



Suffolk User Forum
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23rd March 2022

Dear SUF Community Member,

This is my regular letter updating you with news from the board and, since we don't have a board meeting in February, other recent SUF news that may be of interest to you.

Healthy Together

You may remember that we piloted a new scheme, working with Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT), to support people with severe mental ill health to access their physical health entitlements. The pilot was a success and so we were pleased to receive confirmation from the Clinical Commissioning Group's that they are funding our Healthy Together work for a further year. This means that we can now recruit staff to carry out this important work. We are recruiting a full-time Project Coordinator who will also carry a small caseload and two Peer Support Workers. If you or anyone you know is interested in these posts you can find further details on our website [Vacancies - Suffolk User Forum](#)

Our finances

The Healthy Together funding, along with our core funding from the health and social care pooled fund mean that SUF's finances are stable for the financial year 2022/23, for which we are very grateful. However, some work that we used to do (suicide prevention and peer engagement) is not funded in this way and so we are looking for new sources of funds and also thinking about how best to focus our efforts from the next financial year.

Health Service Journal award update

SUF and NSFT have been very pleased to be involved together in co-designing and co-delivering well attended NSFT staff webinars for suicide prevention.



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We were proud to be shortlisted for the Health Services Journal 2022 Partnership awards earlier this year, in recognition of much appreciated service user involvement in co-delivering. However, following feedback from a majority of service users involved, together we have made the difficult decision to withdraw from the final judging panel.

In making this decision, we wish to recognise and thank everyone who has worked with us to lead these webinars, sharing their personal stories and championing key messages for suicide prevention. SUF will continue to support these webinars, which are innovative, promoting service user leadership, enabling open conversations to improve practice and outcomes for people living with suicidal thoughts.

Changes at SUF

We were all sad to say goodbye to Siobhan Hemmett who has taken up a new post, still working in mental health. We wish her all the best for the new role.

You many remember that in my last letter I said that we were recruiting new trustees. I am pleased to say that we have appointed two (more details in my next letter) but we are still looking for a trustee who has accountancy experience to act as our treasurer [Vacancies - Suffolk User Forum](#)

That's all for this update but I will write again after the March board meeting. In the meantime, I hope you are able to enjoy the first signs of spring that we are seeing.

Best wishes

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(Chair, Suffolk User Forum)

