



TEA AND CAKE LAUNCH OF THE SUFFOLK CARE AWARDS

THE SEARCH IS ON TO FIND THE COUNTY'S TOP CARERS AND CARE PROVIDERS

Monday 20th February 2017 – Judges are searching for carers and care providers who should be **recognised, honoured and celebrated** for the work they do to provide high quality adult social care in Suffolk.

The second annual Suffolk Care Awards is launched today - with a tea party attended by some of last year's winners and judges from this year's awards.

This year there are 10 categories highlighting the important and crucial job that good carers and creative care providers do every day. The categories recognise exemplary care practice as well as inspiring care leaders and managers.

This year judges are also looking for people in Suffolk who have experienced great care either for themselves or a relative – and want them to nominate their carer or care provider for the **Special Recognition Award**.

Entries open on February 20th with the closing date March 31st. Winners will be announced at a ceremony to be held at Trinity Park, Ipswich, on September 28th.

Entrants can enter as many categories as they want, and all awards are free to enter.



The categories are:

1. *Promoting Dignity and Respect in Everyday Life*
2. *Food and Catering*
3. *End of Life*
4. *Inspiring Leaders and Managers*
5. *Culture, Creativity and Activities*
6. *Excellent Training*
7. *Innovative Approaches to Services for Dementia*
8. *Student Placement/Apprenticeship*
9. *Care Service of the Year*
10. *Special Recognition Award*

Judges have been drawn from care sector professionals from private and public sector organisations nationally and in Suffolk, including Suffolk County Council, the NHS, Health Education East, Skills for Care, Palliative Care Academy, and The National Association for Providers of Activities for Older People.

The Awards are run by two organisations, The Suffolk Brokerage and SAICP, Suffolk Association of Independent Care Providers.

Liz Taylor, Chair of The Suffolk Brokerage said: “We are delighted to launch The Suffolk Care Awards for the second year following the success of last year’s awards.

“There are countless examples of people doing a great job of caring in Suffolk and many, many organisations operating high quality services that should be held up as great examples of splendid care in our county. We want to celebrate this great work.”



Hilary Gibbs, Chair of the Suffolk Association of Independent Care Providers said:
“We are especially pleased to have a Special Recognition Award this year which gives lots of people who have experienced first-hand the great care we have on offer in Suffolk, the chance to nominate an amazing carer or fantastic care provider.”

For further information, please contact:

Louise Whitley
Workforce Development Manager
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

Caption:

Judges, organisers and past winners launched the Suffolk Care Awards 2017 at a tea party today.

Hilary Gibbs cuts the cake held by Emma White, left, and Louise Whitley, right, with from left to right, Anne Maas, Sally Stoakley, Stephanie Pullen, Christine Whiting, Sandie Oxborrow, Julie White and Ruth Daynes.

Notes to Editors

Suffolk Care Awards 2017

The Suffolk Care Awards is 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.

Suffolk Brokerage

The Suffolk Brokerage is an independent, non-profit making organisation dedicated to raising care standards in Suffolk by providing impartial advice, guidance and information to support the county’s health and social care sector. We aim to support the sector to implement new competencies needed to comply with legislation, to promote a positive local image of health and social care, to seek and secure funding for the sector, and to ensure this is offered equitably, to support the recruitment of the social care workforce, and to assist care providers to deliver a suitable and competent workforce in Suffolk.



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.suffolkcareawards.com for details of The 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.

Through the Joint Suffolk Care Partnership, issues which care providers have are brought to the people who can make a difference and change for the better. We must always remember that we represent the providers who do a difficult job in ensuring high quality care is provided for our vulnerable clients.

Our staff are our main asset and the care awards recognises the job they do in sometimes challenging circumstances but carry out to the best of their abilities.

www.saicp.org.uk

Award categories and judging criteria:

1. Promoting Dignity and Respect in Everyday Life: *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. Inspiring Leaders and Managers: *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.*

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. Excellent Training: *The training offered is underpinned by a good understanding and implementation of individual learning styles and varying outcomes. There is also evidence of good use of current practice and thinking.*

7. Innovative Approaches to Services for Dementia: *There is a demonstration of an understanding of individual needs, empathy and compassion.*

8. Student Placement/Apprenticeship: *The placement is one which provides real opportunities for the development of students and the outcomes of the service as well as the individual.*

9. Care Service of the Year: *The judges are looking for a service that has delivered care and support over what would usually be expected, and has made a positive contribution in support services users' lives.*

10. Special Recognition Award: *Applications for this award can only be made by users of care services or their relatives/friends. This category is design to recognise an individual, or organisation, that has made a significant contribution to the sector or a team or one person that has not been recognised elsewhere.*