



Norfolk and Suffolk Health and Care Awards 2026

Unsung Hero Award

Chris and Karen Claydon

The Giving Wardrobe

Chris and Karen are nominated for their outstanding work in establishing *The Giving Wardrobe*, a vital community service providing free clothing to adults in need across Norfolk. Responding to a clear gap in provision, they have created a highly responsive, person-centred service that supports individuals facing crisis, including those admitted to hospital without access to essential belongings.

Working in partnership with a wide range of organisations—including Norfolk County Council, the NHS, charities and foodbanks—the Giving Wardrobe accepts referrals and provides tailored clothing packages based on individual needs. Their approach goes beyond basic provision; they ensure items are appropriate in size, comfort and situation, helping to restore dignity and confidence for those they support.

Chris and Karen are known for their exceptional responsiveness and dedication, often delivering clothing within hours of a referral. They go above and beyond by personally transporting items across the county, including directly to hospital wards or new care placements, ensuring individuals transition with comfort and essential belongings.

Their work is particularly impactful in healthcare settings, where patients may arrive in emergencies without clothing and lack family support. By meeting this need, the Giving Wardrobe plays a crucial role in improving patient experience and wellbeing during vulnerable moments.

In addition, their low-cost community clothing sales extend support to a wider population. Through compassion, flexibility and relentless commitment, Chris and Karen have created an essential, trusted service that upholds dignity, reduces hardship and makes a meaningful difference across Norfolk communities.