

July 2019 report for the Thredling Division from Cllr Matthew Hicks

Applications open for museums trainee programme

On 17 June, applications opened to become a trainee at one of five partner museums across Essex and Suffolk. The High Street Museum and Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich, along with partners at Colchester Museums, the Long Shop in Leiston, Palace House in Newmarket, and the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket are seeking applicants for one-year posts – thanks to a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant. Transforming People to Transform Museums welcomes applications from local people, aged 18+, with a GCSE grade C in English (or equivalent) and no paid museum experience to join their teams in discovering, interpreting and sharing museum stories and collections. Nine, one-year placements are available from October across a number of sites. Successful trainees will receive a bursary of £14,400 per year (paid monthly), visit all other partner museums through the extensive training and partner day events, and will be expected to complete a Level 3 Diploma in Cultural Heritage. Those interested must complete the online application form on the [Association for Suffolk Museums website](#) by Monday 15th July 2019.

Suffolk's Health and Wellbeing Board has committed to tackling poor mental health in Suffolk

In June 2019, Suffolk's Health and Wellbeing Board demonstrated their commitment to tackling poor mental health by signing up to the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health. Working closely with Public Health England, Suffolk's Health and Wellbeing Board is making significant steps towards promoting good mental health and preventing mental health problems. One in six adults experiences at least one diagnosable mental health problem in their lifetime. This is influenced by the environment in which we are born, grow, live and work - meaning many of these problems can be prevented. Having good mental health is important because it can help us to be more resilient, feel good and function well, have more positive relationships with those around us, and deal with difficult times now and in the future. The Prevention Concordat marks the first-time agencies across the community and care sectors have come together to make prevention a priority for mental health. So far, 92 organisations representing all sectors have signed up and committed to action. The commitment from Suffolk's Health and Wellbeing Board includes work to improve people's mental health, including preventing suicide, social prescribing initiatives and a pilot for a new online resource supporting young people aged 16-24.

Foster carers for Suffolk children

As a local authority, Suffolk County Council is responsible for more than 800 children in care in Suffolk. The Suffolk Fostering & Adoption service is part of Suffolk County Council, and their goal is to secure families for Suffolk children, either on a short-term or permanent basis. The service has been rated Outstanding by Ofsted. Fostering is a big commitment, but it is an incredibly rewarding journey. Foster carers can make a real difference to a child's life, providing them with the nurturing home life they need to give them every chance of a happy childhood and to succeed in life. Suffolk Fostering & Adoption aren't looking for perfect families. They need people with a passion and an ability to provide children in their care with love, patience and a sense of belonging. When you foster for Suffolk you:

- Give back to your community and offer help and support to the most vulnerable children in Suffolk.
- Enrich your own family life by gaining new insights, interests and skills.
- Develop your own skills and career opportunities through support and training, including a Level 3 Diploma in Childcare.
- Are part of a team – the largest family in Suffolk.
- Have access to therapeutic support services for the children you foster and your own family.
- Are given 24-hour support and up to 21 days paid leave. Suffolk offer competitive financial rewards for foster carers. Fostering for Suffolk really can be a career choice.

To find out what Suffolk Fostering & Adoption Service can offer foster carers call 01473 264800, email fosterandadopt@suffolk.gov.uk, or visit www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824 474741 E-mail : matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk