

Dear stakeholder,

With the lifting of some restrictions relating to the use of our high streets expected on Monday, our partners have been working tirelessly to ensure our town centres are open, safe and ready for business. They are working to achieve this aim and I remain very grateful to them for all their hard work to support the re-opening of shops and businesses in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, Colchester and our other urban areas.

The chairman of the North East Essex CCG, Dr Hasan Chowhan, has conducted an interview with ITV Anglia focusing on how GP practices have adapted and highlighting that they are still open for business despite the access restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This forms a key part of our 'Help Us Help You' strategy, which is aimed at reassuring people that it is safe to seek medical help when they need it.

Community Action Suffolk has launched its June 2020 COVID-19 Impact Survey that focuses on new ways of working. The survey is in response to feedback where this was identified as a key issue. It will provide insight into how the voluntary sector is coping with the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and also explore how it has adapted to different methods of delivering services, such as online and digital. Click [HERE](#) to take part.

This week we celebrate the work of the many unsung heroes across the UK who are carers. This year, carers are under more pressure than ever because of the pandemic. According to Community 360, there are approximately 32,000 unpaid carers in Essex who provide care for more than 50 hours a week – an incredible statistic.

New research from the Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex shows that single parents and workers from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups have experienced the hardest economic effects because of the pandemic. Findings confirm that the earnings of households across the UK have fallen, with lowest earners suffering disproportionately. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Finally, our staff have benefited so much from the spiritual support provided by St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds over recent weeks. They are inviting the public to join a virtual choir this Friday from 5pm onwards using social media channels to allow singers to join in at home.

Stay safe,

Ed.