



PRESS RELEASE

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Erica Lockhart Honoured with MBE for Services to Social Care

Erica Lockhart, Chair of the South East Social Care Alliance (SESCA), has been awarded an MBE in the King's New Year Honours List 2025 for her outstanding contributions to the social care sector.

Reflecting on the recognition, Erica said:

"I am extremely honoured to receive this award. It has been a privilege to have operated in so many different fields within social care during my 50 years in the sector as well as interacting with countless dedicated individuals committed to making a difference to people's lives. As Chair of South East Social Care Alliance I would like to pay tribute to the local Care Associations who work so hard to support their social care providers and their teams who devote themselves to care and support for people in our communities."

SESCA congratulated Erica, stating:

"This is a very well-deserved recognition for many years of dedication, support, and inspiration for the sector."

Erica has inspired countless individuals over her career in social care, leaving a permanent mark on the Care Sector and beyond. She transitioned from qualified Social Worker to several years in senior management in Surrey County Council to CEO of Surrey Care Association (SCA), retiring in 2021.

Under her leadership, SCA prospered into a thriving organisation over her 16 year tenure, notably establishing the Surrey Care Awards, recognising care workers' achievements which has now been replicated by many other associations. As well as negotiating with local authorities in Surrey and Sussex to establish a major workforce and business development conference, which became a key event in the Social Care calendar.

During the pandemic, Erica worked closely with Surrey County Council providing invaluable support to care providers, addressing emotional and logistical hurdles. From PPE distribution to coordinating aid initiatives and negotiating infection control training with the NHS, ensuring social care's integration into broader response efforts.

Erica recognised the necessity for national representation for Care Associations which led to her co-founding the Care Association Alliance (CAA) in 2010. The CAA became a vital platform uniting Care Associations nationwide and amplifying providers' voices in pivotal dialogues with government, regulators, and workforce bodies driving positive, national change.

Erica then went on to establish SESCA in 2020, uniting nine Care Associations to ensure a strong regional voice for Social Care, leading projects to enhance workforce capacity and developing a model for regional coordination and innovation.

Notes to Editors about SESCA:

SESCA serves as the voice of Adult Social Care providers in the South East, representing their perspectives in crucial partnerships. SESCA aims to actively shape services and contribute to the sustainability of the dynamic and evolving care market. SESCA's focus is to connect regional bodies with the South East care provider market, support the delivery of key NHS services in health care and local authorities, facilitate provider input on plans post pandemic, foster long-term workforce sustainability and resilience in the provider community.

More information is available on The South East Care Alliance at www.sesca.org.uk

- Photograph of Erica attached in JPEG and embedded below.
- Organisation LinkedIn profile <https://uk.linkedin.com/company/sesca-south-east-social-care-alliance>
- More information is available on the South East Care Alliance at www.sesca.org.uk
- Erica Lockhart is the Chair of The South East Social Care Alliance (SESCA)
- Care Associations covered by SESCA: Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers, Surrey Care Association, Kent Integrated Care Alliance, Buckinghamshire Care Providers Association, Berkshire Care Association, Isle of Wight Care Partnership, Hampshire Care Association, West Sussex Partners in Care, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Partners in Care.
- SESCA is the trading name for CARE ASSOCIATION ALLIANCE SOUTH EAST LTD, Company number 15686972, Registered office address: 68 Oxford Road, Garsington, Oxford, OX44 9AE incorporated 28 April 2024
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