

# Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 26 February 2021

## KiCA: Free membership for all CQC registered Adult Social Care providers in Kent

Following recent funding received from Kent County Council, KiCA are able to offer free membership to ALL CQC registered Adult Social Care providers in Kent.



They represent all areas of the sector, residential homecare, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health. KiCA are your voice for care in Kent.

Do not miss this opportunity to join your local Care Association. For further information, please visit: [www.kica.care](http://www.kica.care) or contact: [louise.faulkner@kica.care](mailto:louise.faulkner@kica.care)

KiCA look forward to continuing to support you and your organisation through these difficult and challenging times.

## Peninsula webinar: Preparing your business for post-Covid success

You're invited to attend a **free** webinar presented by experts from Peninsula, the UK's largest HR and employment law consultancy firm. Discover how to **prepare your business for post-Covid success**, by understanding the latest changes in employment law and workplace policies, post pandemic and post-Brexit.



### Who's it for?

Business owners and HR professionals looking to protect their people and get the best from their businesses in 2021.

### What will I learn?

During the webinar, their business experts will give you practical advice on how to:

- Update your employment contracts and handbooks to comply with significant recent changes in employment law.
- Revise, amend or introduce important policies and procedures to prepare your business for the withdrawal of the Furlough Scheme.
- Make post Covid efficiencies - be aware of the fair and legal process of changing your employee's terms & conditions.
- Deal with redundancies and avoiding a costly Tribunal claim.
- Deal with an employee refusal to return to the workplace - Section 44 of the Employment Rights Act.
- Meet the latest Covid-secure guidelines and make it easier to bring people back to work when the time comes.

Plus our experts will give advice on holiday enforcement rules, supporting your employee's well-being, working from home and the five fair reasons for dismissal.

## **Event details**

How to Prepare your business for post-COVID success

Date: Tuesday 23 March 2021

Time: 10:00AM - 11:00AM

### **How do I register?**

If you are interested in attending, please book via the 'Book My Place' link below or alternatively,

**Call:** 0844 892 2771

or

**Email:** [events@peninsula-uk.com](mailto:events@peninsula-uk.com) and quote **46439**

The event is **completely free** to attend, but spaces are limited, so please book your place now to avoid missing out.

**A reminder email will be sent to all registered delegates the day before the event is due to take place confirming the joining instructions.**

## **Book My Place**

## **Trainee Nursing Associate Information webinar for the Care Sector**

**23 March 2021 (13.00-14.30)**

**Are you looking for a funded opportunity to upskill your workers to support the delivery of nursing care?**

A nursing associate (NA) is a new member of the nursing family who provides care for people in health and social care settings. It has been created to bridge the skills gap between care assistants and registered nurses. This role is only being used and regulated in England.

***A nursing associate is not a substitute for a registered nurse.*** The intention is that by employing a nursing associate, who is registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) having completed an approved training course, it can free up the time of a registered nurse to work at the upper limits of their registration, focussing on more complex care needs and leadership.

### **Interested?**

More information on the NA role can be found on the Skills for Care website:

<https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Learning-development/Regulated-professionals/Nursing/Nursing-associates.aspx>

Book your free place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/trainee-nursing-associate-webinar-tickets-141107709959>

## Grant support for businesses affected by coronavirus restrictions

Residential and domiciliary care providers operating in Kent, are being encouraged to consider applying for discretionary grant funding.

The Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) supports businesses that are not covered by other Local Authority-administered grant schemes or where additional funding is needed, on a discretionary basis. Local schemes vary in terms of specific eligibility criteria but as a general principle, businesses should consider ARG if they can evidence a significant reduction in income during the period of restrictions, as well as fixed costs.

The ARG is available to businesses (and charitable organisations, in some areas) which either do not directly pay Business Rates and have been required to close during lockdown, or which are able to show they have been severely affected by coronavirus restrictions put in place. This might include, for example, a care provider carrying bed spaces over an extended period because families are unwilling to place relatives. Or a domiciliary care provider carrying abnormal costs and / or a decline in client numbers.

Typically, grant awards range between £1,334 and £3,000 for a 28-day period – based either on Rateable Value, Rent or Commercial Mortgage liabilities. In some areas, eligible applications to ARG received before the end of March 2021, will also be considered for a one-off top up sum worth between £4,000 and £9,000.

For more information, direct links to Local Authority application web pages can be found [here](#). Please be advised that many ARG schemes have application deadlines, in the near future.

## Covid 19 Parking Concession Scheme

The parking concession scheme for social care staff which enables on-duty social care staff to park for free in local authority owned off-street car parks and on-street bays during the pandemic response remains in place.

Locally, the 12 district and borough councils who are responsible for parking in Kent, continue to allow all on-duty social care staff free parking, as long as a letter of evidence from their employer confirming their legitimate use of the scheme is clearly displayed in their vehicle. Staff are thanked for their considerate and legal use of the scheme.

More information about the use of the scheme and its conditions are available here:



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-health-care-and-volunteer-workers-parking-pass-and-concessions/covid-19-health-care-and-volunteer-workers-parking-pass-and-concessions>

## Public Health: Visiting professionals

A visiting professional is defined as anyone visiting the care home in a professional capacity, for example a chiropodist. Some visiting professionals, including NHS staff and CQC inspectors will already be part of a regular testing regime, and therefore they will not need testing on the door of the care home. Professionals not part of a regular testing regime will need to be tested every time they visit a care home.

To help the funeral directors to discharge their duties in the care home and maintain the dignity of residents who have passed away, we have given additional access to our asymptomatic testing sites. The funeral service staff will have access to lateral flow testing and will have proof of their status following this test. Given that they wear full PPE we would appreciate it if the care homes could review their policies and allow access to funeral service workers who can show they have tested negative.



More information can be found here: [Care home LFD testing of visitors guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/care-home-lfd-testing-of-visitors-guidance)

## Government Funding

With the various government fund schemes fast approaching their 'use by date', we would like to remind everyone that the following funds can only be spent up to the 31 March 2021. As per DHSC guidelines, any unspent balance(s) will need to be repaid.

You may have been offered more than one of the following:

- Infection Control Fund:
  - DHSC's non-discretionary per bed/per service user allocation, paid in 2 instalments - offered to all CQC Registered Care Homes & Community Care Providers
  - KCC's discretionary allocation
  - Emergency Claim – infection control related claim requests to be received by 8<sup>th</sup> March, for consideration/payment by end March
- Rapid Testing Fund (offered to all eligible care homes on per-bed basis). Note: some care homes have declined and the remaining surplus will be re-distributed accordingly
- Workforce Capacity Fund (currently in progress, offering to care home and community care providers based on per bed/per service user basis)



If you have any queries relating to qualifying expenditure for these funds, please contact [infectioncontrolfund@kent.gov.uk](mailto:infectioncontrolfund@kent.gov.uk).

## First Dose of Covid-19 Vaccine

This is a reminder to all eligible front line staff that have not yet received or booked their appointment for their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to please book an appointment via the National Booking System by Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February.

The National Booking System can be accessed here:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>. The system is currently allowing bookings up to 2 weeks in advance, depending on availability.

Anyone who has health concerns regarding the vaccine such as allergies should seek medical advice via their GP.

Please keep in touch with [kcccovidvaccinations@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kcccovidvaccinations@kent.gov.uk) if you are unable to access a vaccine for any reason.

### **Second Dose of Covid-19 Vaccine**

If you have received your initial vaccine and do not know how to arrange your second dose appointment then please call 119 and they will be able to make the appointment for you.