

Suffolk Care Market Update

17th April 2025

Issue 295

Updates for this week

- Invitation to Join Our 'Caring Companies' Workshop - Supporting Unpaid Carers in the Workforce
- Learning Development Support Scheme
- Dementia Marketplace
- Provider Portal Submission Limitation
- Get Ready for the 9th Suffolk Care Awards!

Invitation to Join Our 'Caring Companies' Workshop - Supporting Unpaid Carers in the Workforce

Information provided by ASC

Reminder – Don't miss out!

Suffolk County Council is committed to improving support for unpaid carers in our community. As part of this commitment, the **Suffolk All Age Carers' Strategy 2022-2027** ([View Here](#)) sets out several strategic objectives, including the recruitment and retention of unpaid carers in the workforce.

To further this goal, we are introducing a new **3-tiered program** called '**Caring Companies**'. This program offers organisations the opportunity to earn recognition at **Bronze, Silver, and Gold** levels, based on the support organisations embed within their practices and policies towards unpaid carers within their workforce.

In support of this initiative, **Suffolk Family Carers** and **Suffolk County Council** will be hosting two free-to-access sessions for the provider market, focusing on:

- Strategies for retaining unpaid carers in the workforce
- Best practices for recruiting unpaid carers
- Enhancing the workplace experience for unpaid carers
- Recognising the valuable contributions of unpaid carers to your organisation

Event Details:

- **Online Session**

Date: 8th May 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

For those unable to attend in person, the online session can be accessed by registering [here](#)

We encourage you to attend one of these sessions and take the first step toward becoming a '**Caring Company**'.

Training & Development Opportunities

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

Learning Development Support Scheme

Update from ASC

Please read this to ensure that you are all aware of the DHSC funded Learning Development Support Scheme.

This scheme enables social care providers to gain funding for a wide range of mandatory and developmental social care courses and qualifications and it has replaced the Workforce Development Fund.

The Learning Development Support Scheme funding is to continue through 2025 - 26 but the full details haven't been released yet.

Here is a link to the information for 2024-25 and it is likely that there will only be some minor changes for this year, so this will help you to prepare for when the details are released – <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Funding/Learning-and-development-for-adult-social-care.aspx>

Unfortunately, the Eastern region has the lowest take up from social care providers accessing this funding. At a time when finances are tight, please consider how you could use this opportunity for your teams.

Dementia Marketplace

Update provided by Care Development East

Join us at the Dementia Marketplace event on **Wednesday 25th June 2025** for a day of support, advice, and valuable resources to help make your journey a little easier.

- Meet other carers and connect with organisations offering support
- Gain insights from experts on dementia care and well-being
- Learn practical tips to improve quality of life for both you and your client or loved one

Register today and join us: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1246164965959?aff=oddtcreator>

Please see the attached flyer, 'Dementia Marketplace' for further details.

Provider Portal Submission Limitation

Update provided by ASC

We would like to inform you of a system limitation with the Provider Portal that has unfortunately affected the submission of some queries. The limitation has now been rectified but due to this issue, certain queries submitted via the portal may not have reached the relevant teams for a response.

We understand the importance of timely communication and apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

If you have submitted a query through the portal and have not received a response within 15 working days, please submit your query through the portal again so we can ensure your query is addressed.

Get Ready for the 9th Suffolk Care Awards!

Update provided by Care Development East

The countdown has begun for the 9th Suffolk Care Awards on the **18th September 2025** – a highly anticipated celebration recognising dedication, compassion, and excellence in care across Suffolk. Organised by Care Development East, the awards honour the incredible individuals and teams making a difference in the care sector.

This year's event is set to be extra special, with celebrity host Kaye Adams leading the evening. It's shaping up to be a night to remember!

Nominations and Tickets Opening Very Soon!

- **Nominations:** Get ready to nominate the outstanding individuals and teams who go above and beyond in care.
- **Tickets:** Will be available shortly – and they go fast!

Subscribe to the newsletter and follow Care Development East on social media to be the first to know when nominations and tickets go live.

While preparing nominations, take a look at the award categories and judging criteria -

<https://caredevelopmenteast.co.uk/suffolk-care-awards/2025-categories>. Both will be updated for 2025, with full details coming soon.

This year's Headline Sponsor is Suffolk County Council, proudly supporting the recognition of excellence in care across the region.

For any questions, visit the FAQ page here - <https://caredevelopmenteast.co.uk/suffolk-care-awards/awards-faqs>

Stay tuned – the 9th Suffolk Care Awards are just around the corner, ready to shine a well-deserved spotlight on Suffolk's incredible care community.