

ONE Haverhill Partnership Board Meeting MINUTES

**24th April 2025 10:00am
EpiCentre, Haverhill**

Present:

Board Members

Henry Wilson, MBE	HW	Chair, and Chief Executive, REACH
Alex Till	AT	Vice Chair, and CEO, MENTA
Cllr Bruce Davidson	BD	HTC Councillor
Dr David Brandon	DrDB	Clinical Lead GP, Unity Healthcare
Revd Max Drinkwater	RevdMD	Priest-in-Charge, Haverhill and Withersfield
Helen Earl	HE	Centre Manager, EpiCentre
Cllr Patrick Hanlon	PH	Chair, West Suffolk Council
Sarah Hedges	SH	Integrated Transformation Lead for West Suffolk Community and Integrated Services
Vicky Hogg	VH	Headteacher, Clements Primary Academy
Anne Johnson	AJ	Business Development Manager, CAB
Julia Nicks OBE DL	JN	Service Leader and Business Support, East Anglia, DWP
Cllr David Roach	DR	Suffolk County Councillor
Elaine Simmons	ES	Head of Personal and Professional Learning Centre, West Suffolk College
Cllr David Smith	DS	Haverhill Town Mayor

In Attendance

Saffron Carter	SC	REACH Haverhill
Jon Eaton	JE	Families and Communities, West Suffolk Council
Cllr Lora Miller Jones	LMJ	HTC & West Suffolk Councillor
Colin Poole	CP	Town Clerk
Vicky Phillips	VP	Deputy Town Clerk

Apologies

Deborah Barton	DB	Eastern Education Group
Cllr John Burns	JB	HTC Councillor
Cllr Quinn Cox	QC	HTC Councillor
Ian Gallin	IG	West Suffolk Council
Cllr Donna Higgins	DH	Portfolio Holder for Families and Communities, West Suffolk Council
Inspector Ben Holland	BH	Suffolk Police
Cllr Philip Faircloth-Mutton	PFM	Cabinet Member for Environment, Communities and Equality, Suffolk County Council
Mike Pursehouse	MP	Director Housing Communities Regulatory Services, West Suffolk Council
Andrew Smith	AS	CEO, Havebury Housing
Warren Smyth	WS	CEO, Abbeycroft Leisure
Vanessa Whitcombe	VW	Headteacher, Castle Manor Academy

Item	ACTION
1. <u>Welcome, Declaration of Interest, Apologies</u> Henry Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from: See above. Declarations of interest: None.	
2. <u>Previous Minutes & Matters Arising from the meeting held 16th January 2025</u> Previous minutes were approved with the following comments: Page 2 HW: Reach is in the process of filling AR's role. Page 2, HE: The Game Anglia course did happen, but under a different name.	HW
3. <u>Public Speaking:</u> DrDB provided updates on the following: The Unity Healthcare's triage and operations hub at Provincial House is up and running, this includes Lavenham and Long Melford surgeries. The triage will identify patient needs, offering substantially quicker response times. The system aims to optimise clinical time giving additional capacity for in-person care. A proactive care project is being introduced as a pilot within West Suffolk Hospital, creating virtual wards focusing on enabling elderly patients to remain in their homes or care homes. There is also a new project identifying skin lesions. Images of skin lesions are captured via a digital camera and patients can be referred directly if necessary. The AI is very accurate.	

Unity Healthcare and PPG are working together, with support from the HTC, to host an event on 1st July at Haverhill Arts Centre for the Carers of Elderly People. They have produced leaflets, but DrDB requested help to further promote the event such as media channels for advertising.
HW Suggested Suffolk Sound Radio, Greatest Hits
Any other ideas to be forwarded to DrDB

ALL

4. **Devolution and LGR Update**

CP presented the written report submitted by Ian Gallin (appendix i)

Full business cases from the district and county councils will be submitted in September 2025, following engagement with residents, town and parish councils. It was decided that Richard Rout, Cabinet member at Suffolk County Council and Alex Wilson, West Suffolk Council, be invited to a public engagement event to allow for the opportunity to keep people informed. The event will be held at St Mary's Church.

DR/MD

5. **Health Equity Engagement**

JE provided a summary of the presentation shown to the board members (appendix ii), JE pointed out a link to Wellbeing in Haverhill (Suffolkmind.org.uk) [Wellbeing in Haverhill \(suffolkmind.org.uk\)](http://Wellbeing in Haverhill (suffolkmind.org.uk)) in the presentation. A total of £35,000 has been drawn down for health initiatives and JE is looking at setting up a working group to determine the optimal use of the funds. The working group would comprise of five members and an invitation to join the group will go out by email.

CP/JE

6. **Business Planning**

The draft proposal for the business plan announced at the last meeting were agreed subject to some minor amendments.
CP to circulate the previous business plan to members.

CP

7. **Haverhill Wellbeing Hub**

SH informed the group about progress on the Wellbeing Hub.
A business case is being prepared for submission to various councils and health bodies, seeking approval for funding and the allocation of the Stour View building. The next steps involve drafting a document outlining the vision and objectives of the hub, as well as forging partnerships to bring the right stakeholders together.

CP is in conversation with West Suffolk Council regarding heads of terms for Stour View and has been asked to produce a financial plan to ensure viability. To achieve this, host tenants will be essential. CP showed members the figures that had been put together on screen and highlighted the shortfalls. AJ mentioned that the figure on screen was more than CA West Suffolk were paying currently for rent at Haverhill House. SH will have a conversation with CA West Suffolk.

SH/AJ

It was noted that available health s106 funding can only be used for infrastructure costs, not for staffing salaries or ongoing operational expenses.

Sponsorship opportunities will also be explored, with ideas such as displaying sponsor's publicity on the walls at Stour View.

Ideas were discussed for generating and funding included:

Sponsorship Model:

DrDB proposed engaging local business, emphasising the mutual benefits of reducing employee sickness. Collaborating with healthcare providers could directly improve workplace wellbeing and reduce absenteeism, which could appeal to local employers. AT agreed, he explained that this model was used a lot, by incorporating working alongside businesses, the Wellbeing Hub could work closely with local healthcare providers to create preventative health measure that reduce sickness, benefiting both individuals and business. This collaboration would strengthen the case for funding and sponsorship by demonstrating a direct, measurable impact on community health and productivity. AT offered to provide insights into structuring and positioning such a proposal.

AT/SH

Funding Partnerships:

AJ

AJ suggested contacting the Lloyds Foundation and will forward information to SH. Dr DB also recommended connecting with Adult Social Care via Tracey Rowe to explore further funding avenues.

CP reminded the Board that Health as well as Town, West Suffolk and County councils are entirely on board with the principle of the proposal, but the hub needs to make financial sense to all partners to be able to progress.

HE also suggested that other buildings could be an option, the third floor of the AXA building was empty. SH said that nothing was off the table.

8. Reports from Task Groups

a) Crime & ASB (Drug & Alcohol Subgroup)

The subgroup is exploring ways to enhance domestic abuse services, a meeting was held with Leslie Ann to discuss potential avenues for providing support.

b) Integrated Care Board

c) Education Skills and Enterprise

did not meet

d) Cradle to Career

The funding for this project has been transferred to ONE Haverhill and the town council will shortly be administering payments to partners. CP

9. Any Other Business

SH advised that she will be leaving the post at the end of May. Board members thanked her for her hard work and keeping the focus on the needs of the town.

HW asked if Unity Trust participated in the primary school breakfast club pilot program being implemented in Suffolk. VH explained that her school experienced a limited uptake, which resulted in the school not meeting the required criteria, therefore it wasn't viable. JN mentioned that there was a need to have conversations with parents
VH focussing on inclusion.

10. The dates of future meetings were noted:

17th July 2025

16th October 2025

All to note

All meetings to be held at the EpiCentre, Haverhill Research Park, Enterprise Way,
Haverhill CB9 7LR

9.30am refreshments, 10:00am start.

- 11.** The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 12.00pm.

Appendix (i)

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation – update for One Haverhill - 24 April 2025

- In December 2024, the government published its English Devolution White Paper, setting out its thoughts on its commitment to **devolution** (with the creation of mayoral combined authorities) and **local government reorganisation**.
- While these are linked they are separate initiatives.

Devolution and establishment of Mayoral Combined Authorities

- Suffolk County Council was successful in applying for the county to be part of the Government's Devolution Priority Programme.
- This will see the creation of a single mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk and the strategic authority that will support their work. The government has outlined that the mayor and new authorities will have powers devolved to them from government, which will include setting priorities for funding, economic growth, easier commutes through improving public transport, increasing skills and employment provision, housing provision, support for business, clean energy – delivering local power and warm homes plans and greater public service boundary alignment.
- The government launched a public consultation on the establishment of a mayoral combined county authority (MCCA) for Norfolk and Suffolk which ended 13 April. The consultation was very high level and related to the principles of whether devolution would be positive for Norfolk and Suffolk, as opposed to how the details of how it would work.
- The link to this and more information about the proposals is at [Norfolk and Suffolk devolution consultation - GOV.UK](#)
- Assuming the necessary legislation is passed, the election of the mayor will happen in May 2026.

Local government reorganisation (LGR)

- The Government has also announced plans for local government reorganisation which would see all six of Suffolk's district, borough and county councils disbanded and replaced with one or more unitary authorities. They would provide all councils services in an area.
- The Government has invited local areas to put forward proposals for unitary governance. Interim plans were submitted on 21 March 2025, and final submissions are due on 26 September 2025.
- Proposals need to set out how they would meet the Government's criteria, which are:
 - Forming a single tier of local government

- Being the right size to achieve efficiencies
 - Prioritising the delivery of high quality and sustainable public services to citizens
 - Demonstrating how councils have worked together and engaged
 - Supporting devolution arrangements
 - Enabling stronger community engagement
- A joint submission agreed by all of Suffolk's district and borough councils was submitted to Government on 21 March and can be found at [Interim plan for Suffolk Local Government Reorganisation](#) or the news release at [Suffolk councils deliver report to Government: Best for democracy, delivery of services and meeting diverse demands of county](#)
 - The district and borough's submission sets out how the criteria would best be met by having two or three unitary authorities for Suffolk. The main reason is that they would be large enough to drive savings and value for money but close enough to the communities they serve to tailor services to meet the individual needs of communities.
 - Suffolk County Council's interim submission to Government suggests a one unitary approach. [Agenda Item 9 - Appendix B - Interim Plan \(2\).pdf](#)

LGR position in Essex

- A single interim plan was submitted to Government on behalf of the fifteen Essex authorities and Police and Crime Commissioner. It was supported by ten of the councils, with five remaining undecided (Essex CC, Thurrock, Harlow, Epping Forest and Braintree).
- The proposal would see a five unitary model created, which would consist of councils with populations of between 300,000 and 400,000. The five councils would be Basildon & Thurrock, an expanded Southend, Mid Essex, North Essex and West Essex [Interim Plan Final ID26 ELCE2](#)
- Haverhill would border North Essex, which would bring together the district authorities of Braintree, Colchester and Tendring.

Next steps for Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) and local government reorganisation (LGR)

Spring to summer 2025	LGR: Local consultation on reorganisation.
26 September 2025	LGR: Full proposal for reorganisation submitted to government.
September to December 2025	DPP: Mayoral County Combined Authority (MCCA) legislation laid with local consent.
January to April 2026	DPP: MCCA legislation approved by Parliament and legislation in force
January to April 2026	LGR: Government decision on reorganisation proposals.
May 2026	DPP: Mayoral elections
May to December 2026	LGR: Reorganisation legislation prepared and laid for DPP areas.

PARTNERSHIP

May to December 2027	LGR: Any transitional legislation prepared and laid.
May 2027	LGR: Shadow unitary elections.
April 2028	LGR: New unitaries go live.

- Haverhill Town Council and other local stakeholders will be contacted to participate in the local consultation on engagement which will be happening between now and September 2025

Appendix 2

Health Equity Engagement



Following the 2021 Annual Public Health Report

Suffolk County Council is worked alongside Suffolk Mind on a Suffolk wide Public Mental Health Programme

The aim was to establish a dedicated Suffolk Public Mental Health Programme is to support, enable and strengthen the protective factors for good public mental wellbeing.

The programme had 5 key focus areas;

- **Measurement of wellbeing**
- Understanding & skills
- **Targeted support and enablement**
- Universal support and enablement
- Public Mental Health 10 Year Strategy

Measurement & Planning

Initial Phase

- Initial data collection (data will roll over into main phase)
- Full psychometric analysis and validation of the Emotional Needs Audit by the University of Suffolk

An academically validated tool that doesn't just measure wellbeing, but provides detail about what is causing challenges to wellbeing



Measurement

Main Phase

- Expansion of data collection
- Data analysis to guide population level and targeted activity
- Training and workshops with local community leaders
- Information collected to develop longer term local action plans



Targeted support

The information collated into a report for the 15 focus areas identified.

Each of the 15 areas has targeted support including funding attached.

The aims of the targeted support included;

- Ensure understanding of the mental health of the population of Suffolk
- To provide workshops to plan for population groups that are not meeting their emotional needs
- To have focussed projects to improve wellbeing over time, enable 'levelling up' and to help tackle inequalities



15 Focus Areas

1. Ipswich – key focus on 'left-behind areas' and most deprived wards
2. Lowestoft – key focus on 'left-behind areas' and most deprived wards
3. Felixstowe
4. Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham Community Partnership (rural focus)
5. Beccles
- 6. Brandon**
- 7. Haverhill**
- 8. Newmarket**
9. Stowmarket
10. Carers
11. Those deemed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable
12. Those who are unemployed
13. Construction workers
14. Those who are not heterosexual/cis gendered
15. Those in work facing poverty



TRAINING SESSION 1

Your Needs met Training

The introduction session will provide information and knowledge to:

- Understand how unmet emotional needs trigger symptoms of mental ill health
- Undo misconceptions about mental health
- Raise awareness of your emotional needs
- Have a better understanding of sleep and mental health



TRAINING SESSION 2

Action Planning workshop

The second session will help you have the tools to better support people in your community to:

- Better interpret and use the data to understand mental health needs in your area
- Develop and create an 'area action plan' for a healthier community environment by enabling people to stay well

- 2022-23 workshops
- Projects submission in May 2023
- Multi-organisational panel held and projects funded in July 2023
- Monitoring followed up by West Suffolk Council

Haverhill report

[Wellbeing in Haverhill \(suffolkmind.org.uk\)](https://suffolkmind.org.uk)

- Only 37% of Haverhill respondents are meeting their needs well overall
- Sleep is the worst met need on average
- Community is the least met emotional need on average
- Haverhill's physical and mental health is the biggest barrier to wellbeing
- 1 in 2 don't feel they have enough control over their lives



Projects funded in Haverhill

Men sheds	Men's Shed pop-up venues x 10, focusing on the Hundon area initially. The Shed aims are to reduce the isolation and loneliness of all – using practical activities and fun in a “shoulder to shoulder” way and it is intergenerational making connections. This would be within the Haverhill and surrounding villages, utilising church halls, fetes, town and village events etc.
Joint organisation OHP – cradle to career (change from Hands over Haverhill)	Cradle to Career is a new project in Haverhill which aims to work with Samuel Ward High School to put the heart of the community in local decision -making for children and young people. The project aims to bring the community together to help build positive relationships, learn new skills, combat low esteem and deliver improvement in health and wellbeing.
HTC Arts Centre HWB projects in arts, film and dance	4 projects – •Dance Yourself Healthy (in partnership with Dance East). •Dance Yourself Fit (in partnership with Dance East •Movie Memories – The Arts Centre will run a series of dementia -friendly screenings •Draw Your Wellbeing (in partnership with a range of visuals arts practitioners)
Walk, Talk and Bee Happy project	“Walk & Talk” has now developed into “Walk Talk and Bee Happy”. Our walks finish with an offer of a session to enhance a positive mood. We offer inside or outside activities (weather dependent) such as yoga in the park or yoga in the Bee Happy Room, art therapy, creative writing, meditation, breathing exercises and positive mindset training to name but a few. We also offer referral/signposting to funded counselling sessions if there is availability. If not taken advantage of by the end of our offer, will spend these funds on group positive mindset coaching.
Haverhill Youth Wellbeing Hub	This umbrella project offers employability, life skills and wellbeing support projects for young people, aged 11 –24 years old, in Haverhill and the surrounding areas. The priorities of our projects adapt to meet the needs of the local community, primarily by pulling down grants to fill gaps in local services. Our current priority is in youth mental health – offering early intervention projects for those with depression, anxiety, low confidence/self -esteem and/or social isolation.
REACH Haverhill Wellbeing Passport	Wellbeing passport for individuals to have control and keep a record of the support they have received to help with low moderate level wellbeing plans



Where are we now?

- Some of the key achievements;
- REACH wellbeing passports – newer version being developed; case studies have been used across the system
- Haverhill Men's Sheds have since attended the Suffolk Men's Health and Suicide Prevention Conference
- Projects are seeking further funding to continue including Walk Talk and Be Happy
- Cradle to Career partnership project has started



Findings

- All data collected demonstrated improvements in wellbeing, both at individual project level and collectively across the programme. When considered across all projects collecting pre and post intervention information, participant mental wellbeing increased significantly.
- The findings and recommendations are all now available on the Healthy Suffolk website. These were presented at the H&WB Board on 16th May 2024 with the aim of sharing valuable learning across the wider system. The full report can be found [here \(Healthy Suffolk\)](#)
- Place programmes were not included in the project evaluation section of this report due to project start dates. The evaluations have and will continue to inform the strategy and action plans.



What's next?

- An outcome framework to support the delivery of the Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing strategy is due to get signed off from the Mental Health Collaborative in October 2024. The Public Mental Health team has taken ownership of the prevention and self-care priority and has developed the outcomes for this area using insight from our existing programmes. This is a significant development in raising the profile of Public Mental Health within the discussions of the Collaborative.

Public Mental Health = staying well



Broader work of the Public Mental Health team

- Suffolk public health team leads a system wide programmes of work to deliver on the priorities within the national Suicide Prevention Strategy. These include:
- Improving data and evidence to ensure that effective, evidence -informed and timely interventions
- Providing tailored, targeted support to priority groups, including those at higher risk
- Addressing common risk factors linked to suicide at a population level
- Providing effective bereavement support to those affected by suicide
- Making suicide everybody's business so that we can maximise our collective impact and support to prevent suicides



Suffolk's steps

- In February 2024 we ran 2 workshops with system partners, people with a lived experience of suicide and members of the public to help develop our local operational plan. This involved over 80 people from the Suffolk workforce and members of the public
- Our plan for 2024/2025 is targeted at our most at risk population – working aged men.
- Importantly, half of the men who die by suicide have never been in touch with a service relating to their mental health.
- 90 people attend the Conference in September 2024, lots of networking and number of presentations. The Team are now reviewing the actions following this meeting