**New Anglia Podcast**

**Hello. I’m Matt Jones from the External Funding Team at Suffolk County Council. This is another in our series of podcasts on the help available to the Suffolk VSCE sector**

**This podcast focuses on New Anglia LEP.**

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership works with businesses, local authority partners and education institutions to drive growth and enterprise in Suffolk and Norfolk.

The LEP works particularly closely with the VCSE sector in its coordination of the major European Social Fund programme of skills and training projects. VCSE organisations are central to the successful delivery of this ESF programme, and the LEP is working hard with CAS and others to coordinate provision and improve signposting. The VCSE sector is also represented on the Skills Advisory Panel which takes the strategic lead on skills for the LEP area.

The LEP are helping to transform the economy by securing funds from government to help businesses grow, via ambitious programmes to ensure that businesses have funding, support, skills, and infrastructure needed to flourish and ensuring that the voice of our business community is heard, loud and clear.

The LEP runs the New Anglia Growth Programme, a major business support programme with the New Anglia Growth Hub at its heart. This team of business and skills advisors provide free advice to all businesses in Norfolk and Suffolk, and a regular programme of (currently online) workshops and events. For the VCSE sector, this offer complements the support available from Community Action Suffolk and other voluntary organisations, and is definitely worth looking into. Some VCSE businesses may also be eligible for LEP grants; Growth Hub advisers can talk you through what is on offer.

The LEP are a valuable source of information and advice on grants and funding, as well as providing a voice for the New Anglia area at a national level

New Anglia have been working proactively with Community Action Suffolk and Suffolk County Council to ensure an effective flow of information and support to the VCSE sector in Suffolk and Norfolk

The LEP have produced an [economic strategy](https://newanglia.co.uk/economic-strategy-for-norfolk-and-suffolk/) which outlines ambitious plans for future growth across Norfolk and Suffolk. This document is a shared endeavour between businesses, education providers, local councils and the voluntary and community sector

Further information and contact details can be found on the New Anglia website.

As ever, please contact Suffolk County Council or Community Action Suffolk if you would like to know more about this or any of the other topics that we have discussed in these podcasts