



Summer 2025, Norfolk and Suffolk Group Newsletter

Dear Member,

Welcome to the Summer, 2025, edition of the CSPA Norfolk and Suffolk Group Newsletter. Our next Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 September, 2025, at 2.00pm, at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD. The main item of business will be to go through the motions for debate at the CSPA AGM in October to reach a Group view on the various issues, to give our Group delegate, John Thompson, a guide on how we would like him to vote at the AGM.

Please come along so you can contribute to the future programme of CSPA. Full details of the meeting are on page 4 of this Newsletter.

Richard

NHS Ten Year Plan

On 3 July 2025, the Government's policy paper "Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England" was published. Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, has referred to it as an "ambitious blueprint to get the NHS back on its feet and make it fit for the future".

At a recent Age Sector meeting attended by CSPA, Caroline Abrahams, CEO of Age UK said she had read the draft, noting the shift from hospital to home, which brings together community teams including GPs. She went on to say that it wouldn't be without problems and would take extra staff, money, and a lot of time to get running. The Government have said that they will create another workforce plan to go alongside it, but even with the extra money the NHS has been given, its progress will likely be slow. Age UK are supportive of the Plan, pointing out that the voluntary sector has a large part to play in making it a success.

the Executive Summary of the Government's publication outlines the following.

- The choice for the NHS is stark: reform or die. Transformational change is required to guarantee its sustainability for future generations.
- Science and technology will be key to that reinvention.
- The service must be equipped to narrow health inequalities.
- Despite the scale of the challenge, there are more reasons for optimism than pessimism. The NHS is the best system in the world to harness the advances we are seeing in artificial intelligence (AI) and genomic science and can lead the world in developing treatments and technologies for the future.
- The plan aims to reinvent the NHS through 3 radical shifts, from hospital to community, from analogue to digital, and from sickness to prevention.

Bus Services Bill (No. 2) and PAC Inquiry into Local Bus Services

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Transport, Simon Lightwood, has said that the Bill would result in improved performance, quality and accessibility of bus passenger services in Great Britain. He went on to say that it would also –

- Connect people to the destinations they need to reach
- Make bus services more reliable, affordable, inclusive and seamlessly integrated into the wider transport network.
- Prioritise the safety of all passengers – particularly women and girls – throughout their journeys.
- Provide accurate, accessible and timely information about bus routes and schedules.

Steff Aquarone MP (LibDem, North Norfolk) said in the Commons that the UK lacks examples of successful rural transport networks and has called for bold action to ensure **everyone has equal access to bus services**.

In the meantime, the Public Accounts Committee have been conducting an inquiry into Local Bus Services, seeking to establish –

- Whether the performance of local bus services has improved;
- Whether the DfT has understood the effectiveness of its actions in delivering improved performance in local bus services and addressed barriers to improvement, and

- To what extent the DfT is set up to address the remaining barriers effectively, assess new and ongoing risks, and improve local bus services in the light of growing usage.

With Connect's assistance, LLA written evidence was compiled and duly submitted by the deadline on 5 July 2025.

In conclusion, LLA asked for a comprehensive strategy for improving bus service accessibility and simplicity as part of any statutory reform of bus services. We suggested that Local Authorities may be best placed to understand and consult with those reliant on these services to participate in society and, with funding being allocated by central government, this would present opportunities to improve older people's quality of life, with ease of access being regarded as a priority.

Floating Bus Stops

Jerome Mayhew MP (Broadland and Fakenham) noted several concerns around floating bus stops, saying the Conservatives would lay out their concerns in further detail.

The UK Government has since announced a pause on the installation of these most inaccessible types of bus stops, which are dangerous when passengers are forced to get on and off buses by stepping directly into a cycle path.

The Minister for Local Transport said this decision was based on evidence about the dangers of these bus stops, and highlighted Guide Dogs' research with University College London.

Guide Dogs UK has acknowledged the work done by the NFBUK and CSPA in raising awareness about the dangers of 'floating bus stops'.

Changes Of Personal Details, etc.

If you change your address or other details, please remember to let the Group Membership Secretary, Margaret Noble, know. Please also contact Margaret in the event of the death of a CSPA member to avoid the distress of unwanted mailings.

If you have an email address to which you would like us to send future Group Newsletters, please also let Margaret know. This would save the cost of postage.

The next meeting of the Norfolk and Suffolk Group will be held on Wednesday, 10 September, 2025, starting at 2.00pm,
at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD

Tea/coffee will be provided

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 May, 2025.
3. Matters arising
4. Secretary's Report
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Consideration of Motions on the Agenda of the CSPA AGM in October, 2025.
(Please note that it will help if those attending bring with them their copy of the latest – Autumn 2025 – issue of *The Pensioner*.)
7. *Suggestions for speakers and/or topics for future Group meetings.*
8. Open Forum
9. Any other business
10. Date and venue of next Group Meeting; Wednesday, 26 November, 2025,
at Chapel Field Road Methodist Church, Norwich, NR2 1SD.
Following meetings:
Wednesday, 25 February, 2026 (our Group AGM)

Our Current Committee Members Are:-

Chair:	Richard West	01603 423144	richard.west08@gmail.com
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