

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 9 September 2022

Sad passing of Her Majesty the Queen



The Chair of Kent County Council, Mrs Lesley Game, has expressed the deepest sympathy of the Members and officers of Kent County Council to the Royal Family on the sad passing of Her Majesty the Queen.

The Chair said: "I know that the Members and officers of KCC and the people of Kent will share the sense of deep loss and sorrow being felt all over the world at the passing of such an eminent patriot. Her Majesty's life has been devoted to the service of her country and the Commonwealth as well as an abiding advocate of peace and the importance of nations working together.

"She has been our great constant. Throughout her 70-year reign, while every aspect of our lives has changed, her dedicated duty, her decency and her dignity have provided an unending source of stability, reassurance and comfort.

"We offer our most sincere condolences to the Royal family at this most difficult time and will mourn the loss of our Head of State, great Ambassador for the United Kingdom, unifier of the Commonwealth and a leader admired and revered across the globe. Her place in history is surely secured as one of the greatest monarchs in history."

From today, a period of national mourning has begun and will continue for 10 days until the day of the funeral.

The flag at County Hall has been lowered to half-mast.

We know that many of you will wish to pay your personal tributes to Her Majesty The Queen and a book of condolence will be opened at County Hall. More details will follow soon.

You can also sign the online book of condolence at <https://www.royal.uk/> or send your tribute by post to KCC to the following address:

The Civic Office, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone ME14 1XQ.

Please include your address and a telephone number if you are sending a written tribute for us to add to the online book of condolence.

The government will issue guidance for the public, organisations and businesses for observing the period of mourning.

Kent Mental Health charity offers Suicide Prevention training

A Maidstone-based mental health charity, which is part funded by Kent County Council, is urging people this World Suicide Prevention Day (10 September) to access free suicide prevention and awareness training.

Mid Kent Mind is launching a video to encourage people to think about the steps everyone can take to support someone who may be feeling suicidal. It follows partnerships in educational, commercial and voluntary settings.

Layla Head, Training and Development Lead at Mid Kent Mind, said: “We know how important it is to ensure that this training is available to the wider public. Suicide prevention and mental health more broadly should be everyone’s business – so we hope that this training helps to empower people to have those important conversations.

“These sessions are free. All it costs someone is three and a half hours of their time – and those three and a half hours could make a huge difference. I cannot encourage people enough to book onto this training. You can make a difference when someone is struggling.”

The organisation has launched a series of new dates which are now available on their website – including some face-to-face sessions which are being offered again since COVID-19 regulations were lifted earlier in the year. The training is delivered as part of a programme delivered by Mind organisations across Kent – with more sessions being added all the time in different parts of the county.

Mid Kent Mind has received funding from Kent County Council, Medway Council and Improving Health & Social Care in Kent and Medway, as a part of the wider Suicide Prevention strategy which is in place in Kent.

Dr Anjan Ghosh, Kent County Council’s Director of Public Health said: “World Suicide Prevention Day is a really effective way of drawing attention to this issue, but suicide prevention needs to be an all year round activity. That’s why we are working with Mid Kent Mind to deliver this potentially lifesaving training and we’d recommend everyone to attend a session because you never know when you may need to be prepared to have a lifesaving conversation with a friend, a loved one or a complete stranger.”

People are also being reminded of the help available in Kent including an easy to use mental health text service and helpline - you can call ‘Release The Pressure’ for free on 0800 107 0160. This 24-hour helpline is staffed by mental health professionals. Alternatively, you can text the word ‘Kent’ to 85258 for text support. Find more information at www.releasethepressure.uk

You can learn more about the Mid Kent Mind training at: www.maidstonemind.org/free-digital-suicide-prevention-training/ and www.maidstonemind.org/free-youth-suicide-prevention-training/

Consultation launched for new drug and alcohol strategy

Kent residents are being encouraged to share their views and experiences of local drug and alcohol services, and help shape a new five-year strategy.

Overseen by the Kent Substance Misuse Alliance - a partnership of key organisations including councils, Kent Police, emergency services and health providers - the strategy aims to tackle drug and alcohol misuse through prevention, treatment and recovery, and community safety. All the priorities in the Kent strategy are taken from local needs and are also aligned to the National Drug Strategy: "From Harm to Hope".

Figures for 2021 estimated that nearly 308,000 people in Kent were drinking above the recommended levels of alcohol* and an estimated 15% are binge drinkers. Self-reported weekly consumption has declined significantly in the younger age groups since 2011, however this has slightly increased for those aged 45 or older and is highest amongst 45 to 65-year-olds.

Illicit drug misuse continues to be a key issue in Kent. Recreational illicit drug use is still pervasive with around 10% of adults reporting drug use within the past year. There has been an increasing trend in reported drug use in 25 to 29-year-olds.

The 2023 strategy replaces the previous Kent Alcohol Strategy and is now out to consultation with the public at www.kent.gov.uk/drugandalcoholstrategy. It builds on notable successes from the previous five-year strategy including support of the Kent Community Alcohol Partnership, early help through One You Kent services and strengthened links to prisons and criminal justice.

The Alliance reports to both the Kent and Medway Health and Wellbeing Board and the Kent Community Safety Partnership.

KCC Public Health Consultant, Jess Mookherjee said: "The heart of this Strategy is to empower, encourage and support individuals and communities to take a more active role in preventing and reducing the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol in Kent. It considers the links to mental wellbeing, health inequalities and the impact COVID19 has played on these issues.

"The new strategy takes a whole system approach which means a strong partnership is required to bring together all the relevant organisations and key individuals, share an understanding of the reality of the challenge, consider how local systems are operating and where there are the greatest opportunities for change."

The new strategy has 13 strategic priorities, grouped under three areas; Prevention, Treatment and Recovery, and Community Safety. Some of the strategic priorities already have outcomes and some are to be identified.

This strategy is driven by Kent Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessments which includes a variety of data sources such as hospital admissions, Office for National Statistics and Kent substance misuse treatment service data, taking account of national guidance and reflecting the scientific evidence.

Superintendent Peter Steenhuis from Kent Police said: "This is an excellent strategy for resource sharing and shared learning placing prevention at the heart of the strategy. Early intervention and diversion strategies improve public awareness about the risks of harmful drinking and drug use, especially for young people to the personal

harm they could be causing as well as wider societal harms they might not be aware of.”

A consultation is now underway to seek views on the strategy from anyone impacted by drugs and/or alcohol, including individuals that have experience of drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services, family and friends of individuals that have been impacted by drugs and/or alcohol and practitioners working with individuals that have a drug and/or alcohol support need. It will also ask for ideas on how services can be improved.

The consultation closes on 31 October 2022. To give your views and find out more information, go to www.kent.gov.uk/drugandalcoholstrategy

KCC’s online tool ‘Know Your Score’ encourages Kent residents to find out how much drinking may be affecting their health and relationships, as well as giving potentially life-saving advice from key health professionals www.kent.gov.uk/knowyourscore

Green Book Update: Eligibility of people with a learning disability for the COVID-19 autumn booster vaccination

As outlined in the recent [Autumn COVID-19 booster and flu system letter](#). This update confirms that people aged 5 and over on the GP learning disability register are eligible for the COVID-19 autumn booster vaccine following updated Green Book guidance.

Please offer the COVID-19 autumn booster vaccination to everyone on the GP learning disability register and their carers.

Care Sector Job Fair – Tunbridge Wells

Do You Have Vacancies? - The Innovation Delivery Team at Kent County Council has teamed up with partners to provide care specific job fairs around the county. This event is free for providers to have a stand and is an informal drop-in for prospective workers to pop in anytime between 10am – 2pm and talk to you about your vacancies.

Date/time and Venue

Monday 12 September 2022 - 10am – 2pm. The Camden Centre, Market Square, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2SW
Tel. 01892 521384

[Further details here.](#)

If you would like to book a stand please email kentregisteredmanager@kent.gov.uk

We have further Job Fairs planned in Canterbury and Swale
[Further details here.](#)

Autumn Kent Registered Manager Conference

We are pleased to announce that our fully funded **10th Registered Manager Conference** will again be at the County Showground, Detling on **Tuesday 27 September 2022.**

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, visits stands, attend a choice of workshops and network with others.

As usual we are supported by CQC, Skills for Care, Kent & Medway NHS and other partners.

Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC Update - Richard Smith Corporate Director Adult Social Care & Health • National Homecare Association - Ruby Peacock • Liberty Protection Safeguards Update - KCC Safeguarding Team • K&M Integrated Care Service update, and T levels - Nathan Pascall-Smith & Wayne Wilson • Q&A Panel – including CQC, Skills for Care, NCA, KICA, KCC Commissioning, NHS • CQC Changes to Regulatory Framework - Jo Wallace Inspection Manager South East
AM workshop topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RESTORE2 and Calibration of NHS gifted equipment (oximeters etc) • Kent Adult Social Care Strategy • Healthy Workplaces • Difficult Conversations
Lunchtime and break drop-in surgery with the Occupational Therapist Team	
PM workshop topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Homicide in Care Homes • CQC Single Assessment Framework • Self Directed Support and Personal Budgets • A Managers View - Recruitment and Retention Initiatives

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. [Book your place here.](#)

Please note: This Conference is offered fully funded to those who attend. However, to ensure public funds are used efficiently, it is important that you attend. Non-attendance will incur a £50 charge and your organisation will be invoiced. If there is an emergency on the day, and you cannot attend, a colleague can attend in your place without notice to prevent you being invoiced.

RESTORE2 – the importance of managing physical deterioration

Managing physical deterioration in your care home residents is crucial, knowing what to look for, what is a worrying sign in a particular individual, and when to escalate are all issues that could occur in any care home, on any day. National figures show good deterioration management reduces A&E attendances and 999 calls, as well as reduced incidence of mortality in cases of suspected sepsis, indicating that the right care was delivered at the right time by the right person to prevent further physical deterioration and save lives.



Resident wellbeing is improved, and staff confidence around what is a deterioration, and when to act, is increased, with clear observation and escalation tools. Overall, there is a cost-saving associated with good deterioration management, linked with fewer A&E attendances, and improved communication between services, including care home staff, GPs, and ambulance services.

If RESTORE2 has passed below your radar up until now, you can find a [2-minute video](#) online which explains it, and helps you establish how it could operate in your care home.

Kent Surrey Sussex Patient Safety Collaborative (KSS PSC) is excited to launch a digital portal to access RESTORE2 training online, coming up next month, please watch out for more announcements and take the opportunity to enrol you and your team on the training.

Due to increased demand, KSS PSC has added new dates and increased availability to the RESTORE2 online training sessions up until the end of 2022. There are currently spaces available on dates in August and September, delivered via Teams. You can [sign up now via Eventbrite](#).

To find out more about RESTORE2 and KSS PSC's training email Kerry Dudley - kerry.dudley5@nhs.net

We'd love to hear from you!

To make a submission to this bulletin please contact
stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk