



SUFFOLK CARE AWARDS 2016 LAUNCHED TO FIND THE COUNTY'S TOP CARERS AND CARE PROVIDERS

Friday, March 18th 2016 – The search is on to find amazing carers and care companies who do the crucial job of looking after people in Suffolk, as the inaugural Suffolk Care Awards is launched today.

The Awards are all about recognising the quality care that is provided in Suffolk, and to highlight the important and crucial job that good carers and creative care providers do every day.

There is a new website for the Awards which is www.suffolkcareawards.com

The initiative is being run by two organisations who have many years' experience in the care sector - The Suffolk Brokerage, a not-for-profit organisation which supports Suffolk's care sector to provide high quality care, and the Suffolk Association of Independent Care Providers (SAICP), a membership organisation involved in good care practice.

Entries open on March 20th with the closing date April 30th. Winners will be announced at a ceremony at Kesgrave Hall, Ipswich, on September 29th.

There are 13 different award categories and entrants are allowed to enter as many categories as they want. The Awards are free to enter.



The categories are: *1. Promoting Dignity and Respect, 2. Food and Catering, 3. End of Life, 4. Motivational Leadership, 5. Culture, Creativity and Activities, 6. Special Recognition, 7. Health and Social Care Training, 8. Excellent Person-Centred Training, 9. Learning Against the Odds, 10. Innovative Dementia-Friendly Environments, 11. Team Award, 12. Student Placement, 13. Direct Employer. (See list at end for summary of what the judges are looking for.)*

Judges have been drawn from care sector professionals from private and public sector organisations in Suffolk, including Suffolk County Council, Ipswich and East Suffolk & West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups, Norfolk and Suffolk Dementia Alliance, Skills for Care, Suffolk Coalition of Disabled People, and the Palliative Care Academy.

They are looking for individuals and organisations who are creative and go the extra mile when it comes to care – and are looking for real examples of the way their work in care has had a positive result and has made an impact.

Liz Taylor, Chair of The Suffolk Brokerage said: “Care professionals do a great job and we want to celebrate that fact and highlight they are really valued and appreciated for the essential work they do.

“In Suffolk, more than 20,000 people work in care and there are 500 care providers and service companies – it’s a sector that is growing and is set to grow with an ageing population and people living longer.

“There are countless examples of people and companies who provide fantastic service, doing a wonderful job of providing high-quality care for people in Suffolk.



“The Suffolk Care Awards is about shining a spotlight on that work and showing that care is a great sector to work in. Against a backdrop of negative stories about care, this helps to share the many examples of great care in our county, and it’s time to promote them.”

Hilary Gibbs, Chair of the Suffolk Association of Independent Care Providers (SAICP) said: “This is continuing the initiative begun by the GEM (Going the Extra Mile) awards in Suffolk.

“Working in the care sector for many years, both our organisations are very much aware of the excellent services delivered by Suffolk care providers.

“The Awards are a way of highlighting and celebrating this, finding unsung heroes, and raising the profile of social care as a whole. We look forward to receiving lots of entries.”

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For further information, please contact:

Louise Whitley
Head of Workforce Development
Suffolk Brokerage
Telephone: 01449 720400
Mobile: 07483 124628
louise.whitley@suffolkbrokerage.co.uk

Hilary Gibbs
Chair of the Suffolk Association of Independent Care Providers (SAICP)
Telephone: 07787520104
hilary@saicp.org.uk

Photo 1: Liz Taylor, Chair of The Suffolk Brokerage
Photo 2: Hilary Gibbs, Chair of the Suffolk Association of Care Providers (SAICP)
Photo 3: Some of the judges pictured at the launch of Suffolk Care Awards 2016



Notes to Editors

Suffolk Brokerage

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

Visit www.suffolcareawards.com for details of Suffolk Care Awards.

Suffolk Association of Independent Care Providers (SAICP)

Founded in 2006, SAICP is a members' organisation open to any independent or voluntary care provision in Suffolk. It currently has 400 members.

Since its inception, in conjunction with Suffolk County, the Joint Suffolk Care Partnership has evolved to provide a platform from which all care related matters can be addressed. Meetings are held quarterly and are currently chaired by Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger, Portfolio holder for Adult and Community Services at Suffolk County Council. At these meetings, committee members from the Association meet with council officers and representatives from other relevant bodies to address any issues our members have, and to discuss topical issues and changes within the care sector.

The Joint Suffolk Care Partnership has successfully resolved any issues, and SAICP hopes to carry on with its work to ensure the vulnerable people of Suffolk who require help through the care system receive a high quality of care - delivered by care staff who have access to training - and to support managers of care provisions with other managers and officers of statutory bodies and stakeholders to help resolve any problems they have.

www.saicp.org.uk



Award categories and judging criteria

- 1. Promoting Dignity and Respect:** *There is a culture that promotes innovative and creative ways of incorporating dignity and respect into all aspects of people's lives.*
- 2. Food and Catering:** *The judges are looking for an approach to nutrition and hydration that is thoughtful, innovative and achieves positive outcomes for all.*
- 3. End of Life:** *The judges are looking for a positive approach to end of life planning that recognises the wishes of the individual and is person-centred.*
- 4. Motivational Leadership:** *The judges are looking for a leader who is inspiring and motivational in their approach, demonstrating honesty and good communication skills so staff feel supported and empowered in the working environment.*
- 5. Culture, Creativity and Activities:** *The judges are looking for an organisation/service which has a positive and proven approach to using a range of activities creatively to achieve positive outcomes for those accessing the service.*
- 6. Special Recognition:** *This category is designed to provide an opportunity for the recognition of an individual or organisation that has made a significant contribution to the sector or a team, or indeed to one person, that has not been recognised elsewhere.*
- 7. Health and Social Care Training:** *Judges are looking for training of a high standard as measured against the sector skills standards. They want to see training provided in innovative ways to achieve the desired outcomes.*
- 8. Excellent Person-Centred Training:** *The judges are looking for training that is underpinned by, and evidences, a good understanding and implementation of individual learning styles and varying outcomes.*
- 9. Learning Against the Odds:** *The judges are looking for an individual or an organisation that has addressed effectively potential barriers to learning.*
- 10. Innovative Dementia-Friendly Environments:** *An environment in which those living with dementia meets their needs with empathy and compassion.*
- 11. Team Award:** *To recognise a team that has worked well together and achieved significant and positive outcomes for those with whom they work.*
- 12. Student Placement:** *The placement is one which provides real opportunities for the development of students and thus the outcomes of the service as a whole, as well as the individual.*
- 13. Direct Employer:** *The judges are looking for an employer who takes a proactive stance in ensuring that the personal assistant is well supported to deliver the required service.*