# Prema Fairburn-Dorai

## Suffolk Care Association and Primary Homecare

Prema Fairburn-Dorai was voted in as chair of Suffolk Care Association (SCA) in 2020. The remit was to negotiate fee uplifts with Suffolk County Council (SCC) annually, however Covid happened and everything changed. Prema championed the cause for care providers whilst she secured grants to give peer support and guidance during that traumatic time. Care homes did not have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and Prema used her own finances and raised funds through the Rotary Club to purchase PPE directly from China for them. She attended weekly Mult-Disciplinary Teams and cascaded information to all care providers.

She made successful bids for grants, allowing SCA to develop their training and support services to the care sector. She has increased awareness amongst SCC and NHS partners of what social care providers really do through persistent networking/meetings/media appearances, helping them to more fully understand the role and scope of work undertaken and appreciate the problems that care providers faced and the good work they did in the community.

Prema makes herself available for practical help and guidance when it is requested. The SCA annual conference she convenes is packed with interesting national and local speakers, providing a wealth of information and for the past 2 years, the afternoon session has been a collaboration with Suffolk and North East Essex ICS as part of `Can do Health and Care'. Her staff are very loyal and committed and have worked for her for over 10 years, demonstrating how she is an employer who creates an inclusive work environment. She is an excellent advocate for the care sector and their voice in Suffolk.