


Suffolk Chamber of Commerce Policy Group notes

Name of group	People and Skills Group (PSG)
Date of meeting	Wednesday 7 December 2022
Chair/Author	Jo Kreckler, Vice Chair
Summary of presentations/guest speakers	
<p>Rt. Hon Matt Hancock, MP for West Suffolk - Dyslexia and businesses</p> <p>Kim Thomson/Peter Ingram, Kier/Suffolk Highways - Engaging with prisoners in the workplace</p> <p>Paul Simon - update on the Norfolk & Suffolk Local Skills Improvement Plan</p>	
Key feedback/responses	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rt. Hon Matt Hancock MP lead a thought provoking discussion around dyslexia and other neuro-diversity. Sometimes great people are overlooked because they don't interact/respond "in the usual way" – eg form filling/job applications. Methods for mitigating dyslexia (and other neuro diversity) though tech exist in abundance and need to be rolled out. Neuro-conditions are not a barrier, but often an opportunity for a different point of view/way of looking at things which can help businesses diversify and adapt. • Kim Thomson and Peter Ingram delivered a very interesting presentation on post-prison employment. The Kier programme assists transition of prisoners back into meaningful work, which is of value to employees, employer, as well broader as Social Value (reducing re-offending, support where otherwise judgement is likely). Release to work on License includes full wage & training – ready for full release, and assistance during transition to release reduce uncertainty and stress and makes employment more meaningful. • Paul Simon gave an update on the LSIP – that Norfolk and Suffolk are recruiting a skills advisor to undertake the online business engagement. LSIP events and extensive direct liaison to take place in the New Year, with Digital and soft skills in particular focus. Details here and businesses are requested to complete a short survey here • Health and work partnership – workshops looking at line management, women in work, how large orgs organisations can support small organisations etc 	
Links to reports/presentations shared	
 <p>Suffolk Making Ground v.2.pptx (previously circulated separately by Paul Simon on 12/12/22).</p>	
Recommendations for Suffolk Chamber policy positioning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More sharing of best practice 	

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Recommendations for development/Suffolk Chamber action

- Improving Workplace Health project (With Suffolk County Council) to be boosted with further events

Requests for group engagement/information

- Please suggest topics/speakers/ideas for future meetings, and membership
- Quick wins and big ticket/longer term policy approach (what can we change in 20 years)
- Consider how you recruit and how accessible your approach is to neuro diverse peoples
- Consider attending one of the [FREE LSIP events across the region](#)
- Fill in the [short LSIP survey](#)

Forward plan

- Consider Recruitment shortage issue - both in key skills, and simply the number of people out there – how we could support employers.

Date of next meeting

21 June 2023 3pm hybrid style meeting
In person at WTW - Willis Building, Ipswich and on Zoom