

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 18 August 2023

Heat-Health alert

Adverse Weather

A Yellow Heat-Health Alert has been issued for our region for the period between Wednesday 16 August at 12:00 and Saturday 19 August at 09:00.

Please ensure that [Heat-Health Alert - Yellow Response Actions](#) are implemented now.

Minor impacts are probable across the health and social care sector, including:

- increased use of healthcare services by the vulnerable population;
- increase in risk of mortality amongst vulnerable individuals;
- increased potential for indoor environments to become very warm.

Please refer to the Adult Social Care and Health [Adverse Weather Plan](#) for further details.

You will be advised if the Alert Level changes.

Oliver McGowan Training

New mandatory training for the health and care workforce to improve support for people with learning disabilities and autistic people.



In 2022 the Government introduced a new mandatory training requirement for all health and care staff working in regulated services; it is about improving support for people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

The training is often associated with a young man named Oliver McGowan, whose death further highlighted the ongoing need for better training for health and social care staff. The intention is to help staff to understand the needs of people with learning disabilities and autistic people and how to provide them with safe, compassionate and informed care.

The training has both online and live components and is free to all health and care staff. It is designed to be flexible and accessible. It covers a range of topics, including:

- the needs of autistic people and people with learning disabilities
- communication and interaction
- physical health and wellbeing
- mental health and wellbeing
- safeguarding
- equality and diversity

The government is committed to ensuring that all people with learning disabilities and autistic people have access to high-quality care. The new mandatory training is an important step in achieving this goal.

The first part of the training is already available online, and the development of the second interactive component for the Kent and Medway system is in progress.

We encourage all health and care staff to take the training and to use it to improve their understanding of the needs of people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

If you are a Kent and Medway health care provider, we recommend:

- you familiarise yourself with what the regulator (Care Quality Commission) for health and care in England has to say about [training staff to support autistic people and people with a learning disability](#)
- check if your organisation has already added the mandated training to your online learning platform:
 - If they have then try and complete it as soon as possible, and join the growing 1000's of health and care staff that have already completed it across Kent and Medway.
 - If you are unsure ask your organisation's learning and development team for assurance and updates.
- that if your organisation or individual staff can't access the training any other way you can [register for freely available eLearning](#) that can be completed now. This will provide the foundation for future live training, which will be co-delivered by experts with experience. This is being developed

for health and care staff across the Kent and Medway system.

- If you have any questions please email kmicb.kentandmedway@nhs.net with the subject 'Mandatory training for health and care workforce to improve support for people with learning disabilities and autistic people'.

We will be updating this with further updates as this work progresses and we understand what works best for our Kent and Medway workforce.

East Kent Job Fair with the Princes Trust

Kent County Council is working with the Princes Trust to offer the following Job Fair which may be of interest to you;

Date: 19 September 10-3pm (lunch provided) **and will be held at the Picture House in Ashford** (due to better transport links) but promotion to job seekers will be across East Kent and all types of job role vacancies will be promoted at the event.

The event will be promoted to job seekers of all ages, via KCC social media, Princes Trust, JCP, Eventbrite and direct emails to recent A level and college leavers, with the Princes Trust offering additional support to the 18-30yr age group by covering transport costs, advise on application process and holding a pre-event workshop with them the week before the event on 'working in the care sector'.

On the day, our team will be there to welcome attendees and have a screening chat with them so they can be signposted to all the relevant stands depending on the type of work they are looking for. Ideally potential applicants interested in your job should be offered an application form on the day/link to application so they can start their application at the venue. If we have a break out room you may also be able to interview if you wish.

If you are interested in attending please email mark.deveson@kent.gov.uk with the following details please:

- Contact name
- Contact email
- How many will be on your stand on the day (we need to know how many to book lunch for)
- A copy of the JD for any vacancies you have (all vacancies welcome care and non care roles)
NOTE; please state if your vacancies are for experienced or non experienced job seekers.
- How do people apply for your vacancies? i.e. apply on the day, CV post event, complete an application on the day etc

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.

The power of registered Manager networks - why should you join?

Do you know about the Skills for Care registered manager networks and the benefits of attending?

Skills for Care are holding a brand new event this September aimed at managers from adult social care services who do not attend a local network and want to learn more.

Skills for Care support over 140 networks across England and at this event, they will provide more details about how the networks are run, the benefits of attending, and how they continue to raise the profile of registered managers. The event will also include taster sessions where Skills for Care will talk about topics, issues and challenges that matter to you including recruitment and retention, leadership and management, and good and outstanding provider support.

Thursday 14 September | 10:30 – 12:00 | Zoom | [Register now](#)

Being part of a local network has so many benefits:

- provides a place where you can come together with other managers in your local area
- share experiences and guidance and support each other's challenges
- connect with your peers and feel less isolated.

Skills for Care local networks are chaired by managers, for managers and they would love you to come along to this event. [Register now to find out more.](#)

Household Support Fund

Are you struggling to pay for your food shop?

Funded by the UK Governments 'Household Support Fund', we are delivering a scheme supporting vulnerable Kent households in need of help with significantly rising living costs.



HM Government

There is a limited amount of funding available for this scheme and funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis, with only one award per household.

To make a referral or find out more visit: www.kent.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

If successful, a £100 e-voucher will be awarded - to be used to pay for food costs within the household at supermarkets.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be aged 16 or over.
- be a Kent resident, permanently living within one of the 12 local authorities covered by Kent County Council (this excludes Medway, Bexley, or Bromley).
- be in receipt of means tested benefits, or household income is less than £40,000 per annum before tax.
- not have more than £1,000 in savings.
- not receive free school meals support for any child within the household.

If you are referring yourself, you will need to provide proof of residence at a Kent address as part of your application. We expect professionals who are completing the application on behalf of someone else to ensure all eligibility criteria is met.

If you're not eligible for means tested benefits because you are awaiting Home Office approval for residence or immigration status and don't have a National Insurance number, email householdsupportfund@kent.gov.uk with details of your circumstances and reasons why you need this support, attaching all supporting evidence to the email.

This scheme will close on **14 September 2023**, or when the budget is spent.

CAVEAT - The community and voluntary organisation evaluation toolkit

CAVEAT is new, free evaluation and impact toolkit that enables VSCE organisations demonstrate the impact of their services for older people.

Funded and designed by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and the Applied

Research Collaboration, Kent, Surrey and Sussex (ARC KSS), the CAVEAT toolkit has been introduced in response to a local study following the COVID 19 pandemic which found that few VSCEs were confident in collecting and presenting the impact data required for funding applications, commissioner reports and ongoing quality monitoring and improvement.

The CAVEAT toolkit enables VSCEs who deliver support to older people to collect and present the data which demonstrates their impact with much more confidence, boosting the prospects for future funding and enhancing service quality.

To find out more, watch the following [video](#) or head to the CAVEAT toolkit [website](#).

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.

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 Operation Brock which 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

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](#)



Department
of Health &
Social Care

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