

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 24 September 2021

Adult Social Care Strategy consultation

After successful early public engagement and co-production workshops in Spring and Summer, we are now running a public consultation on our draft Adult Social Care Strategy.

Our person-focused vision and strategy summarise how we plan to make changes over the coming years to put the person first, improve all the time and measure what matters. The aim is to work with people in Kent and all our partners to turn our ambitions into reality.



We have heard feedback from people we support and carers that want to build a social care model in Kent that keeps the person at the heart of what we do, meets our duties under the law and promotes inclusive and innovative ways of working. This is just the beginning of our conversation over the next five years.

We are very keen to get as many views as possible on this, and especially those of the people we support. We would be very grateful if you could encourage those that you support and their carers and families, and your teams to read the survey and complete the short questionnaire.

Please do take part in the consultation yourself, to have your say before 24 October. More information can be found here: [Adult Social Care Strategy | Let's talk Kent](#)

New bereavement services launch in Kent

Two new services providing support to people who have been bereaved are being launched in Kent.

The first – led by CHUMS Social Enterprise CIC – will deliver specialist bereavement support to those from pre-school age (three-and-a-half years-old) to 25-years-old who are experiencing complex grief.

A second service – also commissioned by Kent County Council and NHS Kent and Medway CCG – called Amparo (and led by Listening Ear), can support anyone who has been affected by a suicide, by providing practical and emotional support in a range of ways including one-to-one individual advice, help with media enquiries, support and guidance up to and including the inquest and signposting to further services.

More information can be found here: [New Bereavement Services Launch in Kent - KCC Media Hub](#)

Have your say on our draft Civil Society Strategy

This new strategy recognises the role of civil society in Kent and sets out how we will work to support a strong and vibrant civil society across our communities. It replaces our Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) policy and is the first Civil Society Strategy for KCC.

We want this strategy to continue the partnership working and collaboration we have seen across Kent over the last year. Please read the document and answer the short questionnaire and help us to shape this strategy into the future. Please feel free to share this opportunity with any VCS networks you may have.



Visit www.kent.gov.uk/civilsocietystategy. The consultation closes on **3 October 2021**.

Free annual National Care Association Membership for Kent Providers

Funded by Kent County Council's Infection Control Fund.

We are delighted to be able to offer all care providers in Kent the prestigious associate membership to National Care Association free for one year.

This offer has been funded by KCC to enable all Kent providers to remain up-to-date with the latest infection prevention and control guidance and information to support your care service with through this difficult time.

To take up this offer please complete the application form on the link below and return to info@nationalcareassociation.org.uk

Associate membership includes:

- Latest industry changes, guidance and news in your inbox in real time
- Members only information communicated via email

- Monthly round-up newsletter
- Benefits from discounted deals from our sponsors and suppliers
- Access to secure DBS service

Note: If you are a current National Care Association Member (on 13/10/2020) you are still eligible for this funding. You do not need to do anything! This 100% discount will be automatically applied to your next renewal!

More information can be found here: [Free annual NCA Membership for Kent Providers-736328](#)

Ask us anything...



Kent County Council is a large organisation covering a wide range of services from social care to highways and from economic development to country parks. So you may well have general questions about what we do and how we do it. Here's the place to "ask us anything" about the work we do for Kent.

We'll be trialling this for a short while to see how useful it is for our residents.

We'll share some of the questions and our answers on our website and on social media so others can see more about what we do. "Ask us anything" will also help us understand what questions you have and the sorts of things we need to provide more information on.

So if you're wondering what the difference is between "statutory" and "discretionary" services, or who's responsible for fixing potholes or what happens to your waste once it's been collected, then ask those questions below and we will do our best to answer them.

More information can be found here: Letstalk.kent.gov.uk/ask-us-anything

Supporting providers who have potential leavers due to compulsory vaccinations

A letter from KCC commissioning

To all managers



We are aware of the potential impact the compulsory vaccination requirement may have on some care homes in the county.

We would therefore like to highlight support available to providers to assist in filling any type of vacancy created by workers who leave, and by offering support to potential leavers, if required, to ensure valued and experienced workers remain within our local care sector.

Support for providers

The KCC Innovation Delivery Team is currently setting up a Prince's Trust programme to run from 20 October - 18 November for the care sector, which will highlight vacancies to 18-30 year olds looking for care work. Prior to interviews on 18 November, each candidate will receive a three-week programme, learning about the care certificate theory, employability skills and their unique strengths and values.

To include your vacancies in this programme, please email kentregisteredmanager@kent.gov.uk and you will receive a vacancy form to complete.

All care home workers to be vaccinated

Please note that the government has now released the following timeline for the Covid-19 vaccination programme including the deadlines for receiving the vaccine before regulations come into force.

The 16-week grace period starts on 22 July and the last date for care home workers to get their first dose in time for regulations on 11 November, is **Thursday 16 September 2021**.



Updated guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-admission-and-care-of-people-in-care-homes/coronavirus-covid-19-admission-and-care-of-people-in-care-homes>

KiCA: free membership for all CQC registered Adult Social Care providers in Kent

The Kent Integrated Care Alliance (KiCA) is delighted to announce that due to funding received from Kent County Council, we are able to offer free KiCA membership from July 2021 - July 2022 for all CQC registered Adult Social Care providers in our county.



The sector has faced the most challenging times over the last 18 months and we will continue to support providers and be your voice for care in Kent. We represent all areas of the sector, residential, homecare, learning disabilities and mental health.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to join your local care association.

For further information, please visit www.kica.care or to register your organisation as a KiCA member, please contact louise.faulkner@kica.care

We look forward to working with you all again over the coming year.

Free Support to Complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit

Kent County Council (KCC) in Partnership with Kent Integrated Care Alliance (KICA) are supporting social care providers across Kent and Medway to register on and complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT).

The DSPT is a free online self-assessment of your organisation's data and cyber security and is recognised as the official tool to evaluate your compliance with legal requirements, Data Security Standards and good practice. It is also required in order to access key services such as NHSmail, proxy ordering for medication and shared care records.



[Watch our introductory webinar online](#)

[Sign up to small-group virtual workshops and 1:1 sessions on our website](#) – free support to help you register and work through the toolkit.

Not sure where to start with this? Or got some questions? Please send us an email: dspt@kent.gov.uk