

ADASS Eastern Region 2024 Standard Contract for Care services

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is the ADASS Eastern Regional Contract?

The Eastern Region of the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADASS) have worked together for a number of years to ensure that wherever possible there is consistency in approach from Social Care authorities in the Region for providers of care and support services who are working with more than one local authority. In this spirit the Region has adopted a common set of Terms and Conditions for the contracting of these services and Suffolk County Council (SCC) has used these since 2016 for the spot purchase of these with accredited providers.

2. Why is SCC adopting the 2024 Version?

SCC Adult Social Care's (ASC) current contracts are based on the 2018 Version of the ADASS Eastern Regional Contract. In the time since then, there have been a number of legal and national policy changes which has meant that this documentation has required updating. The Eastern Region has in consequence updated these and released a new version in 2024. Suffolk County Council has customised these to incorporate Suffolk-specific dimensions and now intends to adopt the new terms for its care and support contracts (the "**New Contract**").

3. Which services are covered by the new Contract?

The affected services are care and support services that require CQC registration and are contracted for on a spot-purchase basis. These include contracts for Residential/Nursing Home Care, Extra Care, Home Care, Supported Living and some Day opportunity services. Block contracts and those contracted for on a Framework basis are not affected.

4. What are the key differences from 2018?

The most substantive variations to the Terms and Conditions are the modification of the clauses relating to requirements for Insurance cover, the introduction of new clauses relating to Data Protection, National Capacity Tracker requirements, No Fault termination (on both sides) and a review of all Schedules.

5. How will we be rolling the new Contracts out?

SCC is adopting a phased approach to the rolling out of contracts, starting with in-County services before moving on to out-of-County ones. There may also be some

services that are currently contracted under other arrangements (Frameworks, Call Off / Block), for which a different approach will be adopted. Where this is the case, a separate communication exercise will take place for those services.

6. How will separate services be contracted for?

The intention is that there will be one contract per service type per provider – for example if you provide 3 Older People Care Homes and a Day service in 2 of these, you will receive 2 contracts, one for the Older People services (detailing the 3 different Care Home Locations) and a second for the Day services detailing two Locations.

7. How is the new contract structured?

The new contract is structured with a standard set of Terms and Conditions, which apply to care services being contracted for by Suffolk Adult Social Care. It also has a set of schedules – some of which are applicable to all services, whilst others (particularly the Service Specification and the Performance monitoring schedules) are tailored to different service types.

Throughout the documentation there are sections and clauses which might not be used by Suffolk Social Care for a variety of reasons. This includes for situations where TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment) may or may not apply, or for example Suffolk Social Care not adopting Electronic Monitoring, Performance Bonds or Commissioning Order Forms. In these circumstances the documentation highlights that these are “NOT USED”.

8. Is it a Deed or a Contract?

It is a Deed of variation to existing contracts, that is required to be sealed by Suffolk County Council as a Deed. In accordance with Suffolk Council Council's financial regulations, it needs to be signed as a deed rather than a contract.

The only difference between the two is that Deeds have more stringent signing requirements, due to their potential value, in accordance with SCC's Procurement Regulations. In all other respects there is no difference between a Deed and a Contract.

9. How have the Insurance Clauses changed?

The Insurance clauses in Section G of the Terms and Conditions include updated cover levels expected. In addition, they have introduced the potential requirement for Medical Malpractice, Care and Treatment Insurance (both “as appropriate to the service”), and Sexual Abuse and Molestation Insurance. However, the contract recognises that these risks may be covered by the Providers' public liability insurance policy. If they are, evidence of such will need to be provided to the Council. Where these insurances are not covered by the public liability insurance or are not covered

to a sufficient level, the Provider will need to ensure that separate insurance is taken out to meet the requirements of Clause 31.

10. How have the Data Protection Clauses changed?

The contract has been updated to include the expectations of the UK Data Protection Requirements, in place of the previous GDPR. In addition, Schedule 14 outlines Suffolk County Council's specific requirements for data protection. Included within this is the Data Compliance form.

11. What is the purpose of the Data Compliance Form?

The Data Compliance Form has been introduced to specifically document the provider's approach to data protection including their registration with the Information Commissioner's Office, how data is stored and what policies, training they have in place.

12. Why has a No-Fault Termination clause (37.10) been introduced?

This clause has been introduced to allow both parties to allow termination without Default to ensure fairness.

13. How have the Service Specifications changed?

There are separate Service Specifications for different service types – Residential and Nursing Home, Home Care, Extra Care etc. Each of these have been revised, with the Residential/Nursing one being tweaked, whilst the Home Care specification now better reflects the Council's Locality Homecare Service Specification. The Extra Care specification provides a clear descriptor of Extra Care housing services with an expected focus on personalised care and support that is flexible to people's changing needs and with a focus on the wider community.

Each specification includes expectations that the Eastern Region Service Outcomes and Standards of Care, which align to CQC Domains and NICE standards are met. They also include reference to Department of Health and Social Care requirements for the submission of national Capacity Tracker information.

14. How have the Performance Monitoring Schedules changed?

The Performance Monitoring Schedules have again also only been tweaked to reflect current practice in ASC's approach to contract management. They also reflect the adoption of the PAMMS framework, in accordance with Clause 17.5 of the Terms and Conditions of the Contract.

15. What do the other Schedules include?

The contract has 18 Schedules, not all of which are being used by SCC ASC. Schedules 1 and 2 cover the Service Specification and Performance Monitoring arrangements, with the other Schedules being:

- Schedule 3: The Council's Policy Statements. These include policies on Equal Opportunities, Translation and Interpreting, Whistleblowing and Modern Slavery
- Schedule 4: Price and Payment Schedule. These include the processes and also the differing arrangements for different service types
- Schedules 5 and 6: Tender Response Document and Copy Contract Award Letter – only used if the service being contracted for
- Schedule 7: Parent Company Guarantee
- Schedule 8: Performance Bond
- Schedule 9: Exit Plan, outlining expectations and arrangements as and when the Contract ends.
- Schedule 10: TUPE and Pensions Schedule, outlining expectations around potential Transfer of Undertakings – Protection of Employment rights if and when these arise through the course of the Contract.
- Schedule 11: Safeguarding Policy
- Schedule 12: Commissioning Order Form
- Schedule 13: Serious Incident Report outlining SCC ASC's expectations in the event of a serious incident
- Schedule 14: Data Processing Schedule (see Questions 9 and 10 above)
- Schedule 15: DBS Risk Assessment, outlining expectations around DBS checking
- Schedule 16: Social Value, outlining expectations that all commissioned services should contribute Social Value in accordance with the Social Value Act 2012
- Schedule 17: Electronic Monitoring
- Schedule 18: National Capacity Tracker, outlining expectations that providers should comply with statutory requirements to complete the National Capacity Tracker.

16. How can I seek clarification on these changes?

The contract documentation (to vary the current contracts) can be seen in the 2025 ADASS Contract Variation Rollout section of the [Provider Toolkit](#). If you require clarification on any aspect of these documents, please download and complete the Clarification Queries document and email to ASCCareMarketHub@suffolk.gov.uk by the 4th August 2025. These FAQs will be updated with responses as required.