

Suffolk Care Market Update

10th July 2025

Issue 306

Updates for this week

- Skills for Care Data Deep Dive Survey
- SNEE ICB and Eastern Education Group Training Opportunities for Care Homes
- Specialised Early Care for Alzheimer's (SPECAL) Training
- National Capacity Tracker Mandatory Reporting

Skills for Care Data Deep Dive Survey

Information provided by Skills for Care

As you may remember, the significant workforce pressures across adult social care in recent years led the Eastern Region's Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) to commission Skills for Care's Workforce Intelligence Team in 2022. The aim of this was to enhance understanding of those pressures and identify the right support for our Social Care Providers. We are pleased to announce that we are recommencing this work in 2025.

The data is drawn from Skills for Care's Adult Social Care Workforce Data Set (ASC-WDS), supplied by providers like yourselves and the region's local authorities. This establishes an understanding of the situation both locally and regionally for Councils, ADASS and other supporting stakeholders. We now want to capture important information from provider and staff perspectives for the analysis work to ensure we have a complete picture.

The information we would like to understand is in the form of two surveys that should take around 5 minutes each to complete. Both surveys will provide vital evidence that will be used to support recruitment, retention, and other necessary changes.

Provider survey

The first survey is for providers and will help us understand the key issues, what has worked, and what commissioning practice changes could help. If you have your ASC-WDS ID, this can be entered into Q1 of this survey. [Please click here for this survey.](#)

The survey will close on **Friday 11th July 2025**. We recognise the pressures you face – we would be very grateful if you would take the time to complete and circulate to your staff, so they have the opportunity to feed into this important data collection. We will ensure you receive feedback on the key headlines to clearly see what your information has contributed to. Further, there is a tick box in the provider survey where you can express your interest in being involved with data findings. We are very keen to work with you and co-produce solutions to support the sector as a result of this work.

SNEE ICB and Eastern Education Group Training Opportunities for Care Homes

Information provided by SNEE ICB

Discover a wide range of qualifications and courses designed to help you achieve your goals. Whether you're looking to advance in your career, discover a new passion, or simply learn for the joy of it, Eastern Education Group's adult education programmes are your gateway to personal and professional growth. Our courses offer flexible study options to fit your busy life, ensuring you can build your skills and knowledge alongside work and other commitments. With access to accredited qualifications and supportive learning centres across the region, you'll find everything you need to succeed. Now is the perfect time to invest in yourself. Please see attached flyer *EEG Curriculum Offer* for more information.

Specialised Early Care for Alzheimer's (SPECAL) Training

Information provided by ASC

Suffolk County Council has a contract with Care Development East to deliver provider training, and have a series of specialist training being offered at no cost (some may have an upfront fee but this will be refunded). The first offer available is SPECAL training, more will be released soon.

The SPECAL method, developed by the [Contented Dementia Trust](#), is a dementia care approach focused on maintaining the well-being of individuals with dementia by understanding their unique perspective on memory and learning. It emphasizes a person-centred approach, viewing dementia as a disability and working with it rather than against it. The method uses a "SPECAL Photograph Album" analogy to explain how memory works, and the changes that occur with dementia, providing caregivers with practical tools and techniques to enhance the person's quality of life. The SPECAL method aims to minimize distress associated with dementia, both for the person with the condition and their caregivers.

These are the confirmed dates for the SPECAL training and the booking links:

September:

Tuesday 9th - 1pm to 5pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1469146890899?aff=oddtcreator>

Thursday 25th - 1pm to 5pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1469470629209?aff=oddtcreator>

November:

Tuesday 18th - 1pm to 5pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1469483798599?aff=oddtcreator>

Thursday 27th - 1pm to 5pm <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1469488582909?aff=oddtcreator>

National Capacity Tracker Mandatory Reporting

Information provided by ASC

This is a monthly reminder to providers to ensure data has been uploaded into the National Capacity Tracker by the 14th of the month, with data which was accurate on or after the 8th of the month.

Thank you for your continued support.

For help or advice please see the links below:

- Please contact Capacitytracker-guidance@dhsc.gov.uk if you need non-technical assistance on how to answer the questions in Capacity Tracker.
- Please contact necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net for further information and technical support.
- Guidance for Capacity Tracker is at: <https://capacitytracker.com/resources/category/61/whats-new>
- Formal notice of mandating reporting: [Formal notice of a mandate for all ASC providers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)