

Parish Report March 2019

Councillor

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County Farms Policy Review

I am pleased to report I have been involved in a fundamental review of the Suffolk County Council County Farm Holdings, Suffolk County council owns circa 12000 acres of land including farm houses and buildings etc. These areas are rented out to tenants and we have been trying to encourage new entrants, one of the successes was a young lady Shepherd who needed land for her flock. We have been looking into the possible opportunities for investment to maximise farm rents while furthering a new generation of agricultural entrepreneurs.

Ofsted inspectors rate Suffolk County Council SEND service inadequate

Inspectors from Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) returned to Suffolk in January to see how SEND services had progressed since their inspection in December 2016 and subsequent improvement notice issued in January 2017. Following their visit, they ruled Suffolk had not made sufficient progress to improve the serious weaknesses identified at the initial inspection and was not effectively meeting the needs of children and young people with SEND.

Inspectors concluded that although sufficient progress had been made regarding governance and leadership of the strategic planning and delivery of the 2014 national SEND reforms, insufficient progress had been made in the three other areas requiring improvement:

- The poor timeliness, integration and quality of SEND statutory assessments and EHC plans and the delivery of subsequent individual packages of support;
- The lack of understanding among parents and carers of the support available and the inadequate quality of the local offer, including access to child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS); and
- The lack of joint working to monitor, quality assure and maximise the effectiveness of work undertaken to improve outcomes for children.

The report did recognise that measures to address serious weakness in governance and leadership were bearing fruit, highlighting a reduction in school exclusions and more specialist places being created as key elements.

With the council failing to meet all of the progress areas identified, the Department for Education and NHS England will now be required to decide the next steps, which could include the powers of intervention by the education secretary.

Climate Emergency Declared

The County council at its last meeting agreed to declare a "climate emergency" this does require the County Council to reprioritise the way we align our policies as well as making sure we take steps to mitigate the effects as well as try to reverse our impact on the climate.