

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 11 February 2022

Adult carers strategy consultation – we need your views by 22 Feb

****Please share this information with your own networks****

Thank you to those of you who participated in our carers strategy development workshops last year. Your thoughts and suggestions helped us to shape the draft **Kent adult carers strategy** that is now out for formal consultation. [Read about it on our website.](#)

Following research and engagement activities with unpaid carers, the public and providers, the six-week public consultation runs until 22 February 2022.



Through our conversations so far, we have heard clear views from unpaid carers about what is important to them and have brought these together in the draft strategy document. Our aim is to work more closely with unpaid carers and our partners, to turn these ambitions into reality and bring welcomed improvements to the experiences of carers in Kent.

Complete the questionnaire now – before 22 February!

We need your views on the draft strategy, which sets out what changes we want to see in the future

Visit: www.kent.gov.uk/adultcarersstrategy to take part. Printed copies can be provided on request. Contact the Stakeholder Engagement Team via makingadifference@kent.gov.uk to request copies or arrange a workshop.

Nurses in Social Care - Expressions of interest invited

If interested in the following funded course please use the link to register your interest **by 11 March** and we will then come back to you with the course dates so that you can confirm if you are available to be offered a place.

After great feedback from the 15 nurses who took part in the first cohort of the **Skills for Care Nurse Leadership programme**, we can now offer this fully funded 4 day program and a learner exchange day (5 days split over a few months) to another 15 nurses.

Registered nurse professional
leadership development
programme



The programme delivered by Skills for Care will cover the skills and knowledge needed to work across complex, often challenging systems and will cover:

- working across professional, organisational and system boundaries
- developing and implementing new practice and service redesign projects
- using high-level negotiating and influencing skills
- leadership in contexts that are unfamiliar, complex and unpredictable.

Please use [this link](#) to express your interest and [watch a video](#) from Skills for Care.

Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund Round 2 (WRRF2) and ICP Vaccination and Testing Fund

The Infection Control Fund Team are in the process of allocating funds for the “WRRF2” (Workforce Retention and recruitment Fund), also the 2nd Tranche of ICP, Vaccination and Testing fund is due very soon.

In order for providers to receive these funds, the Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund, Round 3, guidance states:

“Local authorities must only pay out the 'direct funding to providers' allocation to providers who have completed the Capacity Tracker at least twice (2 consecutive weeks), and have committed to completing the tracker at least once per week until the conclusion of the fund”.

Recent communications have been sent to providers detailing the allocations of the “Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund Round 2 (WRRF2)”.

“Whilst there are no specific requirements for how the funding is used to recruit and retain staff, we would expect there to be a recognition of the efforts of staff continually going above and beyond to support our residents. This recognition would in our view be most appropriately reflected through payments directly to your staff”.

The funding will be paid in one instalment, subject to the following criteria being met:

- The NHS Capacity Tracker has been updated for two consecutive weeks, and at least once a week up to 31 March 2022.
- You confirm how you intend to directly reward staff for their commitment i.e. Retention bonus, Gift Vouchers, Hampers etc and
- An authorised person sends an email confirming “Accept” by Midnight on Monday 31 January 2022 via email to the Infection Control Fund mailbox infectioncontrolfund@kent.gov.uk

We appreciate how busy providers are but it is a requirement for the NHS Capacity Tracker to be completed as detailed above in order for the ICF and WRRF Funds to be dispersed to you as soon as they become available.

Non-completion of the tracker will result in payments being delayed or not being paid at all.

PPE consultation and extension of free PPE to the health and care sector



Department of Health & Social Care

The government has announced its decision to extend the central, free provision of all items of COVID-19 PPE to the health and care sector by up to one year to March 2023 or until the infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance on PPE usage for COVID-19 is either withdrawn or significantly amended (whichever is sooner).

The press release announcing the decision to extend is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-ppe-for-frontline-extended-for-another-year>

The government has also published its response to the public consultation. The formal response is available on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/extending-free-ppe-to-the-health-and-care-sector>

We are currently designing and user testing a new and improved PPE Portal for the ordering of Covid-19 PPE. We will keep you updated as this work progresses.

Covid and dementia - lessons learnt event

There will be three conference-style events, 'Covid and dementia – lessons learnt', with the first part of the morning hearing from experts and the second part of the morning, a workshop for attendees to share experiences. The events all end with a networking buffet lunch and all of the information captured at the event will be shared.

These events are free to anyone interested in dementia, this could be family carers, professional carers, volunteers who run groups, Dementia Action Alliances, healthcare professionals, etc. There is space for 100 attendees per event.

The events will focus on:

- Infection control – what works, how it works, actions that can break the spread of viruses, minimal actions that can help and what does not help
- Dementia and behaviour – how people with dementia may perceive what is going on, why they might not like wearing masks, how to encourage non-contact behaviours
- An unpaid carer sharing their experiences from the last 2 years
- A person living with dementia sharing their experiences.

The events are now open to book on Eventbrite; please see dates, venues and links to book below:

- **Tuesday 15 February 2022** - Mercure Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-and-dementia-lessons-learnt-tunbridge-wells-venue-tickets-220558565607>

Join the Kent Care Summit on 2 March to shape the future of care together!

You're invited to this innovative hybrid event, that will bring together people we support, the care workforce, system leaders, commissioners, providers and community organisations.



There will be a focus on people's experiences and what they want to see from the Kent care market in the medium to long term.

There's a packed agenda including:

A session on the person's and staff voice : sharing experiences and our vision for the care market.

Hear from our panel:

- Michelle Dyson, Director General for Adult Social Care, Department of Health and Social Care
- Oonagh Smyth, Skills for Care CEO
- Social Care Future for the person's voice
- Claudia Sykes OBE, Social Enterprise Kent
- Vic Rayner OBE, National Care Forum

The panel will be discussing insights into what is happening in social care, the future of the care sector and what this can mean for Kent. Followed by questions from the audience.

And you can also join our breakout sessions, 'In this together – building our care market for the future', to make your voice heard.

Why have the event now?

It's been an extremely challenging period, with the impacts of Covid, staff and recruitment issues being felt as we work to manage the current winter pressures as a system.

Kent has strengths in its relationships and ambition. Together, we can shape the social care market for the better - so join the conversation and help to set the course towards a more sustainable and innovative future.

When does it take place?

Date: **Wednesday 2 March 2022 : Time 10am - 4pm**

Venue: **Kent Showground, Detling + virtual event programme**

How to book your place:

[Book your in-person place](#) to attend the Kent Care Summit at Detling Showground (9.30am for a 10am start – 4pm).

[Or book a virtual place](#) at the Kent Care Summit to attend online.

Free Support to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit

Kent County Council (KCC) in Partnership with Kent Integrated Care Alliance (KICA) are supporting social care providers across Kent and Medway to register on and complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT).



The DSPT is a free online self-assessment of your organisation's data and cyber security and is recognised as the official tool to evaluate your compliance with legal requirements, Data Security Standards and good practice. It is also required in order to access key services such as NHSmail, proxy ordering for medication and shared care records.

[Watch our introductory webinar online, Sign up to small-group virtual workshops and 1:1 sessions on our website](#) – free support to help you register and work through the toolkit. Not sure where to start with this? Or got some questions? Please send us an email: dspt@kent.gov.uk

Helping Hands scheme - Supporting households facing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19

The Fuel Costs Support Voucher scheme is now available to Kent residents, in partnership with Green Doctors and this may be of interest to the people you support.



About the scheme

The 'Helping Hands' scheme offers fuel vouchers towards the cost of heating bills and essential items related to keeping warm. The vouchers will support households facing financial hardship as a direct result of coronavirus (COVID-19). Applicants can apply for up to 3 vouchers towards heating bills (must have a top-up meter) or essential items such as:

- boiler repairs
- temporary heaters
- thick curtains
- blankets (at the discretion of district and borough council officers.)

Referrers will need to check that the applicant has suffered a loss of income as a direct result of COVID-19. (For example, being put on furlough, reduced trade or business, increased heating bills by working from home.) Full eligibility and evidence criteria as well as other information can be found by emailing: tracy.veasey@kent.gov.uk, or hannah.chandler@kent.gov.uk.

Make a referral

Referrals can only be made by professionals or trusted partners. Call: 0800 233 5255
Visit: <https://south.greendoctors.org.uk/>

Solar together – small businesses can register for free

Solar Together opens today. It is a great opportunity to get a competitive price for solar PV and battery storage and makes the process much easier for those who don't know where to start. It isn't just for homeowners; small businesses, landlords and community buildings are able to register too for a free, no obligation quote.



Read more on the [KCC website](#)

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

The Kent Integrated Care Alliance (KiCA) is delighted to announce that due to funding received from Kent County Council, we are able to offer free KiCA membership from July 2021 - July 2022 for all CQC registered Adult Social Care providers in our county.



The sector has faced the most challenging times over the last 18 months and we will continue to support providers and be your voice for care in Kent. We represent all areas of the sector, residential, homecare, learning disabilities and mental health.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to join your local care association. For further information, please visit www.kica.care or to register your organisation as a KiCA member, please contact louise.faulkner@kica.care

We look forward to working with you all again over the coming year.

Vaccinations - Myth busting webinar

Thursday 24 February 2022, 11am - 11.45am



Millie Gray and Amali Gamaarachchi, Senior Pharmacists from the Medicines Optimisation Team will be covering the basics around what vaccines are, how they work, vaccine development, why it's important and myths around vaccinations.

This is your opportunity for you or your team to ask any questions around vaccinations.

To book, please email louise.faulkner@kica.care

Free annual National Care Association Membership for Kent providers

Funded by Kent County Council's Infection Control Fund.

We are delighted to be able to offer all care providers in Kent the prestigious associate membership to National Care Association free for one year.

This offer has been funded by KCC to enable all Kent providers to remain up-to-date with the latest infection prevention and control guidance and information to support your care service with through this difficult time.

To take up this offer please complete the application form on the link below and return to info@nationalcareassociation.org.uk

Associate membership includes:

- latest industry changes, guidance and news in your inbox in real time
- members only information communicated via email
- monthly round-up newsletter
- benefits from discounted deals from our sponsors and suppliers
- access to secure DBS service

Note: If you are a current National Care Association Member (on 13/10/2020) you are still eligible for this funding. You do not need to do anything! This 100% discount will be automatically applied to your next renewal!

More information can be found here: [Free annual NCA Membership for Kent Providers-736328](#)



We'd love to hear from you!

Please tell us what you'd like to see more of in this bulletin.

Want to send a submission? [click here](#).