

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Monday 18 December 2023

Wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas



We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued hard work in 2023 and your commitment to the residents of Kent.

We would like to extend our special wishes for a happy Christmas holiday and a happy New Year.

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

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.

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.

Care Sector Digital Event

On 8 November, 180 care providers came together for a care sector digital event. The first part of the day set out the national and local drivers for being digital. In the afternoon providers had the opportunity to attend digital bitesize sessions and develop action plans. There was a marketplace showcasing the digital support across Kent and Medway. There was a buzz in the room and positive feedback on how the event has increased awareness and confidence.

Following on from the day we are now looking at a programme of digital sessions for 2024. And this will start with a workshop in January on digital social care records, where we will have the opportunity to learn from providers that have implemented, the challenges experienced and how these were addressed. Information about the digital social care records workshop will be sent out soon.

If you are keen to be involved in shaping digital plans for Kent and Medway, sharing best practice and challenges and exploring opportunities to work together, join the **Care Sector Digital Group**. The group meets monthly, if you are interested email Georgina.walton@kent.gov.uk

Funding has increased for International Recruitment

Due to unprecedented demand, two £1500 grants per care service are now available meaning providers can:



- access up to £3,000 towards their international recruitment costs!
- Providers who have previously received a £1,500 grant are now invited to apply for a second grant.

Please see details below:

The government has made funding available to support international recruitment into the social care sector during the 23-24 financial year.

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 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

the Fire Safety Order, and help businesses stay safe and resilient.

We've organised some free, helpful, face-to-face seminars at our Training Centre in 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