

# Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 12 March 2021

## Kent County Council funded licences for Care Friends app

As you might be aware, recruitment is an ongoing issue for social care, and those of you who have seen Neil Eastwood's presentations at past registered manager conferences will know that the people who stay longest are those recruited following a recommendation from a friend/relative who works in care.

KCC are pleased to announce that they are using the DoH Workforce Capacity Fund to support providers by funding their set up cost and licences for the Care Friends app. The licences last a full 12 months so even if you do not have any recruitment issues at the moment you can still take advantage of this free offer.

Please click [here](#) to see the flyer which has details of a 45 minute information webinar on the Care Friends app. Two dates are available, just follow the link to book!

## Your stories: meet Rosewood care home's canine companion, Buddy

We're calling for your good news stories – to celebrate achievements, initiatives and all-round good practice that takes place across Kent. If you have a story that you'd like us to shine a spotlight on, please send them through to:

[accommodationsolutions@kent.gov.uk](mailto:accommodationsolutions@kent.gov.uk)



### Getting to know our staff

In the spotlight this month: "**Buddy**"

**Question:** "How long have you been working at Rosewood?"

**Answer:** "I've been coming to Rosewood with my mum since I was 12 weeks old and I'm now 5 years old."

**Question:** "What do you like most about your role at Rosewood?"

**Answer:** "All the fuss I get, the treats and the laps I get to curl up on and making my human friends so happy and cheering them up. Also helping the staff clean the dining room floor, it delicious but not good for my waistline!"

**Question:** "What is your happiest memory of working at Rosewood so far?"

**Answer:** "Just being here and making friends with so many humans and getting totally spoilt."

**Question:** "What would you say to others looking into a career working in a care home?"

**Answer:** "I would tell all my furry friends get yourself into a care home, it's the best job EVER! My humans are the best and I love them as much as they love me."



## NMC newsletter for nurses

Please see the link below for nurses in social care to sign up for the NMC newsletter. The link to sign up for the employer and registrant newsletters is:

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/news/email-newsletters/>

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

Following recent funding received from Kent County Council, KiCA are able to offer free membership to ALL CQC registered Adult Social Care providers in Kent.

They represent all areas of the sector, residential homecare, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health. KiCA are your voice for care in Kent.



Do not miss this opportunity to join your local Care Association. For further information, please visit: [www.kica.care](http://www.kica.care) or contact: [louise.faulkner@kica.care](mailto:louise.faulkner@kica.care)

KiCA look forward to continuing to support you and your organisation through these difficult and challenging times.

## Update on Extra Care and Supported Living Coronavirus testing

This is a reminder and encouragement to all providers of Supported Living and Extra Care housing to keep up to date with the national testing policy in these settings by attending the weekly webinars that have been made available.

### Weekly Webinars

The Department of Social Care and Health would strongly encourage providers and those involved in the testing process join a webinar:

[https://event.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1380165&tp\\_key=dfecd07a9d](https://event.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1380165&tp_key=dfecd07a9d)

The Department of Social Care and Health use this platform to provide details on the testing routes available for Extra Care and Supported Living (EC/SL) settings. They provide clarification on the primary testing programmes, PCR and rapid Lateral Flow Tests; how these will work practically within settings and what to do on receipt of each result type. By engaging with the webinars, settings can raise any questions or clarifications, which are answered either in writing during the webinar, or verbally during the Q&A section at the end of the webinar.

## Activity groups return to help vulnerable people recover from homelessness



Kent Homeless Connect (KHC), is a Kent County Council contracted service for vulnerable adults with complex needs who are either at risk of/or are already homeless. It is delivered in partnership with two Prime Providers, Look Ahead and Porchlight who lead a network of others.

As part of this vital service, Porchlight runs community hubs where vulnerable people who have experienced homelessness or struggle with their mental health can meet others, get advice, and take part in activities that connect them with others, encourages new hobbies and motivates towards new goals. Hubs are located in local spaces like community centres and leisure centres. Local communities can be a vital support network and KHC aims to break down barriers between communities and the people it supports.

Along with many other community services, the pandemic meant that KHC had to stop running face-to-face hubs, replacing these with virtual events. Now, having reviewed how these vital services can be delivered, KHC is pleased to return to face-to-face sessions in Canterbury and Thanet.

Being able to meet face-to-face has eased isolation and broadened the support KHC and its partners can offer – whether that's meeting with their keyworker, learning new skills, getting employment advice, or doing something creative

All weekly meet-ups follow Covid-19 safety guidelines for support groups with risk assessments in place and are delivered in a Covid-19 safe way. Building on these successes, KHC looks forward to reopening more community hubs before long and welcoming back new and familiar faces.

## Social Enterprise Kent: Social Prescribing Day - 18 March, 9am-5pm

Social Enterprise Kent is hosting a day of focus on social prescribing. There will be several different sessions throughout the day to help people gain a better understanding of what Social Prescribing is and help to identify clear referral pathway.

Details of all the sessions are listed below. To log onto an event, please click on the links and book on. Please forward on to all your connections to enhance awareness of what is happening within the communities we all serve!

### 9:15am - What is Social Prescribing?

A session led by Social Enterprise Kent Contract Manager, Jack Packman who has seven years of Social Prescribing experience and will be hosting a convocation with our delivery partners Age UK and Red Zebra, on what social prescribing is and the work that each organisation has been doing over the last year and work that will be happening moving forward.

This is a great opportunity for you to learn what social prescribing can do for you both in a professional and personal capacity, including referral pathways, and many more.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-is-social-prescribing-tickets-144437320915>

### **10:30am - Employability and Social Prescribing**

This session will be led by Jess Bartindale who is the Team Leader for Let's Get Working, which is part of the Social Enterprise Kent employability team. Jess will be speaking about SEK employability services and the impact that employment has on Social Prescribing. Additionally Jess will be speaking about the work they have been doing through the Covid-19 pandemic supporting people getting back into work. Finally, Jess will be speaking about how you can refer into the services to enhance the health and well-being of the clients.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/employability-and-social-prescribing-tickets-144455324765>

### **12 midday - Social Prescribing for Carers**

During the Covid-19 pandemic it has been identified that the unpaid carer saved the economy a large amount of money with very little return. This session will be led by Jill Atwell, CEO of Carers Support East Kent and her team, talking about the work they have been doing to support carers across East Kent. This session will also talk about how to refer into the services Carers Support East Kent provide.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/social-prescribing-for-carers-tickets-144457286633>

### **1:30pm - The Role of a Social Prescribing Link Worker**

This session led by Hannah Dale will talk about the role of a Social Prescribing Link Worker and the work they have been doing during the Covid-19 pandemic and their role within the GP surgeries and the communities.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-role-of-a-social-prescribing-link-worker-tickets-144457940589>

### **3:00pm - Engaging Hard to Reach Communities & Access to Cancer Services**

This session will be in two sections firstly, with Harriet discussing some of the work that she has been doing to access those hard to reach communities to be able to ensure they access services and increase their health and well-being. Secondly, Kay will be discussing the importance of accessing cancer screenings and the work that she has been doing with the volunteers from Macmillan and how she has been supporting Connect Well East Kent and the front line Community Navigators. Finally, the session will discuss how you can access these services and create a referral pathway.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/engaging-hard-to-reach-communities-access-to-cancer-services-tickets-144458331759>

### **4:00pm - Moving forward, What services are out there?**

The final session will be hosted by Jack Packman Contract Manager and Claire Shelton Well-being Manager for Social Enterprise Kent. Who will talk about what services are out there across Kent and Medway, new contracts that are being commissioned and the directory of services all linking in to Social Prescribing.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/moving-forward-what-services-are-out-there-tickets-144458618617>