



Developing Suffolk Talent

4 April 2022 | Issue No 86



Monthly updates on the work of the Suffolk County Council Skills Team and key developments across the region

In this issue

- **Skills Team News:**
 - Upskill Your Workforce
 - Youth Pledge for Employers
 - Apprenticeships Suffolk
 - Work Well Suffolk
- **Funding & Opportunities**
 - Developing Skills in Health and Social Care
 - Updates to the Register of Flexi-Job Apprenticeship Agencies
 - National Skills Fund - Free level 3 qualifications for adults – reminder
- **Policy Updates**
 - New Schools White Paper
 - SEND review: right support, right place, right time
 - Expansion of training flexibility for Universal Credit claimants
- **AOB**
 - Exploring effective approaches to career guidance with refugees & asylum seekers – Free Webinar
 - Festival of Suffolk 2022

SKILLS TEAM NEWS

Upskill Your Workforce – Supply Chain Skills Development Fund SCSDF



**UPS KILL YOUR
WORKFORCE**

SUPPLY CHAIN SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT FUND
SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE

**A FLEXIBLE
FUND FOR
TRAINING**

BENEFITS YOUR BUSINESS
AND BOOSTS SKILLS AND
PRODUCTIVITY

**FOR
SMEs**
Increasing...

- the skills levels of your workforce
- the skills levels of employed women
- technical & job specific skills

The scheme can fund up to 50% of training costs, for multiple employees

**UP TO
£1,000 PER
EMPLOYEE**

- Accredited training
- Non-accredited training
- Face to face training
- Online/digital courses

For more information on what we can offer and how to apply please contact us:
supplychainskills@suffolk.gov.uk

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Youth Pledge for Employers



The Youth Pledge for Employers project (ESF Part Funded) is delivered across Norfolk and Suffolk, in partnership with The Mason Trust. The Business Connectors are engaging with employers supporting them to create work inspiration (work experience, industry tours/talks, taster days, apprenticeships and employment with training) for 16-24 year olds.

Since launching the project in June 2021, we have now registered over 170 new employers to the project from a wide variety of industry sectors across Norfolk and Suffolk. The employers registered are all creating into-work inspirational opportunities and the Business Connectors in both counties work collaboratively with schools, colleges, the DWP, Skills Connect and the alternative provider networks supporting young people into EET.

Most recently, we attended the **Norfolk and Suffolk Skills and Careers Festival** where some of our employers came along to speak to those visiting. We have supported the Step into Construction course that was being run by Minding the Gap as well as the Access all Areas at The New Wolsey Theatre and a Mentoring session with NALEP at Stoke High School.

The opportunities created can be accessed via the [icanbea... \(Careers & Ideas in Norfolk & Suffolk\) | icanbea...](#) website or alternatively, contact Lisa or Suzi to be added to our distribution list to receive our most up to date opportunities on a monthly basis.

- Ipswich and East Suffolk – Suzanne Couszins – Suzanne.couszins@suffolk.gov.uk
- West Suffolk, Babergh and Mid Suffolk – Lisa Gilson - lisa.gilson@suffolk.gov.uk



Apprenticeships Suffolk (Part funded by ESF)



Apprenticeships Suffolk have engaged with 336 participants and over 221 businesses, all ESF outcomes and results are 100%+ of targets which is an excellent achievement.

We recently showcased Apprenticeships Suffolk at the Norfolk and Suffolk Careers festival which took place at the Norfolk showground. The event was a great success and was attended by more than 6000 students who attend colleges in both Suffolk and Norfolk. It was fantastic to have the opportunity to have face to face conversations with students about their Post-16 careers options and apprenticeship progression into higher education as an alternative pathway to University.

Apprenticeships Suffolk are meeting with new employers on a weekly basis to explore their business apprenticeship requirement for 2022. Opportunities can be viewed at <https://apprenticeshipssuffolk.org/> and the team can be contacted at apprenticeships@suffolk.gov.uk or 01473 263555, to receive the Apprenticeships Suffolk Newsletter please email the team.



Work Well Suffolk (Part funded by ESF)



The Work Well Suffolk Team have engaged with over 1,450 participants. This is an excellent number considering the restrictions encountered over the past few years. Currently, there have been 138 participants going into sustainable employment, 28 have ventured into self-employment and 980 participants have received Information, Advice and Guidance alongside their 1-1 coaching support. The retention rate of participants on the project is 87% and there are currently 315 participants on programme.

Drop-in sessions are now regularly run from Suffolk Libraries and a number of Job Centres across the county which is proving impactful in these communities. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please do drop us an email on the email address below. Navigators Robyn, Wendy and Alan are waiting to hear from you at workwellsuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk, for further information please see the website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/work-well-suffolk/>

FUNDING & OPPORTUNITIES

Developing Skills in Health and Social Care (Part funded by ESF)



Do you work in or plan to work in Health & Social Care? Or do you know someone working in Adult Health & Social Care who would benefit from some mentor advice and guidance, Functional Skills qualifications or L2/L4 accredited units?

Please find attached some information posters and a flyer with more details on a free Mentor Service, fully funded courses and the latest newsletter.

For more information please contact

developingskills@suffolk.gov.uk



Updates to the Register of Flexi-Job Apprenticeship Agencies



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

In February 2022, the new [Register of Flexi-Job Apprenticeship Agencies](#) was launched. Flexi-Job Apprenticeship agencies will enable employers in sectors with project-based employment models, such as creative, construction and digital, to make much greater use of apprenticeships.

The register has been updated to include the sectors and regions Flexi-Job Apprenticeship Agencies will be covering. For more information, please contact the agencies using the contact details on the register.



National Skills Fund - Free level 3 qualifications for adults - reminder



**Education & Skills
Funding Agency**

Any adult aged 19 and over, who does not already have a level 3 qualification (equivalent to an advanced technical certificate or diploma, or A levels) or higher, can access hundreds of fully funded level 3 courses.

In addition, from April, any adult in England earning under the National Living Wage annually (£18,525) will also be able to access these qualifications for free, regardless of their prior qualification level.

This offer is part of the government's long-term commitment to help everyone gain skills for life. Courses are available in a variety of lengths, to support adults to get the skills they need to boost their careers. Learners may be able to [get help to pay for childcare, travel and other costs](#).

All 19 to 23 year olds can access courses for free through their [legal entitlement to a first full level 3 qualification](#).

POLICY UPDATE

Opportunity for all: Strong Schools with great teachers for your child

New Schools White Paper



On 28th March, the Department for Education outlined a raft of proposed reforms to education in England in the new Schools White Paper, titled 'Opportunity for all: Strong schools with great teachers for your child'.

The Education Secretary, Nadhim Zahawi, has introduced the White Paper as the vehicle for his vision to raise standards, increase the support available to children who are struggling and, more generally, 'give them the tools to lead a happy, fulfilled and successful life'.

Full details can be found - [Opportunity for all: strong schools with great teachers for your child - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



SEND review: right support, right place, right time



The Green paper will consult on a stronger national system for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), boosting parent confidence.

The Government's SEND and alternative provision green paper, published on Tuesday 29 March, sets out its vision for a single, national SEND and alternative provision (AP) system that will introduce new standards in the quality of support given to children across education, health and care.

The ambitious green paper is the result of the SEND Review, commissioned to improve an inconsistent, process-heavy and increasingly adversarial system that too often leaves parents facing difficulties and delays accessing the right support for their child.

The plans to reform the system will be open for a 13-week public [consultation](#), giving families frustrated by the existing, complicated and bureaucratic system of support the opportunity to shape how a new system will work in the future - and give them confidence that their local school will meet

their children's needs so they can achieve their full potential.



Expansion of training flexibility for Universal Credit claimants



The Government will be expanding the additional training flexibility for Universal Credit claimants until April 2023. Universal Credit claimants in the intensive work search group will be able to attend full-time, work-related training opportunities lasting up to 16 weeks across Great Britain as part of their work search activity. This flexibility has now been extended until 28 April 2023.

This is a great opportunity for FE providers to work with their local Jobcentre Plus and Partnership Managers to offer full-time, work-related training courses. Universal Credit Claimants will need to get agreement from their work coach to ensure this is the right support for them and appropriate for the local labour market.

AOB

Exploring effective approaches to career guidance with refugees & asylum seekers

Free Webinar on Thursday 5th May 2022 - 4pm till 5pm



In response to the current war in Ukraine and subsequent response from the UK government this webinar is part of a coordinated range of measures undertaken by the CDI to do what we can to help. This webinar seeks to clarify the particularities of the career guidance needs of refugees, asylum seekers and indeed other migrants. Building on what was learned during two Erasmus + projects about supporting refugees and asylum seekers, we will explore the skills and knowledge needed to work effectively and confidently with this client group.

To find out more and book please go to:

[Exploring-effective-approaches-to-career-guidance-with-refugees-asylum-seekers](#)



Festival of Suffolk 2022



As part of the activities included in the Festival of Suffolk 2022 we are delighted to promote the Suffolk Business Expo - a number of 'Business Sector Open Days' to be held between the 20th June and the 8th July 2022.

The expo is themed around building a 'Stronger, Sustainable Suffolk' and aims to create business opportunities and careers inspiration for the future, leaving a legacy of connections and a renewed commitment to driving innovation through collaboration with other businesses in Suffolk.

The scheduled events are hosted by some of our major organisations from across the county of Suffolk who focus on several industries, these days are open for both business and school sessions but must be booked in advance and are strictly subject to availability, for details on the sessions please click your chosen theme below or to see the full offer take a look at the main website schedule - [Schedule - Suffolk Business Expo](#):

- 21st June - Technology Day (BT) (year 10 and above) - <https://suffolkbusinessexpo.co.uk/schedule/technology-day/>
- 22nd June - Education Beyond Teaching (University of Suffolk) (year 10 and above for route 1 all years route 2)- [Education Beyond Teaching – Suffolk Business Expo](#)
- 27th June - Financial Solutions Day (WTW) (year 10 and above) - [Financial Solutions Day – Suffolk Business Expo](#)
- 28th June - Sustainable Solutions Day (Vertas) (year 10 and above)- [Sustainable Solutions Day – Suffolk Business Expo](#)
- 1st July - Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Day (Abbeycroft Leisure) (year 9 and above) - [Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Day – Suffolk Business Expo](#)
- 4th - 7th July - Energy Days (EDF) (all year groups) - [Energy Days – Suffolk Business Expo](#)

For full details on the Suffolk Business Expo and any last-minute additions to the schedule please check the main website - <https://www.suffolkbusinessexpo.co.uk/>

CONTACT

The Skills Team can be contacted via Skills@suffolk.gov.uk

If you wish to receive this bulletin regularly please email skills@suffolk.gov.uk - you can *unsubscribe* anytime by sending us a message to the same email address.

For **previous issues** of this bulletin and the **Skills Team Who's Who** please go to <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business/supporting-employers-training-your-workforce/>