our emails shortly so do look out for that.

Thanks to Paul Gaffney

Many of you will know Paul Gaffney who, as well as being one of our trustees, has previously been an NSFT governor. Paul was recently elected as a governor for East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust (known to most people as Ipswich Hospital and Colchester Hospital) and given the time commitment involved he has stood down as a SUF trustee. We wish Paul all the best in his new role and thank him for his work with SUF.

Our AGM

Don't forget that our AGM is on 16th November 2021. Details to follow shortly.

That's all for this month. Next month I will be away, so Jeff Stern will be chairing the SUF board meeting and will write to you afterwards.

Thank you for your continued support for SUF's work.

Yours sincerely,

Guenever Pachent

Guenever Pachent
Chair of Trustees