



PRESS RELEASE

NEW REGISTER OF PERSONAL ASSISTANTS IS LAUNCHED FOR PEOPLE LOOKING FOR CARE IN SUFFOLK

PA Finder - a new service linking carers wanting jobs to people wanting care

Monday 4th April, 2016 – Anyone in Suffolk who needs to employ a personal assistant (PA) to help them with their daily care needs can now search for one on a free, county-wide register which has been launched today.

The PA Finder is a new service which enables people to search an online register to find a personal assistant. For the first time, PAs looking for work can put their name down on the register to find work.

People can find out more on <http://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk> and scroll down to Personal Assistant Finder.

PAs work directly for people who need support, due to age or disability. They can be employed directly by the person requiring help, or by an appointed 'suitable person' if the person requiring care has not got the mental capacity to manage their own support.

PAs carry out a wide range of tasks in a person's home – such as helping them with washing, eating and getting out and about – all with the objective of helping that person lead the life they choose to live.



Independent care sector organisation The Suffolk Brokerage – which supports Suffolk’s sector to deliver high quality care through support with training, qualifications and information – is running the register on behalf of Suffolk County Council. PA Finder sits on Suffolk Infolink, a dedicated central directory of information, services and providers for Suffolk with over 7,700 records.

Skills for Care, which provides practical tools and support to help adult social care organisations in England recruit, develop and lead their workforce, estimates there are currently 115,000 PAs in England.

Louise Whitley, Head of Workforce Development at The Suffolk Brokerage said: “Employing a personal assistant is an option for those needing care in their own home.

“The care a PA can provide is very personal and, as the client is also the employer, the care can be self-directed and focussed on what it most important to them. This is a relatively new role for people needing care, and the register is there to put people in touch with PAs looking for work.

“PA roles are advertised widely through local newspapers, and sometimes on the notice boards in local communities, but the PA Finder offers another way of doing it.

“We cannot recommend or vet any of the PAs on the register, and nor do we employ them. In fact, we always recommend anyone employing people to get references and carry out a Disclosure and Baring Service (DBS) check. This used to be called a CRB check.”



PA Finder is free for PAs to register and free for potential employers to search and contact suitable PAs.

Suffolk County Council has included guides and useful information on Suffolk Infolink under PA Finder, including frequently asked questions on employing a PA.

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For further information, please contact:

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Photo: A new service to help people find a personal care assistant has been launched.

Notes to Editors

The Suffolk Brokerage

The Suffolk Brokerage is an independent, not-for-profit organisation based in Needham Market supporting the care sector in Suffolk to deliver high quality care. It does this by providing information and advice aligned to the needs of care providers in Suffolk. This includes information and help with training, workforce and planning assistance, qualifications and funding www.suffolkbrokerage.co.uk It runs an information portal called Carewise. www.carewisesuffolk.co.uk

Care Careers Suffolk is part of The Suffolk Brokerage. It supports individuals, as well as employers with information, guidance and advice on apprenticeships and careers in care. www.carecareerssuffolk.co.uk

On March 20th, 2016, The Suffolk Brokerage – in partnership with the Suffolk Association of Independent Care Providers (SAICP) - launch the inaugural Suffolk Care Awards 2016 to recognise good carers and creative care providers in Suffolk. Visit www.suffolkcareawards.com