

Public Health – General Purpose Statement

Kent County Council has a statutory responsibility for improving the health of our citizens and for providing local public health services. These responsibilities are set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and include a duty to take appropriate steps to improve the public health of people in our area. These steps include carrying out research, providing information, advice and facilities for the prevention and treatment of illness and providing incentives to encourage the adoption of healthy lifestyles. We also seek to minimise health risks to individuals arising from poor accommodation, environment or other factors.

Kent County Council (Public Health) has a statutory right to access and use your confidential information, but only does so when absolutely necessary. In most cases personal information is removed as it is not needed for our purposes. We are required to justify any use of your personal data and in addition to the data protection act, are bound by the privacy and confidentiality rules of the NHS constitution.

The Purposes

Personal confidential information about our resident populations and their health and social care may be used for the following purposes:

- Organising the National Child Measurement Programme;
- Organising the NHS Health Check Programme;
- Organising and supporting the 0-5 health service and school nursing services;

Statistics and intelligence are gathered about health and social care in order to meet our statutory duties to produce:

- Director of Public Health's Annual Report;
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy;

In addition we identify priorities for action, assess the performance of the local health and care system and inform the design of commissioned services. We have a statutory responsibility to assess risks to public health arising from inequalities in health care provision, poor quality or inappropriate housing, lifestyles, education and employment, communicable diseases, chemicals, poisons, radiation and environmental health hazards.

Specific Purpose Statements

Kent County Council is required to weigh and measure children for the purpose of the National Child Measurement Programme in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013.

Kent County Council is required to provide Health Checks to eligible people (depending on age and health status) in accordance with Regulations 4 and 5 of the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013. These regulations specify the information to be recorded.

Kent County Council is required to provide or make arrangements to secure the provision of open access sexual health services in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013. This does not include HIV treatment and care, abortion, vasectomy and sterilisation services which are commissioned by the NHS.

Kent County Council is required to provide or make arrangements to secure the provision of a public health advice service to Clinical Commissioning Groups in our area in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013 and specifically in relation to their powers and duties to commission health services.

Kent County Council is required to provide information and advice that promotes health protection arrangements against threats to the health of the local population, including infectious disease, environmental hazards and extreme weather events in accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013.

It is the duty of Kent County Council's Director of Public Health to co-operate with police, probation and prison services in relation to assessing the risks to the public of violent or sexual offenders in accordance with s30 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

PH Privacy Notice

Kent County Council is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) as a Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. The council's Public Health function may access or use confidential information about your health and social care in accordance with its statutory and other duties.

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Specific functions for which personal confidential information is processed include:

- Organising the National Child Measurement Programme;
- Organising the NHS Health Check Programme;
- Provision of open access sexual health services;
- Organising and supporting the 0-5 health service and school nursing services;

Statistics and intelligence are gathered about health and social care in order to meet our statutory duties to produce:

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- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
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In addition we identify priorities for action, assess the performance of the local health and care system and inform the design of commissioned services. We have a statutory responsibility to assess risks to public health arising from inequalities in health care provision, poor quality or inappropriate housing, lifestyles, education and employment, communicable diseases, chemicals, poisons, radiation and environmental health hazards.

Summary statistics are produced and published on the Kent and Medway Public Health Observatory and provided to national organisations. These statistics are produced in such a way that individuals cannot be identified from them and personal details are removed as soon as is possible in the processing.

The following information about you may be accessed, collected and processed for these purposes:

- Personal information (e.g. name and address);
- Date of birth;
- Health and social care services accessed and used;

- Public Health information may include:
 - immunisation,
 - Infection control,
 - drug and alcohol treatment,
 - sexual health,
 - 0-5 and school nursing service,
 - lifestyle and behaviour change,
 - cancer and other screening campaigns,
 - Lifestyles and behaviours;
 - Disease prevalence, including cancer registrations,
- Other health and care services information may include:
 - GP attendance
 - Hospital admissions and treatment
 - NHS Community Health services
 - Mental health services
 - Social care services

This data is provided either direct from the public or by national and local NHS and Local Authority data services and organisations.

Confidential information is securely processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act and fully respects the privacy, confidentiality and rights of the individual in accordance with the NHS constitution and the common law 'duty of confidence'.

We do not share your personal information other than in exceptional circumstances or where required to do so by law. In most cases personal identifiers are removed early in the processing and before sharing as these are seldom needed for statistical purposes.

Confidential Information is only shared with other organisations on a strict need to know basis and with a sound and stated legal justification. Those with whom we may share confidential information are bound by contractual privacy and confidentiality rules.

All processes must be approved by each organisation's Caldicott Guardian who is tasked to represent your interests as a data subject and ensure risks are assessed.

Further Information

If you would like to request a copy of the information Kent County Council holds and shares about you, then please contact the Information Governance Team at dataprotection@kent.gov.uk, or call 03000 414141 or view the data protection section of the Kent County Council website:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/contact-us/access-to-information/your-personal-information>

If unable to access these, you can request a hard copy of this information by writing to:

Information Resilience and Transparency Team

Kent County Council,
County Hall
Maidstone, ME14 1XQ