



Suffolk User Forum
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11th April 2023

Dear SUF Community Member,

Here is my regular letter to keep you informed about SUF's work.

Healthy Together bid success.

A great deal of work went into preparing our bid for funding for the Healthy Together project. You may remember that we have successfully piloted this work over the last year. Healthy Together works alongside people living with severe mental health problems to help them get the physical health care that they want and need. I am delighted to be able to write now to say that we were successful in our bid which means that we can recruit a full team and extend the peer support that we offer over the next three years. This bid really was a team effort with staff, service user and trustee input and we received very positive feedback on our proposal. It is now full steam ahead on developing this unique peer-support offer and we will keep you informed all the way.

Our core funding.

I am also pleased to confirm that although the Mental Health Pooled Fund, which for many years supported SUF's core costs, will be ending, our grant has been rolled forward for another year (until March 2024).

Alongside our success last year in winning three years' funding for our Advocacy Worker, this means that we are now in a much more stable financial position than we were six months ago. Of course, we are not complacent, and we continue to explore how to fund SUF in the future, particularly in 2024/25 onwards, and how best to use our funds.



Suffolk User Forum
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Looking ahead to the summer.

With the clocks going forward, we're all looking ahead to the summer, and we would like to hold a SUF members event so that we can meet service users face to face and take stock of where SUF is and what the main issues are for members. We have deliberately not made any specific plans though, because we would like to hear from you about what your priorities would be for such an event, as well as what would work best for you in terms of practical arrangements. Here is a link to a short online survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/P2K2JZC> where you can give your views. Please do share your thoughts with us. Although we might not be able to meet everyone's preferences, we will do our best to get the balance right.

NSFT's CQC report.

Finally, I wanted to mention the press coverage of the recent CQC (Care Quality Commission) report into (NSFT) Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust. As you may know, the CQC moved their rating of the Trust from 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement'. Jayne Stevens, our chief executive, was featured in the local press and was able to provide a service user perspective on the report including our concerns over the track record of NSFT making some progress but then slipping back again. You can read more about this on the SUF website [CQC rate Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust \(NSFT\) as Requires Improvement. - Suffolk User Forum](#). The article shows the importance of the feedback that you give to SUF as the people who use services every day. Please keep the feedback coming. As you can see from our press coverage, it is invaluable.

That's all for this time. I will write again after the April board meeting and in the meantime, I hope you have an enjoyable easter.

Yours sincerely

Guenever

Guenever Pachent
Chair of Trustees

