

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 6 October 2023

BetterCare Support - online assessment

We are delighted to announce that we have launched the BetterCare Support, online self-assessment across the county!

BetterCare
Support



We undertook a pilot in the West Kent Locality from May to September to ensure that the solution was developed and implemented before rolling out across all our localities.

We would like to thank the West Kent Locality Team and Looking Local for the development and implementation of this exciting new online solution.

The self-assessment will support people to help themselves wherever possible without the need to contact Adult Social Care. It will enable our Contact Centre, ASC Professionals, Health, Partners, Providers and key Stakeholders to signpost people to the online tool, to start exploring services and assets to support themselves, promoting choice and control as well enabling people to live independently and safely within their communities and home.

We will be monitoring and reviewing this development over the coming months to measure its success and to prevent, reduce and/or delay demand on Adult Social Care services.

Did you also know?

To support our digital transformation and continually promote channel shift, we also have the following:

[Social care and health - Kent County Council](#) – Kent County Council Website: refreshed and redesigned ASC information.

[Estimate how much you may need to pay - Kent County Council](#) – Financial Calculator

[Home | Connect to Support | Kent](#) – Connect to Support Website with a Community Directory for people to

help themselves.

[Home](#) | [Kent PA Web](#) | [Kent PA](#) – Personal Assistants Website

[Kent Adult Social Care and Health Procedures, Practice Guidance and Tools \(proceduresonline.com\)](#) –
Trix for National and local Policies

Infection prevention and control in Adult Social Care: COVID-19 supplement

The guidance is to be used to [support the response to COVID-19](#) and sets out how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in adult social care settings in England.

It applies to adult social care settings and services in England from 3 April 2023. It should be read with the [infection prevention and control \(IPC\) resource for adult social care](#), which should be used as a basis for any IPC response.

This guidance now also includes all information on COVID-19 testing in adult social care, and details the testing regimes for eligible staff and residents and where outbreaks are suspected.

The guidance is for people responsible for setting and maintaining standards of IPC within adult social care in England, such as care managers.

New survey launched to capture the experiences of those working in Adult Social Care

The Government has launched a survey with the aim to capture the experiences of those working in adult social care to support improvements over time. This is open to anyone that works in adult social care. The survey has been launched by Skills for Care in partnership with Ipsos and The University of Kent on behalf of the Government's Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

The survey will contribute to the Government's understanding of working conditions and experiences for the adult social care workforce – such as working hours, pay, capacity and training - and the forms of

support which could make adult social care a better place to work.

The data collected through the survey will be vital in aiding Government decisions on how to support the adult social care sector and workforce.

This is an important opportunity for everyone working in adult social care to share their own experience of working in care and help to shape future offers of support.

So this is your chance to have your say - [complete the survey now](#) – and please share with your staff teams.

Autumn / Winter Flu and Covid-19 vaccination delivery programme

[NHS England has announced](#) that it is bringing forward the rollout of this year's **Autumn/Winter Flu and Covid-19 vaccination** delivery programme to begin on **11 September 2023**.

Those most at risk from winter illness including people in care homes for older people, the clinically vulnerable, those aged 65 and over, health and social care staff, and carers - will be able to access a Covid vaccine. Vaccination teams will now begin contacting providers to arrange visits and have been asked to **ensure that all residents in care homes are vaccinated by 22 October**.



Those eligible for vaccination are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine as soon as they are called to ensure they head into winter with the best protection.

12th Kent and Medway Registered Manager Conference

We are pleased to announce that our FULLY FUNDED **12th Kent and Medway Registered Manager Conference** will again be at the County Showground, Detling on **Tuesday, 10 October, 2023.**

This event offers registered managers, owners, deputies, nurses, team leaders, supervisors and senior staff the opportunity to keep updated on what is happening within the sector, hear from national and local speakers, visit stands, attend a choice of workshops and network with others.

Please see the attached flyer below (subject to change) with booking link and further information on Presenters and Workshops on the day.

[10 Oct 2023 Reg Man Conference Flyer](#)

Please take this time out for yourselves and come and see what is happening locally in the care sector, we look forward to seeing you.

We do hope you can join us.

NOTE: Bookings are accepted on the following understanding.

By booking a FREE place you are confirming that you agree that if, for any reason, you need to cancel your booking, 2 working days notice is required to give Kent County Council time to offer the place to others on the waiting list.

If 2 working days notice is not received or if you do not attend on the day or a colleague does not attend in your place (no notice required), an invoice will be issued to your organisation for £50 plus VAT.

You can easily cancel using your Eventbrite link (found in your confirmation) so would not need to contact us direct. Please ensure your manager/owner accepts the above before booking your place.

Care Sector Digital Event



Care Sector Digital Event

8 November, 9.30-4pm : Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel

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You are invited to our Care Sector Digital Event.

The event will set out the national and local vision for integrating digital solutions into social care. During the event there will be the opportunity to hear about the Digital activities in Kent and Medway. We will also explore the opportunities and barriers to successfully implementing digital opportunities into social care and health.

By the end of the event participants will:

- understand the benefits of Digital for people who draw on care and support
- understand the benefits of Digital for the organisation
- know what support and funding is available across Kent and Medway to help with Digital adoption
- help build Digital plans for Kent and Medway
- explore where you are with the adoption of Digital and identify areas for development, leaving the event with a plan on what you need to do to progress your Digital journey
- you will be aware of some digital systems/equipment relevant to your service.

The day will be a combination of speakers, interactive discussion and market place with demonstrations.

Book your free please today: [Care Sector Digital Event Tickets, Wed 8 Nov 2023 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

We can help you with your DataSecurity and Protection Toolkit

DSPT
Better security. Better care.



The Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) helps you check and improve your data protection, policies and practices. It covers all of the issues you need to consider – so you don't have to worry about being a data protection expert.

Whether you want to register, have a few questions, or want to work on your toolkit, we're here to help. Book a slot via email or just come along on the day - June and Penny DSPT@kent.gov.uk / 03000 418087.

To see the available roadshows, view the below flyer.

[KM Roadshow Dates Poster](#)

Stub out for Stoptober to start your smokefree future

Kent County Council (KCC) is calling on Kent's estimated 145,000 smokers to give quitting a go this Stoptober and get support to enjoy better health and wellbeing.

Since its inception in 2012, the mass month-long stop smoking campaign starting 1st October has successfully helped over 2.5 million smokers take steps to quit.

After just 48 hours without a cigarette, [your sense of taste and smell improves](#). [New research](#) also confirms that after two smokefree weeks, many have easier breathing, more energy and money. On average, a smoker could save £38 a week by quitting smoking – around £2,000 a year.

Not smoking for just 28 days also makes it five times more likely you will give up the habit for good; and you're up to 10 times less likely to light up with the right help.

There's a wide range of information and free support for your no-smoking journey, including [the NHS quit app](#), on [kent.gov](#) and the [Better Health - Quit Smoking](#) website.

The KCC-commissioned One You Kent Smokefree service can also put you in touch with highly trained advisers to guide and encourage you every step of the way.

Run by the Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT), the One You Kent Smokefree service provides:

- face-to-face, phone or video support
- your own personal quit plan packed full of tips to suit your lifestyle, and
- all-year-round help and advice.

[Get started today and fill in a referral form](#). A friendly advisor will then call you to talk through the support available where you live. If you prefer, you can call the service on 0300 123 1220 or text 'quit' to 87023.



Walking Cricket

Due to the success in the last year of walking cricket, Kent Cricket Community Trust have worked with community partners to increase the number of sessions across the county.

Full details of walking cricket can be found <https://www.kentcricket.co.uk/kcct/50-overs-programme/>

Our current sessions running or due start in the coming weeks are:-

- Folkestone, Three Hills SC - Monday's 10:00 - 12:00
- Ramsgate, Leisure Centre - Tuesday's 10:00 - 12:00
- Ashford, Stour Centre - Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00
- Swale, Swallows Centre - Thursday 10:00 - 12:00
- Strood, Sports Centre - Thursday 13:00 - 15:00
- Canterbury, The Spitfire Ground - 10:00 - 12:00



To book on any session, this can be done via <https://www.kentcricket.co.uk/kcct/50-overs-programme/walking-cricket/>

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.

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