



Norfolk and Suffolk Health and Care Awards 2026

Partnership with People and Communities Award

Community Voices: Women's Health

Norfolk Community Foundation, NHS Norfolk and Suffolk ICB, Suffolk Community Foundation, Access Community Trust, Age UK Norfolk, Asperger East Anglia, Daisy Programme, Feathers Futures, The Feed Foundation, Hanseatic Union, Involve Razem CIC, Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum, Women Like Me, The Zainab Project, The Magdalene Group and Hasler-White Inclusive Facilitation

The Community Voices: Women's Health partnership, led by Norfolk and Waveney ICB and Norfolk Community Foundation (NCF) alongside 14 community organisations, is recognised for its transformative, co-produced approach to improving women's access to healthcare. The programme centred the voices of women who are often marginalised in health systems, including those experiencing domestic abuse, poverty, cultural barriers, autism and menopause. Through trusted community organisations, safe and inclusive spaces were created for open conversations, enabling women to share their lived experiences in their own terms.

Rather than traditional consultation, the partnership embedded co-production at every stage. Community groups helped define priorities, challenge assumptions and shape solutions. Insights gathered were collaboratively translated into practical resources, including training videos and a workforce learning module, ensuring women's voices were represented authentically. The ICB demonstrated flexibility and commitment by allowing these insights to directly influence service development and workforce training. This work has driven meaningful system change. The co-produced training is now embedded within the Women's Health Hub programme, with Women's Health Champions completing the module to support consistent, compassionate care. It has also been developed into a primary care training resource and is expanding into Suffolk.

Impact is evident through positive feedback from clinicians, who report increased understanding of inequalities, improved communication skills and greater confidence in delivering personalised, culturally sensitive care. Women involved in the project felt heard, valued and empowered. By prioritising trust, shared power and lived experience, the partnership has strengthened relationships between communities and healthcare services, laying the foundation for more equitable and responsive care for women.