

Developing Suffolk Talent



**July
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 Back!

Welcome to the 'Developing Suffolk Talent' newsletter. This is the first edition of a revamped 'DST' intended to 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. We will look to provide this newsletter on a quarterly basis but please feel free to contact us at 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.

Careers Reframed Conference: Artificial Intelligence

On 2 July 2024 the University of Suffolk saw just over 140 professionals from over 70 organisations, that support young people with their career choices and pathways decisions, gathered to hear from leading experts about Artificial Intelligence and how it is being used in the workplace and affecting careers guidance.

Organised by Josie Finch, with support from Jacqui Phipps and Rosemary Jelley from the Skills Team in partnership with the University of Suffolk and Norfolk & Suffolk Careers Hub, the conference addressed issues and opportunities including how to use AI to speed up processes, what tools are available and how to use from a careers professionals perspective, the benefits and challenges of AI.



Norfolk
& Suffolk
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &
ENTERPRISE
COMPANY

Suffolk
County Council

University
of Suffolk





Careers guidance in schools has changed a lot since our own school days and CPD is a crucial element to ensure that career development practitioners are up-to-date with the opportunities and issues that affect young people, including the local economy, recruitment practices and technology. The annual Careers Reframed conference is always at the forefront of such issues, ensuring the careers professionals in schools, colleges and those who work with young people in other settings are supported to create a parity of knowledge and service across different services.

Another important feature of our event is that we give young people interview and work experience opportunities in areas such as facilitation, photography and other support roles. This year's was no different and a special thank you goes to all our young volunteers, especially those who chose to return for a second year.

Resources from the event can be found here <https://linktr.ee/careersreframed>



The Suffolk Adult Learners' Awards 2024
Held at Endeavour House, Ipswich



The annual Suffolk Adult Learning Awards provides a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and showcase the vital role Adult and Community Learning plays in enabling lifelong learning, in supporting our residents in Suffolk on their journey to learn skills to move towards, enter, return or progress in work.

It is also essential to recognise and highlight that successful adult education experiences impact very positively for those who engage with learning and reduces loneliness, makes people happier, healthier, more confident, capable, and resilient.

Farewell to...

We will be saying a fond farewell to three members of the Skills Team who are moving on to their respective 'new chapters'.

A big thank you to **Gawain Fraser** who has been leading on our employer engagement coordination work, **Michael Bensley** who has been an Advisor within our Participation Tracking Team and **Adrian Orr** our Assistant Director for Education, Learning and Skills who retires from a long career in education at the end of August. **Julia Grainger** will be moving into the SCC Assistant Director role with a responsibility for Education, Skills and Learning.

Skills Team Project Updates



Apprenticeships Suffolk continue to be an impartial and completely free service at Suffolk County Council as part of their strategic aim to increase the quality and quantity of apprenticeships within the county, thereby supporting business and economic growth.

The project is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) supporting Suffolk's district and borough councils to deliver a 1-year project to engage and support individuals 16+ years old, break down barriers to gain meaningful employment, provide 1:1 support including coaching, job searching or signposting to other skills-based opportunities and actively promotes Apprenticeship opportunities to support employment in Suffolk.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.

For more information please visit [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus](#)

We support and network with organisations and stakeholders in Suffolk through meetings, presentations or workshops to give information, advice and guidance on the apprenticeship pathway and continue the work and support we offer and deliver in Suffolk during 2024/2025.



LEARN SUFFOLK
The Adult Learning Service



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 8 | Learn Suffolk Newsletter](#)

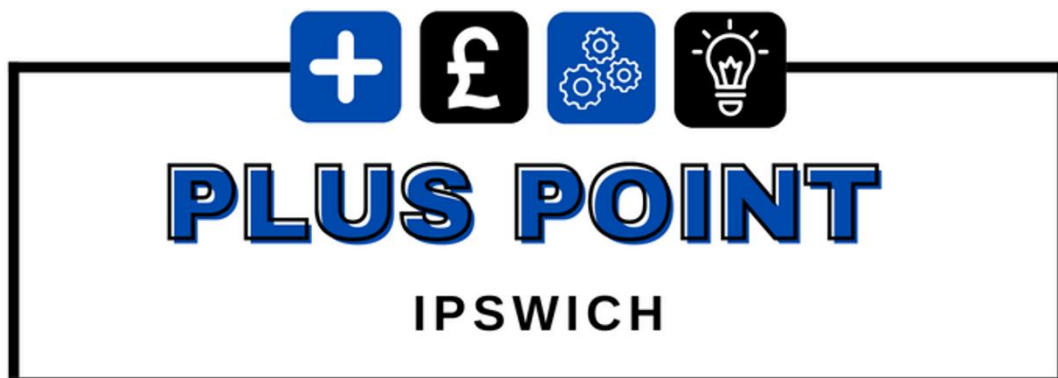
For further information please visit our website: [LearnSuffolk.org](https://www.learn-suffolk.org)



Funded by
UK Government



Education & Skills
Funding Agency



PlusPoint Ipswich commenced in March 2023 and ran for 12 months, the project delivered Financial Education to 16–18-year-olds in Ipswich and

supported young people who are NEET or potentially NEET (including SEND), Identified groups in education and apprentices. The project aimed to build confidence with financial education and applying for full time employment or further education through workshops, 1-2-1 sessions, face to face or online. These sessions introduced financial education, budgeting, workplace numeracy and other valuable life skills to prepare for the future.

Highlights:

Delivered **18** workshops to the ESOL cohort at Suffolk New College.

Collaborated with Suffolk Libraries and delivered workshops and 1-2-1 sessions at Ipswich County Library.

Overall, the project delivered **22** workshops.

Overall, the project delivered **25** 1-2-1s.

Participant feedback

'I have a better understanding of how to budget and manage my money effectively, as well how to safely put away and save money for the future.'

'I feel better about the future and more organised.'

'I have noticed an impact on the ESOL learner's Wellbeing. Seeing the importance of not buying takeaway food and cooking on own improves diet and wellbeing. Thank you for very useful sessions, the learners are getting a lot out of it and remembering what they learn,'



In April 2024 Suffolk County Council welcomed the **Norfolk and Suffolk Skills Bootcamps Team**, after the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership for Norfolk and Suffolk (NALEP) came to an end.

They have been working hard on the preparation of Wave 5 of Skills Bootcamps with 18 providers and the offer of 30 programmes.

They have a budget of £2.2m and their aim is to train a minimum of 576 learners.

Driven by employers' needs within our region, the aim is to bridge existing skills

gaps and address recruitment needs by providing flexible, intensive training programmes. Duration is from 60 GLH hours up to 16-weeks and have been designed to offer flexible training to work around learners' commitments. The outcome provides individuals with sector-specific skills to gain employment, increase new contracts if self-employed or take on more responsibilities or promotion within their current job if employed.

Eligibility is for anyone who is 19+ years and has the right to live and work in the UK. For individuals applying independently the training is **fully funded**. For employers wishing to upskill their workforce, there is an employer contribution. For SMEs (small to medium size businesses, less than 250) there is a 10% contribution, for larger employers 30%.

We will shortly be able to provide a full listing of all the programmes via our Skills Bootcamp page: [Skills Bootcamps - Suffolk County Council](#) where you can already view our case studies. Electronic and hard copy flyers will also be available.

For further information contact bev.wallman@suffolk.gov.uk

Funding & Opportunities

Flexible AI Upskilling Fund pilot

Apply for up to £10,000 for AI-related skills training for your employees and boost your business efficiency. The AI Upskilling Fund is open to micro-, small- and medium-sized business (SMEs) in the Professional and Business Services Sector, providing match funding for a wide range of courses.

Opening date: 1 May 2024, 12:00pm (Midday)

Closing date: 18 August 2024, 11:59pm (Midnight)

To find out further information and apply via:

[Flexible AI Upskilling Fund pilot - GOV-UK](#)

Sport England - Movement Fund

Launched in April 2024, the new £160 million, four-year Movement Fund offers crowdfunding pledges, grants and resources to improve physical activity opportunities for the people and communities who need it the most.

The new fund replaces Sport England's existing Small Grants Programme and Active Together fund.

The Movement Fund aims to help close the 'significant activity gap' between people based on where they live, how affluent they are, their sex, ethnic background or whether they have a disability or long-term health condition. The launch coincides with the introduction of Sport England's new Movement Hub pilot – which aims to make it easier to find existing tools and resources.

To find out further information and apply via:

[Funding guidance | Sport England](#)

Suffolk
FUTURESKILLS FAIR
Master Your Potential, Shape Your Future

SAVE THE DATE

NOV

4

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.

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

Have YOU heard of a Supported Internship?

Supported Internships are work-based learning placements within mainstream employment settings for young people aged 16-24 with additional learning needs.

Hosting a Supported Internship work placement is at no cost to the Employer, there is no requirement to employ your Intern, although you may find that once they are embedded into the team, they are an asset you want to keep!

Employers are allocated a Job Coach to work with and to work alongside the Intern, to support learning the role and organisational requirements and offering disability awareness support and training to the wider staff team.

The same as a regular Internship, but with the bonus of additional support from the training provider, in the form of a Job Coach.

As well as contributing to society and increasing the diversity of your workforce, the benefits of hosting a Supported Internship include:

- The extended work placement can act as an extended working interview – giving you an increased chance of getting the right person to fill your vacancies, already trained in the role.
 - Taking on someone with a learning disability can increase staff retention and reduce absenteeism.
-

- Offering a placement will increase disability confidence within the wider staff team, with Job Coaches available to supplement any in-work training.
- Developing an ethical corporate image can be fundamental to business success. Studies show that 87% of consumers prefer to use companies that hire people with disabilities.
- Mentoring opportunities are available in 'buddying' your Intern, for less-experienced staff to gain supervisory experience.
- Additional team members to support productivity and widen the skillset of your team.

To find out more, get involved and/or to become a host Employer for a Suffolk Supported Internship, contact us at Skills@suffolk.gov.uk

Good Health at Work

A new 'Good Health at Work' program will launch in the Autumn delivered by Get Set UK and will see:

1. **An Online Resource Hub for SME employers** enabling them to easily access existing information, advice and guidance, evidence-based tools and interventions to maintain a healthy workplace which is underpinned by good work principles.
 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** and providing access to an evidence-based Support Pathway. 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.

Through this new program businesses will have access to support, guidance and services that impact positively on the health and well-being of their employees. In turn we expect they will see a reduction in sickness absence, higher staff retention and a happier more productive workforce.

Get Set UK are currently working with local stakeholders and SME's to develop the program and if you would like to get involved then please contact Delivery and Partnership Manager Sally Howell Sally.Howell@getsetuk.co.uk

Policy Updates

Following the General Election we will all be anticipating the development of Labour manifesto commitments into new skills, education and employment policy.

Future editions of DST will carry a selection of the most relevant to our areas of work.

Regional and National News



Suffolk Business Board

takes over role of the

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

A new board has been established to help steer Suffolk's economic strategy to create a 'stronger, higher-skilled economy'.

The Suffolk Business Board takes over the role of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in providing a voice for business in Suffolk. It will start meeting from May 2024.

Mark Pendlington, business leader and former High Sheriff of Suffolk, will serve as interim chair for the first year. Cllr Matthew Hicks, leader of Suffolk County Council, will serve as deputy chair.

A total of 16 representatives from business, education and local government will join them to bring experience in key Suffolk sectors including agri-food, retail, technology, education, ports and logistics, and the visitor economy.

The board will be supported by Suffolk County Council's Economic Development team. One of its key objectives in the first six months will be to define a refreshed economic strategy for Suffolk.



**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!](#)



NICRE - National Innovation Centre Rural Enterprise

[Attracting and retaining staff in rural areas: A Toolkit for employers April 2024](#)

Research Report - [Exploring identity, place and worker attraction and retention in rural businesses](#)

Any Other Business



Contact Us

The Skills Team can be contacted via Skills@suffolk.gov.uk

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