



Annual Review

Sept 2021 - Aug 2022

Making a difference in Suffolk



Who are we?

Home for Good: Suffolk is a Suffolk wide small organisation, founded in 2014. We are connected to the national charity Home for Good www.homeforgood.org.uk but operate separately since Sept 2016 under the local charity Transforming Futures – Suffolk (Charity No. 1169250).

Like the national charity, we are providing a Christian response to the social need for more foster families, adoptive homes and supported lodgings, by raising awareness of the local need through connecting and partnering with Suffolk Churches. We do not assess or place children but signpost enquiries and work closely with our local authority, Suffolk County Council, and their Fostering and Adoption teams.

We also want to journey alongside ALL local families who foster, adopt or have special guardianship. Everyone is welcome to join in our activities and events throughout the year - regardless of faith or background. We want to ensure all families feel supported and connected. Looking after children and young people who are in care or have experience of the care system is a demanding and challenging job. These children have often experienced early trauma, abuse and neglect, which can have a life-long impact. We feel that helping connect and support families with these shared experiences builds strong resilient homes and promotes the best outcomes for these young lives.

Governance, Staffing and Volunteer Development

Trustees – Jane Jennison (Chair), Rachel Renfrew (Treasurer), Julie Daniels and Melissa Naish

Our trustees met 6 times during the year to ensure our charity objectives were being met, policies updated, ideas shared and finances tracked. They receive regular reports from our employed coordinators and treasurer so they know exactly what is happening, updated on future plans and our financial situation. In March 2022 they agreed a strategy document which identified the charities focus/key objects they wish to meet over the next 3 years (2022-2025).

The majority of meetings are now conducted on Zoom as this works best - avoiding traveling time and childcare difficulties.

We recruit trustees through Facebook posts, articles on Network Suffolk, and our mailouts to families and supporters. We are currently looking for one more trustee who will support with fundraising and grant applications.



Staffing

Melissa Naish and Louise Bunton are our part time employees, who coordinate Home for Good: Suffolk together - supporting each other but also with individual focus areas.

Melissa takes the lead on promotion, fundraising and enquiry support and Louise is focusing on connecting and supporting families.

Melissa



Louise



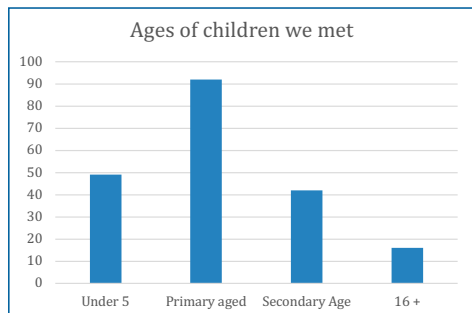
Volunteers

We couldn't achieve all we do without the dedication of our volunteers. Our volunteers help by either hosting one-off events or more regular meetups or by helping us share/promote our work within Suffolk churches. With Suffolk being such a large county to reach, we depend on our volunteers in locations across the country to help develop our provision.

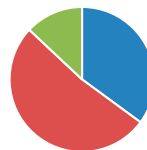
This year we have 14 active volunteers, including the 9 new ones, to help host our groups and activities and a further 8 active volunteers (known as Champions), who we connect with through our termly online Champion updates, so they can share our work with their churches.

What have we achieved this year?

This year through our 1:1 support, regular groups and one-off holiday activities/events we have had contact with 154 families/200 children aged 0-18 years either in foster care, adopted or have special guardianship arrangements.



Families who have connected with us this year



■ Foster Families
■ Adopted families
■ Families with Special Guardianship

We currently have 366 families represented on our mailing list (114 foster families, 198 adopters and 54 special guardians)

Regular Groups by Locality

Waveney and Suffolk Coastal

- Monthly Walk and talk Woodbridge
- Monthly Coffee and Chat - Saxmundham
- Walk and Talk – Lowestoft

Ipswich and Mid Suffolk

- Termly Saturday play for those caring for children with additional needs - Ipswich
- Stay and Play, twice a month for foster carers - Ipswich
- Monthly Walk and talk - Ipswich
- Monthly Teens night – Ipswich NEW this year
- Monthly evening Coffee and Chat for adopters - Ipswich NEW this year
- Monthly evening Coffee and Chat - Debenham NEW this year
- Monthly Stay and Play for Adopters -Ipswich NEW this year



Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury and Babergh

- Monthly Coffee and Chat - Hadleigh
- Monthly Coffee and chat for those caring for older children/teens - Sudbury
- Monthly Play and crafts – Clare NEW this year

Some of our support remains online allowing all areas of Suffolk to access

- Monthly SEND Zoom calls – Supporting adopters caring for children with additional needs

Online information sessions

- Choosing a secondary school, advice and support (Oct 2021)
- Open chat - Guidance and support evening, Bring your questions (Oct 2021)
- Information about choosing a Primary School (Dec 2021)
- Support and advice regarding managing/ restricting your child's device (Jan 2022)
- Learn more about Activities Unlimited, providing short breaks and leisure activities to disabled children age 0-25 in Suffolk. (Feb 2022)
- What training can you access (May 2022)



In addition to these regular groups, we have provided

- Adult meals – Ipswich and Lowestoft Oct 2021
- Christmas Parties (under 8's) - Ipswich and Lowestoft Dec 2021
- New year 8+ activities - Ipswich (roller skating), Bury St Edmunds (laser), Lowestoft (Bowling) Jan 2022
- Adult meal – Ipswich Jan 2022 & Sudbury February 2022
- Spa day (post Mother's Day treat) – Woodbridge March 2022
- Easter Parties (under 8's) – Ipswich, Stonham, Lowestoft and Clare April 2022
- Easter Activities 8+ - (Bowling or Laser)
- 12 Summer activities including beach trips, picnics and play in parks, Needham lakes, Laser, roller-skating, climbing, Hundred River Maze and Farm. These took place in Ipswich, Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Stowmarket, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Great Yarmouth and Beccles

Our activities and events we deliver are in response to surveys and conversations throughout the year to learn and listen to our family's needs

Promoting and connecting with new families

As well as mail out to families on our mailing list we also mail through Suffolk Fostering and Adoption. We attended the Waveney Foster Carers support group Nov 2021, Suffolk County Council Permanence Support party, April 2022 in Woolpit,

The Care Fair May 2022 in Ipswich and the Summer BBQ for children in care August 2022 in Saxmundham.

We held termly 'learn about us' online information sessions which new families could connect in and find out more.

Welcome bags

In addition to the 32 bags given out by Suffolk social workers to newly approved households, we also made contact with a further 16 families, bringing the total number of welcome bags given out this year to 48 (an increase of 11 on last year).

Each welcome contains useful information about what we do, as well as chocolates and useful books to support them too.



Further Support opportunities we have provided

TELEPHONE SUPPORT

This has been a very difficult time for many families and in addition to activities above we have connected with 6 families for 1:1 advice, support and a listening ear through telephone support. Families can reach us on 01728 417001 or 07434 462860.

PRAYER SUPPORT

For those that would welcome prayer, we have a prayer team ready to respond. Parent/Carers just need to text their prayers to 07434 462860 and these will then be shared confidentially with the prayer team.



Our closed Facebook group continues to be a safe space where families can

share ideas and ask questions.

We have continued to see growth in this group from 171 last year to 200 members (31st August 2021)

LENDING LIBRARY

We hold over 100 titles of books and resources which we can post out to families to borrow. This year these have been collated using an online library cataloguing system called Librarika, allowing families to search according to topics and request them. The full catalogue can be found at: <https://homeforgoodsuffolk.librarika.com/search/catalogs>



Resources are suitable for adults, children and those going through assessment or wishing learning more about fostering and adoption.

We do hope this will increase its use, as more families become familiar with this service. Last year 31 titles were borrowed

ENQUIRIES AND APPROVALS

This year we have had contact with 8 household who have considered fostering or adoption. We know that 3 have been approved within the year and the rest are in the assessment process.

We have also started a new termly Early Steps – online information session. The aim of these sessions is to give a platform to help support those who want to discover more, those who are in assessment or those preparing to welcome children through fostering, adoption or supported lodgings

CONNECTING WITH SUFFOLK CHURCHES

Through our Champions and social media platforms we have encouraged Suffolk Churches to take up national campaigns to raise the profile of the number of vulnerable children who come into the UK care system every year - highlighting the constant need for more foster carers and adopters. Home for Good creates resources for Mothering Sunday and Father's Day which are available from their website during the right season - www.homeforgood.org.uk

Home for Good Sunday

In November 2021 we provided a video and encouraged Suffolk churches to sign up and show this during a Sunday service with the following aims:

1. To help raise awareness of the constant need for more foster carers and adopters
2. To share how we support enquires and families once approved
3. Encourage individuals and churches to respond – challenging them how they can play their part in supporting us!

We believe our video was shown in 11 different churches.

Other talks and events

We have also shared a similar message during

- A Sunday service at St Mary's Debenham April 2022
- Crown him 2022 using display boards May 2022
- A Churches together meeting in Bury St Edmunds July 2022

Christmas tree festivals

For the first time this year we took part in five Christmas trees festivals across the county (Sudbury, Great Barton, Ipswich,

Stowmarket and Beccles). This was another opportunity to share the work we do with host churches and the public.

New Seasonal Prayer Cards introduced

We believe in the power of prayer and wanted to make it easy for people to support us by praying with us for specific needs and giving thanks for our developments/resources. Since Spring 2021 we have produced seasonal prayer cards that is shared on our Socials, with our champions, supporters and local churches.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 1 September 2021-31 August 2022:

Annual Income: £15188

Achieved through... Church donations £3686, Individual donations £2588 Contributions to activities £779, Grants – Groundworks £2,000.00, Co-op Community Cares Fund via Suffolk Community Foundation £4,625.00, Missionary Friends Trust £500, Locality Funding (local councillors Paul West, David Roach and Judy Cloke) £974.99, Fundraising £32, Miscellaneous Income £3

Annual Expenditure: £16835

Our main expenditure is our salaries (£9111) and activity costs (£4080). Other costs include insurance, bank charges, telephone, postage, travel, volunteers, DBS's and training

Reserves

The trustees keep the reserves of the charity under review, considering the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match variable income with fixed commitments and the nature of the reserves.

The trustees consider that to provide a buffer for uninterrupted services and/or event of winding up, a designated reserve of £6000 equating to 6 months operational costs is appropriate.

The current level of free reserves is £6290, £4000 of which is set aside in a deposit account.

Monthly Giving

To help us become more financially sustainable we took the decision in February 2022 to include a small charge for our activities and groups, rather than continue to accept donations only.

The cost of activities is usually discounted, as we want to encourage families to attend, however we give financial assistance to attend as we don't want money to be a barrier and families to feel excluded.

Last year we launched 'Friends of Home for Good: Suffolk' which encourages families and supporters to make a monthly donation. Families who make a monthly contribution of £5 or more a month get all our activities and events for FREE. Last year we had only 5 monthly givers and we now have 20, meeting our target for this year.



You can sign up to give monthly here
<https://www.give.net/20258808/regular>

How can you support us?

1. Become a Friend of Home for Good: Suffolk and give a monthly financial gift
2. Donate as you shop - Amazon Smile/Give as you live
3. Join our team of volunteers
4. Create your own fundraising activity or help us plan an event
5. Help us share our work with a Church you know
6. Pray for us!



For more information contact us



homeforgoodsuffolk



07434462860 / 01728 417001



homeforgoodsuffolk.org.uk



hello@homeforgoodsuffolk.org.uk



Transforming Suffolk (Home for Good)**Financial Summary to 31 August 2022**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Previous year
Income				
Church donations	3,685.70		3,685.70	1,961.86
Individual donations	2,587.68		2,587.68	2,502.26
Contributions to activities	779.49		779.49	396.75
Grant income				
Big Lottery			0.00	9,094.00
Groundworks		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Suffolk Community Foundation		4,625.00	4,625.00	2,923.49
Locality Funding		974.99	974.99	0.00
Missionary Friends Trust	500.00		500.00	0.00
Fundraising	31.97		31.97	0.00
Bank interest	3.04		3.04	0.00
Total Receipts	7,587.88	7,599.99	15,187.87	18,878.36
Expenditure				
Bank charges	93.00	0.00	93.00	84.00
Donations to home for good	0.00	0.00	0.00	109.00
Salary costs	3,481.58	5,629.72	9,111.30	6,371.00
Office Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,926.50
Activity costs	2,550.64	1,529.43	4,080.07	3,379.27
Postage, telephone etc	242.39	0.00	242.39	193.41
Marketing & publicity	537.30	0.00	537.30	18.00
Library purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	281.41
Insurance	154.00	0.00	154.00	154.00
Volunteer costs	29.97	60.00	89.97	37.74
Welcome Bags	1,275.66	85.85	1,361.51	52.00
Staff Costs	935.76	147.00	1,082.76	44.50
Other Costs	82.76	0.00	82.76	
	9,383.06	7,452.00	16,835.06	12,650.83
Movement for year	(1,795.18)	147.99	(1,647.19)	6,227.53

Transforming Suffolk (Home for Good)

Financial Summary to 31 August 2022

Brought forward funds	8,086.37	4,477.05	12,563.42	6,335.89
Movement	(1,795.18)	147.99	(1,647.19)	6,227.53

Carried forward funds	6,291.19	4,625.04	10,916.23	12,563.42
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Represented by:

CoOp current account	6,869.26			
CAF current account	44.30			8,563.42
CAF deposit account	4,002.67			4,000.00

Total fund held	10,916.23			12,563.42
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Summary of funds:

		BF	Income	Expenditure	CF
General funds		7,096.16	7,587.88	(8,423.93)	6,260.11
Designated	Welcome bags	535.38		(535.38)	0.00
	SEN Connect Group	454.83		(423.75)	31.08

Total unrestricted funds		8,086.37	7,587.88	(9,383.06)	6,291.19
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Restricted funds :

Groundworks	(1,999.96)	2,000.00	0.00	0.04
Big Lottery	6,477.01	0.00	(6,477.01)	0.00
Locality Fund		974.99	(974.99)	0.00
Suffolk Community Foundation		4,625.00		4,625.00

Total restricted funds		4,477.05	7,599.99	(7,452.00)	4,625.04
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Total funds held		12,563.42	15,187.87	(16,835.06)	10,916.23
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