

# Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



**Friday 1 December 2023**

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## Adverse Weather - Yellow Cold-Health Alert

A Yellow Cold-Health Alert has been issued for our region with effect until Tuesday **5 December 2023**.

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

Significant impacts are possible across the health and social care sector due to forecast weather conditions, including:

- observed increase in mortality across the population, particularly in the 65+ age group or those with certain underlying health conditions, but impacts may also be seen in younger age groups;
- increased demand for remote health care services likely;
- impact on ability of services delivered due to effects on workforce possible;
- maintaining indoor temperatures at recommended 18°C may become challenging for some, leading to increased risk to vulnerable people.

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

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## Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

As you may be aware, the failure of RAAC components has been identified as a risk in some buildings. RAAC is a form of lightweight concrete sometimes referred to as panels; it was used primarily in roof planks of some public buildings built between the mid-1950s and mid-1990s.

The safety of clients should be the highest priority of every social care provider, whether a premises used for the delivery of services is owned or leased. All providers are required to have a good understanding of their premises, including building safety issues; this includes whether the premises contain RAAC components, and therefore poses a risk to the safety of all those who have access.

Please ensure that you have taken all necessary action to establish whether your premises contains RAAC. If your organisation leases the premises you operate from, please discuss this with your landlord.

Guidance on investigating and assessing RAAC is available from the [Institute of Structural Engineers](https://www.istructe.org/get-involved/study-groups/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-planks/) - <https://www.istructe.org/get-involved/study-groups/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-planks/>

Should you identify a safety concern in relation to RAAC in your premises, please report your concerns to your Kent County Council contract manager immediately.

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## Bitesize webinar - Autistic People & People with a Learning Disability: Kent and Medway System Support

We are delighted that our next Bitesize Webinar in association with Kent and Medway ICB is entitled **Autistic People & People with a Learning Disability: Kent and Medway System of Support** and will be presented by George Matuska, Learning Disability and Autism Lead for KMPT on Tuesday, 12 December 2023 at 1pm - 2pm.

### Aims and learning outcomes:

Autistic people and people with a learning disability are no different from any other citizen in that they may require additional support to lead a fulfilling life at certain stages of their lives. The purpose of this interactive bite size webinar will be to briefly refresh your knowledge of autism and learning disability and provide you with an understanding of the support system available throughout Kent and Medway from self-help through to inpatient services.

You can book onto this webinar via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/gsMvhsPyTw>

Or, you can book onto this webinar using the QR code on the right.

The joining link for the Webinar will be sent to you the day before and on the day of the webinar for ease of access.

We do hope you can join us.

Bitesize Webinar - Autistic People  
and People with a Learning  
Disability: System of Support



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## Co-designing the future of residential and home care across Kent

Kent County Council and NHS Kent and Medway would like to invite care providers to take part in discussions about co designing the future of residential and home care across the county for the benefit of all.



As part of this, we want to work with you and get your perspectives and inputs on aspects such as care costs and contractual models to support future market sustainability and provision of care.

Working with our partners 31ten, we want to offer you the opportunity to participate and help us shape how we meet the care needs of our residents moving forward.

Over the coming weeks, 31ten will be contacting care providers on behalf of the Council and the NHS to schedule sessions where they will support you to share information on your current provision alongside your feedback and views on what the future should look like. These will be held virtually and in person and are intended as the first stage of an ongoing dialogue with you over the coming months into 2024. These discussions are intended as part of an informal early engagement opportunity.

The Council and the NHS would like as many of you as possible to take part and collaborate with us on this. To take part or find out more, you can contact [Kent@31ten.co.uk](mailto:Kent@31ten.co.uk)

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## Adult social care digital roadshow

# DIGITAL ROADSHOW

The stakeholder engagement team in adult social care at KCC have been attending events, visiting community spaces and holding webinars. The aim is to take people on a short tour and demo of some of the new digital technology and resources available to support independence and wellbeing.

**If you would like the team to talk to your workforce or attend an existing event,** please contact [makingadifference@kent.gov.uk](mailto:makingadifference@kent.gov.uk). You can also call 03000 413 998 if you prefer to speak to someone directly.

In the meantime, visit the **Kent Connect to Support** website for the latest information on care and support where you live and make sure your organisation is listed on our community directory: <https://kent.connecttosupport.org/> .

You can also explore a new online self-assessment service called BetterCare Support from the same site to access more detailed advice and guidance that's right for you. Read more about BetterCare Support below.

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## BetterCare Support online Self Assessment

Adult Social Care and Health (Kent County Council) have launched [BetterCare Support](#), an online self assessment tool, to enable people to live independently and safely within their communities and home.



By answering questions about their social care needs, the tool provides people with information, advice, and guidance about the options and services available to them.

Other online resources:

- [Kent County Council Adult Social Care and Health website](#)
- [Financial Calculator to estimate how much you may need to pay](#)
- [Connect to Support, information, advice and guidance website with community directory](#)
- [Kent PA Personal Assistants website](#)

Please share and advertise these resources with your services and contacts.

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## Care Sector Digital Event

On 8 November, 180 care providers came together for a care sector digital event. The first part of the day set out the national and local drivers for being digital. In the afternoon providers had the opportunity to attend digital bitesize sessions and develop action plans. There was a marketplace showcasing the digital support across Kent and Medway. There was a buzz in the room and positive feedback on how the event has increased awareness and confidence.

Following on from the day we are now looking at a programme of digital sessions for 2024. And this will start with a workshop in January on digital social care records, where we will

have the opportunity to learn from providers that have implemented, the challenges experienced and how these were addressed. Information about the digital social care records workshop will be sent out soon.

If you are keen to be involved in shaping digital plans for Kent and Medway, sharing best practice and challenges and exploring opportunities to work together, join the **Care Sector Digital Group**. The group meets monthly, if you are interested email [Georgina.walton@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Georgina.walton@kent.gov.uk)

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## Safer Care Service - join one of our seminars



**Kent** Fire &  
Rescue Service

together

If you are a responsible person or owner of a health and care premises, our Safer Care Service initiative is designed to help reduce risk, help you meet your responsibilities under the Fire Safety Order, and help businesses stay safe and resilient.

We've organised some free, helpful, face-to-face seminars at our Training Centre in Maidstone, where you can learn more about fire detection, warning systems and evacuation.



There are two dates to choose from – 10 November 2023 and 22 February 2024, each offering a morning or an afternoon session. Book your place now by going to our website at [www.kent.fire-uk.org/safer-care](http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/safer-care).

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## Funding has increased for International Recruitment

Due to unprecedented demand, two £1500 grants per care service are now available meaning providers can:



- access up to £3,000 towards their international recruitment costs!
- Providers who have previously received a £1,500 grant are now invited to apply for a second grant.

### **Please see details below:**

The government has made funding available to support international recruitment into the social care sector during the 23-24 financial year.

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 must apply to the hub for the local authority whose area includes that location. For Kent and Medway, this is the Kent Integrated Care Alliance (KiCA).

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](mailto:recruitment@kica.care) or [grants@sesca.org.uk](mailto:grants@sesca.org.uk) if you have any concerns or queries.

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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](mailto:makingadifference@kent.gov.uk) to speak to a member of the team.

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We'd love to hear from you!

**Our mailing address is:**

[Stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk)