

# Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



**Friday 3 November 2023**

## Winter Preparedness and COVID-19 Testing



Department of Health & Social Care

Symptomatic testing for residents eligible for COVID-19 treatments and outbreak testing will continue throughout the winter period as detailed in the [IPC guidance](#). To enable the sector to continue to test during this time with no limitations or delay due to replenishing stock, we are giving you the opportunity to request additional stock of COVID-19 LFD tests. The number of tests available will depend on your total bed capacity as registered with the CQC.

### **Total Bed capacity**

10 or less - 70 (10 packs of 7) tests available

11 or more - 497 (71 packs of 7) tests available

You will be able to request your additional stock of COVID-19 tests via the [order portal](#) from 20 October to the 3 November.

- Navigate to [COVID-19 test order portal here](#).
- Enter your UON and press continue.
- Select Order LFD tests for winter preparedness.
- Check your organisation's address and press continue.
- Enter the total number of LFD tests that you are requesting according to the table above, and press continue.
- Confirm your order request.

You will receive an email when your tests have been dispatched, informing you of their delivery date.

order LFD tests should you need them at a later date.

If you have any urgent questions regarding testing within your setting, please contact 119.

## NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC) survey



### Department of Health & Social Care

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is currently in the process of setting the 2024-2025 rate for NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC). This is being informed by a one-off cost collection exercise, run via Capacity Tracker. The survey is non-mandatory, but it would be great if as many providers as possible could complete this. The survey is expected to go live on **Wednesday 25 October** and will be open for **three weeks**.

#### What is FNC?

Funding is provided by the NHS to residential nursing care providers to support the provision of nursing care. FNC can help manage pressure on acute hospitals and supports system flow by reducing avoidable admissions of individuals with complex discharge needs. It can also relieve pressure on NHS primary care services by enabling nursing care to be delivered within the individual's residential home. DHSC sets the national FNC rate which dictates the amount the NHS pays care homes delivering FNC. This is paid per resident, per week. Given wider inflationary pressures, we are now conducting a further one-off 'cost collection exercise' to ensure that we have the most recent and accurate data available when calculating the national rate. You might recall that we last did this in 2021.

#### What Information Is Needed To Complete The Survey?

We would like to encourage as many providers as possible to complete this survey. Although it is optional, a greater sample size will mean more reliable results, which is why we would like to encourage you to complete the survey when it launches. When you complete the survey, please ensure that you have data on the number of residents by funding type and payroll information on both pay and hours worked by registered nurses for the two months of April 2023 and September 2023 (or your most recent completed payroll period) to hand.

Once the survey has gone live, you will see a link to it when you log into Capacity Tracker and further communications on how to complete it will be sent shortly. If you have any questions, please contact the DHSC FNC inbox at [fnc@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:fnc@dhsc.gov.uk)

For those users who update Capacity Tracker via the Provider Bulk Update Template and would like to

(excluding Public Holidays) 8am - 5pm by phoning 0191 691 3729 or emailing [necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net](mailto:necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net)

We thank you in advance for your continued support and engagement.

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## Co-designing the future of residential and home care across Kent

Kent County Council and NHS Kent and Medway would like to invite care providers to take part in discussions about co-designing the future of residential and home care across the county for the benefit of all.



As part of this, we want to work with you and get your perspectives and inputs on aspects such as care costs and contractual models to support future market sustainability and provision of care.

Working with our partners 31ten, we want to offer you the opportunity to participate and help us shape how we meet the care needs of our residents moving forward.

Over the coming weeks, 31ten will be contacting care providers on behalf of the Council and the NHS to schedule sessions where they will support you to share information on your current provision alongside your feedback and views on what the future should look like. These will be held virtually and in-person and are intended as the first stage of an ongoing dialogue with you over the coming months into 2024. These discussions are intended as part of an informal early engagement opportunity.

The Council and the NHS would like as many of you as possible to take part and collaborate with us on this. To take part or find out more, you can contact [Kent@31ten.co.uk](mailto:Kent@31ten.co.uk).

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The search is on for our Adult Social Care and Health  
People's Champion!



Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their excellent work or going the extra mile within Adult Social Care and Health?

The Kent Adult Social Care and Health Awards are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate some of the excellent and remarkable work undertaken by anyone working for, and with, KCC adult social care and health.

It could be the member of the public who gives up their time to volunteer on one of our involvement groups, making sure the person's voice is heard, or it could be a public health colleague giving out vital information on healthy living and wellbeing services or a social care worker who always goes the extra mile in working with the people of Kent.

The nomination window is open now and will close on **Friday 10 November**.

Nominations can be submitted easily by [emailing us](#) with the name of your nominee and a few words on why you are nominating them or [fill in this form](#) online choosing the People's Champion Award.

There will be a special winner's event at County Hall on **Tuesday 5 December** at Sessions House.

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## Care Sector Digital Event



# Care Sector Digital Event

8 November, 9.30-4pm : Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel

## 8 November, 9.30-4pm : Mercure Maidstone Great Danes Hotel, ME17 1RE

You are invited to our Care Sector Digital Event.

The event will set out the national and local vision for integrating digital solutions into social care. During the event there will be the opportunity to hear about the Digital activities in Kent and Medway. We will also explore the opportunities and barriers to successfully implementing digital opportunities into social care and health.

By the end of the event participants will:

- understand the benefits of Digital for people who draw on care and support
- understand the benefits of Digital for the organisation
- know what support and funding is available across Kent and Medway to help with Digital adoption
- help build Digital plans for Kent and Medway
- explore where you are with the adoption of Digital and identify areas for development, leaving the event with a plan on what you need to do to progress your Digital journey
- you will be aware of some digital systems/equipment relevant to your service.

The day will be a combination of speakers, interactive discussion and market place with demonstrations.

Book your free place today: [Care Sector Digital Event Tickets, Wed 8 Nov 2023 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

## We can help you with your Data Security and Protection Toolkit

**DSPT**  
Better security. Better care.



The Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) helps you check and improve your data protection, policies and practices. It covers all of the issues you need to consider – so you don't have to worry about being a data protection expert.

Whether you want to register, have a few questions, or want to work on your toolkit, we're here to help. Book a slot via email or just come along on the day - June and Penny  
[DSPT@kent.gov.uk](mailto:DSPT@kent.gov.uk) / 03000 418087

To see the available roadshows, view the below flyer.

[KM Roadshow Dates Poster 3](#)

[KM Roadshow Dates Poster 4](#)

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## 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](mailto:recruitment@kica.care) or [grants@sesca.org.uk](mailto:grants@sesca.org.uk) if you have any concerns or queries.

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 [join our Your voice network](#) online or contact [makingadifference@kent.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk)