

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children - UASC

At the recent meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board, a preliminary report was given relating to the measures being undertaken to facilitate provision for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC).

Suffolk has signed up to the voluntary agreement between local authorities to ensure a fairer distribution of unaccompanied children across all UK authorities. Suffolk should reach its quota of 106 UASC by June 2017.

A multi-agency response is being developed to accommodate and provide education, health, and support services to this group of children and young people in care.

Fire and Rescue Services Co-Responding Trial

A partnership between ambulance staff and fire fighters has been launched with five fire stations participating; Lowestoft South, Haverhill, Felixstowe, Sudbury, and Long Melford.

Under the scheme, fire fighters will respond to medical emergencies, notably cardiac arrest incidents. They will be deployed along with paramedics and community first responders. Suffolk Fire and Rescue crews are already training in providing life saving treatment, and already carry the equipment deemed necessary.

East of England ambulance and medical crews will remain assigned to attend these priority incidents and will continue to do so.

The scheme is part of a national trial and will run until February 2017.

Devolution Update

There were two meetings held with Government representatives at which the uncertain position of Norfolk was discussed, and the consequences for Suffolk. This could mean that Suffolk becomes the only East Anglian County left to support devolution.

The Leader of S.C.C. reported 'there is no doubt that any deal which does not include Norfolk will not be as good as if we work together'.

You will recall that the original proposals were forwarded by Suffolk acting independently. At the time, the Government directed that joining with Norfolk and Cambridgeshire should be the way forward. So, in some ways, Suffolk may be back where it started.

School Attendance Improvement

A dramatic attendance improvement year on year has been recorded by the Department of

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Education. Suffolk's overall absence has reduced from 4.7% to 4.4% this year. The latter marks the highest attendance record seen over the last decade.

Suffolk continues to have less authorised absence than both the East of England region and the national average. Suffolk is now ranked 16th out of 152 Local Authorities when in 2013/14 it was ranked at 71.

Be Safe and Seen in Suffolk

Thousands of children are to receive free safety reflectors as part of a road safety campaign. 12,000 badges will be given to primary school aged children. These will reflect the beam of vehicles in darker conditions, and ensure they are seen as they walk with others.

A major part of this campaign is also aimed to help promote exercise, walking and physical exercise, among young people. It is understood that to achieve this, children and their families need to feel safe.

Sixty schools have signed up to the campaign.