



Suffolk
New
College

Provider Access Statement

Policy Title:	Provider Access Statement
Issue Date:	01/09/2023
Author(s):	Head of Careers and Employer Engagement
Approved by:	Senior Management Team
Last Review date:	29/01/2026
Date of Equality Assessments:	01/09/2023
Review date:	01/02/2028
Related Policies & Procedures:	TBC

Equality Impact Assessment Tool

Provider Access Statement

		Yes/No	Comments
1	Does the policy/guidance affect one group less or more favourably than another on the basis of:		
	Race or ethnicity	No	
	Disability	No	
	Gender	No	
	Religion or belief	No	
	Sexual orientation	No	
	Age	No	
	Marriage and Civil Partnership	No	
	Maternity and Pregnancy	No	
	Gender Reassignment	No	
2	Is there any evidence that some groups are affected differently?	No	
3	If you have identified potential discrimination, are any exceptions valid, legal and/or justifiable?	N/A	
4	Is the impact of the policy/guidance likely to be negative?	No	
5	If so, can the impact be avoided?	N/A	
6	What alternatives are there to achieving the policy/guidance without the impact?	N/A	
7	Can we reduce the impact by taking different action?	N/A	



1. Rationale

At Suffolk New College, we believe that high-quality careers education is fundamental to our learners' futures. It equips them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed decisions about their next steps, whether into employment, apprenticeships, or further and higher study. Our careers programme supports learners in understanding the full breadth of opportunities available, including technical education routes such as T-Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications, and apprenticeships, helping them thrive in a dynamic labour market and contribute to a successful economy.

2. Our Commitment

Suffolk New College is fully committed to meeting the requirements of the Baker Clause and the Provider Access Legislation (PAL). We ensure that all learners have meaningful encounters with a range of education and training providers, including those offering approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

We act impartially and do not promote one pathway over another. Our goal is to empower learners to make informed choices that best suit their aspirations, strengths, and circumstances. We proactively build relationships with universities, apprenticeship providers, employers, and training organisations to ensure our learners receive timely, relevant, and high-quality information at key transition points.

3. Aims of Our Provider Access Policy

To raise awareness of all career pathways, including technical qualifications and apprenticeships.

To support learners in exploring education and training options beyond college before making key decisions.

To reduce course drop-out rates and prevent learners from becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

To ensure learners and parents/carers have access to up-to-date labour market information and progression routes.

4. Learner Entitlement

All learners at Suffolk New College are entitled to:

- i. At least six meaningful encounters with providers of approved technical education qualifications or apprenticeships, in line with PAL.
- ii. Access to a comprehensive careers programme, including:
 - National Apprenticeship Week activities and our annual Apprenticeship Fair.
 - Employer-led curriculum sessions and workshops.
 - Careers talks, fairs, mock interviews, workplace tours, and employability skills sessions.
 - Information via our website, ePASS, Steps to Success, and the Learning Curve careers hub.
 - Opportunities to engage with alumni mentors and industry professionals through our Industry Partner Programme.

5. Equality and Diversity

Suffolk New College promotes access to all learners, ensuring that information about further education and apprenticeships is inclusive and impartial. We are committed to supporting learners in making decisions based on unbiased, high-quality information, regardless of their background or circumstances.

6. Provide Engagement

We welcome providers who wish to support our learners with high-quality information, advice, and guidance (IAG). All provider visits are supported by college staff, and resources are agreed in advance to ensure quality and safeguarding standards are met.

Providers may:

- Deliver presentations, workshops, or demonstrations.
- Participate in careers fairs or themed events.

- Share digital or printed materials for distribution via our careers platforms and Learning Curve.
- Collaborate with curriculum teams to shape industry-relevant learning experiences.

Providers will be met and supervised by a member of staff during their visit. Appropriate rooms, including computer suites, will be arranged to suit the audience and activity. Safeguarding checks will be completed in advance.

We also welcome live or virtual encounters, which may be broadcast into classrooms. Technology compatibility will be checked beforehand to ensure smooth delivery.

7. Parents and Carers

We actively encourage parental involvement in careers education at Suffolk New College. Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting learners to make informed decisions about their future, and we aim to keep them fully engaged throughout the learner journey.

Parents can view our Universal, Targeted, and Specialist careers advice on the Careers page of our website, which provides the guidance learners receive. We also provide access to the SNC App, which offers key information about the college, upcoming events, and career-related updates.

To support informed decision-making, we host parent and carer events throughout the academic year.

Additionally, our website features a live Labour Market Information (LMI) tool, which enables parents and learners to explore job roles associated with specific courses, including details on salary expectations, progression routes, and future demand. This ensures families have access to the most current and relevant data when considering career options.

8. Requests for Access

Requests for access should be directed to:

Kayleigh Norris, Head of Careers and Employer Engagement
kayleighnorris@suffolk.ac.uk

8.1. Management and Oversight

All provider access requests are coordinated by the Head of Careers and Employer Engagement or the designated staff member, who reports to senior management.

Activities are planned in line with the college's strategic careers programme and safeguarding policies.

9. Complaints Procedure

Please refer to our Compliments & Complaints Policy:

<https://www.suffolk.ac.uk/about/contactus/compliments-complaints/>

10. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

This Provider Access Statement is reviewed annually by the Head of Careers and Employer Engagement, in line with Department for Education guidance and best practice.

Suffolk New College also undertakes a termly review of its careers programme using the Compass tool, ensuring alignment with the Gatsby Benchmarks and identifying areas for continuous improvement.

Externally, the college holds the Matrix Standard, which involves a rigorous inspection and deep dive into our careers provision every three years, followed by annual reviews with a Matrix assessor to maintain quality and compliance.

Additionally, we conduct an annual review of the Careers Maturity Model to assess strategic progress and impact across learner outcomes, employer engagement, and curriculum integration.

To support collaborative development, we host termly Careers Strategy Group meetings, bringing together internal and external stakeholders to shape and evaluate our careers offer.