



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

# Haverhill Town Council

Notes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

## **LEISURE & COMMUNITY WORKING PARTY**

Held at Haverhill Arts Centre on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Councillor J Burns (Chair)  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor Q Cox (from 7.03pm)  
Councillor M Martin (until 8.09pm)  
Councillor D Page

**Apologies:** Mayor D Smith  
Councillor P Firman  
Councillor P Hanlon  
Councillor A Luccarini  
Councillor M Marks  
Councillor L Smith

**Absent:**

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk  
Daniel Schumann, Creative Director

2 members of the public joined the meeting.

**Welcome:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman advised that the meeting was being streamed live on the Council's YouTube channel.

## **MINUTES**

**LC23 Apologies for Absence**  
/049 The above apologies were noted.

**LC23 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation**  
/050 None.

**LC23 The Local Conversation**  
/051 Mr Jay Mills and Ms Helen Cullup gave a short presentation (report circulated – Appendix 1) on the work of the Local Conversation project in South Haverhill, their findings as the project concludes and possible future action.

After the presentation, there was a Q&A session:

### **ACTION**

Why is the project coming to an end?

The project ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. It was set up to be a 9-year project for areas of deprivation. There are another 15 projects like ours running across the UK at present which are all stopping as People's Health Trust's directions are turning elsewhere. We did approach Community Action Suffolk regarding the continuation of funding but this does not fit with their 5 year plan.

Has the People's Health Trust thought of continuing funding?

As the project comes to an end they are identifying areas and have some pockets of money for some legacy work which has, as yet, not been communicated to us.

Are you concerned about any particular areas with funding being lost?

Over the last year we've created a sustainability plan for the projects we have been nurturing. We have spoken to Jon Eaton regarding the Disability Action Group to ensure they will get support.

We are very concerned that the trust we have built up within the community will be lost when the project ends if there is no continuation.

Is there anything the Town Council can do to help?

We would like a minimum of two days' work a week to be able to maintain and investigate different areas of Haverhill and start making the connections that we have made in the Clements Area.

If you have not spent the People's Trust funding by the end of the year, do you have to give it back?

It will be spent by the end of November.

How, monetarily, can Haverhill Town Council help?

- HTC could be the conduit to grants to keep some semblance of continuity.
- HTC could work with Jon Eaton (WSC) to source funding that may be available for key development work.

The Town Clerk noted that the People's Health Trust has given hundreds of thousands of pounds and have shown what is possible. It would be good to find a way to continue. Cllr Cox said that he is happy to be involved.

The new budget is not until April, so there will be a four-month gap without funding. People's Health Trust might be willing to bridge the gap, but in order to move forward, there needs to be a good understanding of the financial situation. The Town Clerk and Cllr Cox will work on putting some figures together.

Councillors thanked Mr Jay Mills and Ms Helen Cullop for all their work and for making their presentation at the meeting.

**Cllr Q Cox  
Town Clerk**

**LC23 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

**/052** It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be agreed as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**LC23 Actions Arising from the Minutes**

**/053** LC23/033/c) The Town Clerk reported that chemicals to remove graffiti have now been obtained.

**LC23 Subsidy Grants for Hiring the Arts Centre and Leiston Community Centre**

**/054** Daniel Schumann presented a new form he has designed for organisations hiring the Arts Centre or the Leiston Community Centre. Groups have the ability to explain the reasons why (if applicable) they are unable to pay the full cost of hire and show the amount that they are able to pay. The new form will show the cost of the hire against the discounted rate, and therefore potential income not achieved by the Council.

The criterion for granting a subsidy is broad: the event has to benefit the residents of Haverhill. Most subsidy requests are for the Arts Centre and the number of groups requesting a subsidy is quite low, at around, perhaps, 20%. There are rarely empty spaces for the centres and often more requests are received than can be accommodated.

**LC23 Financial Performance of Events at the Arts Centre**

**/055** Daniel Schumann circulated financial reports and explained that not all events have the aim of making a profit as they are for the community. However, numbers attending can illustrate if the event is successful. For example, Joke Jam does not seem to be attracting a large enough audience to make it financially viable and therefore has a high level of subsidy. Work is being carried out with the comedy promoters to look at how this might attract a larger audience. On the whole, the aim of moving events into making profit and reducing subsidies, is going well. It must be noted that there will always be parts of the programme that will not make money and be commercially sharp, as that is not their aim.

For the next meeting Dan will include in his report:

- Ticket prices.
- A breakdown showing postcodes where tickets were bought.

There was discussion about people moving into the town not being aware of events. It was suggested that targeted leaflet drops could be carried out for new housing developments.

Cinema in the traditional sense is not doing well, but event cinema, eg National Theatre Live is doing better.

Afternoon cinema is more profitable than evening showings because staff costs are higher for the evening.

**DS**

The balance shows that the cost to HTC for the last 6 months was around £1,000. The number of people who attended an event was just over 1,000 people. This illustrates that subsidy spend equated to less than £1 a head.

Councillor Q Cox asked if figures for the previous year were available to compare. DS said there are no figures because of covid. The world pre-covid was so different that a comparison going back that far would not be useful.

**LC23 Grant Applications**

/056

<b>Requesting Group</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Rotary (Kids Out)	Towards taking Haverhill children to this event.	£500	£500 Councillor A Brown Councillor Q Cox <b>RESOLVED</b>
Haverhill Scouts	Towards the annual St George's Day Parade.	£422.85	£422.85 Councillor Q Cox Councillor A Brown <b>RESOLVED</b> Town Clerk to ascertain this is for 2024
Haverhill Hard of Hearing Group	Towards training a BSL signer for Haverhill.	£575	£575 Councillor D Page Councillor C Cox <b>RESOLVED</b>

**LC23 Public Forum**

/057

None.

**LC23 Reports from Officers (attached – Appendix 3)**

/058

**a) Creative Director and Arts Centre Report**

- Funding has been gained for dementia screenings.
- Pantomime is doing incredibly well. This is probably because promotion started early and all the schools were personally written to.
- Lovely feedback has been received for Mutiny in Colour and we were cited as being the best venue out of the three.
- Barclays is here now and it has been fairly busy.
- The film line-up is looking healthy.
- DS thanked Councillors for supporting the investment in the dressing rooms which look splendid and will make an enormous difference to all those who use them.

**b) Youth Skills Manager**

Councillors thanked Karen Chapple for a comprehensive report, a great case study, and the wonderful work undertaken.

**c) Zone Manager**

Discussion arose around 1:1 counselling funding. This is an ongoing situation.

Councillors thanked Sandra Linnane and her team for a full report and the great work undertaken.

**d) Project Manager re summer events programme**

Councillors acknowledged the success of Mutiny in Colour and the work Sara Marsh put in curating the exhibition.

**LC23 Grant Recipient Reports**

**/059** None.

**LC23 Working Party Reports**

**/060 a) Civic Events Working Party**

The minutes of the last meeting were projected on screen by the Clerk for Councillors.

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor D Page that the minutes of the meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023 be agreed as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**b) Community Events Working Party**

It was proposed by Councillor Q Cox, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the minutes of the meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be agreed as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**LC23 Date of Next Meeting**

**/061** Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**ES23 Closure**

**/062** The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:25pm.

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date .....

**APPENDIX 1 – The Local Conversation: Helen Cullop and Jay Mills**

**APPENDIX 2 – Managers’ Reports**

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **As the Local Conversation In Haverhill South Project ends, what next? – Presented by Helen Cullop**

The Local Conversation has been a part of Haverhill's make up for nine years but will finish at the end of this year. The project has brought funding to the Clements estate for a number of projects and currently employs two community development workers which support community groups and assist in building on assets in Haverhill South and more recently Haverhill as a whole.

Local people are aware that as the project ends the community development worker roles will no longer exist leaving a void of support for pockets of work. A bulk of the Local Conversation's work this year has been looking to sustainability and looking to solutions as to how these groups can continue to develop and grow.

Much of the Local Conversation project's Youth Priority work that has been undertaken working closely with the Haverhill Town Council Youth Work teams or in direct partnership. Together we have built trust with the young people of the town and we are able to hear first hand what matters to them and what life is like for young people living in Haverhill. The Town Council looks to continue to support the Castle Manor LGBTQ+ Group and the Haverhill Alternative Sports Group within the existing Town Council Detached Youth Work budget as the Local Conversation project ends.

Within our youth priority piece of work we are currently looking to existing groups and mechanisms such as the Haverhill Youth Advisory Group to explore the idea of utilising the strong connections built in Haverhill with young people. The aim being to work more closely with them, connecting them to decision makers and looking to their input in co-producing a Haverhill Youth Strategy to ensure all organisations are pulling in the same direction. Together we could look to obtain a sizable chunk of funding to really meet the needs of young people in Haverhill.

We have been successful in recent times in evidencing to the Local Conversation project's funders 'The People's Health Trust' our need to go wider than Haverhill South to benefit those that live in the funded area (loosely the Clements Estate). As the project draws to a close we feel the community would benefit from the continuation of our work, there is huge potential in Haverhill to build on Youth and Community projects that exist strengthening the town as a whole.

If we were able to undertake further work, with a brief of working for all of Haverhill we would look to:

Develop the mechanism for a direct youth voice to be heard by organisations and decision makers.

Co-produce a combined Youth Strategy for Haverhill.

Continue to support and nurture the community groups we currently support and build on them.

Coproduce a Community Plan for Haverhill as a whole which would also include areas that we were unable to focus on within the restraints of the Local Conversation project, for example the Chalkstone and other areas.

Look to acquire funding for a Youth provision which would look to help finance all of the wonderful work that various organisations in Haverhill is already undertaking.

And look into funding streams that could support further work.

We thank the Haverhill Town Council for all the help it has provided to the Local Conversation project over the years, many of our successes have been achieved with your support. Thank You.

### **The Local Conversation Project – Presented by Jay Mills**

During the nine years of the Local Conversation Project an asset-based community development approach has been used to highlight the community assets on the Clements estate.

By embedding ourselves in the community, we were able to hear what was important to residents and offer support and encouragement to set up community groups for themselves.

The major issue we found was that although the community could identify what was important to them, they did not feel confident enough, even as a group to take the issues forward without the community development workers taking the lead and acting as catalysts, a role models to build the residents confidence and work alongside them to take things forward at the residents own speed.

By listening to the community, we identified the priorities of the project and developed actions that would not only give a sense of achievement but also build individuals level of participation and connections with others in the community and local decision makers. Such as the 'Clean Up the Clements' project which lead to community members working alongside the Clements primary school, Havebury Housing and West Suffolk council to tackle fly tipping. The success of this project has led to residents being more willing to participate in community meetings and the shared experience has built a degree of trust in all those involved. The connection with Havebury has been maintained and as a result of the community's engagement with Havebury at community engagement events Havebury is piloting having bimonthly drop-in sessions on the Clements with engagement and welfare staff available and who have access to estate rangers and a repair team who will be on the estate during the sessions and can deal with low level repair queries and concerns.

It does take time to build participation, after two years of low-level participation a member of the community identified the community allotment as an action which they felt passionate about and they now had capacity to undertake. The Jubilee Community Allotment group today has its own committee and constitution and focuses of mental wellbeing by being outdoors and connecting with others. Without slowly building the confidence of that individual and developing trust and maintaining contact this would not have happened.

Although the residents of the Clements estate are not confident enough to form a residents association yet, the community allotment is a potential focal point, a safe place to gather and share views and in time the potential is there for an association to form. Members of the allotment group are already running stalls on the Clements fundays encouraging others to

get their foot on the ladder of participation and they can see the potential of the allotment to maintain and build community connections.

Over the life of the project we have encouraged our funders to recognise that to reach and hear from more marginalized communities we would have to connect with groups with residents from outside the Clements area. On the back of supporting Joan Key to raise awareness of the accessibility issues at the Leiston Centre, we wished to hear the voice of the community with disabilities and what they were passionate about. Hence the Disability Forum was resurrected and renamed the Disability Action Group by those who attend the meetings.

The group has undergone Access training and are able to conduct access audits, they have also made comments on estate plans, with the wish of helping to make the new estates disabled friendly from the start, made comment on accessibility of shops in the high street, and community events with the wish to make them as inclusive as possible so all the community can connect and access services. Most recently Steve the Chair of the group has agreed to be part of the 'Community engagement, health literacy and accessibility barriers' Task and finish group of the integrated care Haverhill Locality meeting.

By listening to Parent and Carers of Very Special Children and we were able to connect them with John Eaton from west Suffolk and Sandra Linnae at the Zone and later with Activities Unlimited to fund SEN zone sessions. We still regularly attend the sessions and chat with the parents, children and young people and have recently connected Jessica who has cerebral palsy up with Abi at Abbey Croft Leisure. Abi heard from Jessica the need for an inclusive sport in Haverhill and how Boccia was taught in the school many of the children attended, but where not able to pursue outside school. Abbey Croft Leisure held its first Boccia Club session last week.

Another voice we found difficult to hear although we were aware of their existence was the voice of those who were or had experience domestic abuse and via the Anti Social behaviour sub group of one Haverhill we were connected to county wide meeting and organisation and worked alongside Bury St Edmunds Womens Aid in getting funding to establish a support group in Haverhill. The group still meets regularly and recently a group of the Women have set up a meet up group, with support to connect with the wider community and help build their self-esteem. Jill Moss met the group over the summer and three of the members signed up to be volunteers.

As you can see, we have been active in the development of a number of community groups in Haverhill and have represented the voluntary and community sector on The One Haverhill Board, Haverhill VASP, Haverhill Mental Health Action group, The Link Advisory Group, ensuring the voice of the community has an influence over developments in their community and wider.

With a good understanding of the history and make up of a community, the issues they face, communities can be got alongside, listened to and engaged with, and issues that they are passionate about enough to be proactive can be uncovered and connections can be made, and action taken. There is no reason that more of the community of Haverhill cannot be developed with identification of funding and support of the Town Council.

## **APPENDIX 2**



## a) Creative Director and Arts Centre Report: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Daniel Schumann

#### Box Office Update

The Arts Centre has not been hosting live events over the summer but has played host to The Mutiny in Colour Exhibition. Before the exhibition opened, we had a final flurry of activity including:

- The Samuel Ward Prom
- St Felix School Production
- Bye Bye Baby (Sold Out)
- Forbidden Nights (nearly Sold Out)
- Be Unique School of Performing Arts (Sold Out)

Looking at future sales - Cinderella, Abba Sensation, Supersonic Queen have all made a particularly healthy start.

The Arts Centre team also worked on:

- The East Town Park Picnic
- The Chalkstone Family Fun Day
- The Clements Family Fun Day
- Haverhill in the Park

We also hosted a Haverhill specific retirement party for Lizzi Cocker (West Suffolk Council).

Cinema: Due to the Exhibition we have not programmed any cinema since the last meeting.

Our Dementia Screenings in partnership with The Terrific Tuesday Club continue to go well. I have managed to obtain some funding to help with these for the next few months.

#### Developments of Note

The following are worth special mention...

- **Haverhill Arts Centre Pantomime**

This is now fully cast, and we had a very successful photoshoot in late July (also attended by the Mayor) which has given us some wonderful high quality assets (images and video) to use for marketing purposes. While we had the cast in the building, we also did some photography to help to advertise the Mutiny Exhibition.

We have managed to secure TAIT as a sponsor for the Pantomime this year.

Sales are strong, below is a comparison between 2022 and 2023:

- 2022                      £1,734 value                      120 tickets.
- 2023                      £4,058 value                      262 tickets.

- **National Rural Touring Dance Initiative**

HAC is one of only ten Associate Venues across the UK. We have now programmed our first two dance pieces as part of this initiative. These are:

- Club Origami in November 2023
- Thumbelina in April 2024

- **Mutiny in Colour Launch in Haverhill**

The Haverhill launch of Mutiny in Colour was widely regarded as the best of the three. The event was well attended, and some good connections were made.

- **Mutiny in Colour Exhibition**

Our exhibition has definitely been a critical and artistic success. Many visitors have told us that Haverhill was their favourite of the three locations, and The Arts Centre has certainly diversified our audience and built our database because of the exhibition. Here's what some of our audiences have thought - in their own words:

- *"Simply stunning."*
- *"We loved visiting as a family."*
- *"Really stylishly presented. Great to have this in our town!"*
- *"High quality exhibition unexpected in Haverhill."*

Sadly, and despite significant marketing and PR campaigns, all three locations have reported lower audience figures than we had hoped. At present we have sold 1500 tickets.

- **Barclays at HAC**

We have agreed with Barclays that they will rent the old 'Media Hub' from September for at least 12 months. As well as bringing people into HAC and our coffee bar, it also brings a small income into the Arts Centre and enables Barclays to continue to provide an important and valued 'face-to-face' service for residents.

- **Future Programming and Brochures**

The Autumn/Spring brochure is now complete and has been distributed. The brochure generated £15,000 of income, which is encouraging. Autumn/Spring Programme highlights include:

- The South (formally The Beautiful South)
- The Three Degrees
- Tribute to Ed Sheeran (Sold Out)
- The Bubble Man
- Roald Dahl's Imagination Seekers
- Cinderella (Haverhill's first Adult Only Pantomime)

We are also looking forward to getting the cinema back up and running and have some strong titles programmed for September and October including:

- The Lesson (Richard E Grant)
- The Miracle Club (Maggie Smith)
- Oppenheimer (Cillian Murphy and Emily Blunt)
- The Great Escaper (Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson)
- The Haunting of Venice (Kenneth Branagh)

### **Public Mental Health Programme**

We have now launched DANCE YOURSELF FIT (a dance project for older people) and DANCE YOURSELF HEALTHY (a dance project for young people). Both will be delivered at HAC in partnership with DANCE EAST. A free taster session is planned for Dance Yourself Fit in November.

### **Dressing Room Refurbishment**

This project is now complete. Many thanks to Councillors for making this much needed investment into the Arts Centre.

## **b) Youth Skills Report: July/August 2023**

### **Karen Chapple**

Youth Skills offer a full range of support provisions for local young people and families. Most of our work remains the same month-on-month, with adaptations to suit the needs of our clients.

- Offering a bespoke support service to our caseload of young people to ensure they reach their full potential. We supported over 200 clients last year- April 2022-April 2023
- Offering mentoring to our clients on a 1-2-1, setting goals and supporting them to reach their full potential.
- Guiding our clients in creating CVs and assisting them secure places in education, employment, and training opportunities. We offer job search, interview practice and preparation for work support.
- Providing an apprenticeship/employment matching service to match young people with businesses. Promoting the value of apprenticeships and connecting training providers to businesses and encouraging the uptake of government grants.
- Arranging and attending meetings with our partners throughout the town, district, and county; ensuring that our service is promoted, encouraging joined-up services and maintaining up-to-date knowledge of other services. Chairing the YAG 4 times a year.
- Collaborating with our partners to advocate for the improvement of existing youth services, including mental health, domestic abuse, school refusers; ensuring that those most difficult to reach have appropriate support.
- Working with training providers and organising them to deliver training in Haverhill. To ensure our young people have a local offer, who may otherwise be NEET.
- Maintaining a strong social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, to share relevant information with our 2,300 followers and the local community.
- Organising, planning, and providing Adult SignPost, Junior SignPost, SignPost Toddler 'n' Me, sourcing grants to provide money to enable these successful well-being projects to take place.
- Offering "Walk and Talk and Bee Happy" weekly, walking and an activity added on, promoting positive wellbeing in the fresh air and encouraging improved fitness levels, mobility, and general confidence.
- Offering life skills sessions out of the Leiston Community Kitchen- for young parents and young vulnerable people.
- Lead on securing funding and organising of the well-being hub. Weekly youth club/hub at the Zone for up to 25 attendees per session.
- Looking for gaps in service and trying to fill these gaps with new activities by pulling down suitable funding.

We strongly believe the right support at the right time can be life changing. We have proved this with many clients over the last 10 years.

#### July – August 2023 update

Our staffing levels were affected by long term staff sickness and holidays, so we have had fun trying to balance all our plates.

#### Wellbeing Hub 11-16 years

The Public Mental Health Programme funding of £9,780 has allowed the hub to continue for another calendar year.

We took our wellbeing hub out and about for the summer holidays. We felt with client and staff holidays this would be the best way to continue a wellbeing offer over the 6week school summer holidays. We linked up with “On The Spot Van” and tagged on to other local events and offered art activities and team games both outside and indoor dependant on the weather.

### Reach Uniform

We linked up with Reach, and offered donated uniform to the families we work with. Supporting recycling and the cost-of-living crisis. We received several more boxes full of varied school uniform we placed the items at the entrance to the Zone and a wide range of families have benefited from these free items.

### Walk Talk and Bee Happy

Regular walkers attended sessions; this is the first ‘light step’ into our services. Relationships were formed, we listened to our clients and built our offer around their needs and ideas. Our clients decided they would like to keep journals, these were purchased and filled out at a session at East Town Park. The nice weather led to more outdoor sessions than usual.

### Community Days

Art activities were offered alongside the “On the Spot Van” on community days. We spoke about our youth offer and engaged with residents. Over 200 acrylic butterflies were decorated with stain glass paint, by community members attending days at the recreation ground, Clements, and East Town Park. Residents were full of praise in regard to the community days, we found there was a great “Feel good factor” about the days.

### Next Steps Event.

We held our yearly event outside the Art Centre, for young people that required further advice following on from their GCSE results. We signposted, supported, and gave guidance. Staff members from both Haverhill Academies, Youth Have Options, Early help team from SCC, and a representative from West Suffolk College were all on hand to discuss options for next steps. Those involved felt it was worthwhile and we will look to repeat this event next year.

### 1-2-1 Sessions

We have supported young people that are job ready to apply for jobs/apprenticeships and have aided them to compile CV’s. This time of year is busy for us as people look to take next steps after leaving college and school.

### Toddler and Me Signpost

We are improving the confidence of our young parents and encouraging them to learn new skills, they are forming friendships within the group. We are working with clients from Coupals Court. They are having fun together and learning alongside each other.

We have met up with the Suffolk County Council Parenting Coordinator and they have agreed to run a parenting course from the Zone. This is pencilled in for early next year. The ‘Triple P’ Positive Parenting Programme will be delivered.

### Adult Signpost

Our clients took part in axe throwing, painting pottery, they climbed indoor walls, had picnics in the park, learnt how to use breathing techniques to relax. We looked at skills and produced CV’s.

We said goodbye to 7 out of 10 of our clients who successfully moved on. (Remembering these are our hard-to-reach clients, who on joining have low confidence and majority would have rarely left their homes)

- Student 1 College full-time
- Student 2 College full-time
- Student 3 Full-time Employment
- Student 4 College part-time and volunteering
- Student 5 Part-time Employment
- Student 6 Part-time Employment
- Student 7 Part-time Employment
- Student 8,9,10 will continue to work with us.

We have started to plan new sessions with the help of our existing young people for our next new cohort of adult signpost. We have agreed to link up with WSC in Haverhill to offer Maths and English to those that would benefit from these qualifications alongside our Adult Signpost offer.

### Junior Signpost

We based 12 weeks Junior Signpost sessions around the 'Mutiny in Colour' giving our clients a chance to express themselves creatively. The students were from years 7,8, 10 and 11. One was a looked-after child, two had autism and five were eligible for free school meals. Nine were from castle Manor Academy and one from Samuel Ward.

Becky Baldwin headed up the sessions, the feedback from the young people that attended was very positive. Meeting up with their peers during the holidays was a positive factor, often young people can feel isolated during the long summer break and find it hard to keep the momentum going of attending classes/sessions. Becky has shared her overview too.

"The teenagers were disengaged socially at school and preferred to spend their lunch times in the safety of the art rooms with their teacher, art had become their safe place and they were keen to be involved in the signpost sessions with parents' encouragement.

Each attendee received an art pack of equipment to use throughout the sessions which they were proud of. In the first session they all arrived separately though they recognized each other. From that point on they walked to the arts centre together. As the weeks passed the group grew in confidence. They became more bubbly, shared music and there was even a young romance! They became happier, made friends and became socially more adaptable to their new surroundings. A highlight of the session would be ordering a drink from the cafe, they started to bring their own money and would go up by themselves to get sweets which they shared. Even though they were mixed ages they sat together in little friendship groups and went to the toilet together shrieking when they pretended it was haunted!

The older teenagers supported the young teenagers. As they created artwork in response to the exhibition, they shared ideas and resources. Parents came early to collect on occasions and by the end they became involved in helping to put up an exhibition of their work. Two past students who were at college who had been similar in character to the group saw the work on twitter and they popped in to say hello and helped display the work. The project grew as their confidence grew.

Overall, I'm very pleased with the outcomes produced. All visited the exhibition with siblings and parents and are keen to continue to be involved.

The older teenagers further developed their ideas into coursework for GCSE. The younger teenagers made firm friends and it will be interesting to see whether they come back to the art room or not at lunch times. If they do I think they will be together.

The project improved well-being and encouraged participation. I have no doubt this group would be back to engage in other similar projects and would encourage friends to do the same. They got a lot out of it including raised self-esteem and belonging. They were proud of what they produced and so am I. B Baldwin- Art Teacher/Signpost Art

## Case Study Adult Signpost

- March 2023 We met P, a 17 year old who has recently moved to the United Kingdom. P was shy and timid did not speak. P met up with us on a 1-2-1 for 4 weeks. She always had a parent with her.
- April 2023 P joined adult Signpost, cooking food every week in large batches which they could then take home. P was always supported by a parent, as she did not have the confidence to speak out loud; her spoken English was extremely limited. She learnt to cook some traditional English dishes, which she enjoyed as did her mum.
- May 2023 Over the weeks, P started to come out of her shell. When we made curry, P's mum took lead with the group, sharing tips with the group and helping others with the recipe. They started to build up a rapport with others and after this P began attending without parental support, she started to build relationships with other members.
- June/July 2023 P began studying for her function skills in both English and Maths at West Suffolk College in Haverhill. This was an important step as she had not completed any GCSE's or equivalent qualifications.
- July/August 2023 P completed both her Level 2 in Functional Maths and English; which allowed her entry to WSC to study further.

We are so proud of P and the positive steps she has taken in her pursuit of an education. She has shared she would like to go on to study medicine and is extremely grateful for the support she was offered as a new citizen to our country and our community.

### **c) Zone Manager and Lead Youth Worker Report: September 2023** **Sandra Linanne**

**Staffing** – We have taken on a 16-year-old to work at The Zone, and she is in the process of completing her induction.

**Training** – This is ongoing and we are carrying out in-house training where we can.

**The Zone** – Party bookings at The Zone dipped slightly but are now picking up again. We have had a couple of private bookings. With big praises for the staff. We do ask customers to leave a review and have a slip we hand out to encourage this.

Special Educational Needs Disabilities (SEND) group held every other Monday continues to be supported with not only our regulars but some new members that have joined the group. We receive good feedback from the group. We have funding to run this till March 2024. Within this funding we offer a SEND Youth session in the school holidays. We are looking at running Boccia sessions alongside Leisure Centre. (Boccia is like carpet bowls but is accessible to all.)

We continue to work as Literacy Champions with Get Suffolk Reading and have had fresh deliveries of books.

Toddler and Me (Signpost group) meet most Thursdays at The Zone and some of the members of the group now have the confidence to come down out of group. The small group on Tuesday mornings continues.

Zone customer numbers have dropped as expected, possibly due to the economic problems but always with the very warm weather. We are no different to a lot of indoor play centres. We have some offers to encourage people back:

*After School Special*, half-price entry 15.30 to 17.30, school days only.

*Share a book* where children bring in their schoolbooks and reading logs. Staff share the book and record in the reading log and the child gets a free voucher to visit again. SL will personally visit local schools to promote this.

*Toddler Group* takes place during term-time only on a Wednesday and Friday. These prove popular and we have regular customers who enjoy this session as they are for preschool children and seem calmer.

Outside activities are unable to take place due to the old fencing we inherited being unsafe and children are able to use it as a ladder to climb over. We are in conversation with the Men's Shed to see if they would replace this old fence with a sturdy child-friendly fence as a project.

The Zone kitchen has been using our own home-grown tomatoes and some of the herbs. We are still waiting for the peppers to materialise and the strawberries! The Sunflowers also grew well, and we will be planting more to the front of the building next year. We are working to involve the young people and children at The Zone to take care of the garden area.

The Zone shut for the Saturday and Sunday of the Haverhill in The Park weekend so staff could work at that event. Good feedback.

**Funding** – Our funding for our 1 to 1 counselling is about to finish as we have not been able to find any more funding. We will continue to look.

### **Youth Work**

Pride Alliance Group – Our youth workers will continue to visit Castle Manor (term time) for an hour on a Wednesday to meet with Rebecca Neal, support staff and young people to discuss matters regarding LGQBT+.

July 27<sup>th</sup> Youth workers along with the Police and Abbeycroft Leisure staff delivered some sports activities on the astroturf at the leisure Centre. Event went well and the weather was kind to us. Thanks to Tesco's who supplied some drinks, crisps and sweets. We had 19 young people (17 males and 2 females) and a big thanks to all the YP and youth workers, police and Leisure Centre staff who made the event successful. Hopefully same again next year.

Detached work – We aim to usually go out once a week, seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones. Building on relationships is key and the amount of engagement will depend on the young people out on any one session and whether they want to or have time to engage with us. We continue to work with the police, residents, and other professionals to enable us to provide the best service possible to the young people. During the summer holidays our visits were not so frequent due to staff holidays and sickness. The youth sports bag was taken out onto the rec and youth workers and the young people had fun.

**SEND Youth Night** – These sessions are held during the holidays. They are well attended by parents, young people, and some older siblings. Parents are choosing not to bring the young children to enable the young people to have their time. We have also had some young people stay without their parents. Our next session will be October half term.

**Wellbeing Youth Hub** – Thursday evening. Funding has been successful to continue. Karen from Youth Skills will go into more detail in her report. Abbeycroft Leisure continues to provide activities for the group along with some other outside agencies. This group has not taken place inside during the summer holidays but has been apart of outside events as young people tend to gather more outside this time of year, but will restart at The Zone on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September with Mural Wall Art Project.

**On The Spot Van** – Has been parking up at Tesco's carpark, due to difficulties getting onto the Market Square where the heavy tables are at one end and cars parking in the loading bays at the side. If we can get parked on the square and we are allowed to put some bollards on the road to enable us to have a clear exit, then we will do this. The van supported events during the summer, Haverhill Show, Picnic in the Park, Big Day Out, Clements and due to the change of date for the Chalkstone Fun Day we were unable to support as it clashed with youth workers holidays and other commitments. The van also visited the Skate Park for make your own free lunch. The weather was kind and the first session only families with under 12s were about. The second visit was more successful and although we didn't have a huge crowd the young people that did attend were YP that we were keen to engage with and were pleased with the session.

**Art Project** - The funding had been successful but trying to arrange dates for the graffiti project to happen in the summer holidays did not prove successful, so another date for discussion with the artist Joel Millerchip is taking place Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September at the Wellbeing Hub (school years 7 to 11) to do some doodling and talk about their ideas.

Thank you for your continued support.

#### **d) Leisure and Community meeting report: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023** **Sara Marsh**

##### **Mutiny in Colour**

Tickets sales are lower than expected which is very disappointing. Although Bury and Newmarket have both sold more than us, their sales have fallen below predictions too. Two factors have been mentioned, the cost-of-living crisis and the concurrent Banksy exhibition in Glasgow.

On the plus side

- We have welcomed customers from a very wide range of postcodes many of whom have visited us for the first time (data shows a greater number of visitors from outside Haverhill but within 30 miles and also visitors from towns as far afield as Huddersfield and Bristol)
- Haverhill Arts Centre has received considerable local, national and even international press coverage.
- We have forged partnerships with West Suffolk venues which will hopefully lead to future collaborations and opportunities.
- 8 summer art workshops provided free holiday activities.

The post-visit questionnaire reveals

- 96% rated the exhibition as excellent or good (66% & 30%)
- 71% have spent money in town.

Comments include

'Very impressive to see an exhibition of this variety of artists outside of London. Very well priced too.'

'We have been to all 3 Mutiny exhibitions. The one at the Arts Centre Haverhill was by far the best for layout, fun, information and a great all-round experience.'



Considering it was the final location for the day we were still amused, inspired and thoughtful. The cafe was excellent.'

'I live in Haverhill. It was great to have this opportunity on my doorstep'.

'Never visited the centre before ... Very impressed!'

It was also notable how many mentioned how lovely and helpful our team is.

### **Mural project**

The Police and Suffolk Crime Commissioner funded project to create a mural for the Chalkstone has started. Local police officers, Riverside Housing, West Suffolk, Youth Justice Service, DWP support. Also collaborating with Youth and Skills Dept and youth outreach teams within the town council. The artist Joel Millerchip will work with stakeholders to create a meaningful and attractive mural.

### **Outdoor events**

The following events took place and were well received

- Picnic in the Park
- Clements Fun Day
- Chalkstone Fun Day
- The Big Day Out

Range of activities including inflatables, facepainting, meet the creepy crawlies, along with stalls from a range of agencies, charities and community groups. Good attendance at all, helped of course by good weather.

'Was a brilliant day out my children had enjoyed it all, thank you to who organised it all'

'It was an excellent day, lots to do and the turn out impressive, just shows the town can pull together for the enjoyment of all. Well done all the volunteers and council who made the day go so well.

'Excellent day! My grandchildren loved it and being all free what a bonus. Thank you to all who organised this'

### **Haverhill in the Park**

Exemplary organisation from Steve Marsh with Gary Wilson, assisted by hardworking volunteers in the week prior and days following the festival. A wide range of music was showcased with an estimated 4 – 5k unique visitors.

Friday – 1512 in attendance – 537 held in the arena – 8pm-9pm

Saturday – 3528 in attendance – 855 held in the arena – 9pm-10pm

Sunday – 838 in attendance – 204 held in the arena – 2pm-3pm

We had the benefit of sponsorship by Redrow

'Thank you for a (sic) amazing weekend'

'Well done to all those involved in [Haverhill in the Park](#) especially Steve Marsh in organising such a great event, the music was great, especially the headliners. Well done to the people of Haverhill who turned out in good numbers for this'.

Plus, lots more comments requesting a return in 2024.

### **Halloween**

Plans progressing for the trail to be held at East Town Park, with increased scare-factor. No booking but time slots for arrival with a less scary version at 5.30pm. Centre Stage approached with a view to providing scarers. Will attempt to get community buy in by encouraging interested groups to get involved.

### **Remembrance**

Planning group has been extended to include Adam Olivant from the air cadets.

### **Autumn Art Workshops**

Drawing and arts workshops (21 October to 25 November) designed to develop creativity and uncover the power and potential of non-verbal expression. Part of the range of activities that include Dance Yourself Fit and Dance Yourself Healthy and Movie Memories.

### **Christmas 2 December**

Some entertainers and stalls booked. Hope to have a Victorian theme. Will release information regarding plans to town centre businesses in late September.

### **Box office and Marketing**

Working with key box office staff on a procedure guidebook for new starters.

Ugne Kuzaityte is nearing the end of her 2-year apprenticeship.

Al Lockhart Morley continues working in a freelance capacity and has been concentrating amongst other things on Mutiny in Colour, Dick Whittington, creating marketing assets for Haverhill in the Park and The Zone, press and PR. He will also be turning his attention to the Youth Skills Dept and the Volunteer Centre.