



East Suffolk  
Community  
Partnerships  
*Bringing ideas to life*

## Community Partnership Board

**Tuesday, 27 June 2023 at 10.00am**  
**The Fromus Centre, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham IP17 1AL**

		Pages
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction (Caroline Topping)</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Election of a Vice-Chair</b>  To elect a Vice-Chair for the 2023-24 municipal year	
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes</b>  To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 March 2023	<b>1 - 5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Community Partnership Priorities</b>  Introduction to Community Partnership priorities, remit and terms from Nicole Rickard.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Focus on Community Partnerships (Katie Graham)</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Ease the Squeeze Programme Update</b>  Update from Nicole Rickard	<b>6 - 14</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Outcome Proposal - Buzzabout (Demand Responsive Transport Service)</b>  Outcome proposal to extend the Buzzabout demand responsive transport service pilot for a further twelve months.	<b>15 - 20</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting - To be Confirmed</b>  - 13 September 2023 at 2.00pm in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House - 13 December 2023 at 10.00am, Orbis Energy, Lowestoft - 7 March 2024 at 2.00pm, venue to be confirmed	

<b>10</b>	<b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund Skills Workshop</b>  a) Introduction to skills in Suffolk from Suffolk County Council b) UK Shared Prosperity Fund Workshop	<b>21 - 57</b>
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### **Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Partnership Meetings**

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<b>Unconfirmed</b>
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Minutes of a Meeting of the **Community Partnership Board** held at the  
Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew  
on Wednesday 15 March at 2.00pm

**Community Partnership Board Members Present:**

Steve Gallant (Chairman of the Community Partnership Board and Leader of East Suffolk Council),  
Chris Abraham (Chief Executive of Community Action Suffolk (CAS)),  
Lesley Beevor (SALC representative),  
Chris Blundell (Chairman of the Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley Community Partnership),  
Norman Brooks (Chairman of the Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and Villages Community Partnership)  
Judy Cloke (Chairman of the Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Villages Community Partnership),  
Melanie Craig (Suffolk Community Foundation),  
Mark Jepson (Chairman of the Felixstowe Peninsula Community Partnership),  
Lisa Perkins (Vice Chairman, Adastral Park & Research Realisation Director for BT)  
Carol Poulter (Chairman of the Framlingham, Wickham Market and Villages Community Partnership),  
Danny Steel (Vice Chairman of the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership)  
Letitia Smith (ESC Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism),

**Others present:**

Luke Bennett (Partnerships Manager, East Suffolk Council),  
Zoe Botten (Communities Officer),  
Nick Khan (Strategic Director, East Suffolk Council),  
Mags Lambert (Project Manager, East Suffolk Council)  
Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities, East Suffolk Council and NHS Norfolk & Waveney / Ipswich & East Suffolk Integrated Care Boards),  
Alli Stone (Democratic Services Officer, East Suffolk Council)  
Paul Wood (Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, East Suffolk Council)

**1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Steve Gallant welcomed everyone to the meeting.

All those present then introduced themselves for the benefit of those who had not attended the meeting before.

Apologies for absence were then received from Bobby Bennett, Tony Cooper, James Mallinder.

## **2 Minutes**

Steve Gallant presented the Minutes from the last meeting of the Board, held on 8 December 2022. There being no comments or amendments proposed for the minutes, it was therefore

### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes from 8 December 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

## **3 Community Partnerships Annual Forum – 3 March 2023**

Steve Gallant updated the Board on the recent Community Partnerships Annual Forum.

The Forum had been well attended by over 200 delegates from various groups.

The Keynote Speaker had also been well received, and many attendees had commented that they would take this information about key challenges for East Suffolk and ideas for action on board.

Feedback from the event so far had been positive, full results of the survey would be sent round when all the information had been gathered.

There had been comments about finding a venue in a different part of the district, but there were few venues with enough breakout rooms.

The Board agreed that a similar event should be held in 2024, in mid-March.

## **4 Focus on Community Partnerships**

Letitia Smith recapped the work of the Community Partnerships since their creation in 2019. Despite Covid affecting the start up of the Partnerships, each area had evolved its own aims and ideas and enabled a good number of community projects. By focussing on data and local knowledge each Partnership had created individual strong priorities. Community Partnerships had adapted well to the changing needs of the district and had created strong links and work with partnership organisations, as well as local communities.

### Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham Community Partnership

Zoe Botten, Communities Officer, gave a presentation on the work of the Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham Community Partnership over the last year.

The Board noted the value of task and finish groups in focussing priorities and projects, as well as the involvement of young people in shaping projects and asked how young people could be encouraged to become more involved. Many Community Partnerships had links with youth clubs and schools and one has a youth member, but Partnerships

were often the first to reach out rather than being approached with projects others wanted.

Christine Abraham commented that there was a need to reach out to groups beyond youth clubs as this was often only one segment of the population. Letitia Smith commented that there was a need to acknowledge the concerns young people had and the issues they faced and to help prepare them with the right skills going forward.

## **5 Transport and Travel Task Group Report**

The Board received a presentation from Norman Brooks on the work of the Transport and Travel Task and Finish Group.

The Board discussed the difficulties in getting communities used to on demand services compared to traditional services, and while communities often commented on the need for transport this did not always result in high levels of use. Comment was made that some more vulnerable people were still unsure about leaving their homes, and that these services would help get people used to going outside again.

The Board discussed the costs of the services. Steve Gallant commented that services did not need to be totally self-sustaining, but they did need to help Partnerships achieve their aims. He also stated that he did not want Community Partnerships to be tied into subsidising transport services. Nick Khan stated that the cost model for the Katch service would be an improvement on the model used by the County Council as it would make use of infrastructure from an existing community transport provider and the more people who used the service the lower the cost would be to the council.

The Board discussed advertising of the service, and agreed that advertising was important to the success of the service. Comment was made that advertising needed to demonstrate why people should switch from their current transport to the Katch service for at least some of their journeys.

Nick Khan confirmed that no one demographic would be targeted by the service, and that it was important it was seen as an option for families, school children and the older population. Lisa Perkins commented that there needed to be a balance between those people who would rely on the transport as their sole means of travel and those who opted to use the service as a lifestyle choice. Nick Khan confirmed that the service would link to other services to provide flexibility depending on demand.

Letitia Smith commented that sustainability and reliability would be key to the success of the service so that people could make the switch to the service and rely on the provision.

### Katch Demand Responsive Transport Pilot

Nick Khan summarised the outcome proposal for the Katch Demand Responsive Transport Pilot.

- The service would be demand responsive and run from Monday to Saturday as a pilot for a year, starting on the 11 April.

- The aim was for 35 return passenger journeys a day by the end of the pilot period, with this number of passengers the service would cover costs to the provider.
- Marketing would be key, and this would include a launch and variety of incentives to encourage use.
- It was hoped that in a years' time this could be extended further beyond the pilot area.
- Livery of the current Katch would be kept, with some additions to show it was being funded by ESC.
- Total cost would be £90,000 to run the service for a year. This was based on lower level usage than it is hoped will be achieved, and a marketing budget of £10,000. The more users there were, the lower the cost to the Council.

## **RESOLVED**

That £90,000 be allocated to the Katch Demand Responsive Pilot.

### Demand Responsive Transport Mobile Application

Nick Khan summarised the outcome proposal for a demand responsive transport mobile app.

- The app would include all the demand responsive transport services in the area.
- There would still be a telephone line for those who did not wish to use an app.
- A budget of £50,000 had been allocated previously, but initial costs with that provider had been too much. A different solution had now been found, and the total cost would now be £14,500.
- The initial contract would be for 12 months, with the option to extend to a longer term contract with more services.

Steve Gallant stated that the new app needed to be easy to use, if people did not find it useable, they would never come back to use the service. Nick Khan commented that the app was used by providers elsewhere and was successful. Reviews from other users would be looked at to confirm it was the right option.

## **RESOLVED**

That a spend of £14,500 for the demand responsive transport mobile application be noted, and the unspent funds returned to the Board.

Steve Gallant confirmed that due to the Task Group seeking less funding than anticipated, it was proposed that the allocation of funding for the 21st Century Community Hubs Programme be increased to £68,000 from this year's budget, which would reduce the ask from the 2023/24 budget to £47,000 (from £70,000) thus freeing up an additional £23,000 of funding for allocation next year.

The Board agreed with this allocation.

## **6 Update on Well Minds East Suffolk and the Ease the Squeeze Programme**

Nicole Rickard summarised reports on Well Minds East Suffolk and Ease the Squeeze which had been shared with the agenda.

The key achievements of the Ease the Squeeze were highlighted. Nicole Rickard stated that the Field to Fork programme in particular had been well received and some community partnerships had sponsored additional kits for this. A number of new partnerships had also developed as a result of the programme with VCSE organisations and businesses.

A review of Ease the Squeeze was underway, and a report would be brought back to the Board in due course. Additional work would be carried out over the summer as the Council anticipated the next winter would be much tougher.

With regards to Well Minds, a report would be presented to the board when all aspects of the project were complete.

Melanie Craig asked whether it would be possible to evaluate all the programmes around cost of living, including those run by the County and volunteer organisations so a clearer picture of the demand could be built up to prepare for the next winter. The Board agreed that this was a good idea, and asked if it could be raised with Suffolk Public Sector Leaders/SCOLT/Collaborative Communities Board to coordinate.

**7 Any Other Business**

Paul Wood provided an update on the UK Shared prosperity fund.

At the next board meeting there would be a workshop following the Board meeting on skills and workforce development.

Carol Poulter thanked Steve Gallant for his leadership of the Community Partnership Board, which was a real achievement of the council and had a real impact over the past few years

**8 Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 10am at the Fromus Centre, Saxmundham

The meeting concluded at 4.06pm

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Chairman



## Update on Ease the Squeeze (East Suffolk Cost of Living response) - June 2023

A full review of the Ease the Squeeze programme is currently being undertaken to inform planning for Winter 2023/24 – see the end of this report for some headline messages.

Highlights from the Ease the Squeeze programme to date include:

### Funding

- More than **£1 million of funding** has been secured for the programme, including from UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Community Partnership Board, ESC Councillor Enabling Communities Budgets and Suffolk County Council
- **More than forty community projects** were funded through the Cost-of-Living Community Grant Fund, established with funding from Suffolk County Council through their Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), for projects to protect people from respiratory illnesses last winter. The total funding allocated in East Suffolk was £124,000.

### Engagement

- **Seventeen roadshows** were held in partnership with a range of organisations in towns across East Suffolk between September and November 2022, with the aim of promoting the support that is available for residents struggling with the rising cost of living
- Specific co-production workshops were held to promote the Ease the Squeeze programme with **business leaders, Town and Parish Councils, partners and East Suffolk Councillors**
- A **Rural Ease the Squeeze Workshop** focussing on the specific needs of rural communities in the district was held at East Suffolk House in January 2023 attended by 50+ partners
- A virtual **Cost of Living drop-in information sharing and networking event** was also held in January 2023 with over 40 people attending

### Partnership Working

- We have worked with a local bus company to secure **100 discounted bus tickets** (provided free of charge by ESC) to enable residents in Lowestoft to access food banks and pantries
- We have recently funded both Emmaus Norfolk and Waveney and Ipswich Furniture Project to work with us to supply **furniture and white goods** to residents who can't afford to set up their homes, including in ESC temporary accommodation
- We are working in partnership with the Good Things Foundation who have provided us with a stock of **SIM and data cards** to help people to stay connected to services and family/friends
- We have developed a partnership with Citizens Advice East Suffolk and YMCA in Lowestoft to provide **household starter packs** including things like crockery, cutlery and cooking items like frying and saucepans
- We now have a freezer and supply of ready meals at the **complex and vulnerable persons hub** at Bridge View in Lowestoft – this is a partnership between ESC Housing and Communities Teams, Lowestoft Rising and Access Community Trust. We have helped to set up a weekly art group at Bridge View which is free to attend

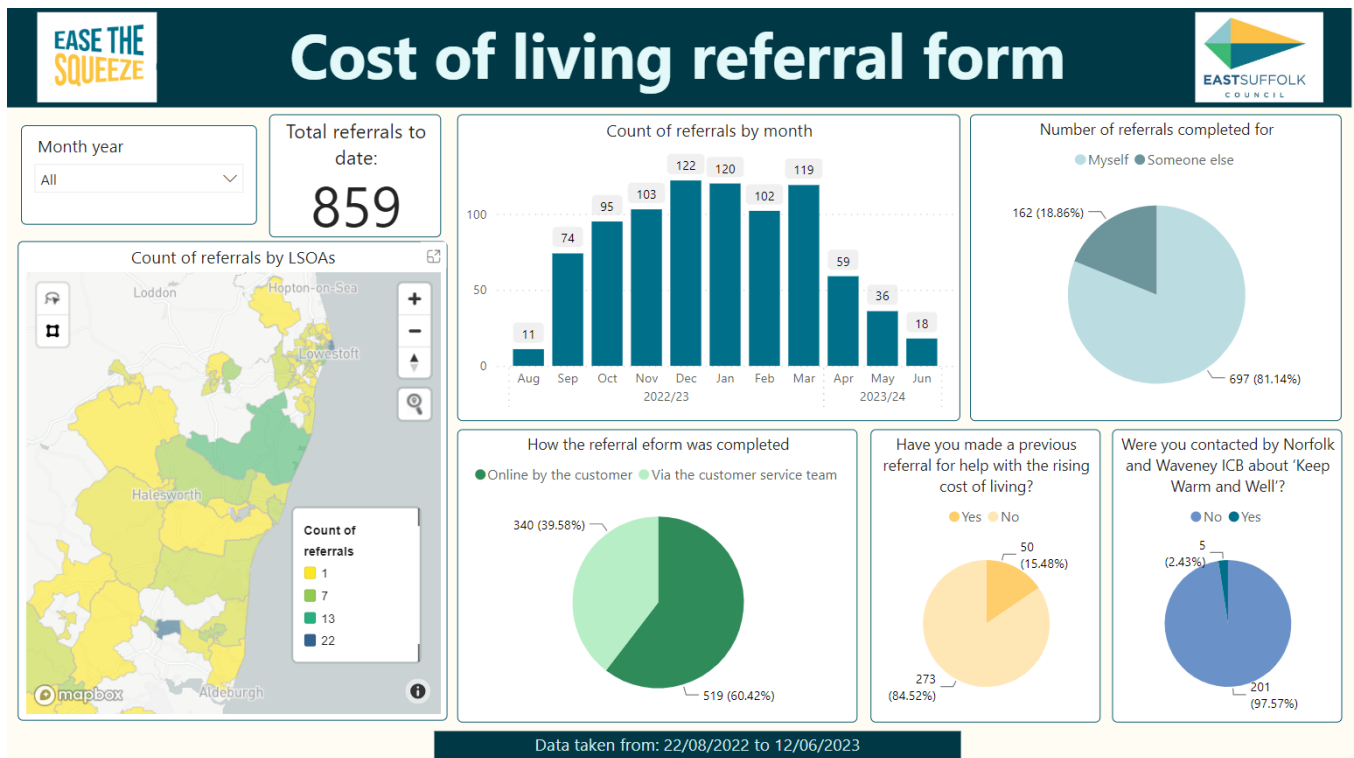


- The Communities Team is working with the Private Sector Housing team, Lowestoft Rising and Cadent on establishing at least two **hubs in Lowestoft** where residents can access information and advice about cost of living but particularly energy and money issues. The team have been supporting sessions at St Andrews in Lowestoft since April – with around 50 people attending each session

## Cost of Living Referrals

East Suffolk Council has received **more than 850 referrals** through its website and Customer Experience Team for help with money, support to access food and other essentials, help with fuel and energy and housing issues. These referrals are from residents across the whole District and cover a range of needs, including some very complex and multi-faceted cases.

An overview of referrals between August 2022 and 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 is shown in the dashboard below:



## Ease the Squeeze Programme

Twelve priority projects were identified as the foundation of the Ease the Squeeze programme – an update on each of these is below:

**EAST SUFFOLK WARM ROOMS**

**EASE THE SQUEEZE** EASTSUFFOLK COUNCIL

**CAN YOU PROVIDE A VITAL WARM ROOM FOR YOUR COMMUNITY THIS WINTER?**

With rising energy prices, many people in your community will struggle to heat their home in the Winter months. That will leave them at risk of poor physical health, due to the cold, and struggling with their mental health due to social isolation.

So East Suffolk Council is co-ordinating a network of Warm Rooms across the District to give people somewhere to come to stay warm, connected and healthy.

**HOW IT WORKS**

We need safe, inviting spaces that are heated for 6 hours a day, 2 days a week, for 22 weeks over Winter.

You can donate your Warm Room or we can contribute towards your heating and lighting costs and pay for hot drinks for your guests.

Your guests will be able to keep warm, socialise and access additional support from other providers where appropriate.

You'll make an enormous difference to people's lives at this difficult time.

**HOW TO SIGN UP**

Please complete the grant application form we've attached. If you need any help or have any questions, please see our Frequently Asked Questions on page 2 of this document, the Grant Guidance notes or email [communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:communities@eastsoffolk.gov.uk).

Please return your form to the same email address by midnight on Wednesday 12th October 2022.

### Network of Warm Rooms

32 Warm Rooms were funded through the programme, either through the core budget, UKSP Fund and/or SCC Community Grant) plus the Suffolk Libraries 'Be Kind in Kind' project. Networks of Warm Rooms were established in Beccles and Felixstowe so, in total, there were over 50 Warm Rooms in East Suffolk last winter.

A full review of impact of Warm Rooms is underway – but it is clear that the most successful ones have been those based on existing groups or where activities take place at the 'Warm Room' i.e., the 'offer' is more than just a warm room and hot drink. Some Warm Rooms have continued as Warm Welcome or Community Rooms.

### Food Network Coordinator

ESC led a procurement process for a VCSE organisation to host a Food Network Coordinator role for the District - the successful organisation was Community Action Suffolk. This is a two-year role, with a focus on opening up food supply pathways and supporting the establishment of Community Pantries and other food related projects, creating a whole system approach to helping residents to access good quality but lower cost food. The post has just gone out to advert.

### Community Pantries

A Community Pantry grant scheme is available to support set up costs for Community Pantries, including the Your Local Pantry membership fee, shelving and storage, fridges/freezers and initial stock. One pantry was funded in Round 1 but there has since been interest from lots of other communities since its launch. Round 2 is live until end June and an information session was held at the end of May for potential applicants. Successful applicants will be supported by the Food Network Coordinator (see update above) and the Communities Team. In addition, Enabling Communities Budget funding has been secured for a part time pantry coordinator in the Carlton Colville, Kessingland and Southwold CP area as a pilot.

[East-Suffolk-Pantries-Grant-Scheme-guidance.pdf \(eastsoffolk.gov.uk\)](#)

## Winter Warmth Packs

The Warm Homes Team are running a scheme where residents can be referred in by both partners and ESC staff for a Winter Warmth pack which includes items like hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, duvets, baby sleep bags, hot water bottles, LED bulbs, draughtproofing strips and more.

There are two options – a standard pack and a bespoke pack and the take up for each as at 30/03 is shown below.

The Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership boosted the offer with heated items available for residents in their catchment area.



## WINTER WARMTH

Are you working with a resident or patient who is struggling to afford to heat their home?

Do you support families who sleep in one room as they don't have enough bedding to go round?

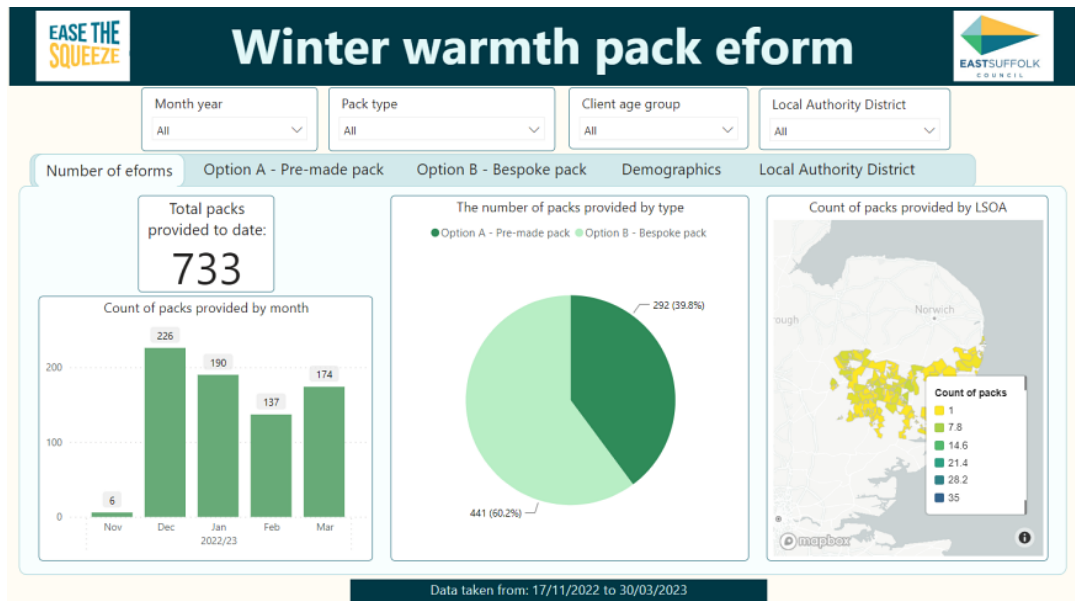
Would some simple items of clothing, bedding or draught-proofing make a difference?

**SUFFOLK WINTER WARMTH PACKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE**

**The referral process is really simple!**

Using our standard form please:

- Record your details.
- Record the client's details (so we can get their consent to the information being shared with us and contact them to arrange delivery).
- Either select a standard winter warmth pack on the form (option A) or create a bespoke warmth pack by adding items (option B)
- If you cannot access the webform we can supply in alternative format to then email to [winterwarmtheastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:winterwarmtheastsuffolk.gov.uk) requesting a copy.



## Handyperson Project

The Warm Homes Team is leading a project to link residents who need low impact energy improvements (draught proofing, low energy light bulbs, loft hatch covers, chimney balloons etc.) to their home, and can't do them/can't afford to pay for someone to do them, with a local handyperson.

## ID Document Fund

The ESC Financial Inclusion Officers have a small fund to enable residents to access a replacement birth certificate and/or driving licence – essential for opening a bank account.

## Comfort Food

This project is delivered in partnership with local cafés and food outlets who provide a free hot meal and drink on presentation of a 'Comfort Food' card which is distributed by a range of referral partners. There are currently 18 locations across East Suffolk offering Comfort Food (see below). Whilst demand is clearly there, some referral partners have struggled to issue vouchers. However, we have delivered nearly 500 meals to date and feedback from venues is that the experience of eating out makes a real difference to people in need. The remaining vouchers will be issued through schools and via the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme



Comfort Food		
CP area	Live venues	Budget allocated
Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham & villages	2	£1,000
Beccles, Bungay & Halesworth	3	£1,500
Carlton Coville, Kessingland and Southwold	1	£500
Felixstowe Peninsular	4	£3,000
Framlingham, Wickham Market & Villages	2	£1,000
Kesgrave & Martlesham	2	£1,000
Lowestoft	2	£4,000
Melton, Woodbridge & Deben	2	£1,000
	Total allocated	£13,000
	Remaining	£19,000

## Cooking on a Budget classes

This project involves putting on 32 classes across the District to give families the skills and confidence to cook healthy meals on a budget. Each class will involve a cooking demonstration, eating the meal together and a package of ingredients and recipes to take home. Promotion of the classes has been primarily through schools and staff working with families. Uptake from schools has been limited so far, but delivery dates are being agreed currently and full details will be made available once finalised.

## Cooking Equipment

The Council has a stock of small/large slow cookers, single/double hobs and microwaves for residents who don't have a way to cook hot meals. We also have 'Kettle Packs' for those who only have access to boiling water and cannot use the other items due to lack of space or a chaotic situation, and some 'Taste Kits' of herbs and spices to add flavour to food packs.

## School Uniform Banks

This project builds on Uniform Bank projects already available locally, for example in Lowestoft and Beccles. The offer will include funding for vouchers for shoes and name tags, as well as for storage facilities to enable more Uniform Banks across the District to open and provide school uniform and sports kit to families struggling with the cost of living. The Grant scheme is now live and details will be available shortly at: [Community grants and funding » East Suffolk Council](#)

## Digital Projects

10 laptops have been ordered for Warm Rooms to enable residents to access the internet and/or for Warm Room locations to support residents with digital skills. 6 have been allocated to date to the Warm Rooms at Carlton Marshes, Kirkley Centre, Lound, Somerleyton, Bungay and Leiston Long Shop.

## Field to Fork – Growing Kits

There has been a really positive take up of the Field to Fork Growing kits targeted at some of the most deprived communities in East Suffolk where residents are less likely to have ever 'grown their own'. Due to the levels of interest from Primary Schools (see list below), the number of kits was increased from 1,000 to 1,600, with additional funding from underspends in other areas plus a £2,000 contribution from the Lowestoft Community Partnership for schools in their area.

The starter kits include a cotton bag, gardening gloves, pack of hand tools, window planter trough, four packs of seeds and an instruction sheet. Recipients will be able to share their progress and get hints and tips through monthly newsletters (opt-in required). 27 distribution partners were engaged with the kits reaching a minimum of 5,000 people across the District:

Leiston Primary  
Langer Primary, Felixstowe  
Grange Primary, Felixstowe  
Kyson, Woodbridge  
Saxmundham Primary  
Albert Pye PS, Beccles  
Grove Primary, Lowestoft  
Dell Primary, Lowestoft  
Somerleyton Primary

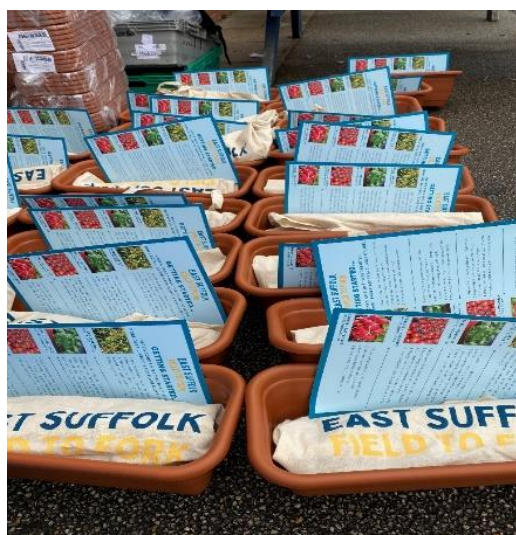
Wickham Market PS  
St Margaret's Primary, Lowestoft  
Westwood Primary, Lowestoft  
Blundeston Primary  
Corton Primary  
Poplars Primary, Lowestoft  
Phoenix St Peter Academy, Lowestoft  
Wenhaston Primary

## Field to Fork – Growing Spaces

Fifteen Growing Space Grants have been awarded to date totalling just under £24,000.

[Field to Fork grant scheme » East Suffolk Council](#)

Funding awarded January 2023 – Round One		
Organisation	CP Area	Funding awarded
Pathways Care Farm	Lowestoft	£1,800
Giving Community	Wickham Market	£1,585
Involve Active	Lowestoft	£1,860
Nassau Trust	Felixstowe	£977
Saxmundham Community Fridge/Allotment group	Saxmundham	£2,000
Bungay Town Council	Bungay	£1,991.98
Wild About Campsea	Campsea Ashe	£2,000
<b>Total awarded in round one</b>		<b>£12,213.98</b>
Funding awarded May 2023 – Round Two		
Easton Primary School	Wickham Market	£2,000
Framlingham Swifts	Wickham Market	£1,751
Lightwave – Bealings	Kesgrave	£189
Deben Community Farm	Woodbridge	£1,200
Grove Surgery, Felixstowe	Felixstowe	£343.56
Somerleyton Primary	Lowestoft	£2,000
Badingham Village Hall	Wickham Market	£2,000
Blundeston Primary	Lowestoft	£2,000
<b>Total awarded in round two</b>		<b>£11,483.56</b>
<b>Total grant funding awarded</b>		<b>£23,697.54</b>



**EAST SUFFOLK**  
FIELD TO FORK

**EASE THE SQUEEZE**  
EASTSUFFOLK COUNCIL

**CAN YOU HELP YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROW ITS OWN FOOD?**

With rising food and energy prices, many people in your community will struggle to feed themselves this Winter, with all the obvious problems that creates around both physical and mental health.

So East Suffolk Council is providing small grants to community farms, allotments and gardens to expand their capacity and engage local people with grow-and-eat projects that will feed communities and help people stay active and connected.

**HOW IT WORKS**

- We'll provide a grant of up to £2,000.
- You'll provide space for community growing projects - and the expertise to make them successful.
- You'll engage the local community to bring new people in to help grow on your land.
- The cheap, nutritious, sustainable food you'll share with the community will help keep people fit and healthy - and hopefully create a new group of green-fingered growers.

**HOW DO I APPLY?**

Just complete the simple form we've attached. If you need any help or have any questions, please see our Frequently Asked Questions on the reverse or email [communitiease@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:communitiease@suffolk.gov.uk).

Please return your form to the same email address by midnight on Sunday 18 December 2022.

**LEVELLING UP**

HM Government

## Other Projects

ESC worked on a '**Cold Homes – Warmth on Prescription**' pilot with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Norfolk and Waveney ICB. This involved the Protect Now Team from the ICB contacting (by letter and phone) patients identified through GP data as being at risk of hospital admission last winter due to respiratory conditions. Anyone identified as needing support was helped by the Community Intervention Team to apply to the SCC-led Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (LWAS) and to access a top up payment from the Ease the Squeeze budget. This pilot will be expanded upon next Winter to try and ensure that support reaches those most at risk.

Our focus over the coming year will shift to more work around prevention and early intervention. The Council has created a **Community Help Hub** consisting of 8 FTE's working in two teams focussing on Help with Money and Support for Individuals and Families. One tool to support this will be use of the Low-Income Family Tracker (LIFT) software to identify people at risk of financial exclusion. Part of the programme will involve targeted campaigns, for example the first one will focus on supporting older people to access Pension Credit.

We have set up a **Woman2Woman group** in partnership with the Hatfield Hotel, Lowestoft (who provide the venue free of charge) to reduce isolation and loneliness as well as provide support for women who are struggling to make ends meet.

## **Key Learning Points from the first 12 months of Ease the Squeeze**

### **General**

1. Partners appreciated being part of the workshops to develop and prioritise the programme
2. Partners across sectors support our ambition to do more data-led preventative/early intervention work with the aim of reaching as many people as possible before they get to crisis point, including by using the Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT), working with health data as we did in the Cold Homes pilot with Norfolk and Waveney ICB, and upstream partnership work with RedSTART on financial education in schools (Lowestoft)
3. It was felt that ESC has a convening role - bringing together partners across sectors to help identify duplication and understand gaps. It is proposed that ESC should convene a workshop to understand and support coordination across sectors to the ongoing cost of living challenges in winter 2023/24

### **Engagement, Communication and Branding**

4. Ease the Squeeze branding worked well and enabled regular, consistent and recognisable messaging. Field to Fork as a brand worked well, but 'Warm Rooms' was felt to be stigmatising, which is feedback seen nationally as well as locally. Four Lowestoft and Northern Parishes CP Warm Rooms have taken this feedback on board and transitioned to Warm Welcomes.
5. While our communications were strong, it was felt that we might not have reached all the people we wanted to, particularly those who are very isolated and not already engaged with services/VCFSE sector support. A range of improvements were suggested, as detailed below
6. Messaging should be better co-ordinated across agencies – some residents and partners are overwhelmed by the amount of information out there. East Suffolk partners support the idea of a Suffolk leaflet with an East Suffolk page, supplemented by local, tailored information at Community Partnership level
7. Information packs with more detailed information should be produced for professionals, community champions and community venues across the District, but these need to be ready by September
8. It was agreed to explore rolling out a Community Champions/Neighbours model across the District – trusted people who can signpost and support others in their community N.B. links to Community Voices approach in Norfolk and Waveney
9. Engagement worked best when it was based on something that was already happening e.g. Community Cuppa sessions run by Communities Together East Anglia
10. Outreach should target the places that people already go for help e.g. warm spaces, pantries, foodbanks or they already go in their day to day lives e.g. schools, supermarkets, chemists, libraries
11. Messaging should be clear, easy to understand and honest e.g. we don't have the funding to provide ongoing food support (vouchers or parcels) and that those we work with need to be ready to help themselves (with our collective support and connections)

## **Resources and Capacity**

12. Some VCFSE organisations are struggling to cope with the level of demand for support and we need to recognise this and support them, including financially where possible
13. The SCC funded Cost of Living Community Grant Fund was a positive addition to the offer and enabled some really innovative projects led by the VCFSE sector – we have asked whether SCC, through the Collaborative Communities Board, will continue this fund next winter

## **Rural Challenges**

14. Rural communities have specific needs and challenges and we should work in partnership to consider how we can maximise our reach into rural communities – one idea is joint outreach through a mobile pantry/advice hub targeting the middle third of the district
15. Are there opportunities to link rural residents to provision in market towns via demand responsive transport projects like KATCH and Buzzabout?

## **Practical Support**

16. The balance between providing emergency support (e.g., three-day food packs) and funding community-led projects that enable sustainable steps towards independence (e.g. Community Pantries, Field to Fork, Uniform Banks) has worked and should be maintained
17. The ‘one stop shop’ cost of living referral process worked well – there have been numerous tweaks since it launched, including revisions to the form and a streamlined triage process. Further changes are planned, including more pop-ups and self-help options
18. Link work around cost of living to work around mental health and wellbeing and promote the resources available to support wellbeing more widely
19. Ambition to work more closely with schools and youth organisations and to link Ease the Squeeze work to the Holiday Activity and Food Fund (HAF) and Food in School Holidays (FISH - Lowestoft) provision
20. Consider the clear and ongoing unmet need around Isolation and Loneliness – proposed that this should be a topic for a future CP Board meeting i.e., revisit our priority?
21. Specific changes proposed include:
  - a. reducing the number of ‘Warm Rooms’ and focussing on those that were well used, convening a network of Warm Room organisers and paying grants in instalments
  - b. Using Comfort Food budget to target more upstream work, including more cooking classes to support healthy food provision
  - c. Some projects (Community Pantries, Field to Fork, Warm Rooms and Cooking on a Budget Grants) are UKSPF funded for 2 or 2.5 years – these will all be reviewed to ensure maximum impact.



## Initial Outcome Proposal to the East Suffolk Community Partnership Board – FY2023/24

### (Stage 1 Proposal)

#### 1. Name of Project/activity that will deliver the outcome(s)

Buzzabout (Demand Responsive Transport Service)

#### 2. Key outcome(s)

It is proposed that a 12-month extension to the current pilot will:

- Provide a demand responsive transport (DRT) service for residents and visitors in Lound, Blundeston, Somerleyton and Gunton St Peters and the north of Lowestoft. The service will operate Tuesdays and Thursdays from 08.30 to 16.30, commencing Tuesday 5 September for 12 months.
- Increase usage to a minimum of 10 adult return passenger per day from the northern parishes to Lowestoft by the end of the 12 months which will reduce funding to less than £25k and should provide some long-term financial viability of the service. 30 return fares (Northern parishes to Lowestoft) per day at the following rates would make the service cost neutral.

	Lound/Blundeston/St Olaves/Somerleyton to Lowestoft	Gunton to Lowestoft
Single	£ 3.00	£ 2.50
Return	£ 6.00	£ 5.00

- Provide additional value (non-financial) to the community, with measurable outcomes against agreed targets (i.e., young people into education, people into work, access to shops and services etc.)
- Gather learnings about successful operation of a mobile application (app) which is complementary to the DRT service and can be shared with other operators.
- Provide data and intelligence to support ESC and SCC in the development of new and improved DRT rural transport services, trialling the viability of initiatives such as flexible timed pickups within a defined geography, a dynamic grant allowance incentivising higher passenger numbers, and continued use of an existing minibus rather than leasing a new vehicle.

#### 3. How has the need been identified?

**Regional context.** Transport East report that:

- Two-thirds of our rural communities live in a ‘transport desert,’ areas without an alternative transport to private vehicles. Car reliance means rural residents have higher transport costs than urban dwellers and experience greater fuel poverty.
- It is harder for rural residents to access education, training and employment by means other than car – leading to lower incomes, health inequalities and educational outcomes.
- Around half of the carbon emissions in the Transport East area are generated by non-urban areas, our regional emissions at 42% are well above the national average of 28%.

- A disproportionately high number of people in the region are over 65, creating challenges around isolation and poor access to healthcare.

**East Suffolk Context:** Transport East Rural Access Survey – in East Suffolk, no parish scored access to buses as ‘very good’ - access to rail services is valued where it exists.

The East Suffolk Community Partnership Transport and Travel (ESCPT&T) Task Group have conducted extensive research identifying transport needs and opportunities across East Suffolk. It found that demand responsive Transport (DRT) services could be a solution to rural transport issues and social isolation. Services are currently under-utilised and there is a real opportunity to expand the customer base of community transport.

**Local Context:**

By a process of data analysis and local stakeholder engagement the Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership have identified *improve mental Health and wellbeing* and *reduce social isolation and loneliness* as two of its three priorities.

In January 2022, residents in the northern parishes were asked about access to transport. Nearly 50% of respondents to a survey rated their access to transport a 1 out of 5. 80% of respondents answered “yes” to wanting more local transport services. A clear trend within the responses was that awareness of currently available services was extremely low.

Following an initial pilot scheme in the area under the same name, lessons learned have been shared between relevant parties and a new, lower cost operating model has been established which is able to build on the areas of success from the original pilot. The introduction of an app and a renewed marketing scheme will help overcome barriers to awareness and access.

**4. Who will benefit from the outcomes?**

Residents living in and around Lound, Blundeston, Somerleyton, Gunton St Peters and the north of Lowestoft, in particular, those who:

- Do not have access to a car and need/want to access services and leisure activities.
- Require transport to bus stops and from Lowestoft or Somerleyton railway station to connect to an onward journey - for example to James Paget Hospital or to Great Yarmouth.
- Need to travel to school, college, training or employment.
- Indirectly, the wider East Suffolk population will benefit from the learnings this pilot scheme will provide to other DRT services, and the use of technology with transport services, in the district.

**5. How will the outcomes(s) be sustained after the funding period (if appropriate)?**

Information gathered indicates that there is not a commercial market left in the area. Commercial operators are not able to run a service for the amount we could pay. We are therefore working with BACT, the community transport provider operating in the area, to test a new financially sustainable service model.

As the service becomes more established and awareness amongst residents increases, the aim is for the service to be almost self-sustaining through fares collected. Some additional funding may be sought to tackle specific blockers to self-sustainability, but the service revenue and costs will be reviewed quarterly to determine the feasibility of continuing the service. The Community Transport provider is a non-profit organisation, so any revenue generated is put back into the business and finding successful outcomes for local people.

Subject to confirmation of fare increases (which the operator has confirmed would be palatable to the customer base), and to be financially sustainable on the proposed journey prices, Buzzabout needs to have 30 adult return passengers per day from the northern villages to Lowestoft.

Additional, non-financial benefit targets will be set and measured to understand the true value that these services provide in reducing social isolation and loneliness and improving mental health and wellbeing to those who use it.

BACT receive and act upon feedback from passengers to ensure that the service meets local people's needs and adapts the service, wherever possible, to suit demand where required.

#### **6. Brief description of the project / activity that will deliver the outcome(s).**

A demand responsive bus pilot scheme is already being delivered to meet the identified needs of the community around Lound, Blundeston, Somerleyton, Gunton St Peters and the north of Lowestoft, particularly regarding access to transport and tackling rural isolation and loneliness. The service:

- allows passengers to book their journey (no waiting at bus stops)
- Takes passengers exactly where they need to go within the service area at the time they need to travel (subject to other bookings).
- Is fully accessible: including for wheelchair users.
- Reduces the need for single occupancy car journeys by offering shared, on-demand transport.

The pilot set out to determine whether a demand responsive service can receive enough bookings to become near self-sustaining. To increase patronage on the service, in addition to the increased booking options, targeted marketing was conducted to raise awareness of the service and to break perception of “who the service is for.”

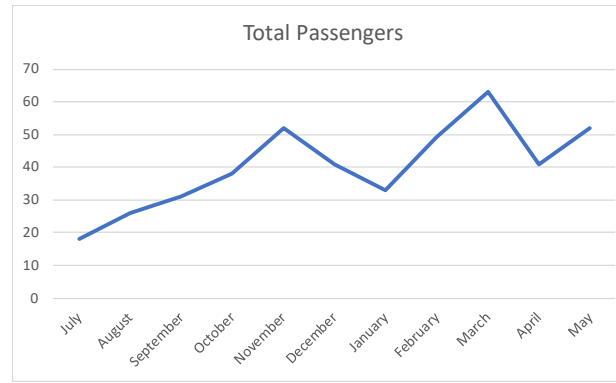
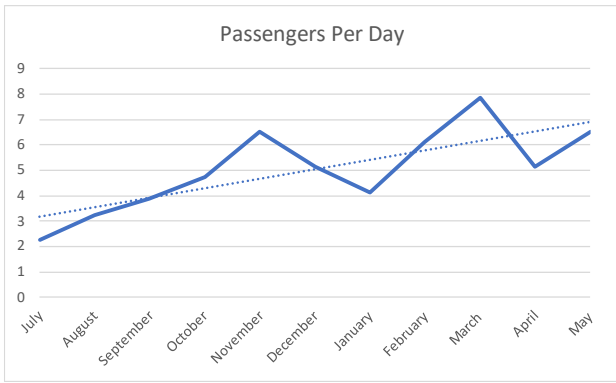
The service has seen an upward trend in passenger numbers since it launched and is yet to find its peak. With the introduction of an app and optimisation of the service days and area coverage, passenger numbers are likely to increase. The initial pilot has highlighted successful forms of marketing, which can be replicated. The pilot also demonstrated the importance of community buy-in and ownership, which is yet to be fully utilised.

The pilot has served over 400 passengers since launch, with an average of 5 passengers per service day. The local community transport provider is unlikely to have had the capacity to serve these passengers without the service, and they would have required taxis or friends/family to get where they needed to.

During the initial pilot, passengers were asked to provide feedback on the service, which was all wholly positive. To the question “How has Buzzabout made a difference to your life,” respondents said:

- “Great difference. Since losing our school bus it has cost us a great deal of money on taxis (if you can get one)”
- “My husband’s mobility is poor and the bus to the door is excellent for him”.
- “My husband is able to get into Lowestoft”.
- “Can go out [on the bus] the same day you book!”

Monthly passenger numbers per day and in total July 2022 – May 2023:



The success of the initial 1-year pilot and the changes we propose making to improve the service, has informed this proposal to extend the pilot.

The service launched operating on Mondays and Thursdays, between 08:30 – 16:30, which matched the demand identified through surveys we conducted. The service currently supports the communities of Lound, Blundeston, Somerleyton and Gunton St Peters and the north of Lowestoft. It is proposed to change the operating days to Tuesdays and Thursdays and extend the operating area as a result of passenger numbers and user feedback. Currently, Thursdays see c.3 times the number of passengers compared to Mondays. Through customer feedback, Tuesday is now deemed to be a more suitable service day. Additionally, the initial service area did not include some key pick-up and drop off points in Lowestoft shopping areas (such as North Quay retail park) which are proposed to be included in the new service area.

The new pilot will also include app booking functionality, to increase the accessibility of the service and to test whether there is untapped demand (as expected). We hope that an app will make the service appeal more to younger people and also decrease admin costs.

To make the service more financially viable, a new fare model will be trialled. The initial pilot was subsidised to reduce the fare value. Now the service is established, the approach will be to increase fares to determine how financially self-sufficient the service can be.

The service is operated by BACT using a 16-seater accessible minibus and it is proposed that will continue for the next 12 months.

The importance of a high profile and consistent marketing campaign was demonstrated during the initial pilot, and it is proposed that this be repeated to advertise the new operating days and the availability of an app, starting with a ‘relaunch’ September.

Start September 2023 - End August 2024

**7. Who is involved?**

**Who is involved in developing this outcome proposal?**

**Who will deliver the project/activity?**

- East Suffolk Council will continue to be responsible for the service contract and have employed a Project Manager.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EDF have been providing Programme Management for the Transport and travel Programme. This function has now transferred to East Suffolk Council.</li> <li>BACT will continue to deliver the service under contract with East Suffolk Council</li> </ul>
<b>Board Member supporting the project:</b>	Caroline Topping

**8. Give information about match funding here:**

Source of match funding:	Funding confirmed?	Amount (£)
Lowestoft and Northern Parishes Community Partnership	No	2,000

Total project / activity cost	32,000
Total of confirmed match funding	
Total amount of Strategic funding that may be required if fare revenue is reduced (This figure will be less if the fare revenue grant reduces in line with increased passenger numbers)	30,000

**9. Identify where the Community Partnership Board Strategic Budget will be spent:**

Description of activity or item (by who and by when where appropriate)	Cost (£)
12-month Marketing campaign	5,000
12-month service operation	25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,000</b>

**10. How will the project / activity be monitored, and outcomes reported (including project risks)?**

Information gathered through the feedback from users and directly from the service operator. These will be reported via quarterly monitoring returns. Data will be collected on:

- Single fares by day and week
- Return fares by day and week
- Fare origin by week
- Revenue collected by week
- Feedback/complaints by week
- Adult/child split by week
- Method of booking (n/a until app launched) by week
- Multiple occupancy journeys by week
- Subsidy used per passenger by week
- Journey purpose

Outcomes will be reported quarterly to the Transport and Travel Steering groups and annually to the Community Partnership Board.

Community Partnership Board Member Declaration:

I confirm that I support this proposal:

Name: Caroline Topping

Signature: Confirmed by email

Date: 16.06.2023



# SKILLS DATA & INFORMATION PACK

EAST SUFFOLK COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 27 JUNE 2023

# WHAT DO WE MEAN BY 'SKILLS'?

## **Broadly the Skills ecosystem covers:**

- Work Inspiration/Careers Advice and Guidance (all ages)
- Career Progression (those in work for training and development)
- Adults out of work looking for opportunities
- Apprenticeships support (all ages) employers and individuals
- Social Mobility (using education and training to increase SM)
- Employer responsive – supporting employers to meet the needs of the business to grow and thrive.

## **However, skills has a complex funding and delivery model with several key stakeholders working in the area:**

- Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector (VCFSE)
- Providers of Education, Training or Specialist Services
- Employer Representative/membership Groups
- Local Authorities (LAs)
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- National Careers Service (NCS) and other contracted delivery organisations
- Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) etc.



# SKILLS INVESTMENT 2020 – 2023

Primarily European Social Funded Projects (Snapshot not fully comprehensive)

Lead Organisation	Name of Project	Est. Project Costs
Suffolk County Council	Apprenticeships Suffolk	£1,043,520
Suffolk County Council	Work Well Suffolk 1.4	£1,500,000
Suffolk County Council	Work Well Suffolk 1.1	£2,500,000
East Coast College	Skills Connect (Norfolk and Suffolk)	£1,754,221
Suffolk County Council	Supply Chain Skills Development Fund (SCSDF) (Norfolk and Suffolk)	£2,000,000
Norfolk County Council	Youth Pledge for Employers (Norfolk and Suffolk)	£819,904
East Coast College	Routes to Work 1.4	£1,334,320
East Coast College	Routes to Work 1.1	£1,168,168
City College Norwich	Co-designed New Anglia Technical Curriculum (with East Coast College and Suffolk New College as partners)	£606,494
University of Suffolk	In-Career Education and Training ICET (Norfolk and Suffolk)	£997,184
New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership	New Anglia Careers Hub (Norfolk and Suffolk)	£1,568,586
West Suffolk College	VENI - (Visitor Economy Network Initiative) (Norfolk and Suffolk)	£2,500,000
Norfolk County Council	Project Aspire (Norfolk and Suffolk)	£1,997,704
Suffolk County Council	Skills, Progression, Adaptability and Resilience (SPAR) Programme (Norfolk and Suffolk)	£2,492,252
		£22,282,353

# SKILLS INVESTMENT 2024 ONWARD

While there could be additional skills funding either via funding pots to bid to, or nationally contracted/delivered programmes via Dept. Work and Pensions etc. such as the National Careers Service, the main funding opportunity for 2024-25 financial year is UK Shared Prosperity Fund UKSPF from Dept. for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUCH).

This funding sits with the Districts and Boroughs of Suffolk and must cover:

- Communities and Place - 2022 to March 2025
- Supporting Local Business - 2022 to March 2025
- People & Skills - 2024 to March 2025

The rest of this pack will focus on People and Skills which under the East Suffolk Investment Framework is eligible from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2024 and will comprise an East Suffolk Local Economy led Skills Programme and a collaborative Suffolk wide approach across a number of broad themes, which will deliver against the following East Suffolk UKSPF Investment Framework Outputs and Outcomes.

# UKSPF SKILLS INVESTMENT 2024 – 2025

SUFFOLK WIDE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE: EAST SUFFOLK LOCAL ECONOMY LED SKILLS PROGRAMME:

<b>Output</b>	<b>E33: Employment support for economically inactive people</b>
Number of economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services (numerical value)	329
Number of economically inactive people supported to engage with the benefits system (numerical value)	150
Number of socially excluded people accessing support (numerical value)	200
Number of people supported to access basic skills (numerical value)	200
Number of people accessing mental and physical health support leading to employment (numerical value)	35
Number of people supported to engage in job-searching (numerical value)	188
Number of people receiving support to gain employment (numerical value)	35
Number of people receiving support to sustain employment (numerical value)	18
Effective working between keyworkers and additional services (number of engagements)	0
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>E33: Employment support for economically inactive people</b>
Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support (numerical value)	118
Number of active or sustained participants in community groups as a result of support (numerical value)	59
Number of people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills funded by UKSPF (numerical value)	188
Number of people in supported employment (numerical value)	23
Number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services (numerical value)	23
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services (numerical value)	117
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support (numerical value)	102
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support (numerical value)	5
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months (numerical value)	51
Number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL) (numerical value)	64

# UKSPF SKILLS INVESTMENT 2024 – 2025

SUFFOLK WIDE ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE:

<b>Output</b>	<b>E34: Courses including basic, life &amp; career skills</b>
Number of people supported to engage in life skills (numerical value)	135
Number of people supported onto a course through providing financial support (numerical value)	220
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support (numerical value)	269

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>E34: Courses including basic, life &amp; career skills</b>
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support (numerical value)	360
Number of people in education/training (numerical value)	214
Number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL) (numerical value)	214
Number of people experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision (numerical value)	107
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support (numerical value)	214

# UKSPF SKILLS INVESTMENT 2024 – 2025

EAST SUFFOLK LOCAL ECONOMY LED SKILLS PROGRAMME:

<b>Output</b>	<b>E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs</b>
Number of people receiving support to gain a vocational licence (numerical value)	200

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs</b>
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support (numerical value)	150
Number of people in education/training (numerical value)	100
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education and training (numerical value)	40

# UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

YEAR 3 – PEOPLE AND SKILLS – FOUR BROAD THEMES

YOUTH PARTICIPATION  
AND EMPLOYMENT

WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT

APPRENTICESHIPS

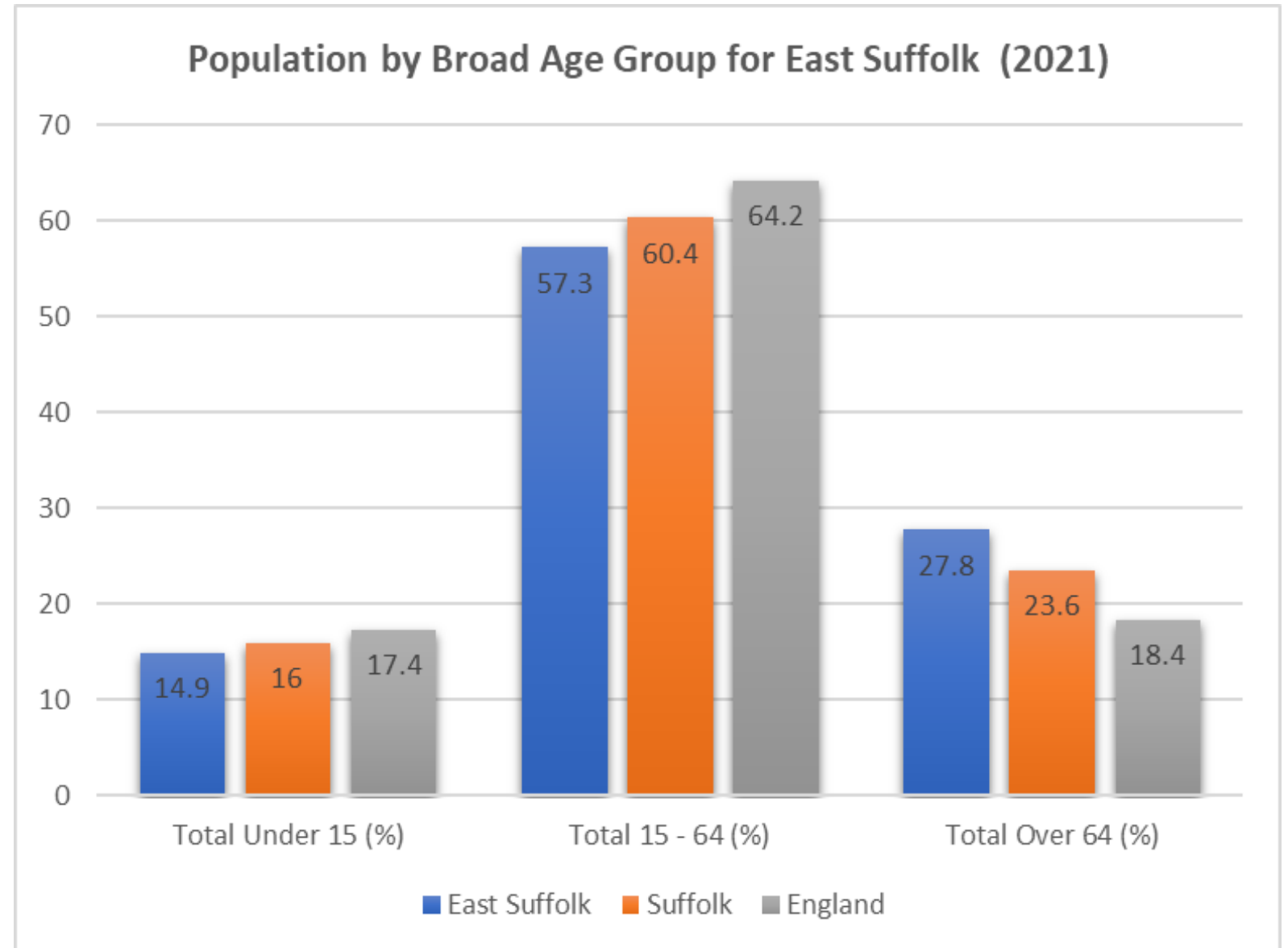
ADULTS INTO WORK

## EAST SUFFOLK: PEOPLE

All Persons - (East Suffolk 2021)

Totals - 246,058

- 57.3% of population are in the working age category.
- East Suffolk has a high % of over 64-year-olds.
- East Suffolk has slightly less under 15-year-olds.

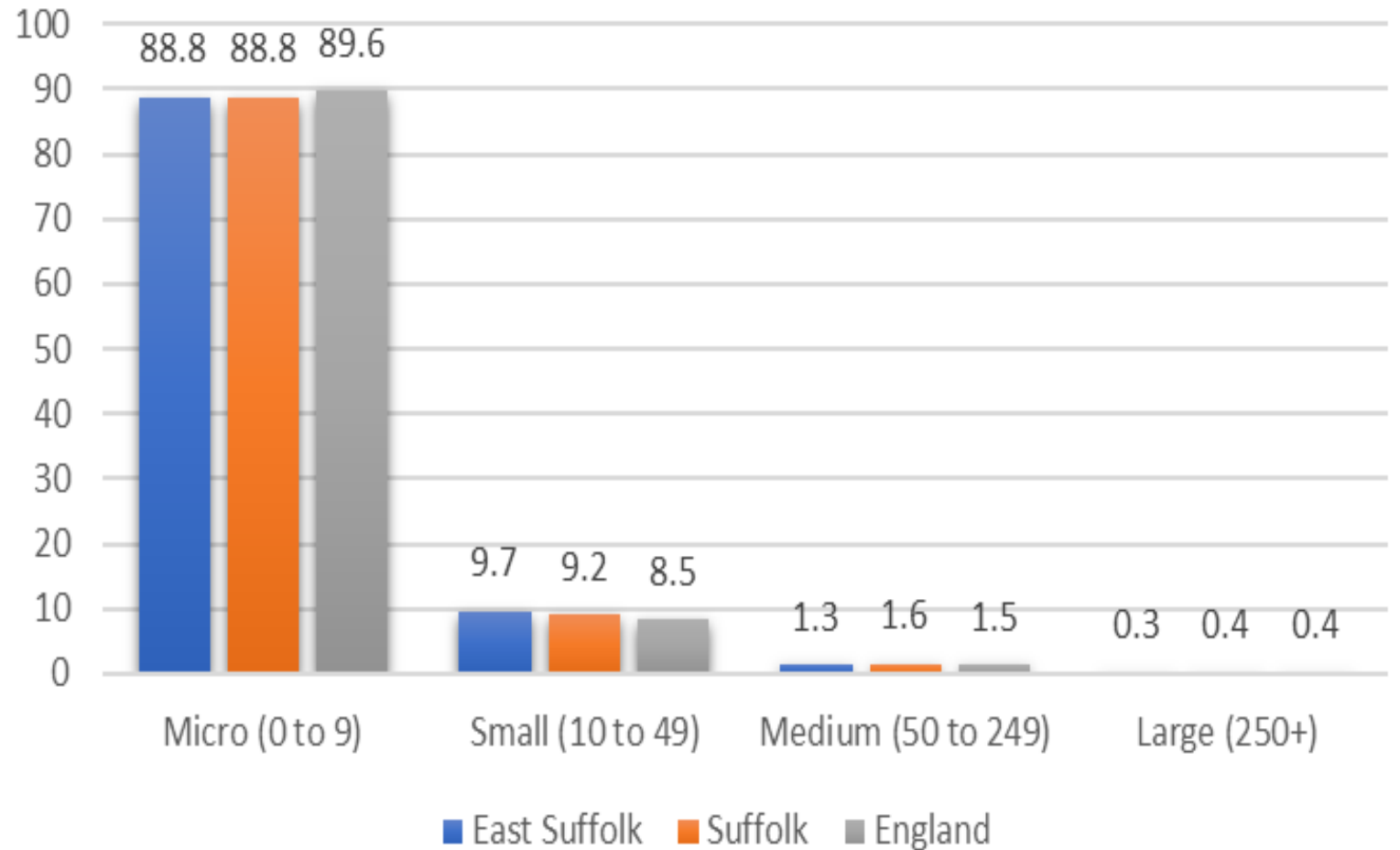


## EAST SUFFOLK: EMPLOYERS

Count of Active Enterprise  
(East Suffolk 2020)

- Totals 9,650
- East Suffolk economy is roughly in line with Suffolk and England
- However, a huge proportion of our employers are Micro or Small.

### Enterprises by Employment Size Band





# YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT

By this we mean young people aged between 16 and 25 considering their educational or employment opportunities and pathways. This is a wide area of work which needs flexible approaches to support and guide young people into the right positive outcomes for them.

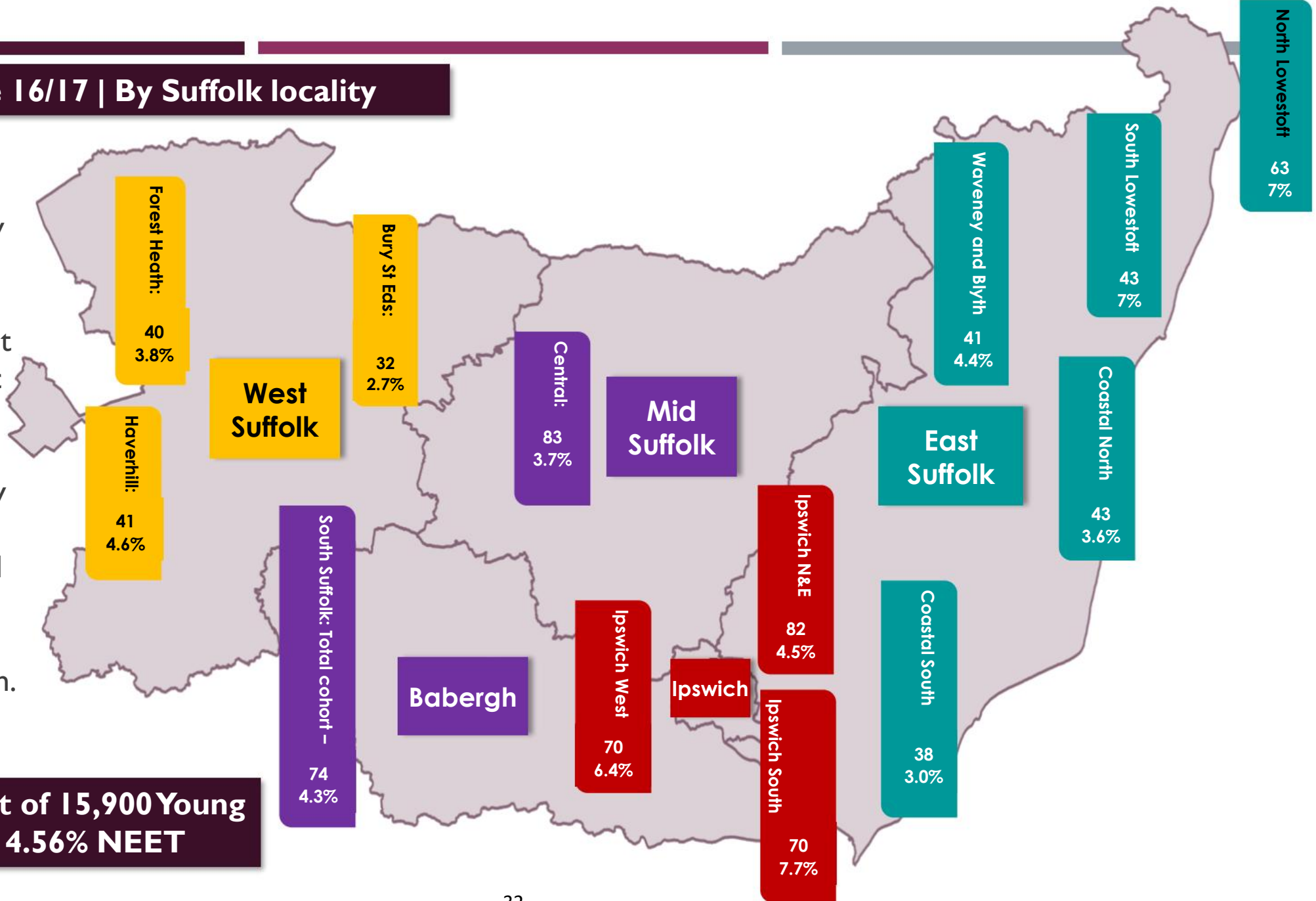
Some current stakeholders and provision in East Suffolk includes:

- East Coast College core offer and projects
- Suffolk New College core offer and projects
- Access Community Trust
- Inspire Suffolk
- Seckford Foundation
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Suffolk County Council Participation Tracking Team and Early Help Service
- New Anglia Careers Hub
- Multiply Suffolk
- icanbea...
- National Careers Service
- Good Youth Employer Charter
- Youth Pledge 4 employers
- Apprenticeships Suffolk

However, we still have more young people becoming NEET, increasing barriers to education and employment and a need for additional targeted support.

**For academic age 16/17 | By Suffolk locality**

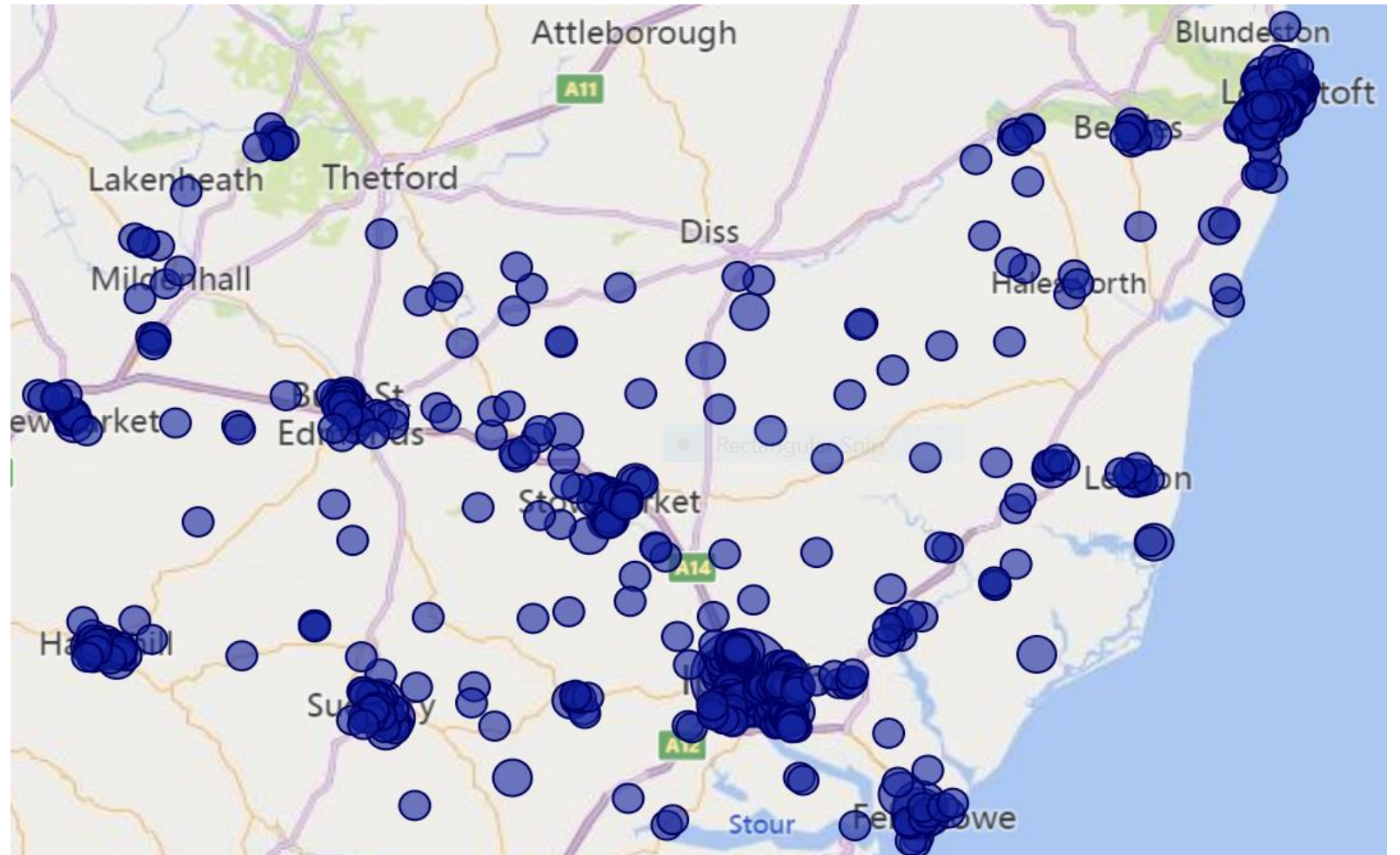
NEET Data has many categories and is recorded and measured by different services with specific groupings and localities, this shows the Suffolk picture by the SCC Early Help Team Categories and is the official data Suffolk collect for statistical comparison.



**End April - 725 out of 15,900 Young People equals 4.56% NEET**

# YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND EMPLOYMENT - RURALITY

This map shows the spread of young people across Suffolk and where there are clusters and rural need.



# APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are available for those aged 16 and over and cover job roles in all of our key employment sectors, apprenticeships support should include the employer to ensure they get advice and guidance on content, levels, funding and requirements and the individual to prepare for applying for an apprenticeship but also support when in post.

Some current stakeholders and provision in East Suffolk includes:

- Apprenticeships Suffolk
- East of England Apprenticeship Ambassador Network
- TrAC/New Anglia Apprenticeships
- East Coast College
- Suffolk New College
- Private Apprenticeship Providers
- Access Community Trust
- Inspire Suffolk
- Seckford Foundation

It should also be noted that while apprenticeships can represent new starters applying for an apprenticeship vacancy at an employer, they can also be used by employers to upskill their workforce.

# APPRENTICESHIPS

## Apprenticeship Starts Data

- In 2022/23 Q2, East Suffolk saw a decline of 5% in apprenticeship starts from 2021/22 Q2 to 2022/23 Q2. Suffolk as a whole saw a decline of 1%.
- 2021/22 pre-pandemic comparison (2021/22 Final Year compared to 2018-19 Final Year) demonstrates the significant underlying trends. During this period East Suffolk saw a decline of 8%, with Suffolk as a whole a decline of 9%.
- Intermediate apprenticeship (level 2) starts declined by 37% while Higher apprenticeship (level 4) starts increased by 48%.
- Apprenticeship starts for those under 19 declined by 15%. Apprenticeships starts from non-levy declined by 23%.

## Apprenticeship Vacancy Data

3-month sample- 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### Total Unique Vacancy References

(East Suffolk)

63

Intermediate

(East Suffolk)

26

Advanced

(East Suffolk)

30

Higher

(East Suffolk)

3

Hospitality  
and Catering  
(East Suffolk)

13

Accounting  
and Finance  
(East Suffolk)

10

Engineering  
(East Suffolk)

6

Transport  
Operation  
Maintenance  
(East Suffolk)

6

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

By this we mean development or training for those already in employment. This could be to fill skills gaps an employer already has or to enable growth into new activities. Workforce development has benefits for both the employer and employee and although we have traditionally had grant funding for training it is usually match funded by the employer.

Some current stakeholders and provision in East Suffolk includes:

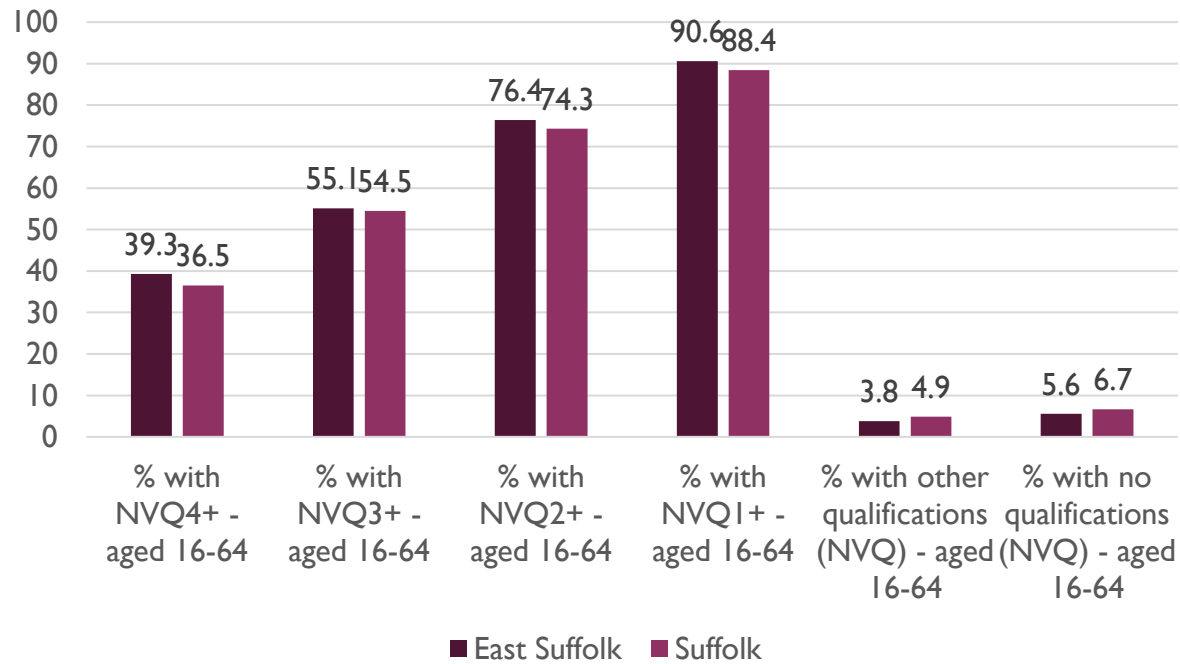
- Supply Chain Skills Development Fund
- Pathways Training Fund
- New Anglia Skills Bootcamps
- East Coast College
- Suffolk New College

Workforce development is important to support the increase in social mobility, create a pipeline of skilled workers and encourage lifelong learning and progression.

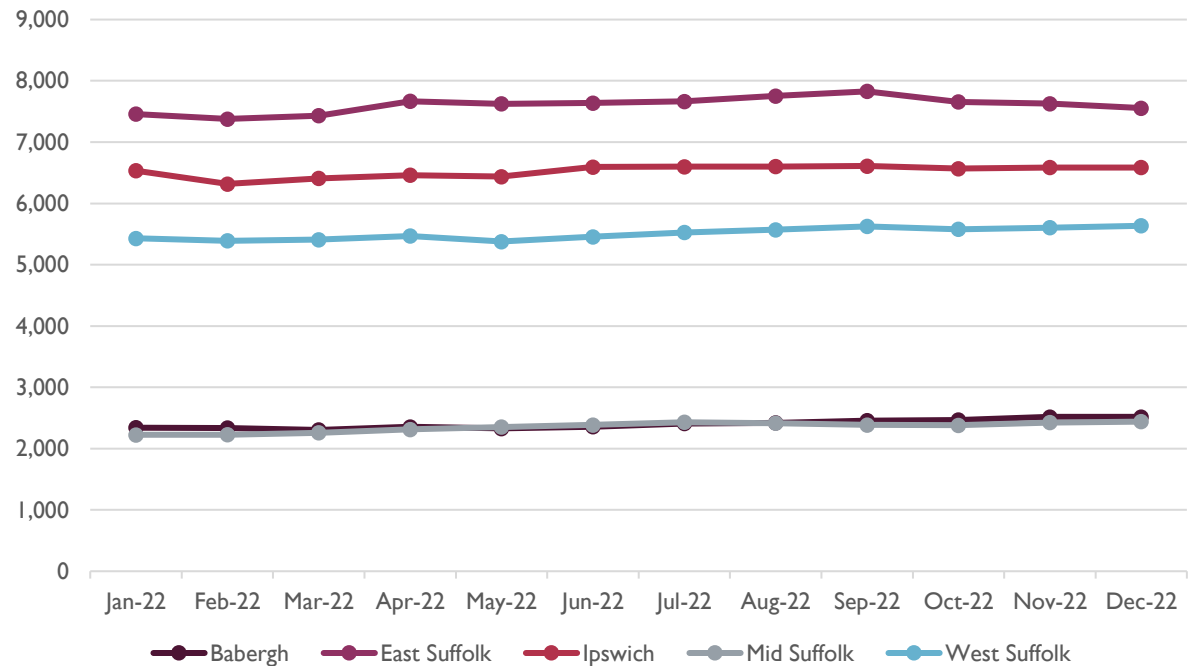
Looking at the earlier information on European Funding, we have had significant investment in this area, but it is likely to be one which receives less government focus going forward

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## Education Attainment Levels



## People in Work on Universal Credit



## ADULTS INTO WORK (ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE)

By this we mean adults who are unemployed or in some cases under employed. There can be a wide range and intensity of barriers to work and the activity to support these individuals sits across statutory responsibility and wrap around activity. UKSPF categorise the individuals we should work with under this theme as 'Economically Inactive' individuals who are not in work, and not actively seeking work (unlike unemployed individuals who are actively seeking work). We need to note, not all economically inactive individuals claim benefits.

Some current stakeholders and provision in East Suffolk includes:

- Department for Work and Pensions
- Inspire Suffolk
- Access Community Trust
- Higher Education, Further Education and Private Providers
- Multiply Suffolk
- Adult Learning Service/National Skills Fund

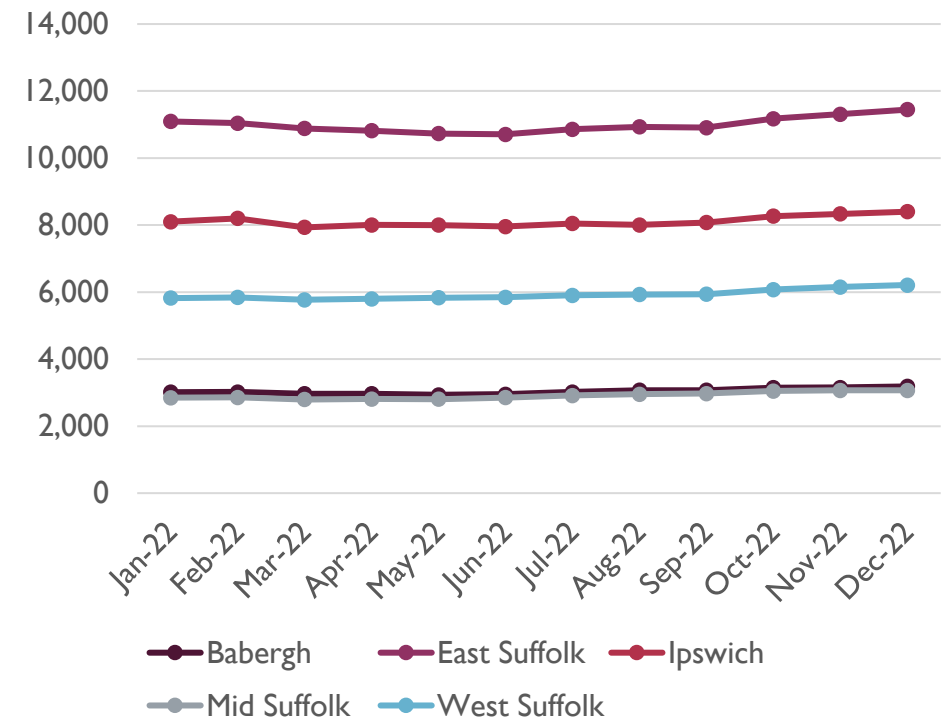
Part of our challenge for this theme will be identifying the participants, especially from rural areas, we will use learning from schemes such as Kickstart (DWP 16-24 project) and Work Well Suffolk (Social Prescribing) to design activity.



# ADULTS INTO WORK (DWP STATISTICS)

- Employment rate is slightly below the Suffolk average (77.9% vs 79.1%) but higher than national average.
- People in full time employment (16-64) is below the Suffolk average (68% vs 75%)
- People in part time employment (16-64) is above the Suffolk average (31% vs 25%)
- Economic activity (16-64) is slightly below the Suffolk average (80.3% vs 80.7%) but higher than national. When we split this by gender for Males, East Suffolk is slightly above the Suffolk average (86.3% vs 85.7%) and for Females, East Suffolk is slightly below the Suffolk average (74.8% vs 75.5%) and even a fraction below national.
- Similarly, economic inactivity (16-64) is slightly above the Suffolk average (19.7% vs 19.3%) and both lower than national average. When we split this by gender Males in East Suffolk are slightly below the Suffolk average (13.7% vs 14.3%) and Females are slightly above (25.2% vs 24.5%) and a fraction above national average.

People on Universal Credit Not in Employment





# ADDITIONAL SKILLS DATA

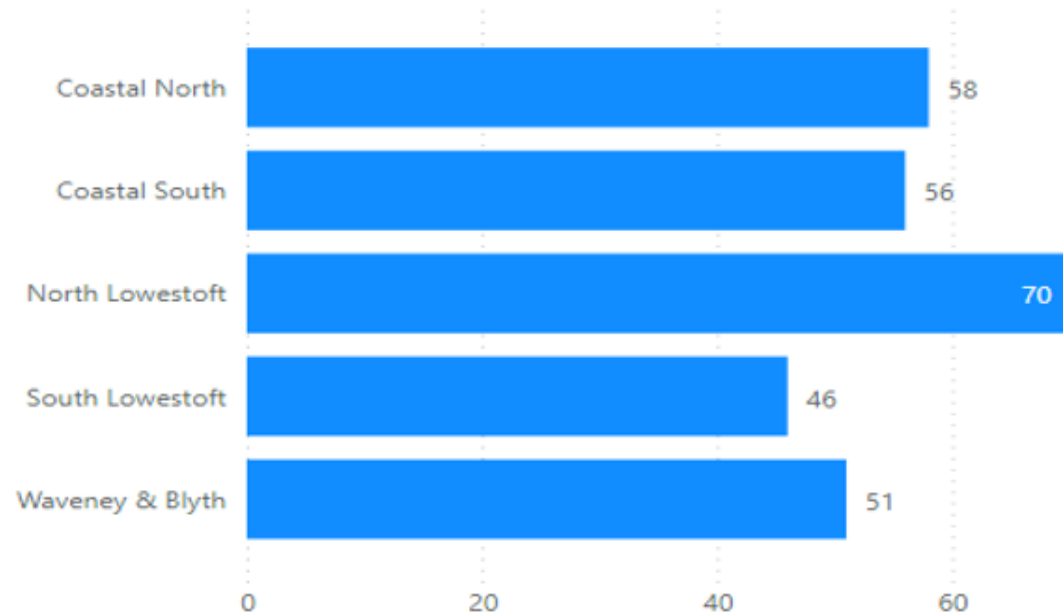
# SKILLS DATA: ACADEMIC AGE 16 & 17 NEET

Academic Age

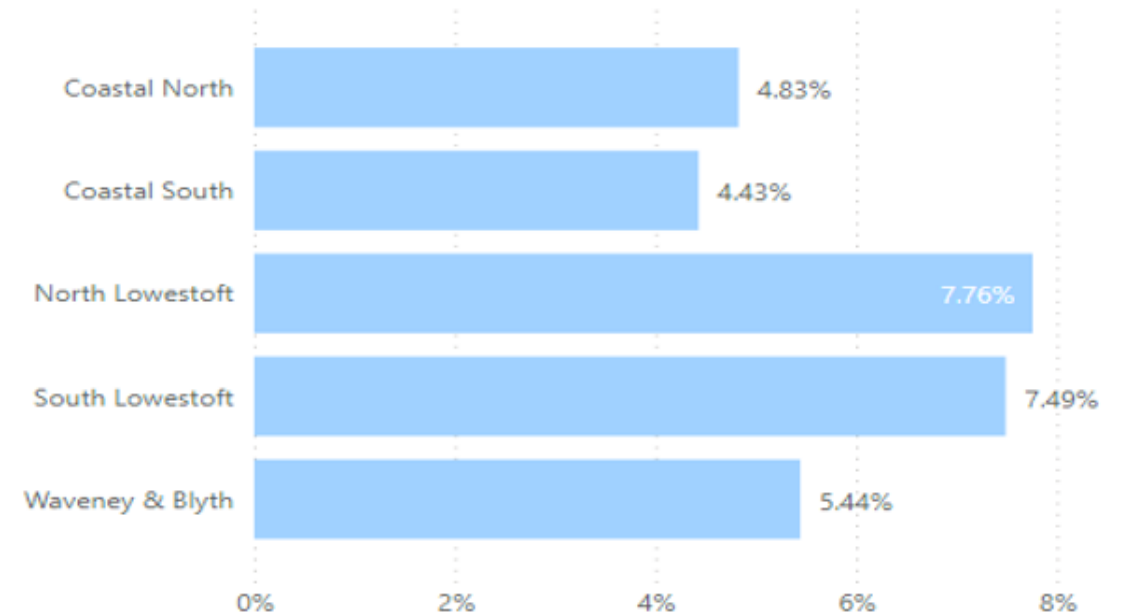
All

CYP Intelligence Hub

Locality NEET & Unknown (Latest Month)



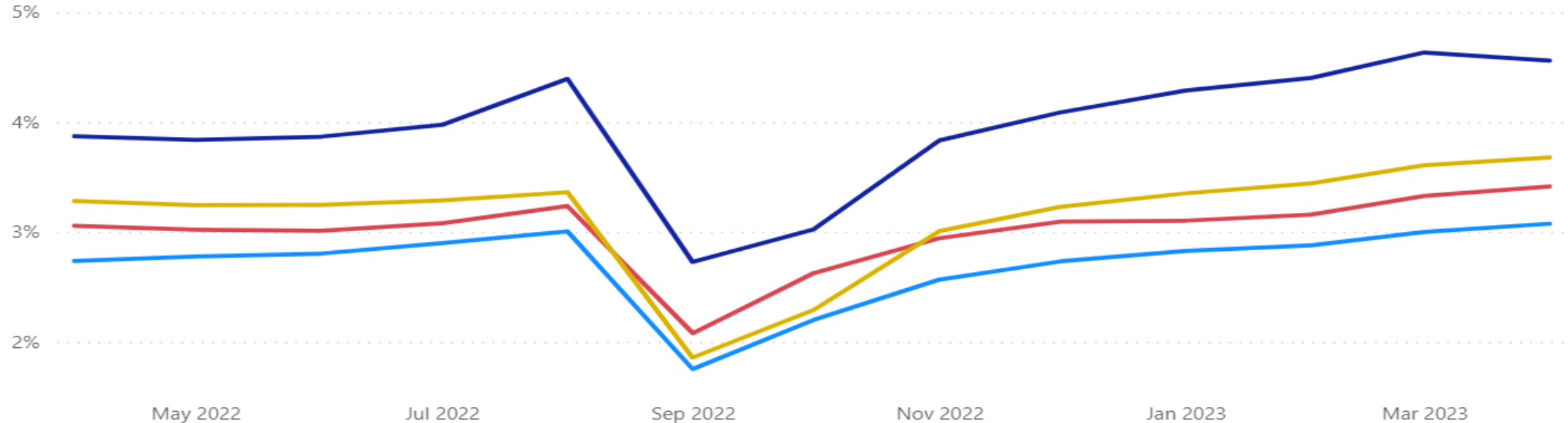
%



# SKILLS DATA: ACADEMIC AGE 16 & 17 NEET

NEET % by MI Month and Area

**Benchmarks Area** ● ENGLAND ● East of England ● Statistical Neighbours ● Suffolk *Data for September & October is ignored by DfE as it is in flux*



Benchmarks Area	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23
ENGLAND	2.74%	2.78%	2.80%	2.90%	3.00%	1.75%	2.20%	2.57%	2.73%	2.83%	2.88%	3.00%	3.07%
East of England	3.05%	3.02%	3.01%	3.08%	3.24%	2.08%	2.63%	2.94%	3.09%	3.10%	3.16%	3.33%	3.41%
Statistical Neighbours	3.28%	3.24%	3.25%	3.29%	3.36%	1.86%	2.29%	3.01%	3.23%	3.35%	3.44%	3.61%	3.68%
Suffolk	3.87%	3.84%	3.87%	3.97%	4.39%	2.73%	3.02%	3.83%	4.09%	4.29%	4.40%	4.63%	4.56%

Starts by District	2021-22 Q4 Cumulative Starts	2020-21 Q4 Cumulative Starts	Difference	Percentage Change
Babergh	457	413	44	11%
East Suffolk	1,287	1,006	281	28%
Ipswich	779	731	48	7%
Mid Suffolk	548	510	38	7%
West Suffolk	1,004	878	126	14%

Starts by District	2021-22 Q4 Cumulative Starts	2018-19 Q4 Cumulative Starts (Pre-Pandemic)	Difference	Percentage Change
Babergh	457	433	24	6%
East Suffolk	1,287	1,400	-113	-8%
Ipswich	779	926	-147	-16%
Mid Suffolk	548	584	-36	-6%
West Suffolk	1,004	1,127	-123	-11%

# SKILLS DATA: APPRENTICESHIPS

# SKILLS DATA: ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE – DWP DATA

## People on Universal Credit

In Employment (in work poverty)

	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
<b>Babergh</b>	2,343	2,337	2,305	2,355	2,330	2,358	2,411	2,421	2,456	2,468	2,516	2,516
<b>East Suffolk</b>	7,457	7,378	7,433	7,666	7,625	7,638	7,665	7,753	7,830	7,657	7,628	7,555
<b>Ipswich</b>	6,535	6,317	6,410	6,460	6,438	6,595	6,599	6,601	6,609	6,567	6,587	6,587
<b>Mid Suffolk</b>	2,226	2,227	2,258	2,313	2,353	2,388	2,432	2,416	2,387	2,382	2,426	2,442
<b>West Suffolk</b>	5,430	5,391	5,409	5,469	5,378	5,457	5,526	5,570	5,625	5,578	5,606	5,637
<b>Total</b>	23,997	23,641	23,822	24,258	24,126	24,439	24,624	24,762	24,910	24,647	24,768	24,740

## 2021 - % of 16-64 with NVQ

Variable	Babergh percent	East Suffolk percent	Ipswich percent	Mid Suffolk percent	West Suffolk percent	Suffolk percent
% with NVQ4+ - aged 16-64	40.3	39.3	37.4	39.2	28.6	36.5
% with NVQ3+ - aged 16-64	54.7	55.1	54.7	65.3	47.4	54.5
% with NVQ2+ - aged 16-64	76.8	76.4	74.7	84.0	64.6	74.3
% with NVQ1+ - aged 16-64	90.6	90.6	87.6	91.6	83.1	88.4
% with other qualifications (NVQ) - aged 16-64	3.8	3.8	5.3	3.7	7.3	4.9
% with no qualifications (NVQ) - aged 16-64	5.5	5.6	7.0	4.7	9.6	6.7

# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: CHILDREN AND YP REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK

## **Children and Young People Report for East Suffolk**

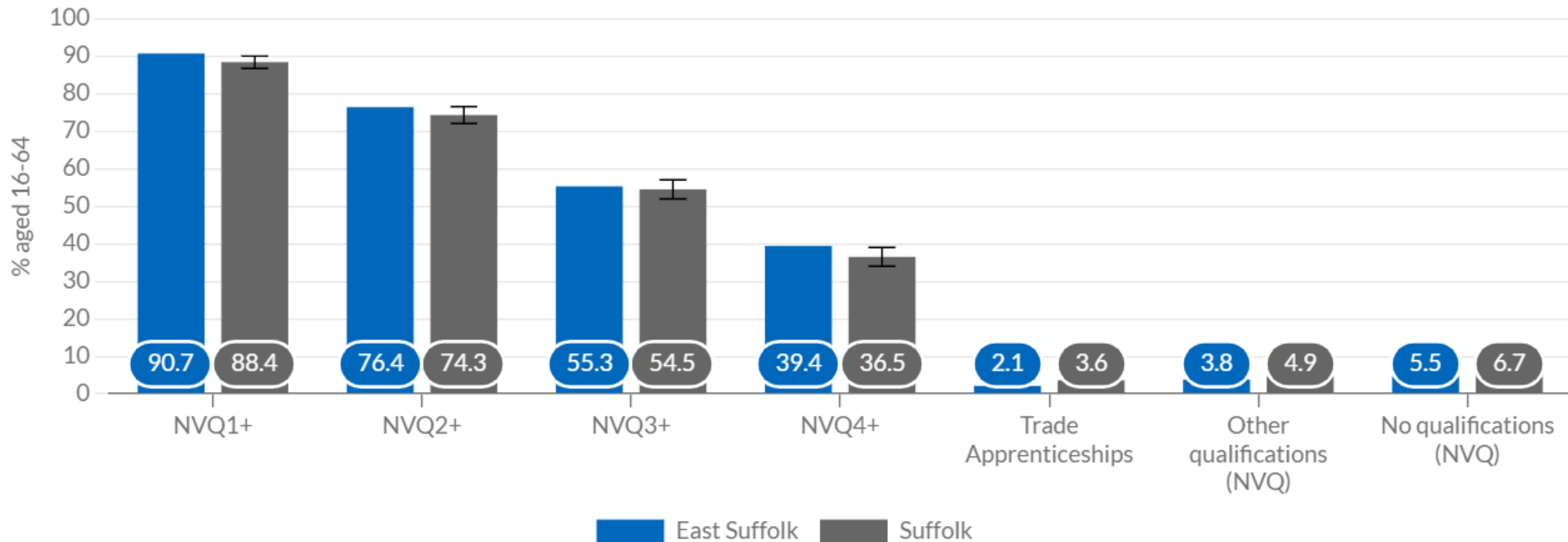
Improving the level of education and skills present within a local population remains an important policy objective for both local and central government.

The task of implementing initiatives to improve life-long learning and enhance individual development (and employability) represents a significant and essential challenge for local authorities.

The following graphs offer an educational snapshot of the picture for young people, although skills work focusses primarily those aged 16 – 25 years old covering participation in post 16 education or moving into employment.

# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: CYP REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK QUALIFICATIONS

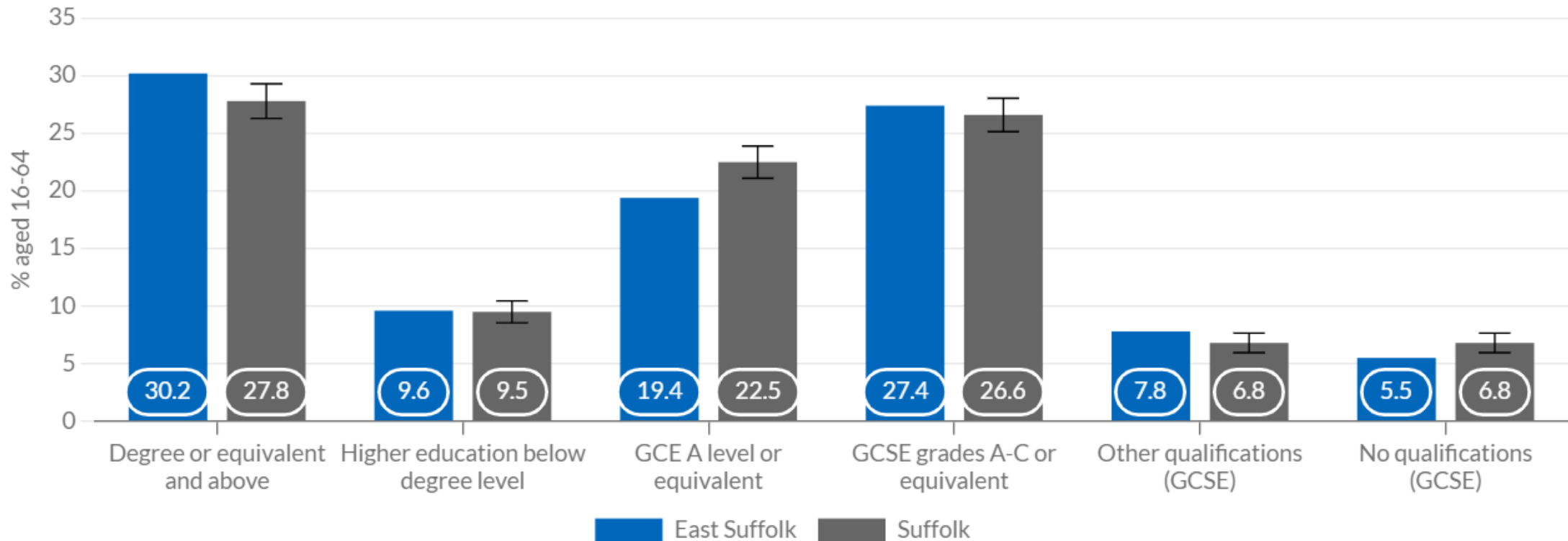
Qualifications - NVQ (2021-12)





# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: CYP REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK QUALIFICATIONS

## Qualifications - GCSE (2021-12)



# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: CYP REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK QUALIFICATIONS

Degree or equivalent and above for East Suffolk (2021-12)



# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: ECONOMY REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK

Suffolk Observatory offers easy access to a range of data which supports the identification and development of skills interventions.

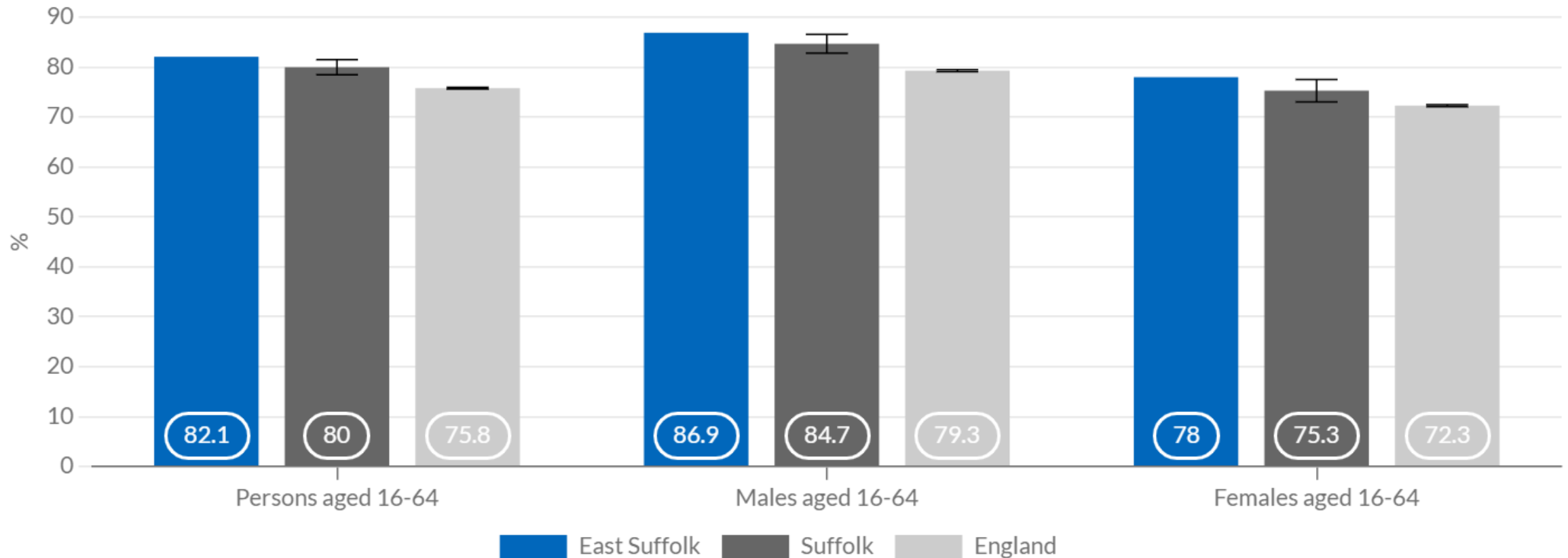
Many factors play a part in the success of a local economy, including natural resources, a workforce with skills, quality of infrastructure, strong linkages with wider economies and successful distribution of wealth.

The following graphs display snapshots of data about the labour market in East Suffolk and includes measures of overall economic activity and levels of worklessness. Where available this is compared to Suffolk and England.

# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: ECONOMY REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK

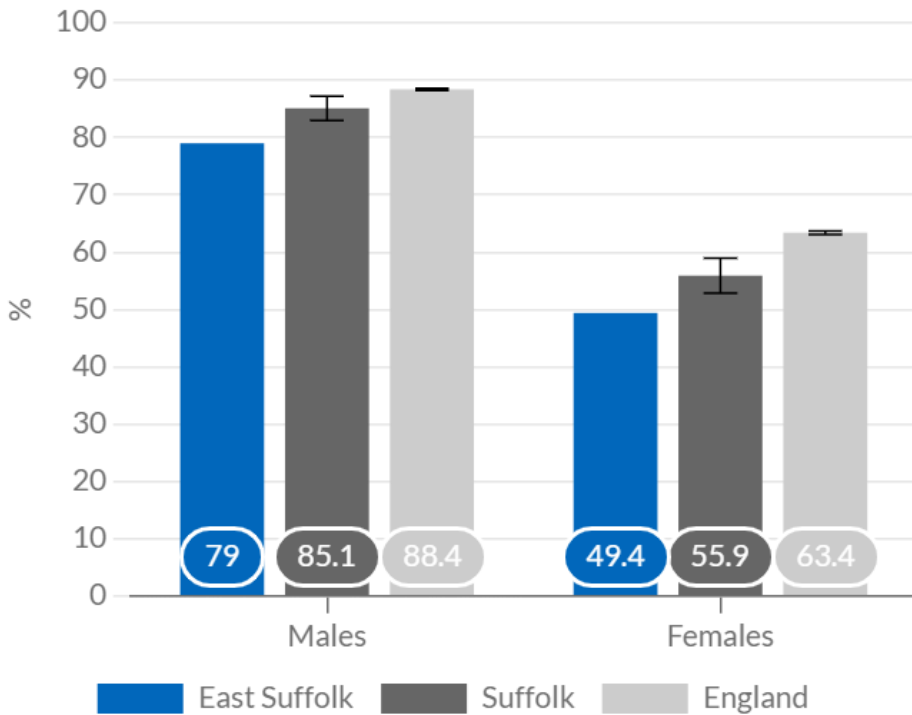
## ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE

% of people who are economically active (can be either in employment or unemployed.) Source: APS

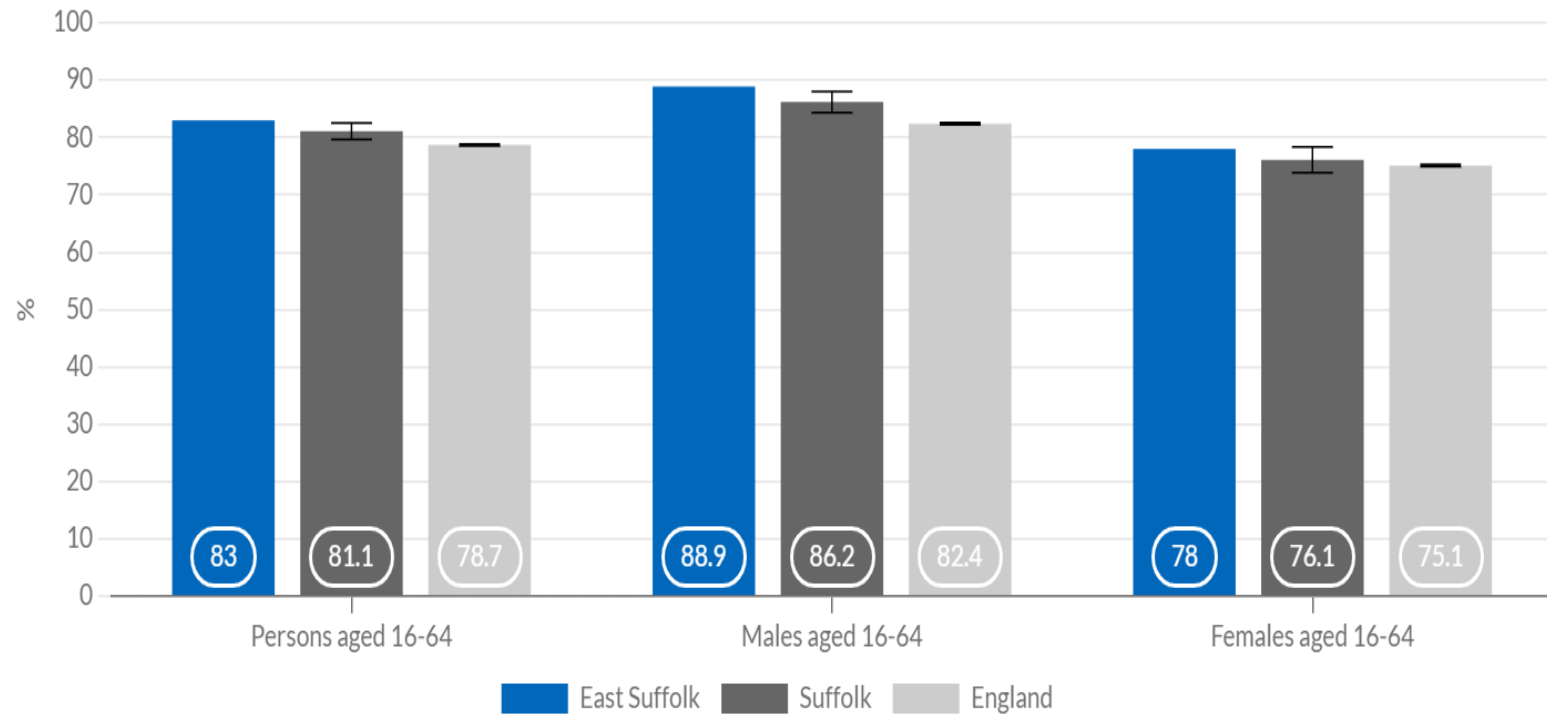


# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: ECONOMY REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK

People working FT by gender (16-64) (2022-12)



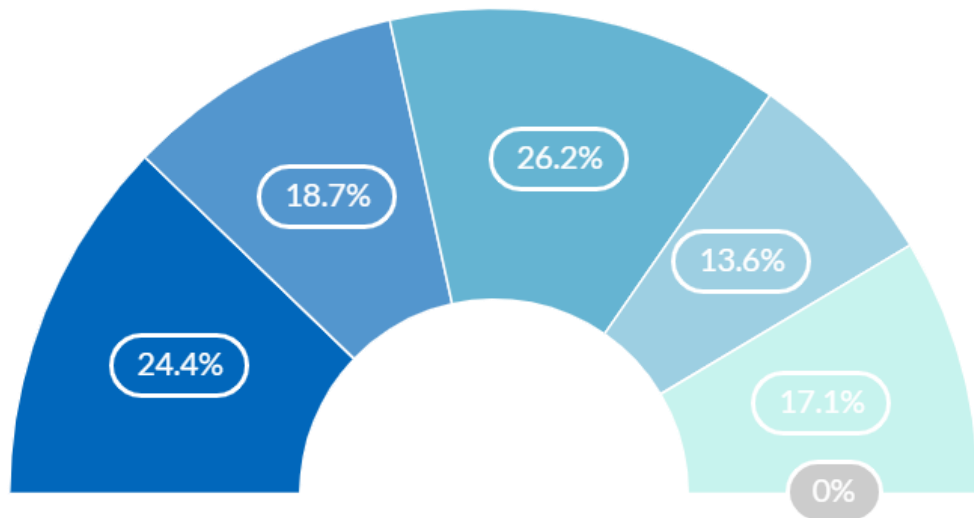
Economically active by gender (16-64) (2022-12) Source: APS



# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: ECONOMY REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK

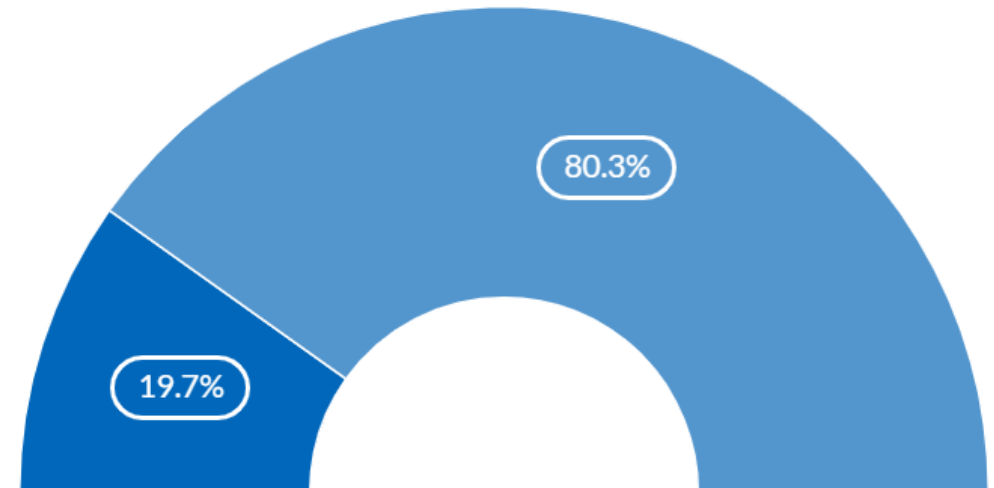
Economically inactive - Source: APS

### Reason for economic inactivity for East Suffolk (2022-12)



Student Family Long-term sick  
Retired Other Others

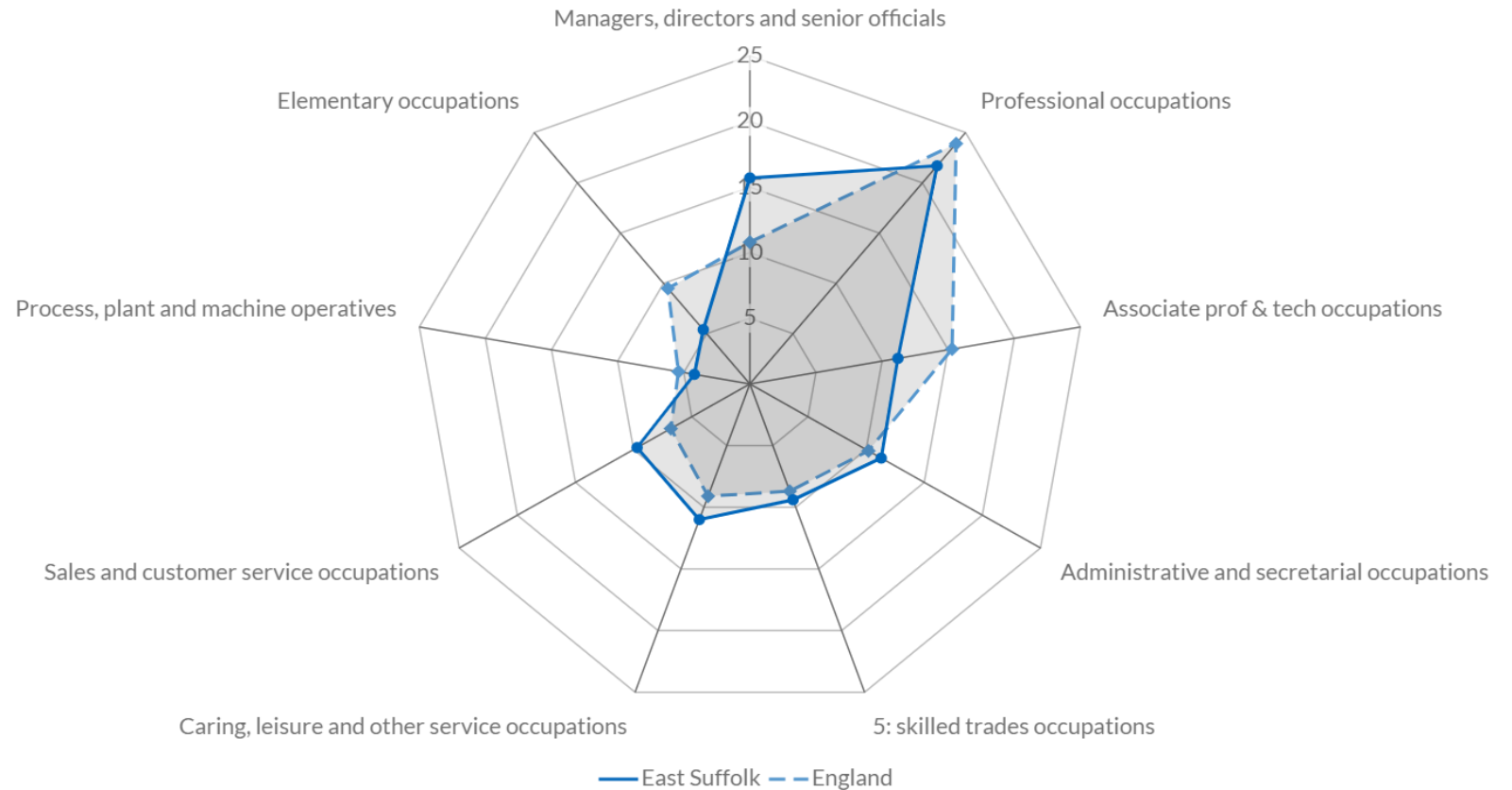
### Economically inactive who want a job for East Suffolk (2022-12)



Wants a job Does not want a job

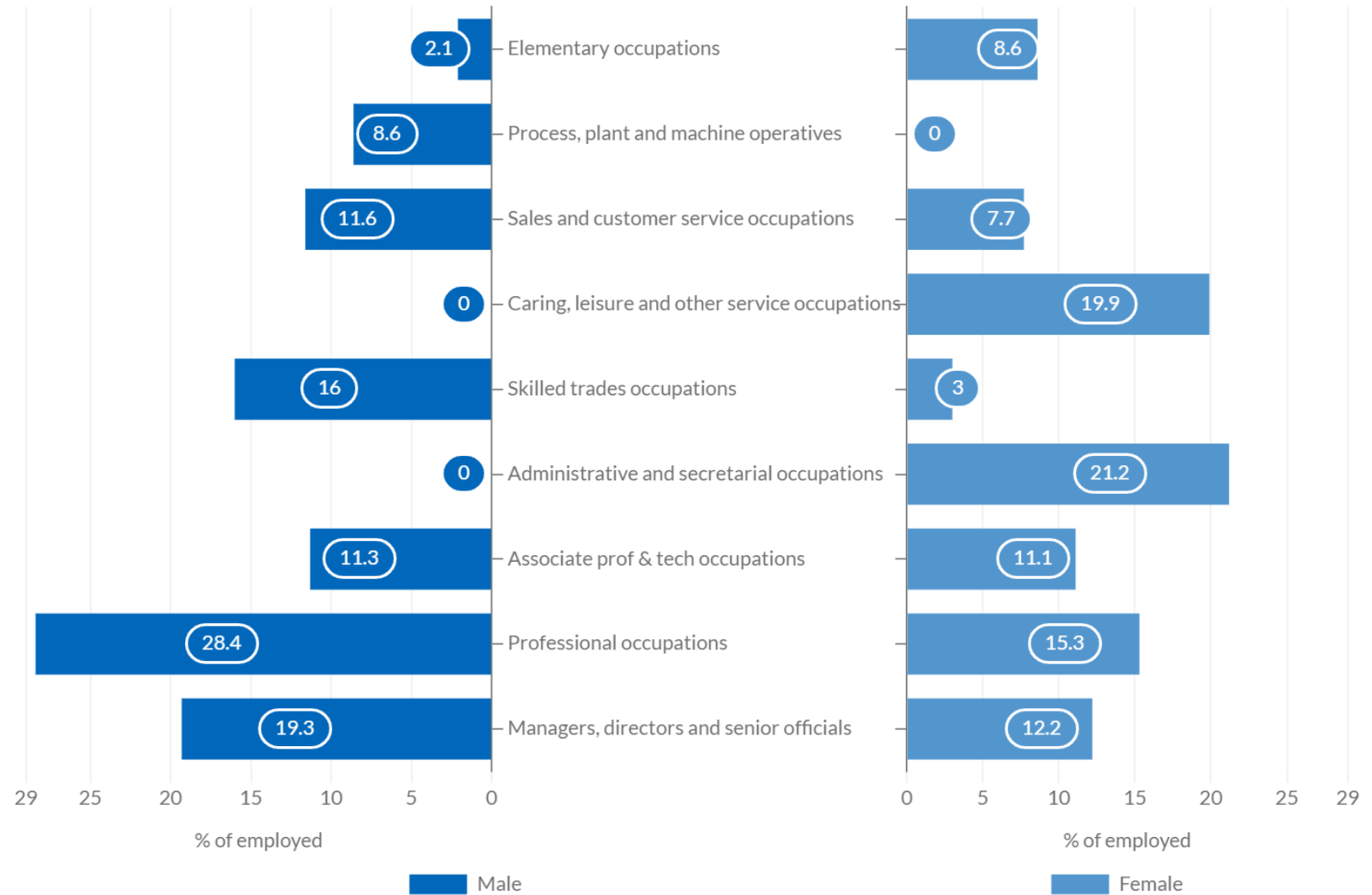
# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: ECONOMY REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK: OCCUPATION

## Percentage employment by major group (2021-12)



# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: ECONOMY REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK

## Employment by major employment group and gender for East Suffolk (2021-12)

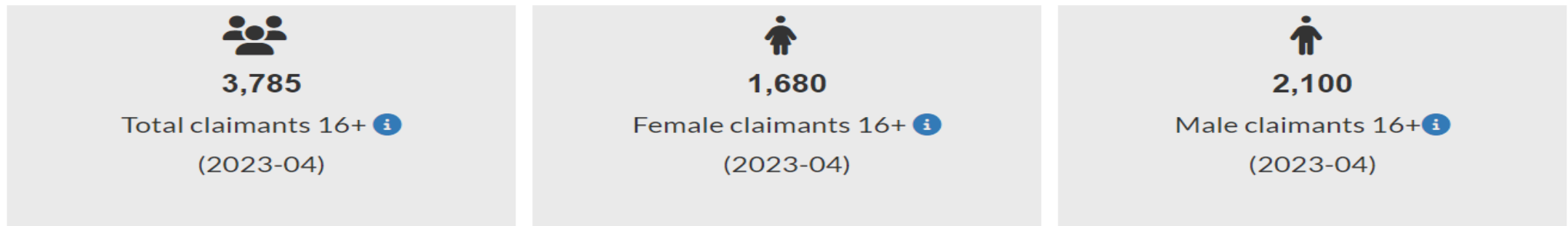




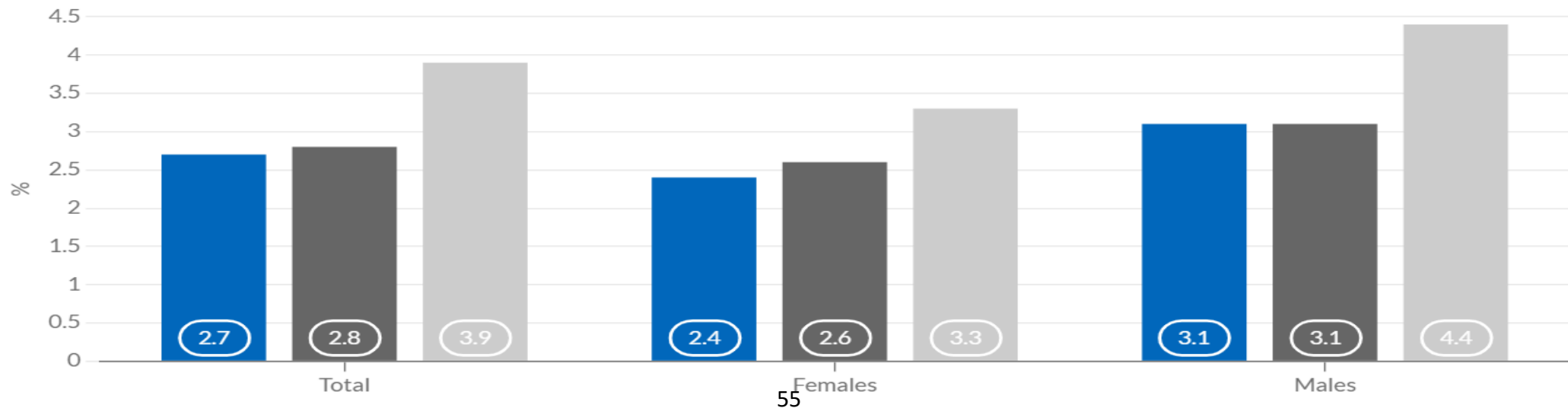
# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: ECONOMY REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK

## OUT OF WORK BENEFITS SOURCE: ONS

### Claimant count



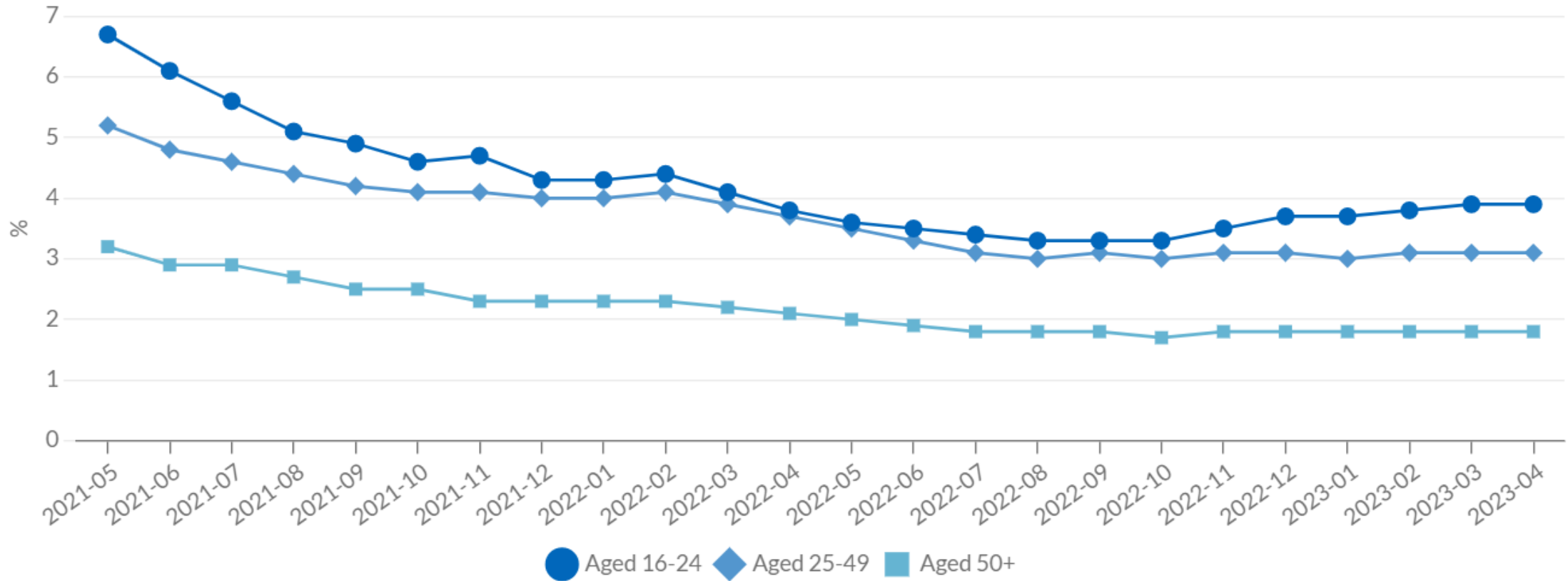
### Claimants by gender (2023-04)



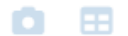
# SUFFOLK OBSERVATORY: ECONOMY REPORT FOR EAST SUFFOLK

## OUT OF WORK BENEFITS SOURCE: ONS

Claimants by age group for East Suffolk



Source: ONS





END