

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 18 September 2020

Update from Kent Integrated Care Association



KENT INTEGRATED
CARE ALLIANCE

Following negotiations with the officers at KCC, a KiCA proposal regarding additional support to the sector through our association has now been accepted by Cabinet members. Our proposal to fund current KiCA membership for a full year, and further additional funding to engage all CQC registered providers to benefit from KiCA's support and information for the coming year, will give us the opportunity to develop further our support network of independent and private providers during the coming challenging period.

We represent all areas of the sector, residential, homecare, LD/MH so if your organisation is currently not a KiCA member, don't miss this opportunity to join for free (until July 2021). For further information about KiCA, visit www.kica.care or to register your organisation as a member, contact: louise.faulkner@kica.care

We look forward to working with you and continuing to help the sector get through these unprecedented times and beyond.

Antibody Testing for Adult Social Care Staff

The Government has announced that all Social Care staff - including care home staff are now invited to have an antibody test for Covid-19. These tests are carried out through a blood test at one of our acute hospitals or care settings that provide a phlebotomy service. Only a small number of slots are available across the Kent and Medway system as the NHS laboratories also work to provide COVID-19 diagnostic testing and the "business as normal" services to help other diagnostic and treatment decisions.

The test looks for antibodies in the blood which show that you have had Coronavirus (COVID-19) but have recovered. This data is useful for us (NHS, Public Health England and Local Authority Public Health) to understand better how many people have had the virus since the beginning of the pandemic as part of local and national surveillance.

However please note the following as being antibody positive has and does not change clinical practice:

- The antibody test does not suggest that anyone who has had the virus has

any long term immunity and therefore **it still may be possible** to catch Covid-19 again in the future.

- The antibody test result will not allow relaxation of current measures around the use of PPE and adhering to social distancing rules.
- The antibody test result will not affect any of the current Test and Trace procedures, such as the number of days you need to self-isolate for and
- All current working practises and measures around managing the virus must continue

Booking for the antibody test will be via the NHS online booking system, results will be sent directly back to you.

The address to book the test through is:

[East Kent Antibody](#)

[Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Antibody](#)

[Medway Antibody](#)

Adult Social Care Winter Plan

The Department of Health and Social Care has today announced its adult social care winter plan, which focusses on curbing the spread of coronavirus infections in care settings throughout the winter months, including through the extension of the Infection Control Fund.

We will produce an additional newsletter highlighting key information and actions in the plan next week, but in the meantime please take the time to [familiarise yourself with the key messages](#).

Kent Support and Assistance Service

KCC has received a short term, one-off contribution from central government to support households experiencing financial hardship as a result of Covid-19. Using this grant, KCC can support those struggling to afford food and other essentials over the coming months due to the pandemic via our Kent Support and Assistance Service (KSAS).

We have all witnessed the impact Covid-19 has had on those nearest and dearest to us, as well as our peers, customers and communities that we work and connect with every day.

KSAS is here to help those facing hardship as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic perhaps due to being furloughed at work, losing hours of employment or pay, or

even being made redundant. KSAS is aiming to support households experiencing these difficulties by providing short term support with items such food or energy vouchers, help with school clothing or household items. This opportunity won't be available indefinitely however, so if you or someone you know needs short term assistance to find your feet, you can find out more information here www.kent.gov.uk/ksas.

NHS Capacity Tracker

In recent months providers have done a fantastic job in completing the NHS Capacity Tracker and we are grateful for all the time that has been spent on this. The tracker has been an invaluable resource in helping the local authority to direct support to care homes to manage COVID-19 and helping the NHS to understand whether providers have been able to access the support available.

As we move into the winter months, it will remain critical that we can access the information and insights provided via the tracker to have the best chance of keeping the virus under control. It remains the case that completion of the tracker is a condition of receiving monies from the Infection Control Fund, so it is important to ensure you continue to submit this information.

Thank you for your continuing support in providing this information, as part of the national efforts against COVID19.

For any other queries about the Capacity Tracker, including how to access the Capacity Tracker please [contact the NHS North of England Commissioning Support Unit \(NECS\)](#), phone 0191 691 3721 or follow @CapacityTracker on Twitter.

[Register on the Capacity Tracker here.](#)

For a reminder of your clinical leads, please see the end of this newsletter.

Sharing Your Excellence

We are always pleased to hear your good news stories, and to hear that the resources being put in place are useful and making a difference to you and your staff. If you've received or delivered any little acts of kindness or have any good news stories, [please let us know](#).

Kent Clinical Leads

Area	Position	Contact information
WEST KENT	CCG Commissioning leads	Rebecca Pullen - r.pullen@nhs.net Annabel Young - annabelyoung@nhs.net
DGS	Clinical leads	Sittingbourne & Swale OP Homes – Sandra Moon from Virgin Care (sandra.moon@virginicare.co.uk) Sittingbourne & Swale LD Homes – Alison Mendes (alison.mendes@nhs.net) DGS - Dr Kemi Osadiya. (adekemi.osadiya@nhs.net)
SKC	Clinical lead	Kim Lee, kim.lee2@nhs.net Mobile: 07557 660246
THANET	Clinical lead	Faye Hames PCN Clinical Development Manager -Thanet Local Care NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group Mob: 07818581759 Email: faye.hames@nhs.net
ASHFORD	Clinical lead	Karen Paine k.paine@nhs.net Mobile: 07824 545432
CANTERBURY	Clinical Development Manager	Gayle Savage - Primary Care Networks Clinical Development Manager Canterbury Local Care Team Tel: 03000 425290 Mobile: 07748 760440 Email: g.savage@nhs.net