

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 4 August 2023

Making Kent and Medway a great place to work

We need to hear from you about how to make Kent and Medway a great place to work for health and care professionals



You may have heard about the interim strategy which the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Partnership (NHS, councils and voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations) have been engaging on since May this year. This strategy will set the ambitions for improving health and care in Kent and Medway over the next five years.

One of the outcomes in the strategy is to make Kent and Medway a great place to live, work and learn. As people who work in the sector it is really important that we hear from you and get ideas from across the system on how we look after our people, grow our workforce and skills and how we can build 'one' workforce.

Please let us [know your views](#) before the end of August.

Read more about the strategy [here](#) and please share the link with any community groups you work with who may wish to contribute their ideas to any of the six outcomes.

Consultation: Visiting in hospitals, care homes and hospices

The Department of Health and Social Care wants to ensure that visiting (including accompanying people to hospital appointments) is protected and that it remains a priority for health and care providers so that patients and residents can receive visitors whenever it is reasonable and safe.

This consultation therefore seeks views on introducing secondary legislation to protect visiting as a fundamental standard across Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered settings so that no one is denied reasonable access to visitors while they are resident in a care home, or a patient in hospital or a hospice. This includes accompanying people to hospital appointments (outpatients or diagnostic visits).

As network members, we would value your support on this important consultation, please [respond to this consultation here](#) by **16 August 2023**.

Domestic abuse prevention and awareness campaign and strategy consultation



Please remember to share the [#KnowSeeSpeak Out domestic abuse awareness campaign](#) information created for August, to help you spread the word via your networks.

This includes new information for **young people experiencing early relationships**, as well as **warning signs, DA and life threatening illness, honour-based abuse** for the **International day for Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief (22 August)** and **bank holiday**.

There are a number of **Pride events** taking place across Kent and Medway in August – Tonbridge (5 August), Margate (12 August), Gravesham (12 August), Medway (14 – 19 August), Dover (26 August) so it's also an ideal time to share our Domestic Abuse prevention content for this.

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy consultation is running until 9 October 2023. It's important that as many people have the opportunity to respond, so please share these dedicated posts also, which are in the content calendar. [See the consultation details here](#).

- **Please help us to raise awareness** and signpost those affected by abuse to the Kent and Medway support services.
- **Please share what you can from our social media channels.**
- You can continue to share the wider Know, See, Speak Out content, posters and the Employer Champion programme via the [toolkit and assets on the campaign web page](#)

**Please not that we have been experiencing issues with www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk, the problems of which we believe are now fixed. If you continue to experience any issues accessing the website please contact Iona at Iona.Hunter-Whitehouse@kent.gov.uk*. Any questions, comments, ideas - please do not hesitate to get in contact.*

Reminder to be prepared for traffic disruption and impacts of severe weather

We would like to remind providers about that Operation Brock is now in place owing to the high numbers of channel crossings booked this year. Please ensure that you and your organisation plan ahead for the potential traffic disruption. The Kent County Council website has information about how to plan ahead and links to useful information about preparing yourself and your business for travel disruption: Visit: [Check before you travel - Kent County Council](#)

Whilst the extreme hot weather this summer has so far been restricted to continental Europe, with the UK seeing much lower temperatures and rain, providers should ensure that they are prepared for the impact of any type of potential severe weather such as a spike in temperatures here over the coming months, as well as potential increased demand on water.

[You can sign up for UKHSA Weather Health Alerts here](#) and specify what region you would like to receive alerts for and read the UKHSA blog post on [staying safe during periods of extreme weather here](#)

Letter from Minister of State for Social Care



Department
of Health &
Social Care

A recently published letter from the Minister of State for Social Care, Helen Whately MP, outlines Government's assessment of the critical actions needed across the adult social care sector to protect individuals and their carers and deliver operational resilience in winter 2023 to 2024.

[Read more on the gov.uk website](#)

International recruitment funding information from KICA

The government has made funding available to support international recruitment into the social care sector during the 23-24 financial year. In the South East region, a significant portion of this money will fund a scheme to distribute small grants of £1500 each to CQC registered providers carrying out recruitment of international workers.

In order to be eligible for a grant, a provider must meet the following criteria:

- Be registered with the CQC as a provider of social care
- Be located (determined by registered CQC location) in one of the Local Authority areas in the South East region
- Have an overall CQC rating which is above the 'Inadequate' rating at the time of application (i.e. 'Outstanding', 'Good' or 'Requires Improvement')
- EITHER intend to apply for a Licence to Sponsor skilled workers OR to hold a licence already and intend to recruit at least one international worker on a Skilled Worker Visa between 1 April 2023 and 15 March 2024
- Confirm that they will understand and will abide by the provisions of the Ethical Recruitment Framework (See the Code of Practice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-international-recruitment-of-health-and-social-care-personnel/code-of-practice-for-the-international-recruitment-of-health-and-social-care-personnel-in-england>)
- Confirm that they are able to offer any international workers they recruit work in accordance with the requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa
- Correctly and fully complete the correct [application form](#).

A provider's eligibility will be assessed at the time of application. Each provider may apply for no more than one grant per CQC registered service location, and must apply to the hub for the local authority whose area includes that location. Providers do not need to have applied for a licence or recruited a skilled worker in order to apply for a grant, however they will have to provide evidence that their licence has been awarded or that they have employed a new skilled worker **between 1 April 2023 and 15 March 2024** before a grant will be paid to them.

The [application](#) is for providers included in the **Kent and Medway Council Districts**. Please ensure it is completed in its entirety, double check all details are correct, and do not hesitate to contact recruitment@kica.care or grants@sesca.org.uk if you have any concerns or queries.

Kent Community Warden Service Review - public consultation



The financial challenges KCC face, mean we are having to consider savings across a whole range of services.

Our wardens work with communities and partners in lots of different ways - from supporting scam victims, helping communities affected by flooding, reducing social isolation and loneliness and helping residents to navigate care and support services.

To make savings we are proposing to:

- Redesign the service, ensuring there is a core Community Warden presence across the county, with teams covering two districts.
- Retain the remit and community-based way the service currently works but cover fewer communities.
- Use data and information to identify where to place wardens for most impact.

Find out more and tell us your views at kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview

Consultation open from **12 July to 3 October 2023**.

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