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Suffolk County Council Report
August 2023

Dear All,

Please see below for your information.

Kind regards
Bobby

Trading Standards urge £765,000 fraudster to give himself up for sentencing

Suffolk Trading Standards is appealing to the public for help as they urge a man wanted for failing to appear in court for sentencing for fraudulent trading to hand himself in.

Wayne Parker, of Mildenhall, was found guilty in October 2022 of obtaining more than £765,000 in credit from suppliers.

He presented himself as a livestock owner which enabled him to be given credit by a wide range of companies. He often made no attempt to settle his debts and, when he did, repeatedly sent cheques that would bounce.

An arrest warrant was issued when he failed to appear in court in February 2023.

Since going on the run Mr Parker is known to have been using the Match.com dating website and has also been hiring cars in a bid, it is believed, to avoid detection by the police.

He has links to west London, with his last known address being in Feltham, however, he has carried out work across Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and Surrey.

Recent intelligence suggests that he may also be working in Wales and there are links to him being in Somerset.

Award Success for Social Care in Suffolk

A column by Councillor Beccy Hopfensperger, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Adult Care.

Social work is vital to keeping people safe, and helping them live good, independent lives as part of the community. In Suffolk I believe we are incredibly lucky to have some of the best Social Workers,

Occupational Therapists and Social Care workers anywhere in the country - I'm not just saying that because I'm the Cabinet Member responsible for Adult Care, there's real proof.

This year more Suffolk County Council staff and teams have been recognised for their achievements and skills by being shortlisted at the Social Worker of the Year Awards, a national award ceremony which uses these awards to improve the awareness, understanding and reputation of the social care sector. The awards are open to qualified practitioners throughout England with a wide range of individual and team categories for those working in both children's and adult departments. This year Suffolk has been particularly successful - I want to extend my congratulations to the following individuals who have shone with their professionalism and talents in their respective services.

- Patrick Hamilton, who has been shortlisted as Newly Qualified Social Worker of the year.
- Victoria Veale, also shortlisted as Newly Qualified Social Worker of the year.
- Suzanne Ladlow, shortlisted as Team Leader of the year.

Also, I want to congratulate the following teams at Suffolk County Council, whose work and dedication to the people of Suffolk have earned them a chance at winning an award also.

- Digital Care Team, their work with the already award-winning Cassius Digital Care Service sees them shortlisted for Digital Transformation of Social Care Award.
- Our Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Team, shortlisted for Team of the Year award.

Children Services in Suffolk also have reason to celebrate as the Make a Change Team were shortlisted for CYP Team of the year.

I have my fingers crossed for you all when the winners are announced in November. I also want to extend my congratulations to everyone who was nominated for an award, whether you were shortlisted or not, just getting nominated is an incredible achievement.

Suffolk also has its own upcoming awards ceremony for all things Social Care, in the form of the Suffolk Social Care Awards which is organised by Care Development East. Suffolk County Council is a key sponsor of the awards as we look to recognise locally some of the excellent carers, providers, and settings here in the East. I look forward to attending the ceremony and congratulating the winners and those nominated in September.

Finally, in Suffolk we have some of the best professional development training for Social Workers available, so I want to congratulate our latest cohort of Apprentice Social Workers, who have all passed their social work degrees with high scores. This is an amazing achievement for them, especially as they started their studies amid the COVID pandemic. All have secured a Newly Qualified Social Worker role at Suffolk County Council and will be a huge asset to the teams they join, and the people they will ultimately support.

If you feel that Social Work, or any role in social care would be of interest to you - I urge you to check the social work vacancies on www.suffolkjobsdirect.org.

Formal opening of £1.3 million Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service training centre

The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre at Wattisham Flying Station near Stowmarket has recently undergone a £1.3 million upgrade.

It now boasts a tactical firefighting facility, which uses real fire and an LPG-fired facility to simulate incidents firefighters may be faced with.

The most recent addition is the modular office complex, which features additional classrooms and welfare facilities for all delegates and staff.

The centre was formally declared open at the annual base families' day on Thursday August 24 by Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Jon Lacey of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, and Colonel Toby R Moore MBE, Station Commander, Wattisham Flying Station.

The fire service training centre has been at Wattisham since 2011 and occupies a 17-acre site that previously housed the Bloodhound missile system from the Cold War.

The training centre is used throughout the year for a wide range of training requirements which include refresher and ongoing assessments by all staff.