

# Parish Report – May 2023

County Councillor Andrew Stringer 07774199061

[andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.stringer@suffolk.gov.uk)

For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CostOfLiving)

For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk) or [ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](mailto:ukrainesupport@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk)

## **Support for Ukrainian refugees moving to private rented accommodation.**

Suffolk County Council has announced a one-off £2,000 support grant for Ukrainian refugees moving on from their host into their own accommodation.

The Independent Living Payment will be available to Ukrainian Refugees, who are moving into private rented accommodation after 1 April 2023. Guests must have been living in Suffolk for a minimum of two months and be registered on the Suffolk Homes for Ukraine scheme to be eligible for the payment.

The funding can be used for any associated housing costs, including furniture, moving costs or travel to work. The support can be used towards accommodation which is furnished or unfurnished, and accommodation can be in Suffolk or out of county.

Ukrainian guests can apply for the Independent Living Payment by visiting <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-engagement/support-for-refugees/support-for-ukraine/ukraine-information-for-guests> and completing the application form. Application forms can also be requested by emailing [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk)

Please note that applicants must provide a copy of their tenancy agreement for the property they are claiming for, in order to receive the support.

## **Cassius Digital Service**

Cassius, Suffolk County Council's digital care programme, has released figures for its first 18 months in action. Since its launch in July '21 Cassius has:

- reached 3,000 people with the installation of over 4,000 devices;
- saved residents of Suffolk a collective 67,825 days in care homes;
- avoided 400 ambulance call outs;

- prevented hospital admissions and amounting to a saving of 500 hospital days, freeing up beds for those most in need;
- saved £8.8 million of social care funding and £480,000 for the local NHS;
- achieved a happiness rating of 98.45% among Cassius users.

Cassius has also been recognised with a hat-trick of awards from leading health technology publications. Last month, Cassius was awarded 'Best Innovation Project of the Year' in the Health Tech Digital Awards 2023 and 'Best New Assistive Technology Solution of the Year' at the Assistive Technology Awards 2023. Meanwhile, Cassius+, which is being trialled in West Suffolk and introduces additional health monitoring and assessment tools, such as blood pressure monitors, oximeters, scales, and thermometers alongside the established care technology offered by Cassius, has won 'Best Innovation Project of the Year'.

As the UK's leading digital care technology service, Cassius delivers more safety, independence and confidence to Suffolk people and their families. A range of care technologies – video carephones, smart watches, monitoring sensors and falls wearables – support users to live their normal lives around their home and makes it simpler for loved ones to check in with them. The devices also give care professionals valuable insights into people's habits and vulnerabilities, helping build more personalised, empowering and less intrusive care packages that also reduce costly interventions and deteriorations in wellbeing.

Crucially, Cassius relieves worry and increases wellbeing at a time that can be fraught with anxieties for more vulnerable people and their families. Increased face-to-face connectivity via the video smartphones, and peace-of-mind delivered by wearable devices and sensors that enable carers and families to check their loved one is up and about, bring huge benefits to people's lived experiences. The user happiness rating (98.45%) sits alongside endless user and family testimonies to show how Cassius really can be life enhancing.

If you think that someone would benefit from this service please look it up on the SCC website.

**Follow us on:**

**Twitter** - [Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group \(@SuffolkGLI\) / Twitter](#)

**Instagram** - [https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli\\_group/](https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/)

**Facebook** - Search 'Suffolk GLI - Green, Liberal Democrat & Independent Group'

**Website** - [Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council \(suffolkgli.wordpress.com\)](#)