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7th Suffolk BME Business Awards 2026

BME Suffolk Business Awards

BSC Multicultural Services & University of Suffolk Working in Partnership

Tuesday 10th November 2026
6.30pm - 10.00pm

University of Suffolk
Waterfront Building, Ipswich IP4 1QJ

The Hold
Fore Street, Ipswich IP4 1LN

Celebrating the contribution and achievements of BME businesses in Suffolk

BSC Multicultural Services
Supporting over 50 nationalities

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

University of Suffolk

The Hold
Connect Explore Discover

EAST ANGLIAN DAILY TIMES

IPSWICH STAR

Judging Panel

Cllr Neil MacDonald,
Leader of Ipswich Borough Council

Terry Baxter,
Chairman, Suffolk New College

Dr Will Thomas,
Associate Professor, University of Suffolk

Boshor Ali,
Chairperson, BSC Multicultural Services

Dr Sachin Karale,
Managing Director, SAI Estates

Clarissa Place,
News Editor and Assistant Editor, Ipswich Star & East Anglian Daily Times

Mahbub Alam Shamim,
Treasurer, BSC Multicultural Services

Clare Gibson,
Senior Grants Officer, Suffolk Community Foundation



The judging panel is very grateful to everyone that supported the awards for the seventh year running. Although only a few will win prizes the evening would not be possible without the combined effort of all those that submitted the nominations. Although only a small number of businesses have been shortlisted, and an even smaller number will win prizes, the awards evening on Tuesday 10th November 2026 would not be possible without the continued outstanding success of the BME communities in Suffolk.

Welcome

Welcome to the seventh BME Business Awards for Suffolk. This event celebrates the diversity of businesses across the County and that of the people that own and run them. In this brochure you will find information about all of the businesses that were shortlisted for the prizes we will award. Since 2019, we have recognised two 'Businesses of the Year' – one award recognises restaurants and other catering businesses, the other celebrates businesses in other sectors.

BSC Multicultural Services (BSCMS) and the University of Suffolk have worked together again this year to organise and host this event. We continue to run these awards to celebrate, encourage and promote businesses across the County and to show something of the range of organisations originating in the BME communities of Suffolk. This year we have had more than 100 nominations from across the County, from a wide range of communities and from a broad range of economic sectors. We are delighted that these awards have captured the imagination of businesses and that so many people are here to celebrate their achievements.

We would like to thank everyone that took part in these awards. Sadly we cannot give a prize to every exceptional business that entered. Those that win awards this evening can be certain that they truly deserve them and that they have won through tough competition.

We would also like to thank those that have sponsored awards or who have given their time to this project. Without their generosity this event would not have happened. Please take some time to review their names towards the end of this brochure.

We hope that you have a wonderful evening and to enjoy celebrating with those winning awards.

Mr Boshor Ali,
Chairperson,
BSC Multicultural Services
(BSCMS)

Dr Will Thomas, Associate Professor & Associate Dean,
School of Business, Arts, Social Sciences and Technology
University of Suffolk



2026 Nominations

90Nine Lounge
ABC Connect
Al Hidayah Asian Grocery
Al-Amin Halal Grocery
Alaz Turkish Cuisine
Ali's Supermarket Ltd
Aqua Pharmacy
Asian & Afro
Atlantic Fish Bar
Ayan Barber
Aynur Aydin
Ballingdon Valley
Bang Burger
Bay of Bengal
BBQ House
Bekash Tandoori
Bella Napoli Express
Boathouse Turkish Bistro
Bombay Restaurant
Boss Chicken
Bridge Guest House
Britannia Fish Bar
Calzone House
Cappadocia
Carlton Hotel
Chandima Perara
Chick King Kebab
Cinnamon Tree
Clear Choice Hand Car Wash
Cool Spot
Curtley Williams
ChutneyZ
Darnte Wilson
Dorina Petroi
Dr Payal Bhalla
Dunya Kitchen Accessories
Ela Traditional Turkish Barbeque & Meze Bar
Fitness Formula
Glass Act Done & Dusted
Golden Grill Restaurant
Halal Connection
Haroon Hussain
Hatice Arslan
Hmmburger Restaurant & Takeaway
Ian Brown
IMC Mortgage Brokers
Imran Hussain
India Gate
Indian Habibi
IP Express Cabs
IPS Trading UK LTD/ IPSOne
Ipswich Cycling Community Club
Ipswich Malayalee Association (IMA)
Ipswich Romanian Community (IRC) CIC
Ipswich Tigers
Jijo Sebastian
Kabul Kitchen
Karibu African Women's Support Group
LFC & Kebabs
Lowestoft Muslim Centre
Lucky's
Maharani
Mass Care Momentous Ltd
Melons Green Limited
MEWA Tailor Boutique
Meze Grill Turkish Restaurant
Miller's Fish & Chips
Minuteman Press
Mohamad Mamun Alom
Moncef Barber
Monika Erdogan
Moza Indian Restaurant & Takeaway
Mustafa Solmus
Nacton Road Fish Bar

2026 Nominations

New Asian Supermarket
Nice and Spicey
Nice Travel Solutions Ltd
Nurul Islam Chowdhury /Emraj Chowdhury
Ocean Fish Platter
OH MY COD
Onion Bhaji
Orissa Indian Restaurant
Pizza Time
PPB Training
Print England
Raj Mahal
Rana Miah
Redfort Indian Restaurant
Rose and Mango
Sajeev Balasubramaniam
Shapla Restaurant
Shawarma City
Sheesh
Shish Anatolia
Silver Service Takeaway
Sonar Bangla Balti House
SpiceX
Square Pharmacy
Star Dry Clearners
Stitch World
Stylish Furniture Ltd
Suffolk Bengali Society
Suffolk Halal
Suffolk Muslim Centre
Suffolk Sri Lankan Society
Sultan Kebab
The Codfather
The Curry Inn
The Fitness Hub
The Old Bull Inn at Alaz
Turkoman Bar And Grill
U.S.A. Fried Chicken & Burgers
UK Best Kebab
Uni Shop
Walking In Your Purpose Ltd
Waveney Multicultural Forum
Wise Financial Services
Women Rise Together
Yavuz Koksal
Zavvinko Ltd
Zoha Hanzla



Business of the Year

Nice Travel Solution Ltd

This is an Ipswich-based taxi company founded by Nurul Islam Chowdhury. He currently runs the company with his family, employing hundreds of people. The company has also offered employment to BME women who had previously struggled to secure employment. The company also supports charitable work and the judges shortlisted it to recognise its contribution and achievements.

The Fitness Hub

Curtley Williams established The Fitness Hub over 7 years ago. Since then, it has grown as a fitness and wellbeing business initially serving women, but subsequently opening its doors to men too. The business has helped more than 1000 people to become more fitter and stronger through a combination of functional strength circuits, yoga and Pilates. Judges shortlisted this business to recognise its commitment to improving health and wellbeing.





IMC Mortgage Brokers

Rana Miah took on the Ipswich Mortgage Centre over 21 years ago. Since then, it has grown substantially and now employs more than 16 members of staff in 3 locations in Suffolk and has an online mortgage business. Their customers recognise the quality of the service that they provide as well as the range of specialist services. Recently, it was rebranded as IMC Mortgage Brokers and judges shortlisted it on account of its success and contribution to the communities.

Asian & Afro/New Asian Supermarkets

Based in Ipswich town centre, these two supermarkets have been trailblazers in the ethnic minority retail food sector for nearly a decade now. Through these businesses the owner, Sajeev Bala, offers an extensive range of multicultural products (more than 21000 items) to the growing BME population in Suffolk. Judges shortlisted these businesses to acknowledge the owners continued success and contribution.

Suffolk Halal

After taking over this business in 2013, the owners have not looked back and now, operating from Norwich Road in Ipswich, it has grown, diversified and acquired a large, loyal customer base. The judges shortlisted this business on account of its continuous growth, serving people of very diverse backgrounds and it also has glowing reviews from its loyal customer base.

AWARD SPONSOR

Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

Business of the Year (Catering)

Shish Anatolia

Established in 2019 by Monika Erdogan, and based in Oulton Broad, Shish Anatolia seeks to transform perceptions of Turkish food. In that time, she has built a restaurant with a loyal following and a reputation for preparing top-class Turkish food. Monika has built her business through a commitment to quality ingredients and the fresh preparation of food, and to exceptional customer service. It is this success that the judges felt warranted her shortlisting for this award.

Ocean Fish Platter

Within a short time, Ocean Fish Platter has become one of Ipswich's premier fish restaurants. Based in the town centre, this business offers quality food with excellent customer service. This has earned this business the number one ranking out of top 9 restaurants in Ipswich by Trip Advisor in 2022. Since then, they have been consistently voted as one of the top restaurants in Ipswich. They have been shortlisted for this award on account of their excellent reputation, high-quality food and all-round exceptional customer reviews.





Cappadocia

Located in Capel St Mary, this business combines delicious food with a homelike environment, catering for corporate sectors, birthdays, anniversaries, business lunches and unique themed events. Their varied menu reflects their desire to offer quality as well as variety. The judges shortlisted Cappadocia for the inspirational way in which the owners are offering quality Turkish food within a friendly and enjoyable environment.

The Curry Inn

Established in 1993, this business has now been operating in Needham Market for more than 30 years and it has acquired a large following. Its exceptional food and quality of service is reflected in the excellent reviews, and in shortlisting it the judges wanted to recognise this business for its hard-earned reputation, commitment and longevity.

Onion Bhaji

Located in Long Melford near Sudbury, this restaurant combines traditional Indian cooking with a warm and cosy environment. Since its inception, it has established a reputation for offering quality food, excellent service and exceptional Indian cuisine at affordable prices. The judges shortlisted this business for its continued success and high-quality customer reviews.

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Suffolk County Council

Business Person of the Year



Jijo Sebastian
After completing his undergraduate and postgraduate education, Jijo moved to the UK in 2009 and started his business career. During the last 17 years, he has established a portfolio of businesses in finance, insurance, care and management, currently employing around 200 people. He has been shortlisted for his business acumen and contribution to local employment opportunities as well as active involvement in local charity/community work through sponsorships.

Dr Payal Bhalla
Dr Bhalla leads two very busy dental practices in Ipswich serving more than 21,000 patients. She is supported by a group of highly qualified dental professionals including a General Dentist and Dental Therapist. Thanks to her commitment and dedication, both practices have become renowned for offering quality dental care and treatment at affordable prices. This is also reflected in the high-quality reviews. This business has been shortlisted for combining quality dental care/service with supporting good causes in the local community.

Sajeev Balasubramanian
Of Indian origin, Sajeev now runs 3 businesses in Ipswich town centre, two supermarkets and a traditional Indian eatery. Thanks to these businesses, he has become a trailblazer in the ethnic minority retail food sector, serving the diverse communities for nearly a decade now. In addition to offering an extensive range of multicultural products (more than 21000 items) to the growing BME population in Suffolk, judges shortlisted Sajeev to acknowledge his continued success and considerable contribution.

Nurul Islam Chowdhury/Emraj Chowdhury
Nurul Islam Chowdhury and Emraj Chowdhury are businessmen running a taxi company with their family, employing hundreds of people. The company has also offered employment to BME women who had previously struggled to secure employment. They have also been actively involved in charity work over many years and the judges wished to recognise their contribution and achievements in various capacities, benefiting local people.



Yavuz Koksal

Yavuz Koksal grew up into a Turkish-German family in Frankfurt and subsequently moved to England. He currently runs multiple catering businesses in Suffolk including the well-known Cappadocia restaurant off A12. Thanks to the success of his businesses, annually he contributes millions of pounds to the local economy. A family man with an extended family in England and German, judges were pleased to learn how he has successfully managed to juggle so many different roles.

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Mid Suffolk DISTRICT

Start-Up or New Business of the Year

Lucky's Coffee Shop

This is not only a business but also a place for socialising and meeting people of different backgrounds. It is a kind of social or community business that generates money and at the same time serves as a community hub for people in and around Norwich Road area. In shortlisting Lucky's Coffee Shop the judges wished to recognise their work to implement a business model that brings people of diverse origin together and generate income.

PPB Training

This business was established in 2025 by Darnte Wilson. As a former athlete, through PPB Training, Darnte trains, mentors and supports clients of diverse backgrounds to become fit and active, especially focusing on women affected by cancer, endometriosis and hip replacements. This business has been shortlisted for its creative ways to support people to train, build strength, and gain confidence through both informal and structured programs.





90nine Lounge

90nine Lounge brings a lavish restaurant to the heart of Ipswich, allowing customers to relax in stunning, immersive surroundings and exceptional customer service. Judges were impressed by its ability to push culinary boundaries by creating a unique and exciting dining experience, thanks to its renowned chefs who have mastered their art of cooking in some of the most well-known kitchens in Ipswich and Suffolk.

Boathouse Turkish Bistro

This is a fabulous new Turkish restaurant located in Sudbury. The family have more than 30 years of experience of running catering businesses in England and abroad and they have decorated the interior using traditional Turkish artefacts and is uniquely located near a canal around beautiful surroundings.
Judges shortlisted this business on the strength of its quality of food, service and customer reviews.

Zavvinko Ltd

Established earlier this year, this furniture business and showroom offers high quality and bespoke furniture at affordable price. This is a family run business and the owner takes pride in offering quality products combined with exceptional customer service and this is reflected in its community-minded ethos and values. Judges shortlisted this business on the strength of its rapid growth and increasing reputation locally.

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Community Business of the Year

Express Cabs

Established in 2023, this company has grown very quickly, currently operating as passenger transport business working with Suffolk County Council providing home-to-school transport for children with special needs and disabilities. It is now looking for more drivers to join the company. Their commitment to quality, reliable and affordable service is noteworthy. They have been shortlisted in recognition of their continued growth and success as a business.

Al-Amin Halal Grocery

Al-Amin has been serving its customers in Ipswich for more than 25 years, providing a wide range of fresh goods and groceries. They have a loyal customer base that is able to take advantage of a delivery service as well as high-quality in-store offer. The judge's shortlisted Al-Amin in recognition of the continued growth of the business and their work with charities, sports clubs and community activities.

Ipswich Tigers

It started off as Ipswich Bangladeshi Badminton Club in 2001, and rebranded in 2017 as Ipswich Tigers. Since then, this club has grown offering regular badminton sessions as well as sports tournaments (such as cricket, football and carrom board). Sessions are aimed at both children and adults, and competitions take place in Ipswich and across this region. Judges were impressed with its contribution to promoting sports in the BME communities.

The Fitness Hub

Curtley Williams established The Fitness Hub over 7 years ago. Since then, it has grown as a fitness and wellbeing business initially serving women, but subsequently opening its doors to men too. The business has helped more than 1000 people to become more fitter and stronger through a combination of functional strength circuits, yoga and Pilates. Judges shortlisted this business to recognise its commitment to improving health and wellbeing.

Mass Care Momentous Ltd

Established in 2021, this business has grown rapidly and currently has 85 employees/volunteers. It provides care staffing solutions and believes that care goes beyond service delivery. As such, Jijo Sebastian of Mass Care Momentous Ltd, actively supports community initiatives combining professional healthcare with support for local good causes. Judges appreciated the owners desire to grow the business whilst having a positive impact on local people's lives.



AWARD SPONSOR

ICENI

Female Entrepreneur of the Year

Dr Payal Bhalla
Dr Bhalla leads two very busy dental practices in Ipswich serving more than 21,000 patients. She is supported by a group of highly qualified dental professionals including a General Dentist and Dental Therapist. Thanks to her commitment and dedication, both practices have become renowned for offering quality dental care and treatment at affordable prices. This is also reflected in the high-quality reviews. Dr Bhalla has been shortlisted for combining quality dental care/service with supporting good causes in the local community.

Aynur Aydin
Based in Ipswich town centre, Mewa Tailor Boutique has been operating since 2023. Of Turkish origin, Aynur Aydin has been involved in tailoring since the age of 12. Her extensive experience, excellent customer service and affordable pricing has proved to be very popular with her customers. The business is run by the owner and her husband, and the judges shortlisted Aynur to recognise her many years of dedication and achievements.





Walking in Your Purpose

Established in 2018 by Angelina Quamina, Walking in Your Purpose delivers high-quality, reflective, and culturally intelligent programmes to strengthen public and private sector performance to uplift communities, inspire leaders, and empower organisations/groups to become catalysts for positive change in society. The judges were impressed by Angelina's vision and determination to bring about positive change within institutions as well as at the grassroots level.

Women Rise Together

This group was founded by 3 friends. Guided by their values of Connect, Share and Grow, they brought women from different backgrounds and business sectors together, encouraged collaboration instead of competition. Through a series of shopping and entrepreneurship festivals, Women Rise Together created new opportunities for women-led businesses to sell their products/services, engage with customers, exchange ideas and built meaningful professional relationships. Judges shortlisted this initiative on account of its innovative approach and considerable impact within a very short time.

Zoha Hanzla

She is the owner of several businesses including Lucky's Coffee and a Greek Restaurant. They are not only businesses but also places for socialising and meeting people of different backgrounds. They are kind of social or community businesses that generate money and at the same time serve as community hubs for people in and around Norwich Road area. In shortlisting Zoha the judges wished to recognise her efforts to implement a business model that brings people of diverse origin together and generate income.

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Charity of the Year

Suffolk Muslim Centre

Since its establishment in 1980s, this charity has operated as a community centre and place of worship for growing ethnic minorities of Muslim faith in and around Ipswich. It has since expanded its services and proactively engages in interfaith and related activities. The judges shortlisted this organisation on account of the fact that it is now a well-used community and resource centre, with over 1000 people of diverse backgrounds accessing its projects/services every week.

Ipswich Romanian Community

This organisation now has a growing following within the Romanian community in Ipswich and Suffolk. It raises awareness of Romanian culture through a range of activities including collaborating with local statutory and voluntary organisations, community events, cultural celebrations, etc. Since its inception, this charity has made a positive difference to the lives of thousands of Romanian people and members of the wider community in Ipswich and Suffolk. The judge's shortlisted the organisation for its positive contribution to social cohesion and community integration in Ipswich and Suffolk.





Ipswich Cycling Community Club

Motin Khan is the Chairman and one of the founders of Ipswich Cycling Community Club. It was started during the pandemic to improve the members fitness, health and wellbeing. Since then, they have expanded and completed multiple local, national and international tours including Ipswich to Cambridge, East London, Bedford as well as Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Gambia. In the process, they have raised tens of thousands of pounds for local and international charities. The judges were impressed by their dedication and commitment to their cause.

Karibu African Woman's Support Group

KAWSG were established more than 12 years ago and in that time, it has developed a range of services to support the African community in Ipswich and surrounding areas. Its work includes education, peer support, advocacy and the promotion of culture and heritage. In shortlisting them, the judges sought to recognise the range of work undertaken by KAWSG.

Ipswich Malayalee Association (IMA)

This Society was established by members of the growing South Indian community in Ipswich and Suffolk to promote education, health and wellbeing through social, cultural and recreational activities. The judge's wished to recognise the Society for its valuable work and increased profile in shortlisting them.

Waveney Multicultural Forum

From humble beginnings in 2006, the Forum has now come a long way, thanks to the efforts of its founder, Iftekhar Alam of Lowestoft. For more than two decades, this proactive BME organisation has engaged ethnic minority people in Waveney in a range of social, cultural, sports and recreational activities. The Forum was shortlisted for its invaluable contribution and achievements in that part of the County.

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SUFFOLK Community Foundation

Health Champion of the Year

Ian Brown

Ian Brown is a retired professional footballer who has worked across education, sports development and community engagement, and currently works as a Personal Progress Tutor. Over the years, he has been involved in a range of sporting and recreational activities focusing on improving health, wellbeing, and confidence of children and young people. The judges were impressed by his considerable contribution, commitment and dedication to improving lives of local young people and their families.

Ipswich Tigers

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Dorina Petroi
Dorina is the founder of Fitness Formula, which she founded in 2018, and since then the business has taken off and expanded quickly. As a qualified zumba instructor and personal trainer, Dorina not only focuses on improving individual's health and wellbeing, but also works proactively with many community organisations to encourage people to become more active and physical fit and mentally resilient. Judges shortlisted Dorina to recognise her contribution to improving the lives of hundreds of people in Ipswich and beyond.

Mohamad Mamun Alom
He runs an independent NHS community pharmacy offering a range of services including travel clinic, seasonal vaccinations, healthy lifestyle advice, weight management, stop smoking service, health checks and disposal of unwanted medication, in addition to free prescription collection and delivery service. Multilingual and professional staff offer excellent service to customers. The judges were impressed with Mamun's commitment to providing a flexible and high-quality service.

Darnte Wilson (PPB)
Darnte established this business in 2025. As a former athlete, he trains, mentors and supports clients of diverse backgrounds to become fit and active, especially focusing on women who are affected by cancer, endometriosis and hip replacements. His work is innovative and much-needed and Darnte has been shortlisted to acknowledge his efforts to support people to train, build strength, and gain confidence through both informal and structured programs.

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Judges Special Award

Jijo Sebastian

After completing his undergraduate and postgraduate education, Jijo moved to the UK in 2009 and started his business career. During the last 17 years, he has established a portfolio of businesses in finance, insurance, care and management, currently employing around 200 people. He has been shortlisted for his business acumen and contribution to local employment opportunities as well as active involvement in local charity/community work through sponsorships .

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Asian & Afro Supermarket

Based in Ipswich town centre, this supermarket has been a trailblazer in the ethnic minority retail food sector for nearly a decade now. Through this and other businesses the owner, Sajeev Bala, offers an extensive range of multicultural products (more than 21000 items) to the growing BME population in Suffolk. Judges shortlisted this business to acknowledge the owner's contribution and achievements over a decade.

Aqua Pharmacy

This is an independent NHS community pharmacy offering a range of services including travel clinic, seasonal vaccinations, healthy lifestyle advice, weight management, stop smoking service, health checks and disposal of unwanted medication, in addition to free prescription collection and delivery service. Multilingual and professional staff offer excellent service to customers. The judges were impressed with the pharmacy's commitment to providing a flexible and high-quality service.

AWARD SPONSOR

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SAI ESTATES PROUD TO SUPPORT THE SUFFOLK BME BUSINESS AWARDS



It has been a pleasure to be a part of the Suffolk BME Business Awards over the years. Congratulations to BSCMS for the work they do and best wishes for the future.

Being a local businessman I am passionate to improve our local communities.

- Supporting local business to thrive
- Connecting businesses to council and government
- Connecting businesses to local government services
- Encouraging local businesses to work in partnership with local colleges & universities
- Working with local charities to achieve their goals

Email: sachinkaraleipswich@yahoo.com
Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn:
Dr Sachin Karale Ipswich

SAI ESTATES
DR SACHIN KARALE

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

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NAUCZ SIĘ ANGIELSKIEGO

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& University of Suf
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About the University of Suffolk

The University of Suffolk is celebrating 10 years of impact this year. Since 2016, our impact has reached far beyond our campus. Our graduates are building careers and strengthening local businesses, law firms, hospitals and healthcare services. Our staff have driven excellence in teaching, research and student experience. We've contributed to Suffolk's cultural life, supported economic growth and helped create opportunities across the region.

We prepare students to make an impact on a changing world – a place where research, enterprise, innovation and scholarship are flourishing in many areas. Joining forces with employers, businesses, and research organisations, we offer a diverse range of opportunities and progression options. In a world where nothing stays the same, we need to change, evolve and succeed. That's what we do.

Our business courses support students to prepare for a career in which they will see huge technological advances. Digital skills are at the heart of our programmes and are fundamental to making sure that graduates are ready to continue to learn throughout their working lives. All of this is achieved by working closely with businesses of all sizes and sectors - we strive to give students experience of a wide range of different types of organisation through placement opportunities, a focus on applying their knowledge in assessments that are grounded in actual business challenges and through networking and other events that bring students and businesspeople together.

An important part of delivering on our promises to students and to the wider community, is working in partnership with businesses and a variety of community groups. We are extremely proud to work with the BSC Multicultural Services to deliver the BME Business Awards and to be able to recognise the extraordinary efforts of business people from diverse backgrounds across Suffolk. The BSCMS's commitment to promoting multicultural ideas and to valuing diversity in ideas, working styles and decision-making continues to be an inspiration.

About The Hold (Suffolk Archives)

Suffolk Archives, part of Suffolk County Council, is home to more than 900 years of local history. We collect, care for, and share the county's stories through records that reflect Suffolk people's lives, work, and heritage. We help people engage with Suffolk's past via community engagement, education, and outreach programmes, exhibitions, public events, online resources, and partnerships with the likes of Ancestry to make history accessible to all.

We're based at The Hold in Ipswich, on the town waterfront. The £20million building is a partnership between Suffolk County Council and the University of Suffolk. Our public spaces, including the auditorium and Street area are available for hire for meetings, receptions and conferences. Day hire, Day Delegate Rates, drinks packages and bespoke catering options are available from our on-site caterers. Discounted charity rates are also available. We look forward to welcoming you to Suffolk Archives at The Hold!

University of Suffolk

THE Hold
Connect Explore Discover

About the BSC Multicultural Services (BSCMS)

BSC Multicultural Services is a multi-award-winning community organisation providing a wide range of services to Suffolk's growing BME population, promoting social integration, strengthening community cohesion and improving capacity building. BSCMS has nearly 30 years of excellent track-record in developing and delivering community projects, big and small, and currently its services are accessed by people of 65 different nationalities including Kurdish, Turkish, African and Eastern European background, in addition to Bangladeshi and other Asian people.

BSCMS work is innovative, grassroots-based and community-led and seeks to address issues of deprivation and inequalities faced by some of Ipswich and Suffolk's most disadvantaged/ vulnerable people. BSCMS achieves this by providing a range of projects and services, including: 1) Face-to-face Support Services which deals with around 2500 cases annually, 2) 1 Big Multicultural Festival attracting around 8000 people annually, 3) Befriending Scheme supporting more than 120 elderly people, 4) Carers Project supporting more than 130 BME carers and cared for in Ipswich and across Suffolk, 5) Sports Project encourages BME people to become more involved in sports/recreational activities, 6) Training and Capacity Building Project, 7) Supplementary School for primary and secondary school children from deprived backgrounds, 8) Annual Global Food & Pita Festival attracting over 2000 people, 9) bi-annual Suffolk BME Business Awards, 10) ESOL classes for BME women.

For its contribution and achievements, BSCMS has received recognition at local, regional and national level, winning the 'Best Community Organisation' award in the UK by Channel S Television (London), and was invited to Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebration (2012). East of England Local Government Association offered BSC a 'Certification of Achievement' (2014) and the High Sheriff of Suffolk awarded BSCMS 'Certificate of Recognition' (2018). Suffolk Community Foundation and Suffolk County Council also awarded a 'Working Together Award' (2018). His Royal Highness Prince Edward praised BSC's 'wonderful' community development and regeneration work during his visit to Ipswich; BSCMS was included in the Suffolk 100, a list of most influential individuals/organisations by East Anglian Daily Times.

In 2022 BSCMS received the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service from Her Majesty the Queen. BSCMS was also invited to a 'Community Champions' reception at 10 Downing Street in May 2023, in addition to attending a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace hosted by His Majesty King Charles III. In the same year, BSCMS was invited to Wembley Stadium and received a prestigious award from English FA for promoting diversity and inclusion in football. Last but not least, in 2024 BSCMS received an 'Equity Champion Award' from NHS Suffolk & North East Essex Integrated Care System for its BME Carers Project.

BSCMS is delighted to be working in partnership with the University of Suffolk and The Hold to recognise and celebrate the contribution and achievements of businesses originating from the BME communities in Ipswich and Suffolk. The university's inclusive approach to transformative learning is one that BSCMS shares and we hope to continue to work together to achieve this objective. See www.bscmulticulturalservices.org.uk for more information.

BSC Multicultural Services
Supporting over 50 nationalities

The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

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Suffolk BME Business Awards would like to thank all the sponsors and supporters who have given their time and services to make this evening truly special.

BSC Multicultural Services
Supporting over 50 nationalities

BSC MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

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