

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Thursday 6 April 2023

Voter ID requirements: Supporting people to vote in the 2023 English local elections

Please click [here](#) to view the full briefing, which includes information and links to resources to help reach people with a learning disability, autistic people and other groups of people who may face barriers to voting.



LGA briefing: Voter ID – what you and people you support may need to know:

- The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station.
- This new requirement will apply for the first time at the local elections taking place in some areas of England on Thursday 4 May 2023.
- The requirement will apply to UK Parliament general elections from October 2023, and to UK Parliament by-elections and recall petitions from May 2023.
- The Electoral Commission has launched a public awareness campaign that includes resources to help reach older and disabled people and other groups of people facing barriers to voting. This is likely to be of interest to social care staff and providers.

Resources to help reach people with a learning disability, older people and other groups facing barriers to voting:

- The Electoral Commission has launched a [public awareness campaign on photographic voter identification](#) at the May 2023 local elections.
- The Electoral Commission have also published a range of resources to support individuals and

Voter Authority Certificate, if they do not have approved identification.

- They have launched bespoke [Voter ID resource packs](#) for partners to use to help amplify messages to underrepresented groups.
- As part of these resources the Electoral Commission has published new easy-read and plain text format resources for people with a learning disability explaining the new election voter identification requirements as well as large print, braille, and British Sign Language formats.
- There are also packs for local authorities that can be co-branded with council logos.

National Emergency Alerts System - 23 April

You may have heard in the news that there is a test of the National Emergency Alerts System on Sunday 23 April. Emergency Alerts is a UK government service that will warn you if there's a danger to life nearby.

It's important we prepare anyone we support that has a mobile phone that they may receive this alert. Please see below two versions of a tool you can use to help people understand about this. The first is an easy read document, the second is a Plain English version:

[COT Emergency Alerts System Plain English](#)

[COT Emergency Alerts System Test Easy Read](#)

Please ensure you use whichever document is best for the people you support that this may affect.

Have your say on our Local Account



This year, we presented a [Local Account](#) to look back on the achievements, improvements and challenges in adult social care in Kent. In [last edition](#) (reporting from September 2020-December 2021), we've highlighted the hard work of our teams and the resilience of our partners and communities, renewing our commitment to celebrating diversity and equality in Adult Social Care and encouraging involvement in shaping our services. We've also reported on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement on not only the people who draw on care and support, but also the impact on our staff.

This year, we want to work with our partners, providers and people who draw on

If you could take some time to look through the previous [Local account for adult social care](#) and the [Local account for adult social care \(easy read\)](#) and provide some feedback, that would be great.

Please get involved via jasmine.knight@kent.gov.uk and share any thoughts or feedback you have which will help shape our eleventh edition of the Local Account for Adult Social Care.

PPE Portal update



Supply Chain

On 10 January 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care announced its decision to continue its free provision of PPE to the health and social care sector up until March 2024 or until the free stock is depleted.

As the free PPE stock depletes, items will become chargeable and will be available for you to order via credit or debit card on your current PPE Portal account. The first products will become chargeable from April 17, 2023, and we are looking into the ability to provide invoicing capability in the future. We will provide advance notification six weeks prior to items becoming chargeable and this information will be available via the PPE Portal, where you can also find information on pricing and FAQs – <https://www.ppe-portal.nhs.uk/ppe-portal-transition>

We encourage customers to continue to only order PPE based on current demand, to ensure the centrally funded stock remains readily available for use where needed. Order limits will continue to apply and order volumes will be monitored closely up to March 2024.

KiCA Annual Conference

The KiCA Annual Conference will be held on Thursday 18 May at the Mercure Great Danes Hotel, Maidstone. We have a fantastic day planned for you with speakers from the Homecare Association, Care England, KCC, Skills for Care, ICB and Neil Eastwood to name a few.



We will also have an exhibition, giving you the chance to speak to many of our sponsors.

Places for KiCA members: £20pp

Places for Non members: £50pp

(includes refreshments and lunch)

To book your place(s), please email ellie.reynolds@kica.care

Spring Kent Registered Manager Conference 19 April 2023 at the Kent County Showground

Join us for our 11th FULLY FUNDED registered manager conference, open to all registered managers, deputies, owners, nurses and senior staff, providing an opportunity to keep up-to-date on what is happening within the sector, hear from national and local speakers, visit a wide range of stands and attend a choice of workshops. This event supports CQC's 'Well Led' Quality Statements and we provide attendees with a 7hr CPD certificate.



Kent County Council is pleased to highlight that bookings are now open for the next FREE to attend Kent Registered Manager Conference.

An interesting range of workshops, speakers and a variety of stands.

Please click [here](#) for more details and you will find the booking link at the bottom of page one. Hurry 50% of places have already been booked.

We look forward to seeing you there!

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) - Opportunities for research and learning



Do you provide care and support for someone in their home, do you receive care in your own home, or are you close to someone who does?

If so, we'd love to hear from you.

At the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), we are looking to work with the homecare community across Kent, Surrey and Sussex to identify and develop opportunities for research and learning.

If you're interested in getting involved in helping to shape this work, supporting research within your organisation, or would just like to find out more, then please get in contact for a friendly chat.

Contact:

Kelly Wilson, Project Manager- Homecare Services

Email: kelly.wilson@nihr.ac.uk

Mob: 07971 247001

Website: local.nihr.ac.uk/lcrn/kent-surrey-and-sussex/



Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT)

The Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) is a free online self-assessment of your organisation's data and cyber security and is used to evaluate your compliance with legal requirements, Data Security Standards and good practice.

The DSPT can be used as supporting evidence for CQC Key Lines Of Enquiry. Completion of the DSPT standards opens up opportunities to access NHS mail and to be part of projects and initiatives with NHS

colleagues.

More information can be found [here](#).

Want to have your say on social care? Join the Your voice network!



If you aren't already a member, are interested in hearing more about social care in Kent and would like us to keep you updated about opportunities to get involved, receive our newsletter or link you up with our lived experience groups.

Please [join our Your voice network](#) online or contact makingadifference@kent.gov.uk to speak to a member of the team.

We'd love to hear from you!

Our mailing address is:

Stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk