

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 23 April 2021

Kent Homeless Connect: new website and referral tool



A new eligibility checker, designed to make referrals into Kent Homeless Connect easier for professionals, is now available. It's part of a freshly launched website for the Kent Homeless Connect service:

<https://kenthomelessconnect.org.uk/>

The service supports vulnerable adults who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, and who have complex needs which make accessing services harder.

The tool enables the user to quickly find out if someone they are supporting is likely to qualify for a referral – all by answering a few simple questions. It can be used by professionals on behalf of their client, or by the client themselves.

Kent Homeless Connect is delivered by partners Porchlight and Look Ahead on behalf of Kent County Council.

Kent Homeless Connect recognises that people with very complex needs may require support from several services at once to move on from homelessness and rebuild their lives. Kent Homeless Connect brings the right specialist organisations together to provide coordinated support that is tailored for each individual. Through this collaboration, we're able to work together smoothly to reach and support some of the most vulnerable people wherever they are in Kent.

You can also use the new website to get information about:

- Which local services are available for a client you feel is at risk of becoming homeless, is rough sleeping, who has complex needs, or who requires urgent housing.
- Other services, for those who might not be eligible but are still looking for support.
- News, case studies and updates from Kent Homeless Connect and partners.



HAPPI Hour – housing mental health and wellness

Join this free session on 13 May 2021 which looks at mental health, supported housing and wellbeing. The session features speakers including Jolie Goodman from the Mental Health Foundation talking about their work with sheltered housing residents, Angelina Morgan from Look Ahead Care and Support on their recently published research (The financial case for integrated mental health services and supported housing pathways). You can also explore the 'designing for mental wellbeing' insights of architect Ben Channon, author of 'Happy by Design: A Guide to Architecture and Mental Wellbeing'.

Interested? Register here: <https://www.housinglin.org.uk/Events/HAPPI-Hour-Housing-mental-health-and-wellness/>

Using digital technology to achieve better outcomes

Message from the Innovation Delivery team at Kent County Council:

The innovation delivery team at KCC are looking to work together with partners, colleagues and the people we support to look at how we can be creative in our use of digital technology in order to achieve better outcomes for individuals, families, carers and the workforce.



We are hosting two events from **10am-11.50am on 4 and 5 May**. We want to listen to your ideas and bring together anyone and everyone across Kent to look at how we develop and promote innovative and digital projects that can make a positive impact in the sector. We would like it if you could attend **one** of these sessions to come up with some ideas together that we can build on.

The three questions that we will go through and discuss are:

- How can frontline staff collaborate with each other remotely within the broader adult social care ecosystem?
- How can technology be used to better engage with people, and to further understand how they are living within their communities?
- How can data be used to identify and anticipate people's needs so as to deliver care preventatively and proactively?

Booking:

Please email Laura.baldwin@kent.gov.uk to book your place and you can use the relevant link below to join the meeting for whichever date you choose.

Tuesday 4 May 10am-11,50am

Join on your computer or mobile app [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Wednesday 5 May 10am-11.50am

Join on your computer or mobile app [Click here to join the meeting](#)

We look forward to you joining us.

Dying Matters awareness week

Dying Matters Awareness Week (10 May to 16 May) is a chance for everyone to come together and open up the conversation around death, dying and bereavement. By talking about the issues we face, it may help us prepare for the future.



There are two events in Kent and Medway for all partners in health and social care to get involved with.

They will help us understand from the person's perspective about end of life care and the conversations that take place between medical staff and the people they care for.

More [details are in this flyer](#).

Completing the NHS capacity tracker



Please can we request that all care homes continue to complete the NHS capacity tracker on a regular basis – weekly at a minimum, but more frequently if needed to reflect any changes in your status.

Whilst the number of new cases of COVID-19 being reported, amongst both staff and residents, is currently considerably lower than it has been in recent months, it is still really important that we have an up to date picture not just of the number of cases, but also of the other information gathered through the NHS capacity tracker.

Colleagues from both KCC and NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group continue to review the data from the capacity tracker on a daily basis. This has reduced the need for us to request regular telephone/email updates and the completion of additional online update forms, but if the tracker is not being completed regularly, we will need to look at reverting back to other means of gathering the information needed to give us an oversight of the situation in residential homes.

Please also note that, as with the Infection Control Fund, eligibility for any funding/support that is available from central government will include being able to evidence that providers are regularly updating the tracker.

If you have any technical issues with the capacity tracker please contact the team using the “help” section on their website - <https://capacitytracker.com/>

Market position statements

On behalf of Adult Social Care, KCC’s Commissioners are producing a collection of Market Position Statements in line with the Care Act:

We are in the process of producing a collection of market position statements covering the services we commission for adults in Kent. The statements are intended to explain the current and expected future demands for our services, and consequently our expectations and intentions regarding the future services that will be required. We hope this will allow all providers the opportunity to begin planning for future change, adapting as and if required, so that we are collectively able to meet the future needs of the people of Kent.

The statements will outline our direction of travel and make clear our expectations of and promises to providers and the care workforce; but we hope that they will also provide a starting point for an ongoing dialogue with providers and developers, upon which we can collaboratively develop care and support services.

The first of the statements, ‘Accommodation with Care & Support’, is now available at www.kent.gov.uk/aschmps.

A large number of stakeholders, including providers, have contributed towards this statement, but we want to hear your thoughts. The market position statements will be live documents, regularly updated to reflect changing requirements and strategic direction, so we welcome your ideas, opinions and offers, at any time.






JCVI issues new advice on COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant women

On 16 April, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) confirmed that there have been no specific safety concerns identified with any COVID-19 vaccine in relation to pregnancy. The JCVI is therefore advising that pregnant women should be offered the vaccine at the same time as the rest of the population, based on their age and clinical risk group.

The JCVI also advised that it's preferable for pregnant women in the UK to be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines where available. There is no evidence to suggest that other vaccines are unsafe for pregnant women, but more research is needed.

The advice, published in Public Health England's Green Book, a clinical professional guide for vaccinators in the UK, still advises that pregnant women should discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with their clinician, including the latest evidence on safety and which vaccines they should receive. 'Announcement:

How does the risk of serious side-effects from the AstraZeneca vaccine compare with other risks?

Chance in a million of...	25-year-old	55-year-old
serious harm due to vaccine side-effects 	11 in a million	4 in a million
dying with coronavirus 	23 in a million	800 in a million
dying due to an accident or injury 	110 in a million	180 in a million
dying in a road accident 	38 in a million	23 in a million
being hit by lightning this year 	1 in a million	1 in a million

Figures show the chance of dying with coronavirus since the start of the pandemic. Figures for accidents and car crash fatalities are for 2018

Source: Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication



Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-new-advice-on-covid-19-vaccination-for-pregnant-women>

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14>

← Infographic which was presented in a BBC article based on work at the Winton centre in Cambridge

<https://wintoncentre.maths.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/how-have-covid-19-fatalities-compared-other-causes-death/>

How have Covid-19 facilities compared with other cause of death?

Support and communications from KCC throughout the Coronavirus crisis - survey

Message on behalf of Kent County Council:

We are keen to understand how providers have experienced the support and communications from KCC throughout the coronavirus crisis, and we want to hear from you. We want to understand how well you have felt supported by KCC in the last year, and how you want us to work together in the future. We would like to get your feedback via a short survey, and will also be hosting a number of engagement events where we can explore themes in more depth:

- Learning Disability engagement event – jointly hosted by Kent County Council and Lara Bywater, Director LDC Care Company – Tuesday 27 April, 10am – 11am
- Care Homes engagement event – jointly hosted by Kent County Council and Adam Hutchison, Managing Director Belmont Healthcare – Wednesday 28 April, 10am – 11am

- Home Care engagement event – jointly hosted by Kent County Council and Ann Taylor, Chief Executive Officer Hilton Nursing Partners – Thursday 29 April, 9.30am – 10.30am

To book your place at one of the above events, please contact adultspmo@kent.gov.uk by Friday 23 April 2021. Please note that places will be limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

We really look forward to hearing your insights.

Data security and protection toolkit - free local support for social care providers

Message from Kent County Council and Kent Integrated Care Alliance:



Kent County Council (KCC) in partnership with Kent Integrated Care Alliance (KiCA) has been awarded funding by the National Better Security, Better Care programme. The funding is to support social care providers in Kent and Medway to complete the nationally recognised Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT).



Completing the toolkit will enable you to:

- gain access and retain use of digital tools such as, NHSmail and System One
- evidence and demonstrate good practice by meeting data and security standards
- demonstrate compliance with data protection legislation and CQC's expectations on confidentiality and security
- help you to reassure the people you support, their families and your staff that they can trust you with their data
- evaluate and improve your data and cyber security, reducing the risk of cyber-crime and data breaches

We know that you are under enormous pressure as you continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. We don't want to add any extra burden, so we are offering this free support to ensure that the information you store and share with health colleagues is secure.

As a first step to find out more information about the toolkit and the support that we can offer, please join us for a short introductory webinar on one of the following dates:

[Tuesday 4 May 11 – 11.30am](#)
[Wednesday 5 May 9.30 – 10am](#)
[Tuesday 11 May 1 – 1.30pm](#)
[Wednesday 12 May 10 – 10.30am](#)
[Tuesday 18 May 2 – 2.30pm](#)
[Tuesday 25 May 9.30 – 10am](#)

If you would like to attend one of the introductory webinars, please click on the link for the date you would like to attend and you'll be taken to the Eventbrite page to register.

We will then send you a reminder email the day before the event with a link to join the webinar.

We look forward to meeting you at the webinar and supporting you on your digital journey.

Kent Care Hub Masterclass: ideas to start improving staff well-being now

Thursday 29 April 2021 (1pm - 1:45pm)



Presented by Thomas Jeffs, Changing Minds Kent CIC

Tom Jeffs from Changing Minds Kent CIC is a Positive Psychology Coach and Trainer. In this webinar he shares three things you can start doing now to help improve the mental wellbeing of staff. From how to start generating a more supportive work environment to improving empathic connection and taking stock of stress and developing healthier coping strategies.

This is a 30-minute presentation followed by questions.

To book your free place please email ellie.reynolds@kica.care

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 until July 2021.



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 or contact: louise.faulkner@kica.care

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

Provider Surveys – all residential and nursing care homes

KCC Commissioning are sending out emails to all care home providers shortly (this week).

KCC Commissioning periodically send out these surveys to the care home market to better understand what each home is able to provide, both physically as a building (accessibility) and the staff team (training).

There is one survey for those homes focusing their services at older people, and another for those focussed on disability provision (learning disabilities, mental health, physical disabilities). You do not need to complete both, just the one most suited to your home.

Even if you have completed this survey in the past for your home, could you please take the 15-20 minutes to complete it again, as we haven't been sending the surveys out regularly due to the impact and workload for all of the pandemic.

The information will be used by the purchasing/placements teams to better understand each home and ensure that referrals are as appropriate as possible. Commissioners use the information to understand which homes have particular specialisms, or where there may be gaps in the market in a local area for a certain need.

None of this information is made public or shared outside of KCC. If you complete the survey using the link below, you don't have to complete it again when the email arrives, they are the same surveys.

Both surveys will close on 30/04/2021.

Older persons homes.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DaJTMjXH_kuotz5qs39fkleHjRG9b3ZltZLi18fz-gtUNkhCN1dNVklFUFNSWVVFUENYVTc2QURTUi4u

Disability homes (LD, PD, MH).

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DaJTMjXH_kuotz5qs39fkleHjRG9b3ZltZLi18fz-gtUOFpUTjY0RDBTQ0VBVDNRWUZYQTdPRVh5QS4u