

Suffolk Care Market Update

6th March 2025

Issue 289

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A14 Orwell Bridge Survey and Maintenance Work

Update Supplied by National Highways

National Highways will be carrying out essential survey and maintenance work on the A14 Orwell Bridge.

Work will take place over 4 nights from Monday 10 March to Thursday 13 March 2025, working overnight between 8pm and 6am, subject to weather conditions.

Road closures

To safely carry out this work, the following closures in Ipswich will be in place:

- Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 March – A14 westbound full road closure between junction 58 (Seven Hills Interchange) and junction 56 (Wherstead Interchange), with a single lane closure eastbound between junction 56 (Wherstead Interchange) and junction 57 (Nacton Interchange)
- Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 March – A14 single lane closure in both directions between junction 57 (Nacton Interchange) and junction 56 (Wherstead Interchange) (but the A14 will remain open to traffic in both directions)

All lanes will remain open during the daytime.

Diversion route

While the Orwell bridge is closed westbound, drivers will leave the A14 at junction 58, travel along the A12 until the A1214 roundabout, and then west along the A1214 before re-joining the A14 at junction 55.

We understand the impact that any reduction in capacity on the Orwell Bridge can have on all road users. Our survey and maintenance works are vital to ensure the bridge remains safe and serviceable. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we do this work.

How to find out more

For the latest information, please visit our dedicated webpage at <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east/orwell-bridge/>

If you would like more information, please contact us on 0300 123 5000, or by email at info@nationalhighways.co.uk

Annual Uplift 2025/26

Update supplied by ASC

Providers will have received a letter on Friday 28th February 2025 detailing Suffolk County Council's care price inflation for 2025/2026.

The table of prices can be found on our website as well as payment schedules for the coming financial year: [Provider contracts toolkit - Suffolk County Council](#)

International Recruitment East Bulletin 23

Update supplied by International Recruitment East

The attached Bulletin 23 from International Recruitment East is an update on what is happening in the region including information on the free resources available.

This month the promotion focuses on international recruitment licence compliance support via mock audits for care providers, understanding modern slavery and exploitation, plus a free provider helpline.

Funding Available for Learning & Development in 2025/26

Update supplied by DHSC

The Department of Health and Social Care launched the Learning and Development Support Scheme in September 2024, providing funding for adult social care workforce training. Employers can claim funding for eligible training and qualifications through an online service administered by NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

To submit claims for the Learning and Development Support Scheme, eligible employers must set up an account on the online claims service. Sign up via [this short form](#). After completing the form, NHSBSA will schedule an onboarding appointment to help set up your account and submit claims. Claims for training courses started and paid for between April 1, 2024, and March 31, 2025, must be submitted by March 21, 2025. For qualifications, 60% reimbursement can be claimed upon payment, with the remaining 40% upon completion. Internal training claims are now accepted with proper evidence, including proof of payment. For further details, visit [GOV.UK guidance](#) or contact ASClearninganddevelopmentsupport@nhsbsa.nhs.uk.

Funded Spaces for Excel Training Workshops

Update supplied by Care Development East

We have 10 funded spaces available for two of our upcoming Excel Training Workshops designed specifically for those in health & social care roles. If you know someone who would benefit from practical Excel support, please share this opportunity with your network otherwise it is wasted valuable training. Each workshop is limited to just 6 participants, so early booking is advised.

Workshop Details:

Workshop 2: Tuesday, 25th March 2025 - Tickets <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1244915117629?aff=oddtcreator>

Workshop 3: Tuesday, 29th April 2025 - Tickets <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1244915619129?aff=oddtcreator>

- Time: 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM
- Location: IP-City Centre, Ipswich
- Bring Your Laptop (Let us know if this is an issue)
- Tickets: Fully refundable upon full attendance
- Free parking & refreshments provided

Norfolk & Suffolk Care Support

Update supplied by ASC

Calling all Lowestoft & Waveney Care Providers

Norfolk & Suffolk Care Support is funded by Norfolk County Council to provide an information, advice, and guidance service to the local adult social care sector. They produce a weekly e-bulletin to share the latest news, guidance and free training that is available to the sector. Almost everything included will be of interest to care providers in Waveney.

If you do not already receive it, you can sign up to the e-bulletin using this link <https://eepurl.com/dOj9eD> and see previous issues here: <https://norfolkandsuffolklcaresupport.co.uk/news/newsletters/ebulletins>.

If you want to find out more about N&SCS then contact info@norfolkandsuffolklcaresupport.co.uk

Adult Social Care Finance Provider Portal – Notice for Care Home Providers

Update supplied by ASC

Further to our communication on 5th September 2024 (CMU 267), we wanted to remind those of you who have are not already using Suffolk's Finance Portal that there are many positives to being able to access the system 24/7 as it will allow you to see active CPLI's (Care Package Line Items) with start dates, weekly rates and if a customer is paying a contribution for example and those Care Homes already using this system, are enjoying the benefits that it brings.

The system also enables you to see schedule payments both current and historic and allows you to engage with FIAS via the portal removing the need to send emails.

If you are a Care Home provider who does not yet have access this system however, the link below is a Webinar designed to walk you through how the system works and what you need to do to obtain a log-in.

<https://youtu.be/xgvw44fsEFY>

Once you have watched Webinar, if you send a request to access the system to ACS Contracts Helpdesk ACSContractsHelpdesk@suffolk.gov.uk they will reply and send you a small number of question which you are asked to answer by return. We ask that you do this to evidence that you have watched the video and are feeling confident in using the system.

Once we have your response, if you have answered all the questions correctly, you will be issued with further details on how to access the portal after which you can access this as frequently as you wish.

If you do not answer all the questions correctly first time around, please do not worry, watch the Webinar again and then email the Helpdesk once more.

If you have any questions or queries or would simply like to discuss this further with your Contract Manager in the first instance, please do feel free to do so.

Training & Development Opportunities

Please visit our website for all upcoming training and development opportunities for Suffolk Care Providers: [Suffolk Providers Handbook - Suffolk County Council](#)