

Developing Suffolk Talent



**October  
2024**

**Update on the work of the  
Suffolk County Council Skills Team  
and key development across the region.**

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## **Skills Team Announcements**

**Welcome to the 'Developing Suffolk Talent' Autumn newsletter.** As we move through the final quarter of 2024 and into an extremely busy part of the year we hope the information below will keep you up to date with the work of the Suffolk County Council Skills Team as well as related policies and funding opportunities.

The SCC Skills Team work alongside many other partners and key stakeholders across the skills and employment support system in Suffolk and we hope that this newsletter will contribute to coordinating all our efforts. This

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newsletter is produced on a quarterly basis but please feel free to contact us at [Skills@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Skills@suffolk.gov.uk) if you have any queries or would like to follow up on any of the items in each edition. If, however, you would prefer not to receive 'DST' please do let us know and we will remove you from our circulation list.

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**Careers support  
coming across  
the air waves to  
Suffolk's  
young people.**

In a unique initiative, **Josie Finch, our Careers Adviser**, co-presented Suffolk Sounds' prime-time drive show on Level 2 and Level 3 results days in August 2024. The live broadcasts, over two weeks, provided valuable careers advice to young people across the county.

Josie highlighted vocational pathways such as T Levels, Apprenticeships, and employment routes, with a special focus on opportunities for individuals with EHCPs. The show received a fantastic response, with listeners engaging through texts, emails, and phone calls.

This collaboration was an excellent opportunity to showcase local sectors, employment and education options to a wide audience.

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**150**

**Suffolk County Council** is one of the two  
**End Point Assessment Organisations (EPAO)**  
permitted to carry out final assessments for

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apprentices on the

## **Career Development Professional Apprenticeship.**

Over 150 apprentices have completed their assessment through our EPAO and are now practicing across England in schools, colleges, universities, careers, voluntary and charity services as qualified career practitioners.

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## Changes to the Skills Team

**Natalie Freislich-Mills**, our **Strategic Lead for Skills for Infrastructure**, left the Skills Team recently to commence her maternity leave and in September we were pleased to receive good news that Ethan Alexander was born. Congratulations to Natalie and family!!

Maternity leave cover is being arranged and will be in place to cover Natalie's work from early November 2024. In the meantime, please direct any queries to [Michael.Gray@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Gray@suffolk.gov.uk)

We have also had an internal change with the **Participation Tracking Team** moving across to become part of the intelligence-hub within Suffolk County Council. This is an internal structural change that should have no bearing on how our external partners engage with the skills team and the Participation Tracking Team as we will be continuing to work very closely.

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**Skills Team Project Updates**

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As part of the 'People and Skills' programme funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), involving investment from across all Suffolk Local Authorities, the **Apprenticeship Suffolk** service is continuing to deliver support to increase the quality and quantity of apprenticeships in Suffolk until at least March 2025.

To achieve the outputs and outcomes set by the Districts and Boroughs, during the first 6 months the team established a good presence across Suffolk and had initial conversations with many individuals by hotdesking in all the Suffolk Job Centres, which have led to long term support.

The team continues to work closely with the prisons in Suffolk and Norfolk by delivering presentations and providing impartial information, advice and guidance to those considering an apprenticeship as a new career, career change, or a route to return to work

**Pathways to an Apprenticeship** is embedded within the main **Apprenticeships Suffolk** service, **Pathways** has been designed to provide a bespoke 1:1 focused support for those that need it. Many participants refer themselves or ask for on-going support after completing the Skills Academy programme with Lofty Heights. Individuals often require support with facing personal barriers, which may include a short burst of achieving a transferable skill which leads to building confidence and eventually applying for an apprenticeship, employment or returning to education.

Supporting employers with their apprenticeship recruitment continues. Many SME's still find navigating the National apprenticeship advice and guidance difficult and therefore approach Apprenticeships Suffolk to debunk and dispel and give current IAG on funding and grants.

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**Data summary of Apprenticeship Suffolk's work  
from April 2024 to September 2024.**

<b>District</b>	<b>Participants this month</b>	<b>Participants to Date</b>	<b>Target number</b>	<b>% achieved against target</b>
<b>Ipswich</b>	10	89	75	119%
<b>East Suffolk</b>	12	88	114	76%
<b>West Suffolk</b>	12	87	107	80%
<b>Babergh</b>	5	21	54	39%
<b>Mid-Suffolk</b>	6	20	63	32%

If you need help or advice please do contact [Apprenticeships Suffolk](#)  
or E-Mail: [apprenticeships@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@suffolk.gov.uk)



**LEARN SUFFOLK**  
*The Adult Learning Service*

**The Adult Learning Service** receives an annual £2.7m grant from the Education & Skills Funding Agency and provides county wide delivery of a range of accredited and tailored learning opportunities for adults aged 19 years plus, through a subcontracting delivery model.

The overarching ambition for Suffolk's Adult Learning service is to maximise adult participation in high quality skills and community learning to achieve economic growth, full employment, social inclusion, community cohesion, health and wellbeing.

**Change Your Future!**

✓Gain a qualification    ✓Learn a new skill ✓ Improve your career pathway

**The Adult Learning Service** has, in academic year 2023-2024

- Engaged with **4000+** learner starts
- OFSTED rated **GOOD** (inspection March 2024)
- **96%** Pass Rate
- **94%** Retention Rate
- **99%** of learners would recommend the Service

For information on courses and the providers that we work with, please visit our website: [Learn Suffolk](#) and read the [testimonials from learners](#) via the these links.

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# Claire Day



I started my journey with Realise Futures as a learner studying a Digital Skills (ITQ L1) course in 2012 at Murrayside Learning Centre, whilst also working in retail. My tutor made me aware of a position opening for a receptionist at my local learning centre which I decided to apply for. Once I was successful in securing the role, I began researching and learning more about adult learning to see what courses were available, how they were funded and to also use my customer service experiences to support in assisting our learners.

Two maternity leaves later, I relocated to Pamberton House where I also contributed towards the development of what is now the Discretionary Financial Learning Support (DFLS) procedure where I was responsible for communicating with the curriculum teams, finance department and the learners applying for support.

In 2019, I applied for the role of Digital Skills Learning Administrator where I was successful in securing my position following an interview process. Within this role I work with the Learning Manager, Senior Tutors, Tutors, and Learners to provide excellent service and management of the planned delivery which has also allowed me to develop my skills to plan and monitor our digital courses.

In 2020, I enrolled onto the Counselling courses (Levels 1 and 2) with Realise Futures, and successfully achieved these qualifications. I found these most beneficial and use the skills I gained from these at both work and at home. On completion, I went on to achieve two university modules - Social Sciences and Psychology - with The Open University before a conversation with a Senior Tutor who suggested that I had good qualities for teaching.

**"My next goal is to achieve my Assessors Award"**



In early 2022, I completed my Supporting Teaching and Award in Education qualifications with Realise Futures and offered my time to volunteer in some digital sessions. This gave me a further insight into teaching and allowed me to grow my confidence in the creative side to teaching: differentiating tasks and material for learners, talking to learners about their short and long-term goals, ensuring that what we are teaching positively impacts their life and to improve their skills for a particular job outcome in mind. Finally, when an opportunity became available, I was then supported by the Tutor and Senior Tutor to apply for a Pool Tutor position which involved an attending an interview and completing a micro teach.

By January 2023, I was delivering my own cohorts and developing my skills in the classroom. As well as supporting other tutors by covering sickness and annual leave, eleven months later in February 2024 I accepted a two-day tutor contract and a two-day admin contract. I am now delivering three sessions a week covering four different levels of courses - Computer club tablet courses and Entry levels 1, 2 & 3. Since being part of the team in a contracted tutor role, I have attended all moderation events at least once, attended tutor meetings, took part in two Deep Dive events and have been nominated for a Tutor award. During the latest Deep Dive in January 2024, I successfully contributed to Suffolk County Council questioning on how Realise Futures fulfils the responsibility of ensuring that learners are being well supported in their learning.

My next goal is to achieve my Assessors Award and Internal Verifier qualification to enable me to assist with the internal verification process for the team.



**Multiply Suffolk** is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to the value of £3.4m and delivers bespoke coaching, training, and mentoring to support participants into learning and employment across Suffolk.

**Multiply Suffolk** provides opportunities to improve knowledge, understanding and use of maths in daily life: at home, in learning and in work. The overall



objective of Multiply is to increase the levels of functional numeracy in the adult population across the UK.



Funded by  
UK Government

**Multiply**  
**SUFFOLK**



Multiply Suffolk is here to deliver bespoke coaching, training, and mentoring to support you into learning and employment across Suffolk. Multiply Suffolk will provide opportunities for you to improve your knowledge, understanding and use of maths in daily life: at home, in learning and in work.

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Age 19+
- Live in a Suffolk postcode area
- Does not hold a Level 2 qualification or above in numeracy (GCSE or Functional Skills)

#### The Multiply Suffolk team can:

- **Support** to engage with education, employment and training
- **Improve** numeracy, money management and budgeting skills
- **Encourage** career progression whilst in or out of employment
- **Promote** independence, choice and wellbeing
- **Empower** you to remove barriers to employment and gain a numeracy qualification



As the project moves through the final year of delivery, the team have surpassed 1300 learning aims and are now looking to achieve the targeted 2500+ by the end of the project.

**Can we offer you, your Team, clients, school, group or charity support to gain confidence, achieve qualifications, support their children in learning and move towards further education and sustainable employment?**

We use a coaching model which is unique to Suffolk County Council and has been highly praised by the Department for Education and held as an example to other Local Authorities.

To-date we have supported over 400 participants with a declared disability, learning disability or Autism, 100+ ex-offenders and 140+ with English as their second language, demonstrating the valuable engagement and countywide reach in supporting learners.



Learner quote:

“I feel more confident supporting my daughter H with her maths work than I did, I don't feel the need to panic as much as I used to. I just need to take the time and work it out.

It's impacted on my everyday life big time; I am more confident with it than I was before. I try to use mental maths rather than reach for the calculator. I use numeracy and money skills a lot more, I used to try not to use them. It's easier now I know how to do it. I plan to continue on my learning journey as my long-term aim is to gain paid employment as a teaching assistant. You have been brilliant!!! “

## For more details contact your local Multiply Navigator:



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UK Government

**Multiply**  
**SUFFOLK**



For more information about Multiply Suffolk, please contact the team:

- West Suffolk, Babergh and Mid-Suffolk: Lisa Gilson 07874 886870
- Waveney & East Suffolk: Alan Gadney 07784 360829
- Waveney & East Suffolk: Kerry Smith 07759 717657 (supporting complex needs)
- Ipswich: Wendy Frost 07784 360831

If you are employed, self-employed, a volunteer or your team(s) would benefit from  
Multiply Suffolk, please contact the team:

- Ipswich and East Suffolk: Rachel Scofield 07759 717663
- West Suffolk, Babergh and Mid-Suffolk: Lisa Gilson 07874 886870

 [multiplysuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:multiplysuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk)

@MultiplySuffolk



 <https://learnsuffolk.org/multiply>



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UK Government



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency



By the end of September, **Skills Bootcamps** reach half-way through Wave 5 (2024/2025) with most our providers delivering their first cohorts. Working with local employers, the aim of Skills Bootcamps is to fill vacancies and upskill employees to promote economic growth in the region. Our DfE target for Wave 5 is to support 560 learners and we commissioned out 620 places across our 18 providers delivering 32 programmes.

The range of programmes on offer across Norfolk and Suffolk can be [viewed on our website](#) along with our amazing case studies including how [Armultra have taken on new employees following the successful Engineering Operative programme delivered by East Coast College](#).

We are still awaiting a decision from the new Government with regards to Wave 6 (2025/26) Skills Bootcamps, and the DfE have received our high-level proposal where we have ambitiously requested over £4 million to continue to support skills training across Norfolk & Suffolk next year.

If you would like to talk to the team about Skills Bootcamp opportunities, please contact us at: [skillsbootcamp@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:skillsbootcamp@suffolk.gov.uk).

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## Working in new ways to provide Careers advice.

### Targeted Careers Support & Outreach

Building on the success of last academic year's pilot program, Suffolk's Electively Home Educated (EHE) students now have access to targeted careers guidance. From October, **Josie Finch, our Careers Advisor** will provide careers advice through dedicated drop-in sessions, helping EHE students explore their future career pathways and prepare for post-16 opportunities. This proactive approach aims to empower young people to make informed decisions earlier about their educational and vocational goals.

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### Launch of Vocational Profiles in the Alternative Tuition Service

To further support personal growth and skills development, we are introducing vocational profiles within Suffolk County Council's Alternative Tuition Service (ATS). Each young person will develop their profile, which will outline their aspirations and key skills. This tool will not only help students identify their career goals but also assist in securing work experience placements. In addition, October marks the beginning of online group careers sessions for ATS students. These sessions will offer guidance on career pathways, with students able to self-refer for one-on-one sessions with **Josie Finch** for more personalized advice.

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**INVESTING IN TALENT**

University of Suffolk

uos.ac.uk

30 October 2024 | 8.30-11.00am

**Elevate your business with apprenticeships**

The Atrium, University of Suffolk

Join us for an exclusive business event at the University of Suffolk and explore the wide range of apprenticeship programs offered by the School of Technology, Business and Arts.

Discover how partnering with us can help shape tomorrow's workforce.

**Book your place**

Opportunities are starting in January. Join us to find out more.

    

Suffolk  
**FUTURESKILLS FAIR**  
Master Your Potential, Shape Your Future

**SAVE THE DATE**



Suffolk New College, Rope Walk, Ipswich, IP4 1LT

**Book Now! Suffolk Future Skills Fair on 4 November 2024**

**Date:** 04/11/2024

**Venue:** Suffolk New College, Rope Walk, Ipswich, IP4 1LT

Following the success of the Skills and Careers Festivals, Suffolk New College have taken on the organisation of a county wide inspiration event which has been renamed The Suffolk Future Skills Fair and will be delivered at the Ipswich campus supported by Suffolk County Council.

We anticipate over 4,000 attendees with the fair building on the established format, focusing on further education providers and pathways, key employment sectors and employers from across the Suffolk. The event is open to all 14–24 year olds with a focus on inspiring young people, broadening their horizons and enabling them to shape their future through education to employment.

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This exciting event is intended to be the first of a more coordinated Future Skills joint approach across the region. With collaboration between a number of key education parties to maximise the impact of efforts being undertaken, to raise awareness of local careers and inspire our young people.

Exhibitor bookings are welcomed [via this link](#), and sponsorship packages will be launched shortly, but for all enquiries please contact Charlotte on

[CharlotteRossiter@suffolk.ac.uk](mailto:CharlotteRossiter@suffolk.ac.uk)

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## Freeport East invests nearly £1 million to grow local businesses and skills in high-growth sectors.

Over £980,000 is to be provided to businesses and education organisations in the East of England, courtesy of [Freeport East's](#) two new funds.

Both funds offer vital support to small and growing businesses and will play a pivotal role in strengthening opportunities for new innovations and green jobs, particularly in high-potential sectors such as clean energy.

The **Freeport East Clean Growth Fund** offers financial assistance to local businesses operating within clean energy and Freeport East's other target sectors, such as green hydrogen, agritech, engineering and digital. Recipient businesses for the Fund include:

- **MKC Rail**, a Clacton-based railway engineering specialist working to develop more efficient and innovative materials for use in rail projects
  - **Acer Resources**, a fast-developing vertical farming firm based at the University of Essex in Colchester
  - **Rux Energy**, a developer of breakthrough materials for green hydrogen storage, deploying a pilot of its technology at a Harwich site, while also
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partnering with regional universities to build industry partnerships and develop graduate-level green hydrogen skills

- **Automotion** works on deploying Artificial Intelligence to decarbonise diesel engines from its base in Felixstowe
- **Versatile RobotX**, based in Colchester, is developing ECOFARM, affordable fruit-picking robots for use on farms in Tendring and the wider East of England
- **Insight Energy Renewables** based near Ipswich is delivering new commercial models and technologies to support Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure for commercial customers and fleets
- **Revolve Labs** is developing enhanced healthcare training for the NHS, utilising VR and innovative technology from its base in Stowmarket
- **University of Suffolk** will also run a specialist programme to support a range of local innovators to grow their businesses and attract new investment funding

Alongside the investment funding provided, Freeport East will support Clean Growth Fund businesses to expand their market opportunities and link them into wider networks of universities, funders, and supply chains. In addition to building new relationships with international markets, Freeport East is working closely with local universities to strengthen their business interactions. Each of the businesses supported will also be creating several new job opportunities and apprenticeships.

The **Freeport East Innovation and Skills Fund** focuses on building access to innovation and skills opportunities, particularly in underserved communities and in sectors relevant to the Freeport East area, such as clean energy, logistics and trade. Recipients of funding support include:

- **A consortium of further education providers, led by Suffolk New College**, who will provide a range of specialist skills support across the Freeport East area, designed to support learners of all ages into future opportunities in growth sectors
  - **Road to Logistics** helps to attract new talent into the transport and logistics sectors, particularly by focusing on individuals who need specialist support to enter the industry
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- **MENTA** provides business and innovation support for enterprises and SMEs, and will include digital and trade-related businesses in their new programme across the Freeport East area
- **Reboot Education** offers alternative education for children aged 7 to 16, focusing on IT and computer science qualifications
- **Stempoint** will organise workshops for the energy sector aimed at students in years 6-8 including in Harwich and Felixstowe
- **Aspire Education** provides mentoring provision for year 12-13 students and will focus its support in Tendring

From Tendring and Babergh to East and Mid Suffolk, the Funds are aimed at sectors with the potential to develop stronger local economic clusters, requiring skilled people and highly productive and innovative businesses. This includes clean energy, advanced manufacturing, advanced logistics, educational advancement and agritech - all sectors crucial to the region's long-term economic resilience and competitiveness.

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INCLUSIVE  
EMPLOYMENT



**EMPLOYERS**  
Could you  
**HOST**

**SUPPORTED  
INTERNSHIP?**

TO **REGISTER NOW**

and/or **JOIN OUR SEND EMPLOYMENT FORUM**

contact us at: [skills@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:skills@suffolk.gov.uk)



**FIND OUT MORE AT:**

<https://www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk/preparing-for-adulthood/work/supported-internships>

# Good Health at Work program launches 1 November 2024

A new program designed to reduce sickness absence, improve staff retention and lead to happier more productive workforces is coming to Suffolk.

Delivered by [Get Set UK](#), the '**Good Health at Work**' program will give businesses access to support, guidance and services that impact positively on the health and well-being of their employees.

1 November will see the launch of:

1. **An Online Resource Hub for SME employers** enabling them to easily access information, advice and guidance, evidence-based tools and interventions to maintain a healthy workplace.
2. **An Ambassador Network of employers** with expertise or interest in demonstrating good work and healthy workplace principles. This will include a self-assessment framework for Suffolk employers.
3. **A Navigator Service engaging with Suffolk SME employers**, this will include one-to-one guidance and support to help SME's understand their own strengths, needs and challenges and identify how these can be enhanced/addressed.

**Good work** is classed as work that provides decent pay and security; supports people to have control, a voice, enables positive relationships; and gives them the opportunity to use their skills and develop new ones. Research shows that **Good Work** can improve health and wellbeing, reduce poverty, support stronger economies, and help build more inclusive communities.

Get Set UK are currently working with local stakeholders and SME's to develop the program. If you would like to get involved, then please contact Delivery and Partnership Manager Sally Howell [Sally.Howell@getsetuk.co.uk](mailto:Sally.Howell@getsetuk.co.uk)

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# We offer free NHS Health Checks at your place of work

To be entitled to a free NHS Health check, staff must:

- Be aged between 25 – 74 years.
- Have no current diagnoses of, or be taking medication for any of the following:
  - Heart disease.
  - High blood pressure.
  - Atrial fibrillation.
  - High cholesterol.
  - Diabetes.
  - Strokes or mini Strokes.
  - Kidney disease.
  - Dementia.
- Not received a full 30 minute NHS Health check in the last 5 years, where written results were provided.



To book for us to attend and provide NHS Health Checks at your organisation please email or call

Email: [sgpfed.healthchecks@nhs.net](mailto:sgpfed.healthchecks@nhs.net)

Contact number: 07938 735373

 Suffolk  
GP FEDERATION

# BT Launches Fund to Boost Apprenticeships Across England

The BT Group Apprenticeship Fund aims to support SMEs, charities, and public sector organisations across England by providing access to £4 million in apprenticeship funding over four years.

The programme utilises the apprenticeship levy, a government initiative introduced in 2017, which requires companies with a wage bill exceeding £3 million to contribute 0.5% of their payroll to fund apprenticeships. Businesses can also transfer up to 50% of their unused levy to other organisations under new rules from April 2024.

The Fund, designed to support up to 550 apprentices, focuses particularly on developing digital skills, aligning with BT's emphasis on technology. As more than a third of mid-sized businesses report difficulty in recruiting apprentices, the funding is expected to have a positive economic impact, estimated at £21 million.

The programme also seeks to reduce the digital divide, and enhance social mobility by providing fast access to apprenticeship funding for smaller organisations. Through levy transfers, it aims to help develop local skills and create opportunities for businesses and individuals alike.

Organisations will be matched with appropriate training providers and guided through the application process. Successful applicants will be provided with access to funded apprenticeship training within 20 days.

Organisations interested in accessing apprenticeship levy funding can register their interest on the [BT Group Apprenticeship Fund Portal](#).

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## Policy Updates

### Apprenticeship Funding Rules for August 2024 - July 2025

- **Rule 38.1.1** - Policy update: The rule (equivalent gradings) has been
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updated to reflect the latest gov.uk guidance. The grading change clarifies that GCSE grade D to G / 3 to 1 are equivalent to a level 1 qualification and therefore apprentices holding these grades have met the requirement to hold a level 1 in English and maths. This change will apply to both new starts from 1 August 2024 and apprentices who are currently on-programme.

- **Rule 41** - The provider must not claim funding from the adult skills fund for English and maths, or via Multiply (for maths), for English and / or maths qualifications that are already being funded by the apprenticeships budget.
- **Rule 45** - Clarification: where an apprentice has a learning difficulty or disability (regardless of whether they have been issued with an EHC plan or equivalent) which is a barrier to them achieving the English and/or maths requirements, providers should consider whether they should be offered the flexibility to achieve Entry Level 3 functional skills in the adjusted subject(s).

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## Regional and National News

### Are you a business in Haverhill?

The [One Haverhill Partnership](#) is gathering data on the local skills and employment requirements for Haverhill. This is to understand what needs to be done to help local businesses to flourish and create more employment opportunities. Once we have collated the responses, we will invite businesses to come together to discuss the points raised and seek solutions to fulfil business needs.

**Please [complete the survey](#) on behalf of your business** - It should take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

The deadline for responses is **Friday 18 October 2024**. Thank You

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**Thrive is the project supporting young people and adults from across Suffolk** to reengage with education and employment opportunities. Please contact us to start your journey, we will work with you to match courses or training and help you progress and thrive!

Thrive is funded through Suffolk Local Authorities and delivered by Suffolk New College in partnership with East Coast College, West Coast College, Inspire Suffolk, Lofty Heights, Access Community Trust and Anglia Care Trust.

**Funded by UK Government**

**THRIVE**  
Suffolk Skills & Employment Service  
For Adults

**THRIVE**  
Suffolk Skills and Employment Service for adults 25+

We provide the support, skills, information and advice to help you take a positive next step towards employment – we want everyone we support to thrive.

Your Thrive for Adults journey starts with an informal conversation to create a personalised support programme for you.

Support can include:

- Confidence building and mentoring
- CV writing and interview skills
- Funded training or work experience
- Careers, job search and training advice
- Advice on benefits and housing
- Signposting to mental health services and other support

For support in Ipswich and Babergh and Mid Suffolk

[thrive@angliacaretrust.org.uk](mailto:thrive@angliacaretrust.org.uk)  
or 01473 622 888

For support in East Suffolk and West Suffolk

[thrive@accessct.org](mailto:thrive@accessct.org)  
or 01502 527200 (option zero)

The programme is managed by Suffolk New College, supported by Anglia Care Trust, Access Community Trust, East Coast College and West Suffolk College.

[www.suffolk.ac.uk/thrive](http://www.suffolk.ac.uk/thrive)

**Funded by UK Government**

**THRIVE**  
Suffolk Skills & Employment Service  
For Young People

**THRIVE**  
Suffolk Skills and Employment Service for young people 16-24

We provide the support, skills, information and advice to help you take a positive next step towards employment - we want everyone we support to thrive.

Your Thrive for Young People journey starts with an informal conversation to assess your needs and listen to your career goals, creating a personalised programme for you.

The programme is managed by Suffolk New College and support can include:

- Confidence building and mentoring
- Careers Café and other friendly support events
- CV writing and interview skills
- Funded training or work experience
- Careers, job search and training advice
- Signposting to mental health services and other support

Inspire will be your first point of contact, supporting you to start your journey.

Other support in the programme is delivered by Lofty Heights, Suffolk New College, East Coast College and West Suffolk College.

[www.inspirecharityuk.org/get-in-touch](http://www.inspirecharityuk.org/get-in-touch) • [thrive@inspirecharityuk.org](mailto:thrive@inspirecharityuk.org) • 0330 055 0033

[www.suffolk.ac.uk/thrive](http://www.suffolk.ac.uk/thrive)

Suffolk County Council

West Suffolk Council

EASTSUFFOLK COUNCIL

IPSWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL

access

ACT  
Anglia Care Trust

eastcoast

INSPIRE

Lofty Heights

Suffolk New College

WEST SUFFOLK COLLEGE



**Building Growth  
Skills Network (BGSN)  
for Norfolk and Suffolk**

***“Growing the skills, inspiration, innovation and collaboration required to deliver sustainable development in Norfolk and Suffolk.”***

The BGSN facilitates a strategic discussion on the alignment of skills requirements of the construction industry with provision and uptake of related education and training in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Membership is open to all and includes both industry and provider representatives as well as other key stakeholders.

Read of our work and to express an interest in joining/participation via our [NEW WEBPAGE!](#) or via our [New LinkedIn Page](#)

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## **Social Care and Health Sector Skills Plan launched.**

The Skills plan for the Social Care and Health sector across Norfolk and Suffolk was approved on the 9 August 2024. This plan was agreed by Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils and developed by a wider a partnership of key local stakeholder organisations including Care Development East, Norfolk Care Association, Skills for Care, ICB's, DWP and our FE colleges and HE Universities across the two counties.

Skills development in social care and health plays a crucial role in recruitment and retention in the sector and ensuring high quality care is delivered by confident and capable professionals who enjoy their work. The Social Care and

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Health Sector Skills Plan outlines our dynamic approach to partnership working to ensure that the skills needs of the sector are identified and addressed.

The plan contains four priorities:

- Increase the Potential Workforce Pool
- Increase Qualifications and Accreditation
- Specific Skills Developed Through Training
- Good Organisational Environmental to Support Retention

The plan is expected to ensure the sector's skills requirements are clearly identified and represented within wider skills discussions across both counties and support the sector to leverage additional funding and resource that may become available.

Read the full details of the [skills plan and appendices](#) via the Suffolk County Council webpage.



We are delighted to share with you the Learn Suffolk newsletter, bringing you the latest news from the **Suffolk Adult Learning Service** and **Multiply Suffolk** and keeping you in touch with the latest Adult Learning news across the region and nationally: [Spotlight 10 | Learn Suffolk Newsletter](#)

For further information please visit our website: [LearnSuffolk.org](http://LearnSuffolk.org)

If you would like to receive future editions of our monthly newsletter 'Spotlight' and receive news and our latest updates, please subscribe via [learnsuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:learnsuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk)

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## Any Other Business



**Congratulations to our colleagues at The Lofty Heights Skills Academy  
- Winners of the Anne Dunford OBE Award  
at the recent Suffolk Community Awards.**



# Contact Us

The Skills Team can be contacted via [Skills@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Skills@suffolk.gov.uk)

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