

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 1 September 2023

Autumn / Winter Flu and Covid-19 vaccination delivery programme

[NHS England has announced](#) that it is bringing forward the rollout of this year's **Autumn/Winter Flu and Covid-19 vaccination** delivery programme to begin on **11 September 2023**.

Those most at risk from winter illness including people in care homes for older people, the clinically vulnerable, those aged 65 and over, health and social care staff, and carers - will be able to access a Covid vaccine. Vaccination teams will now begin contacting providers to arrange visits and have been asked to **ensure that all residents in care homes are vaccinated by 22 October**.



Those eligible for vaccination are encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine as soon as they are called to ensure they head into winter with the best protection.

Oliver McGowan Training

New mandatory training for the health and care workforce to improve support for people with learning disabilities and autistic people.



In 2022 the Government introduced a new mandatory training requirement for all health and care staff working in regulated services; it is about improving support for people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

The training is often associated with a young man named Oliver McGowan, whose death further highlighted the ongoing need for better training for health and social care staff. The intention is to help staff to understand the needs of people with learning disabilities and autistic people and how to provide them with safe, compassionate and informed care.

The training has both online and live components and is free to all health and care staff. It is designed to be flexible and accessible. It covers a range of topics, including:

- the needs of autistic people and people with learning disabilities
- communication and interaction
- physical health and wellbeing
- mental health and wellbeing
- safeguarding
- equality and diversity

The government is committed to ensuring that all people with learning disabilities and autistic people have access to high-quality care. The new mandatory training is an important step in achieving this goal.

The first part of the training is already available online, and the development of the second interactive component for the Kent and Medway system is in progress.

We encourage all health and care staff to take the training and to use it to improve their understanding of the needs of people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

If you are a Kent and Medway health care provider, we recommend that:

- you familiarise yourself with what the regulator (Care Quality Commission) for health and care in England has to say about [training staff to support autistic people and people with a learning disability](#)
- you check if your organisation has already added the mandated training to your online learning platform:
 - If they have, then try and complete it as soon as possible, and join the growing thousands of health and care staff that have already completed it across Kent and Medway.
 - If you are unsure, ask your organisation's learning and development team for assurance and updates.
- if your organisation or individual staff can't access the training any other way, that you [register for freely available eLearning](#) that can be completed now. This will provide the foundation for future live training, which will be co-delivered by experts by experience. This is being developed

for health and care staff across the Kent and Medway system.

- If you have any questions please email kmicb.kentandmedway@nhs.net with the subject 'Mandatory training for health and care workforce to improve support for people with learning disabilities and autistic people'.

Further updates will be circulated as this work progresses and as understanding develops of what works best for our Kent and Medway workforce.

East Kent Job Fair with the Prince's Trust

Kent County Council is working with the Prince's Trust to offer the following Job Fair which may be of interest to you;

Date: 19 September 10am-3pm (lunch provided) **at the Picture House in Ashford** (due to transport links) but promotion to jobseekers will be across East Kent and all types of job role vacancies will be promoted at the event.

The event will be promoted to jobseekers of all ages, via KCC social media, Prince's Trust, JCP, Eventbrite and direct emails to recent A level and college leavers, with the Prince's Trust offering additional support to the 18-30year age group by covering transport costs, advice on application process and holding a pre-event workshop with them the week before the event on 'working in the care sector'.

On the day, the KCC team will be there to welcome attendees and have a screening chat with them so they can be signposted to all the relevant stands depending on the type of work they are looking for. Ideally potential applicants interested in your job should be offered an application form on the day/link to application so they can start their application at the venue. If we have a breakout room, you may also be able to interview if you wish.

If you are interested in attending please email mark.deveson@kent.gov.uk with the following details please:

- Contact name
- Contact email
- How many will be on your stand on the day (we need to know how many to book lunch for)
- A copy of the job description for any vacancies you have (all vacancies welcome care and non-care roles) **NOTE; please state if your vacancies are for experienced or non-experienced jobseekers.**
- How do people apply for your vacancies? i.e. apply on the day, CV post event, complete an

application on the day etc.

12th Kent and Medway Registered Manager Conference

We are pleased to announce that our FULLY FUNDED **12th Kent and Medway Registered Manager Conference** will again be at the County Showground, Detling on **Tuesday, 10 October, 2023.**

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

Please see the attached flyer below (subject to change) with booking link and further information on Presenters and Workshops on the day.

[10 Oct 2023 Registered Manager Conference Flyer](#)

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 and hope you can join us.

NOTE: Bookings are accepted on the following understanding.

By booking a FREE place you are confirming that you agree that if, for any reason, you need to cancel your booking, 2 working days' notice is required to give Kent County Council time to offer the place to others on the waiting list.

If 2 working days' notice is not received or if you do not attend on the day or a colleague does not attend in your place (no notice required), an invoice will be issued to your organisation for £50 plus VAT.

You can easily cancel using your Eventbrite link (found in your confirmation) so would not need to contact us directly. Please ensure your manager/owner accepts the above before booking your place.

The power of registered Manager networks – why should you join?

Do you know about the Skills for Care registered manager networks and the benefits of attending?

Skills for Care are holding a brand new event this September aimed at managers from adult social care services who do not attend a local network and want to learn more.

Skills for Care support over 140 networks across England and at this event, they will provide more details about how the networks are run, the benefits of attending, and how they continue to raise the profile of registered managers. The event will also include taster sessions where Skills for Care will talk about topics, issues and challenges that matter to you including recruitment and retention, leadership and management, and good and outstanding provider support.

Thursday 14 September | 10.30am – 12 midday | Zoom | [Register now](#)

Being part of a local network has so many benefits:

- provides a place where you can come together with other managers in your local area
- enables you to share experiences and guidance and support each other's challenges
- offers an opportunity to connect with your peers and feel less isolated.

Skills for Care local networks are chaired by managers, for managers and they would love you to come along to this event. [Register now to find out more.](#)

Household Support Fund

Are you struggling to pay for your food shop? Or are you aware of someone who is?



HM Government

Funded by the UK Governments 'Household Support Fund', we are delivering a scheme supporting vulnerable Kent households in need of help with significantly rising living costs.

There is a limited amount of funding available for this scheme and funds are distributed on a first come, first served basis, with only one award per household.

To make a referral or find out more visit: www.kent.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

If successful, a £100 e-voucher will be awarded - to be used to pay for food costs within the household at supermarkets.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be aged 16 or over.
- be a Kent resident, permanently living within one of the 12 local authorities covered by Kent County Council (this excludes Medway, Bexley, or Bromley).
- be in receipt of means tested benefits, or household income is less than £40,000 per annum before tax.
- not have more than £1,000 in savings.
- not receive free school meals support for any child within the household.

If you are referring yourself, you will need to provide proof of residence at a Kent address as part of your application. We expect professionals who are completing the application on behalf of someone else to ensure all eligibility criteria is met.

If you're not eligible for means tested benefits because you are awaiting Home Office approval for residence or immigration status and don't have a National Insurance number, email householdsupportfund@kent.gov.uk with details of your circumstances and reasons why you need this support, attaching all supporting evidence to the email.

This scheme will close on **14 September 2023**, or when the budget is spent.

International recruitment funding information from KICA

The government has made funding available to support international recruitment into the social care sector during the 23-24 financial year. In the South East region, a significant portion of this money will fund a scheme to distribute small grants of £1500 each to CQC registered providers carrying out recruitment of international workers.

In order to be eligible for a grant, a provider must meet the following criteria:

- Be registered with the CQC as a provider of social care
- Be located (determined by registered CQC location) in one of the Local Authority areas in the South East region
- Have an overall CQC rating which is above the 'Inadequate' rating at the time of application (i.e. 'Outstanding', 'Good' or 'Requires Improvement')
- EITHER intend to apply for a Licence to Sponsor skilled workers OR to hold a licence already and intend to recruit at least one international worker on a Skilled Worker Visa between 1 April 2023 and 15 March 2024
- Confirm that they will understand and will abide by the provisions of the Ethical Recruitment Framework (See the Code of Practice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-international-recruitment-of-health-and-social-care-personnel/code-of-practice-for-the-international-recruitment-of-health-and-social-care-personnel-in-england>)
- Confirm that they are able to offer any international workers they recruit work in accordance with the requirements of the Skilled Worker Visa
- Correctly and fully complete the correct [application form](#).

A provider's eligibility will be assessed at the time of application. Each provider may apply for no more than one grant per CQC registered service location, and must apply to the hub for the local authority whose area includes that location. Providers do not need to have applied for a licence or recruited a skilled worker in order to apply for a grant, however they will have to provide evidence that their licence has been awarded or that they have employed a new skilled worker **between 1 April 2023 and 15 March 2024** before a grant will be paid to them.

The [application](#) is for providers included in the **Kent and Medway Council Districts**. Please ensure it is completed in its entirety, double check all details are correct, and do not hesitate to contact recruitment@kica.care or grants@sesca.org.uk if you have any concerns or queries.

Kent Community Warden Service Review –
public consultation



The financial challenges KCC face, mean we are having to consider savings across a whole range of services.

Our wardens work with communities and partners in lots of different ways - from supporting scam victims, helping communities affected by flooding, reducing social isolation and loneliness and helping residents to navigate care and support services.

To make savings we are proposing to:

- Redesign the service, ensuring there is a core Community Warden presence across the county, with teams covering two districts.
- Retain the remit and community-based way the service currently works but cover fewer communities.
- Use data and information to identify where to place wardens for most impact.

Find out more and tell us your views at kent.gov.uk/communitywardenreview

Consultation open from **12 July to 3 October 2023**.

Want to have your say on social care? Join the Your Voice Network!



If you aren't already a member, are interested in hearing more about social care in Kent and would like us to keep you updated about opportunities to get involved, receive our newsletter or link you up with our lived experience groups.

Please encourage the people you support to join and get involved in developing the future of social care.

Please **join our Your voice network** online or contact **makingadifference@kent.gov.uk** to speak to a member of the team.

We'd love to hear from you!

Our mailing address is:

Stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk