November 2018 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Carers celebrate top accolade with 'Outstanding' rating from the Care Quality Commission

On 19 October 2018, it was announced that the standard of care provided by Mid Suffolk Home First has been rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission. Mid Suffolk Home First, which is provided by Suffolk County Council, provides a short-term reablement service and a longer-term care service. Inspectors, who visited in July, said the quality of care was 'exceptional'. Under CQC's programme of inspections, the service was rated according to whether it is safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led. Mid Suffolk Home First is rated Outstanding for being responsive and well-led, and Good for being safe, caring and effective. The reablement and care services offered by Mid Suffolk Home First support people following a period of ill health or a significant loss in their ability to manage their day to day care needs. The service aims to help the person reach their optimum level of independence. During the short-term reablement support period, which may last one or two weeks or for some people up to a maximum of six weeks, people's progress is monitored and reviewed. The team have been able to support many people to leave the service confidently and without the need for further social care support. All the people who receive Home First reablement and care services are assessed to see if they need to be supported by another service following this short-term care. At the time of the inspection, the service was providing support to 55 people in their own homes including 12 people needing longer-term personal care.

A call for family carers to share their views

Suffolk County Council is calling for family carers to share their experiences of support by completing a survey by 22 November 2018. All answers will be used anonymously. Sharing their experiences will help Suffolk County Council to:

- understand what currently works well for family carers
- identify any gaps in support for family carers in Suffolk.

Carers can complete the survey online at https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FamilyCarers/ Carers can contact Helen Robinson (9am to 4pm Monday to Friday) on 01473260354 or family.carers@suffolk.gov.uk if they would like an alternative format of the survey

Budget consultation launches as Suffolk County Council looks to save £25 million in 2019/2020

On 8 October 2018, Suffolk County Council launched its annual budget consultation. The consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 16th November 2018. Resident are being asked to give their views on the services provided by the council as it faces the challenge of making savings of £25 million in 2019/2020. Like all local authorities, Suffolk County Council faces significant financial challenges in the delivery of essential frontline services to support the lives of the most vulnerable young people and older residents across the county. As part of its careful financial planning and management in recent years, the council has saved £260million since 2011. It has also established innovative new ways to engage with communities and deliver services in the digital age, but there are still tough calls ahead. The council want to hear residents' views on which services are most important to them. A proposed budget will be presented at the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 29 January 2019 and the final budget will be discussed at Full Council on Thursday 14 February 2019. Residents can visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/budget2019 to learn more about the budget setting process and to take part in the short survey to give their views. Details are also available on Suffolk County Council's Facebook page and on its Twitter account @suffolkcc.

Parents urged to have their say on school admissions consultation

On 1 October 2018, Suffolk County Council launched a consultation on its proposed admissions policy for the 2020/2021 school year as well as future arrangements. This is to ensure school places are offered to children in a fair way. The consultation, which started on Monday 1 October, will run until 5pm on Monday 12 November 2018.
The county council are not proposing to make any significant changes to the admission arrangements for schools in Suffolk for the 2020/2021 school year. They would, however, still like to seek views on the proposed admission arrangements, including potential future changes to the oversubscription criteria and the continued use of catchment areas to rank applications. Governing bodies and academy trusts are responsible for admissions to academies, voluntary aided, foundation and free schools. If parents and carers want to view the arrangements for these schools, they should contact the school directly. To find out more about the consultation and how they can have a say, parents and carers can visit www.suffolk.gov.uk or they can also request a paper copy of the survey or take the survey over the phone by calling 0345 603 1842.

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