

SPOTLIGHT

Suffolk
County Council

ADULT
LEARNING
SERVICE

ISSUE 16 | 2 August 2021

Welcome

Spotlight 16 - keeping you in touch with the latest Adult Learning news across the region and nationally.



We look forward to receiving your feedback and any information that you would like to be included in future newsletters.

In this issue:

- **Contract Awards 2021-22**
- **ESFA/AEB reconciliation for 2020-21 Update**
- **Key Changes to 2021-22 Subcontractor Documentation**
- **New Skills Measure**
- **Meeting dates for 2021-22**
- **Case Study – Winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award 2021**
- **Work Well Suffolk**

Please circulate our newsletter to everyone working on projects for the Adult Learning Service, and to anyone that you feel may be interested in learning more about what we do!



Don't forget to find out more by visiting our website: learnsuffolk.org

SERVICE NEWS

- **Contract Awards for 2021-22:** Following the recent commissioning through the Suffolk Adult & Community Learning



DPS CD1281 we are delighted to confirm the following sub-contractors have been awarded contracts for 2021-22 delivery:

Mini-Competition	Awarded to:
Supporting with English, IT & Digital Skills for Speakers of Other Languages	Ipswich Community Media & Learning
Support into Work	Inspire Suffolk
Promoting Social Inclusion	Out Loud Music
Supporting Positive Wellbeing (Lot 1 & 2)	Green Light Trust
Supporting Learners to Make a Positive Change	Sentinel Leisure Trust

Realise Futures CIC will continue to deliver over 90% of the Service provision and we are delighted to announce that their contract has been extended by 12 months to conclude on 31st July 2023.

Thank you to all providers who expressed an interest in the mini competitions. Further opportunities, when available, will be published on the DPS.

- **New Skills Measure:** Officials are proposing to introduce a new “skills measure” that will capture how well a college is delivering courses that the economy needs as part of its funding and accountability reforms – [consultation](#) on Reforms to Further Education Funding and Accountability which was launched on 15th July.
▶ **Read more here:** [New 'skills measure' would trigger Ofsted inspections \(feweek.co.uk\)](#)

CONTRACT CATCH-UP

Catch up on meetings, data, events and updates.



- **ESFA/AEB reconciliation for 2020-21 Update:** ESFA has now announced their arrangements for reconciliation and clawback - the guidance is now live here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reconciliation-thresholds-for-esfa-grant-funded-providers-2020-to-2021>. ESFA is acknowledging that providers have base costs to cover and other costs such as making centres Covid safe etc. ESFA will also consider other issues such as loss of income and loss of the achievement funding because students couldn't do assessments.
- **ESFA Adult education budget (AEB) funding rules 2021 to 2022:** The rules were published on 1st May 2021. Please see link for full details: [adult-education-budget-aeb-funding-rules-2021-to-2022](#)
- **FE Workforce Data Collection:** The data submission will be **mandatory** from 2021-22: [FE Data Collection](#)
- **Key Changes to 2021-22 Subcontractor Documentation:**
 - Learner eligibility for ESFA funding has changed in 2021-22, the details are in the funding rules, SCC's enrolment document will reflect that change
 - While some forms are no longer set out as exemplar in the document suite, expectation of quality assurance measures and data compliance are detailed in the Quality Handbook

If you have any queries, please contact Wing-Yu Ho: wing-yu.ho@suffolk.gov.uk

- **Dates for your diary:** Calendar invitations will be sent out shortly, but please note the following meetings scheduled for 2021-22:

Meeting	Date	Time
Network Meeting + Moderation	17/09/2021	1030-1300
Network Meeting + Moderation	28/01/2022	1030-1300
Network Meeting + Moderation	26/05/2022	1030-1300
SARS Meeting – 1	08/12/2021	1300-1530
SARS Meeting - 2 (including Board)	07/01/2022	1300-1530

N.B. All meetings are currently scheduled as Team virtual meetings. Further updates to arrangements to follow.

- **Promoting up-coming courses in Spotlight:** If you have any Adult Learning courses that you would like to promote in future editions, please send details by 20th of the month to kathy.simpson@suffolk.gov.uk

LEARNER VOICE



We would like to share with you a case study we received from Ipswich Community Media & Learning, for their learner **Selma**, who was recently awarded the **Volunteer of the Year Award** in the **Suffolk Adult Learners' Awards 2021**:



“Selma is from Algeria, she speaks both French and Arabic. She has been living in the UK since the end of 2017 and her journey with ICM began when she became a learner in an English for Work class. The tutor observed that Selma had a natural inclination to help others so she asked her if she would like to become a volunteer in the classroom. Initially Selma showed some reluctance, as she lacked confidence in her ability and has a rather shy and humble personality. However, with encouragement, she

began to help in a beginner level class, with a group made up primarily of Arabic speakers, where her language skills were of great benefit, she soon began to develop into the role, gradually becoming more confident and self-assured.

She plays a critical role within the classroom, her translation and interpretation skills are proving invaluable, she is always happy to help and support students and teacher in any way she can. This support has been of particular importance to a number of the Syrian learners, as they have had no formal education and are unable to read or write in their own language.

Selma has a clear commitment and desire to learn. She continues to study, completing several other English classes (including English for Health and IT and English), and she is currently enrolled on the Digital Media and English course. Selma has an aspiration to find employment, so has decided to do a further English for Work course. In order to further improve her employability prospects, she also volunteers in the library as well as the two classes with ICM and she has also completed the Volunteer Passport course.

Selma studied and worked in IT prior to coming to the UK, so the classroom was not a natural environment for her to work in. However, she rose to the challenge and has become an excellent volunteer and a trusted and reliable colleague to the tutor. She demonstrates great empathy for the students, especially those who like her are shy and lacking in self-belief, working quietly and precisely, gently encouraging the learners with practical assistance, patience and praise. She is very hard working and always goes the extra mile to help both the tutor and the learners

One of her greatest assets is her ability to empathise with those students who - like herself - have found moving to the UK challenging. She is able to talk openly about how, when she first came to the UK, she found it difficult to settle, how loneliness and loss of her home, family and her work nearly made her return to Algeria. This has made her even more sympathetic to the learners who are refugees and do not even have this choice.

Selma considers it be both a duty and a privilege to help others and with this in mind she has also become a Community Champion with ICM. She is able to use her considerable qualities, skills and experience, together with her greatly improved fluency in English, to become a real asset to the wider community. Selma has proved herself to be a great inspiration to everyone she meets, because of this ICM had no hesitation in putting her forward for the Volunteer of the Year Award and we are incredibly proud that she has won!"



- **Work Well Suffolk:** Work Well Suffolk is a three-year ESF funded project (2020-2022) being managed by Suffolk County Council. Its aim is to help more than 2,000 people, 18 years + into employment by tackling barriers to work that they may face.

You can learn more about how Work Well Suffolk might help you by speaking to one of our Navigators in:

- Waveney & East Suffolk - call Alan Gadney on 07784 360829
- Ipswich - call Wendy Frost on 07784 360831
- West Suffolk, Mid-Suffolk and Babergh - call Robyn Cardy on 07784 010650

You can also email workwellsuffolk@suffolk.gov.uk

- **Message Cascaders: Rules from 19 July 2021 - Stage four of the easing of lockdown.** Please see the **attached PDF** for the latest information.
- **Walk through history in LEGO® bricks this summer:**



Join Suffolk Archives at *The Hold*, their new home on Ipswich waterfront, to enjoy a family-friendly journey through famous historical moments, all imagined in LEGO® bricks! **Brick History** - current exhibition at the new heritage centre runs throughout the summer until the end of September.



Full details and ticket booking for all events, including family events, Lates and the talks programme, are available on the Suffolk Archives website: www.suffolkarchives.co.uk/whatson

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