

Developing Suffolk Talent



Issue No 75 ● 26 February 2021

Welcome to our e-bulletin which is designed to give you timely updates on the work of the Skills Team and key developments across the region and nationally. It is our plan to send you this bulletin at monthly intervals, so please feel free to give us feedback on what you would find useful.

If you would like further information on any of the projects or issues below you are welcome to email skills@suffolk.gov.uk and we will get you in touch with the relevant staff member.



Dear colleagues,

We hope that you are remaining safe and well

If you have any comments, observations or feedback you would like to share with us please feel free to let us know via skills@suffolk.gov.uk.

The Skills Team

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Virtual Work Inspiration Suffolk Pilot 2021



A programme of online and offline activities for students

Virtual Work Inspiration for Suffolk (VWIS) 2021 is an exciting opportunity for employers to provide young people in Suffolk with an insight into their organisation, its operations, and their sector.

The programme allows students to have a meaningful and informative experience to help raise aspirations, equip them with 21st century skills and broaden their understanding of the local jobs market and pathways.

- ▶ **We are looking for over 200 people** to support this virtual experience by interacting with students (age 14-16)
- ▶ **You will be fully supported** with technical training on the platform (Google Classroom) and detailed session plans and resources

- ▶ **The programme will run throughout the Summer term** and be a mixture of online and offline activities and reach over 300 students.
- ▶ **The programme offers employers and the self-employed a flexible approach** to engaging in careers education.

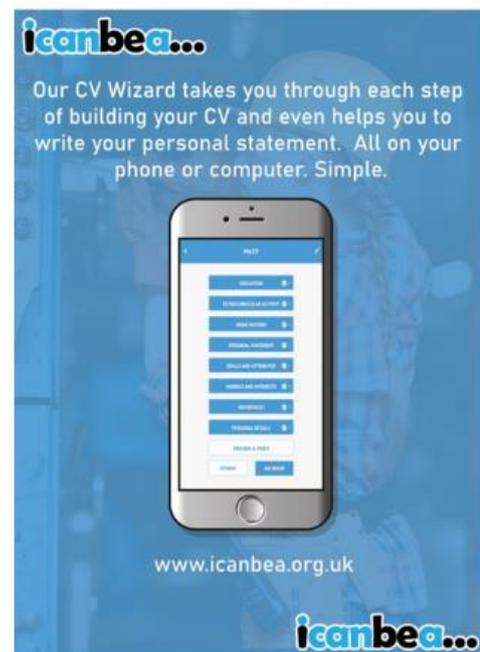
The programme is organised by three local strategic partners to deliver maximum impact and value to students whilst giving flexibility for timetable scheduling at no cost to employers or the schools. A more detailed summary is attached.

If you would like to join us please complete this short expression of interest and we will be in touch. <https://forms.gle/q9Bet5JbJM6nMSaq9>

Vacancy alert

The Skills Team are looking for a talented project manager to lead a new workforce skills development project for local SMEs. The job will soon be advertised but if you or anyone you know might be interested please contact Michael Gray on 07740422 921 / Michael.gray@suffolk.gov.uk

CV Wizard launched



The Team at icanbea... have developed an exciting new tool called a [CV Wizard](#) to help young people **quickly build a CV** in a PDF format **from their phone or a computer**.

It's an ideal way to **get young people started on their first CV** or help those who would like to improve an existing one, it **includes a fast-track personal statement builder** which uses suggestions and prompts to help users to write their personal statement and **takes them through each step of building a CV** to ensure all relevant information is captured. Please feel free to share with your contacts.

UPDATES



Apprenticeships Suffolk have been operational for 8 full months and are continuing to support SMEs and aspiring apprentices across Suffolk.

The Team have had a great start and numbers reflect this; over the last 8 months we have **engaged with 105 employers, of these 43 have been supported and from this 49 apprenticeship opportunities created.**

There have been 13 successful apprenticeship starts and the team are currently supporting a further 10 with opening learning. These achievements are indicative of positive referrals so the team would like to thank all referral agents.

In total Apprenticeship Suffolk have had 157 participant enquiries, supporting 53 into alternative education, employment and training.

Despite difficult times, employer and participant engagement is growing and the team are pleased to be able to continue to support SMEs in creating opportunities for the people of Suffolk.

Website: apprenticeshipsuffolk.org/ | Email: apprenticeships@suffolk.gov.uk



Work Well Suffolk are continuing to work throughout the pandemic and the current restrictions and we have now engaged with over 500 participants to date - a real milestone worth celebrating for the project and the wider Skills Team who support us daily. Our Coaching Service, delivered by Realise Futures CIC are continuing to offer invaluable high quality virtual support to help our participants

through this difficult time and supporting them to overcome barriers, gain basic skills (80 participants) and start volunteering (14 participants).

- **Our Employment and Self-Employment services Menta and Steadfast Training are also continuing to aid WWS participants** in getting closer to the labour market and as the first year came to a close we have begun hearing positive stories of participants who have passed through the programme, attended interviews and successfully gained employment which currently stands at 61 participants.

See some amazing video testimonies from our participants here: <https://www.menta.org.uk/work-well-suffolk>

- **This project differs to other work programmes and is unique as it can provide 1-1, holistic, person centred coaching and support to help solve participants' root barriers to sustainable employment and not simply providing job search and CV support. Our positive participant feedback has reaffirmed this to be a key factor in the project's success.**



Adult Learning Service Newsletter

The February issue of Spotlight is now available – see attachment.



SEND Parent Carer Update No 10

Regular update for parents and carers about how we are implementing Suffolk's SEND Strategy and what support is available during the Coronavirus COVID-19 crisis.

The February issue of the SEND Parent Carer Update is available [here](#).

Click [here](#) for the **Skills Team Who's Who** and **previous issues** of this bulletin.

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