

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 20 October 2023

Digital roadshows

DIGITAL ROADSHOW

- Try out our new **adult social care** digital resources
- Learn about technology for independent living
- Find information about wellbeing, care and support
- Explore what's available in your community

How will this benefit you?

Our friendly team have been attending a variety of locations **in person** this autumn, to give demonstrations and guidance on digital technology and online tools that can help people stay independent, provide a guide to key information about social care in Kent and help signpost to the right place for support.

Who can attend?

Anyone who wants to know about social care in Kent. This may be especially useful for people that would like to stay independent at home, family carers of adults and staff from health, social care and voluntary sectors. Staff from local private businesses are also welcome.

How do I book my space?

It's good to know who to expect as it helps us create a session that is just right for you, so please contact us via makingadifference@kent.gov.uk to reserve a free space on our remaining **bookable workshops**, or call **03000 413 998** if you prefer to phone us.

Dates, times and locations*

- Wed 25 Oct: 2pm-4.30pm **Eden Centre, Edenbridge TN8 6BY (bookable workshop)**
- Thu 2 Nov: 1.30-4pm **Maidstone Community Support Centre ME14 1HH (bookable workshop)**

*More November dates and locations across east and west Kent to be released soon. Subject to change depending on demand

Does your organisation or team want a demo?

Why not request a visit from us to join you either face-to-face or online? Please get in touch through the same details and we will work with you to arrange this. The adult social care engagement team have also been attending existing community events to meet people and share useful information. Come and say hello at one of our information stands if you're in the area on the day.

We're visiting the following places in the coming week:

- Mon 23 Oct: 10am-1pm **Over 55s Community Event, Holmesdale School, Snodland**
- Fri 27 Oct: 9.30am-4pm **Ask the experts event (dementia), Sheppey Oasis Academy, Minster**



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

You can also explore a new online self-assessment service called **Better Care Support**, to access more detailed advice and guidance that's right for you: [Care and support assessments \(bettercare.org.uk\)](https://bettercare.org.uk)

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 encourage **residents in care homes to be 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.

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

We can help you with your Data Security 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.

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 3](#)

[KM Roadshow Dates Poster 4](#)

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.



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