

# Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 25 February 2022

## Kent and Medway Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing portal

As part of the health service's recognition around how working above and beyond during the height of the pandemic has adversely affected the mental health and wellbeing of many health and social care staff, 40 resilience hubs have been set up across the country.



Each one is supported with funding provided by NHS England / Improvement (NHSE/I).

The Kent and Medway Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing portal is one of them.

The service is provided by a team of trained people; access is free of charge and without the need to be seen by a GP first.

The Kent and Medway Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing service provides confidential psychological support across the county for health and social care staff, volunteers and those providing care to others in the community, including care homes, and who are dealing directly with COVID-19 patients; have been adversely affected by COVID-19 themselves; are experiencing the effects of long COVID; have family members affected by COVID-19; are feeling burnt-out, exhausted and overwhelmed, and just need someone to hear and listen to them.

Through the mental health and wellbeing staff portal there is access to:

- Rapid clinical assessment
- Care coordination and onward referral
- Proactive outreach and engagement for critical care and hard to reach staff groups, for example minority ethnicity groups
- The trauma informed SHAPE-training developed by the Oxford Centre for Anxiety Disorders and Trauma at the University of Oxford

The dedicated NHS mental health and wellbeing resource and support portal can be accessed via: [www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/staff-wellbeing-support](http://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/staff-wellbeing-support)

It provides direct access to the team by email or via Limbic (our automated chatbot) together with access to direct support where it may be needed, for example access to one-to-one therapy, talking therapies or counselling.

Use your camera phone to scan the Limbic Chatbot QR code opposite.

Staff can self-refer or refer a colleague, providing they have their consent to do so.



To access the service:

Email: [kmpt.wellbeingwebsite@nhs.net](mailto:kmpt.wellbeingwebsite@nhs.net)

The Kent and Medway staff mental health and wellbeing team is hosting a monthly virtual forum specifically for adult social care staff.

Each forum will be for a maximum of one hour and is open to social care staff, managers and those involved in supporting staff mental health and wellbeing within an adult social care setting.

These forums are the opportunity to bring together those adult social care staff not only interested in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of their own teams, but also to share some of the challenges they face, and to help identify what kind of support the staff mental health and wellbeing service may be able to provide.

Dates for these forums are shown here →

Thursday 17 March 2022
Thursday 21 April 2022
Thursday 19 May 2022
Thursday 16 June 2022
Thursday 21 July 2022
Thursday 18 August 2022
Thursday 15 September 2022
Thursday 20 October 2022
Thursday 17 November 2022
Thursday 15 December 2022
Thursday 19 January 2023
Thursday 16 February 2023
Thursday 16 March 2023

## Nurses in Social Care - Expressions of interest invited

If interested in the following funded course please use the link to register your interest **by 11 March** and we will then come back to you with the course dates so that you can confirm if you are available to be offered a place.

After great feedback from the 15 nurses who took part in the first cohort of the **Skills for Care Nurse Leadership programme**, we can now offer this fully funded 4 day program and a learner exchange day (5 days split over a few months) to another 15 nurses.



The programme delivered by Skills for Care will cover the skills and knowledge needed to work across complex, often challenging systems and will cover:

- working across professional, organisational and system boundaries
- developing and implementing new practice and service redesign projects
- using high-level negotiating and influencing skills
- leadership in contexts that are unfamiliar, complex and unpredictable.

Please use [this link](#) to express your interest and [watch a video](#) from Skills for Care.

# PPE consultation and extension of free PPE to the health and care sector



Department of Health & Social Care

The government has announced its decision to extend the central, free provision of all items of COVID-19 PPE to the health and care sector by up to one year to March 2023 or until the infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance on PPE usage for COVID-19 is either withdrawn or significantly amended (whichever is sooner).

The press release announcing the decision to extend is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-ppe-for-frontline-extended-for-another-year>

The government has also published its response to the public consultation. The formal response is available on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/extending-free-ppe-to-the-health-and-care-sector>

We are currently designing and user testing a new and improved PPE Portal for the ordering of Covid-19 PPE. We will keep you updated as this work progresses.

## Join the Kent Care Summit on 2 March to shape the future of care together!

**You're invited to this innovative hybrid event, that will bring together people we support, the care workforce, system leaders, commissioners, providers and community organisations.**



There will be a focus on people's experiences and what they want to see from the Kent care market in the medium to long term.

### **There's a packed agenda including:**

A session on the person's and staff voice : sharing experiences and our vision for the care market.

Hear from our panel:

- Michelle Dyson, Director General for Adult Social Care, Department of Health and Social Care
- Oonagh Smyth, Skills for Care CEO
- Social Care Future for the person's voice
- Claudia Sykes OBE, Social Enterprise Kent
- Vic Rayner OBE, National Care Forum

The panel will be discussing insights into what is happening in social care, the future of the care sector and what this can mean for Kent. Followed by questions from the audience.

And you can also join our breakout sessions, 'In this together – building our care market for the future', to make your voice heard.

### Why have the event now?

It's been an extremely challenging period, with the impacts of Covid, staff and recruitment issues being felt as we work to manage the current winter pressures as a system.

Kent has strengths in its relationships and ambition. Together, we can shape the social care market for the better - so join the conversation and help to set the course towards a more sustainable and innovative future.

### When does it take place?

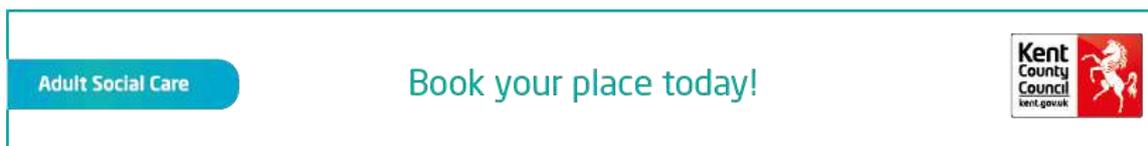
Date: **Wednesday 2 March 2022 : Time 10am - 4pm**

Venue: **Kent Showground, Detling + virtual event programme**

### How to book your place:

[Book your in-person place](#) to attend the Kent Care Summit at Detling Showground (9.30am for a 10am start – 4pm).

[Or book a virtual place](#) at the Kent Care Summit to attend online.



## Blue Light Card – Care Worker Discount Scheme

This is a reminder that the Blue Light Discount Card for care workers can be funded by providers, using the workforce recruitment and retention fund.



This scheme has been really well received by workers, is low cost (a card is £4.99 for two years) and easy to do. The benefits are useful including discounts off grocery shopping, which in the current economic climate will prove invaluable to care workers.

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

## Funded – Care Provider Support Programme from Heart of Kent Hospice

We are pleased to offer these free clinical training sessions to support you through the ongoing challenging situation with healthcare provision.

NHS funding has been provided to enable delivery of these sessions. They are open to all care providers in Kent & Medway.

To reserve your place on one of the sessions below, and obtain the zoom link and password please contact Jackie Pritchard, Clinical Educator on 01622 792200 ext. 217 or email [jackie.pritchard@hokh.co.uk](mailto:jackie.pritchard@hokh.co.uk) or [glenda.cullinane@hokh.co.uk](mailto:glenda.cullinane@hokh.co.uk).

(Only 20 places available on each programme/session).

Please ensure you indicate which Session you wish to attend.

Topics	Session	Session
<p><b>Bereavement &amp; loss</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does grief and bereavement look and feel like?</li> <li>• Theories of grief and anticipatory grief</li> <li>• The dynamics and interactions of anticipated grief and bereavement in a care home through the eyes of:</li> </ul> <p>The resident The family The professional carer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustaining yourselves, maintaining your resilience.</li> </ul> <p>Carers coping and managing the impact of Covid-19 restrictions and the grief and loss they experience both personally and professionally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources list</li> <li>• Questions</li> </ul>	<p>Wednesday 27 April 2pm-4pm</p>	<p>Monday 6 June 1.30-3.30pm</p>
<p><b>Dementia &amp; Introduction to Namaste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Honour the Spirit within”</li> <li>• A structured programme developed by Joyce Simard in the USA, incorporating an overview of the management of the person with Dementia</li> <li>• It integrates compassionate care with individualised activities for people with Dementia and at End-of-Life</li> <li>• The programme is multi-dimensional, including physical, sensory, and emotional elements.</li> <li>• The purpose of Namaste is to provide comfort and care to people with advanced dementia through sensory stimulation, especially the use of touch.</li> <li>• It increases the time spent engaging and connecting with residents (meaningful time).</li> <li>• It enriches quality of life</li> </ul>	<p>Monday 6th June 10-12 midday</p>	<p>Wednesday 13th July 10-12 midday</p>



## 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](mailto:dspt@kent.gov.uk)

## Helping Hands scheme - Supporting households facing financial hardship as a direct result of COVID-19

The Fuel Costs Support Voucher scheme is now available to Kent residents, in partnership with Green Doctors and this may be of interest to the people you support.



### About the scheme

The 'Helping Hands' scheme offers fuel vouchers towards the cost of heating bills and essential items related to keeping warm. The vouchers will support households facing financial hardship as a direct result of coronavirus (COVID-19). Applicants can apply for up to 3 vouchers towards heating bills (must have a top-up meter) or essential items such as:

- boiler repairs
- temporary heaters
- thick curtains
- blankets (at the discretion of district and borough council officers.)

Referrers will need to check that the applicant has suffered a loss of income as a direct result of COVID-19. (For example, being put on furlough, reduced trade or business, increased heating bills by working from home.) Full eligibility and evidence criteria as well as other information can be found by emailing: [tracy.veasey@kent.gov.uk](mailto:tracy.veasey@kent.gov.uk), or [hannah.chandler@kent.gov.uk](mailto:hannah.chandler@kent.gov.uk).

### Make a referral

Referrals can only be made by professionals or trusted partners. Call: 0800 233 5255  
Visit: <https://south.greendoctors.org.uk/>

## Solar together – small businesses can register for free

Solar Together opens today. It is a great opportunity to get a competitive price for solar PV and battery storage and makes the process much easier for those who don't know where to start. It isn't just for homeowners; small businesses, landlords and community buildings are able to register too for a free, no obligation quote.



Read more on the [KCC website](#)

## 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](http://www.kica.care) or to register your organisation as a KiCA member, please contact [louise.faulkner@kica.care](mailto:louise.faulkner@kica.care)

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

## Care Home Provider Forum

**16 March, 9.15am - 1.00pm**

**Ashford International Hotel, Simone Weil Avenue, Ashford TN24 8UX**

A KiCA forum exclusively for **Care Home providers**. We are going to be looking at the residential guide price and current costing pricing structure as well as exploring alternative models going forward.

The first half of the session will be Chaired by Ann Taylor, Chair of KiCA and Adam Hutchison, Vice Chair and will be a member-led discussion. We will then be joined by members of Kent County Council Commissioning and Operations team for the second part of the session.

This forum is limited to 50 providers, so will be on a first come first serve basis.

To book your place, please email [louise.faulkner@kica.care](mailto:louise.faulkner@kica.care)

## 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](mailto: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](#)



**We'd love to hear from you!**

**Please tell us what you'd like to see more of in this bulletin.**

Want to send a submission? [click here](#).