

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 12 January 2024

HSF4 Winter Energy Scheme - launch information

Funded by the UK government, the Household Support Fund scheme supports vulnerable Kent households in need of help with significantly rising living costs. The Scheme is being delivered in two phases, **Phase 1 Summer Voucher scheme & Phase 2 Winter Energy Support scheme**.

The Summer Scheme has now closed but has been successful in delivering nearly £1million worth of support via food vouchers to Kent residents. We now move on to Phase 2 the Winter scheme which will deliver energy support to households.

As with Phase 1 the application route will provide two pathways to access either the self-referral or professional referral scheme.

Please feel free to share this information with your own professional networks, or pass on the subscription link, <https://forms.office.com/e/2aKaNrjwBi>, to our HFS4 mailing list to receive the latest news and updates on the scheme.

The winter scheme is open for applications from 12pm Tuesday 9 January 2024. The scheme will close on Thursday 29 February 2024, or earlier if the budget is spent.

Please note that the summer food voucher scheme closed early due to high demand and we expect a similar response for the winter scheme so we advise professionals

to refer their clients as early as possible.

If successful, support will be provided in one of the following:

- £100 prepaid physical card to be used to pay for energy via PayPoint or Post Office physical locations.
- Sent to applicant via Royal Mail
- Full T&Cs found here
<https://legal.purecard.com/terms?cctid=flCBryCnN8Flc50558flCBryCnN8Fl>
- FAQs – <https://help.purecard.com/>
- £100 virtual energy card to be used to pay directly to energy providers for electricity, gas or water bills. Energy providers including British Gas, EDF, E.on, Bulb, Octopus and many more
- Sent to applicant via email
- Full T&Cs found here
<https://legal.purecard.com/terms?cctid=flCBryCnN8Flc50551flCBryCnN8Fl>
- FAQs – <https://help.purecard.com/collection/753-energy-card-cardholders>

This card is issued by GVS Prepaid Ltd, pursuant to license by Mastercard International Incorporated.

All applicants will need to complete the card activation process which will require online access and those without internet access will require professional referrer assistance, or they can access their local gateway service.

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

Who is eligible?

There is an expectation for professionals to complete due diligence checks of applications to ensure that beneficiaries meet the eligibility criteria as set out below:

Applicants that self-refer will be required to submit evidence to prove that they are the energy bill payer for the household and a Kent resident, within an eligible Kent district, at the point of application.

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, Bromley, and Bexley)

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- have a household income less than £40,000 per annum before tax (including any means tested benefits)
- be the named utility bill payer for the household
- **not** have savings above £1000
- ***not** be receiving free school meal support within their household

****Free School Meal eligible families have received an additional energy voucher for each eligible child via their child's school outside of this scheme.*** Eligible FSM families have received a voucher per eligible child for the value of £100 direct from their child's school before Christmas and should be referred back to their school for further advice if this has not been received.

Residents with no recourse to public funding are still eligible for the scheme. If a National Insurance number is not available, please email householdsupportfund@kent.gov.uk with circumstances and reasons why the applicant should receive this support (please attach all supporting evidence to the email).

Application link:

If support is required because of the increase in cost of living, apply for the Household Support Fund on the following link: [Household Support Fund - Kent County Council](#)

Processing timescales

We do aim to send the physical and virtual cards out as quickly as possible, usually within 10 working days of a successful application being made, however we anticipate there will be high demand for support, and this could impact on timescales. The applicant and referrer (if applicable) will receive email confirmation of the application outcome.

Celebrating our first KCC Adult Social Care and Health Staff Awards

Thank you to everyone who nominated someone for our first Adult Social Care and Health Staff Awards.

With over 250 fantastic nominations judging was extremely difficult. The winners were announced at a celebration event on 5 December at County Hall in Maidstone.

The Awards are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate some of the excellent and remarkable work undertaken by anyone working in the KCC Adult Social Care and Health directorate. It could be the person who always knows how to pick the team up, the one who goes out of their way to help someone or the person who instinctively understands what is needed and gets it done.

We can now share with you this year's amazing award winners, and we'll be starting the next awards this spring! Generous staff also raised £170 for [Dementia UK](#) from a raffle on the day.

Most Supportive and Compassionate Person

- Winner: Jeremy Cialis
- Commendation: Steven Lynn
- Commendation: Liz King

Sunshine Award

- Winner: Esperanza Whelan
- Commendation: Andrew Brown
- Commendation: Sharon Burford

Best Team Award

- Winner: Whitstable Community Team
 - Commendation: Performance Team
 - Commendation: Meadowside Short Break Service Team
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Adult social care digital roadshow

DIGITAL ROADSHOW

The stakeholder engagement team in adult social care at KCC have been attending events, visiting community spaces and holding webinars. The aim is to take people on a short tour and demo of some of the new digital technology and resources available to support independence and wellbeing.

If you would like the team to talk to your workforce or attend an existing event, please contact makingadifference@kent.gov.uk. You can also call 03000 413 998 if you prefer to speak to someone directly.

In the meantime, visit the **Kent Connect to Support** website for the latest information on care and support where you live and make sure your organisation is listed on our community directory: <https://kent.connecttosupport.org/> .

You can also explore a new online self-assessment service called Better Care Support from the same site to access more detailed advice and guidance that's right for you. Read more about Better Care Support below.

BetterCare Support online Self Assessment

Adult Social Care and Health (Kent County Council) have launched [BetterCare Support](#), an online self assessment tool, to enable people to live independently and safely within their communities and home.



By answering questions about their social care needs, the tool provides people with information, advice, and guidance about the options and services available to them.

Other online resources:

- [Kent County Council Adult Social Care and Health website](#)
- [Financial Calculator to estimate how much you may need to pay](#)
- [Connect to Support, information, advice and guidance website with community directory](#)
- [Kent PA Personal Assistants website](#)

Please share and advertise these resources with your services and contacts.

Free Jobs Board

Our free Jobs Board is your secret weapon!

The Kent Integrated Care Alliance (KiCA) offer a new free Jobs Board, your secret weapon for finding the best talent in adult social care.

Exclusively tailored for adult social care staff in Kent and Medway, we have developed a cutting-edge recruitment platform just for you.

Start advertising today!

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- 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 must apply to the hub for the local authority whose area includes that location. For Kent and Medway, this is the Kent Integrated Care Alliance (KiCA).

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.

Safer Care Service - join one of our seminars



Kent Fire &
Rescue Service

together

If you are a responsible person or owner of a health and care premises, our Safer Care Service initiative is designed to help reduce risk, help you meet your responsibilities under the Fire Safety Order, and help businesses stay safe and resilient.



Maidstone, where you can learn more about fire detection, warning systems and evacuation.

There are two dates to choose from – 10 November 2023 and 22 February 2024, each offering a morning or an afternoon session. Book your place now by going to our website at www.kent.fire-uk.org/safer-care.

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** to speak to a member of the team.

We'd love to hear from you!

Our mailing address is:

Stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk