

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 27 January 2023



Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning: Simon Mitchell

Hi everyone – I'm Simon Mitchell. I am the Head of Adult Social Care Commissioning for Kent County Council.

I'm relatively new in the role, I took on the role in September last year and am enjoying working with the team and all our stakeholders to bring a more joined up approach to Commissioning in the future. I won't replay all the challenges we have across Health and Social Care, as that is a well discussed argument. However, I will not underplay the challenges we all face across the Health and Social Care sector, and the only way we can ensure we are providing the right support in the right place for the people of Kent is to work together.

Although it sometimes feels like my life is centered around Social Care and meetings on Microsoft Teams, I do my best to ensure a work / life balance, and part of that is ensuring I spend time out and about with my 2 year old Spangold (cross between a Springer and Golden Retriever), Mason. He is a bundle of energy, and keeps me active during the day, and not just sat at my desk!

From the picture you can also see I'm a bit of a fitness fanatic (or was prior to Covid – something I am working on improving again this year). That picture was a rare opportunity where I was able to teach a spin class on the pitch at Twickenham!

Influenza Outbreak in Care Homes

Following the recent communications sent to ALL Care Homes from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) regarding winter readiness in South East England, Kent and Medway ICB would like to remind you of the advice given and to inform you of the process for Kent and Medway for an influenza outbreak within a care home. **Please do not contact a GP in the event of an outbreak, UKHSA will inform you of the actions needed.**

In the following situations:

- two or more residents or staff are unwell with flu-like illness and have tested negative for COVID-19 on LFD or PCR, or
- you are informed of a case of confirmed flu in a resident (for example if they are tested because of a hospital admission). Whilst you may not have an outbreak, UKHSA can talk you through general control measures and what you need to do if there are further cases, or
- you have an outbreak of diarrhoea or vomiting.



Please contact UKHSA in the first instance

Telephone: 0344 225 3861

Email (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm): SE.AcuteResponse@ukhsa.gov.uk

Community Services consultation

We are proposing changes to the way we use our buildings to deliver some of our community services. We invite your feedback on our proposals as part of this consultation.



Have your say

kent.gov.uk/communityservicesconsultation

Consultation runs between 17 January - 26 March 2023



Why are we proposing changes?

The Council has experienced big increases in costs and has less money to spend. So, we need to look ahead and do things differently to make sure we can still help residents in the years to come.

Whilst ensuring we provide effective support for residents who need our services, we need to:

- tackle the rising costs of maintaining our many buildings
- find savings, so we can balance the budget
- reduce our carbon footprint to meet our Net-Zero ambitions.

What services are included in the proposals?

The services are:

- Children's Centers and Youth Hubs
- Public Health Services for Children and Families
- Community Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Community Learning and Skills (Adult Education)
- Gateways.

More information can be found [here](#).

Adult Social Care Charging Policy consultation

Kent County Council (KCC) has launched a public consultation on its Adult Social Care Charging Policy which runs until 21 March 2023.

We are proposing to change our charging policy relating to how we apply Savings Credit Disregard.



This could affect people that:

- are receiving care in their own home or in the community
- reached pension age before 6 April 2016 and receive Savings Credit above £5.90 (single people) and above £8.85 (one of a couple).

To follow legislation, the amount of Savings Credit KCC are proposing to disregard when calculating how much someone pays for their care, may now be limited to the above values. Therefore, some people receiving care at home or in the community may need to pay slightly more.

This change would not affect those who live in a residential care or nursing homes.

Our preferred option is to apply this only to people that are new to the service, which would mean that we would continue to charge less than the legislation states for current people we support.

More information and the consultation questionnaire is available from www.kent.gov.uk/adultsocialcarecharging

Please also pass this on to anyone that you know or that is in your care that could be affected by this, either now or as a potential future user of KCC services.

We'd love to hear from you!

Our mailing address is:

Stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk