

Kent Adult Social Care Provider Bulletin



Friday 3 March 2023

Social Care Reform: your views needed on our draft Market Sustainability Plan

Kent County Council has been working with voluntary care providers and care homes for older people to undertake a data gathering exercise in relation to the cost of care in Kent. This includes creating a market sustainability plan and we would like to thank all providers that supported this work. The documents provide the detail for Kent County Council's cost of care data gathering exercise and the outputs and conclusion of the results. The documents are now available to view on the Kent County Council website:

[Social care reform - Kent County Council](#)

We would also like to share our draft Market Sustainability Plan with you, which aims to outline the current market for 65+ care homes and 18+ domiciliary care in Kent, with the final version due for publication by 27 March 2023. Kent County Council would be grateful for your feedback to help us ensure that the final document gives a fair and accurate picture of the care market in 2023. If you would like to give your feedback on our draft Market Sustainability Plan please **[visit our website](#)** to complete the survey and view the draft plan.

Please could all feedback be submitted **by 6 March 2023** in order to incorporate this into the final plan.

Updates from the UKHSA South East Communications Team

Norovirus

Laboratory reports of norovirus are continuing to increase.

Meningococcal disease

Laboratory-confirmed cases of invasive meningococcal disease for 2021-22 were published [here](#).

COVID-19

The JCVI has now confirmed details of the spring booster programme and that this may be announced towards the end of next week.

Also, be aware that DHSC may announce the success of the autumn 2022 vaccine booster programme this coming weekend.

Sexual health funding announcement

UKHSA has published a press release announcing funding for 14 schemes to boost engagement and outreach activity to reduce sexual health inequalities across England.

You can read the regional version of this story, which showcases the two successful projects in the South East, [here](#).

Upcoming items

Please be aware that there is planned upcoming activity by UKHSA for the following items. This is subject to change, so do contact us if you have any questions about these items or wish to support.

- 16 Feb - DHSC to announce funding for local authorities to provide drug and alcohol treatment
- 22 Feb - Avian Influenza Technical Briefing (tbc)
- 28 Feb - Rare Disease Day

**National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) -
opportunities for research and learning**



Do you provide care and support for someone in their home, do you receive care in your own home, or are you close to someone who does?

If so, we'd love to hear from you.

At the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), we are looking to work with the homecare community across Kent, Surrey and Sussex to identify and develop opportunities for research and learning.

If you're interested in getting involved in helping to shape this work, supporting research within your organisation, or would just like to find out more, then please get in contact for a friendly chat.

Contact:

Kelly Wilson, Project Manager- Homecare Services

Email: kelly.wilson@nhr.ac.uk

Mob: 07971 247001

Website: local.nhr.ac.uk/lcrn/kent-surrey-and-sussex/



Spring Kent Registered Manager Conference 19 April 2023 at the Kent County Showground

Join us for our 11th FULLY FUNDED registered manager conference, open to all registered managers, deputies, owners, nurses and senior staff, providing an opportunity to keep up-to-date on what is happening within the sector, hear from national and local speakers, visit a wide range of stands and attend a choice of workshops. This event supports CQC's 'Well Led' Quality Statements and we provide attendees with a 7hr CPD certificate.



Kent County Council is pleased to highlight that bookings are now open for the next FREE to attend Kent Registered Manager Conference.

An interesting range of workshops, speakers and a variety of stands.

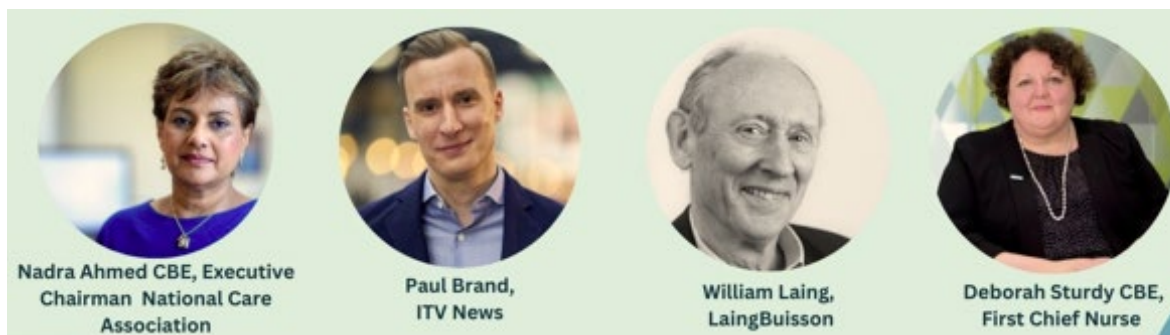
Please click [here](#) for more details and you will find the booking link at the bottom of page one. Hurry 50% of places have already been booked.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Kent Regional Conference in Dartford

The National Care Association proudly presents the Kent Regional Conference in Dartford.

With guest speakers joining Nadra Ahmed CBE, Executive Chairman of National Care Association.



Nadra Ahmed CBE, Executive
Chairman National Care
Association

Paul Brand,
ITV News

William Laing,
LaingBuisson

Deborah Sturdy CBE,
First Chief Nurse

When: Thursday 9 March 2023

Where: Birchwood Gold Club, Birchwood Road

Time: 9am registration - 2pm

NCA members - £50 / Non-members - £75

Early bird offer: purchase 1 ticket and get another half price!

Email: info@nationalcareassociation.org.uk for your ticket.

Alternatively, please visit the website [here](#).

(limited tickets and on a first serve basis)

Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT)

The Data Security and Protection Toolkit (DSPT) is a free online self-assessment of your organisation's data and cyber security and is used to evaluate your compliance with legal requirements, Data Security Standards and good practice.

The DSPT can be used as supporting evidence for CQC Key Lines Of Enquiry. Completion of the DSPT standards opens up opportunities to access NHS mail and to be part of projects and initiatives with NHS colleagues.

More information can be found [here](#).

Our latest opportunities to get involved: please encourage people you support to take part

Think differently: discover how your personal experiences can shape social care - join our interactive workshop on Friday 24 March

Date: **Friday 24 March 2023**

Time: **10.30am – 12.30pm**

Location: **hybrid workshop - join virtually on Zoom or attend in person (Maidstone)**

Are you interested in helping to shape local care and support in Kent now and in the future? Are you a champion of ensuring the people of Kent are receiving the care they are entitled to – or would you like to be? If so, **we want to hear from you!**

Why are we holding this workshop?

We would like to encourage a range of people with different life experiences who live in Kent, to share their stories, helping us to build a picture of care and support and help to design our engagement events.

Who is this for?

This workshop is for you if you have lived experience of social care in Kent, either as someone who has accessed services yourself, or as an unpaid carer.

Who will be leading the workshop?

The workshop will be hosted by **Clenton Farquharson MBE**, who has a wealth of experience in harnessing the power in his own lived experience. Among his other roles, he is chair of **Think Local Act Personal** and a member of the **Kent County Council Adult Social Care Directorate Management Team**. Clenton is a national advisor on social care reform for the UK government and many other decision-making organisations. His most recent work includes advising on the development of a covenant and re-imagining of social care, commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

What's in it for me?

Through this interactive workshop, you will be able to gain knowledge, tips, support and confidence to

convey your views in a way that can help influence the future of adult social care.

Please sign up to join our **interactive workshop on Friday 24 March, 10.30am – 12.30pm** to help us shape the future of adult social care together.

Please contact: makingadifference@kent.gov.uk by **Monday 13 March 2023** to book your space.

Kent Carer Forum – join our initial meeting on Tuesday 21 March

Date: **Tuesday 21 March 2023**

Time: **2pm – 3.30pm**

Location: **MS Teams**

How this links to the Kent Adult Carers' Strategy 2022-2027?

Our '**Kent Adult Carers' Strategy 2022 to 2027**' sets out our aims for working with all our partners, making welcomed changes towards improving the experiences of unpaid adult carers in Kent.

The plan was developed in partnership with carers, people that draw on support, carer organisations, staff, and county councillors. Carers highlighted what is important to them through three core principles and summarised the eight key moments when carers may need extra support.



You can find the strategy on the Kent County Council website at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/adult-social-care-policies/kent-adult-carers-strategy>

Why are we holding this meeting?

Work has already begun on delivering the aims of the strategy, but one of the key actions identified was to create a **Kent Carer Forum**, so that carers voices can be heard and partnership working can be improved.

What will be covered?

We would like to invite you to join this initial meeting to discuss:

- How would you like to work together?
- Carers' strategy and delivery plan
- Kent Carer Forum
- Carers' week
- Kent Care Summit

Following this meeting, an in-person workshop will be held with key leads and people with lived experience to set out how the **Kent Carer Forum** should work.

Please contact jo.evans@kent.gov.uk by **Friday 10 March 2023** to let her know if you are interested in joining the meeting.

Co-production workshops: Care Quality Commission themes

You might have heard about government's plans for social care reform in England. This covers a ten-year national programme which includes the intention to relaunch an assessment process of local authorities' adult social care functions by the Care Quality Commissioning (CQC) starting in April 2023. This means that Kent County Council, among other local authorities, will be assessed to see how they are meeting standards as set out by the CQC.

The standards cover four themes and are supported by '**I statements**' and '**We statements**' which describe what people should experience when interacting with services.

The four themes are:

- working with people
- providing support
- ensuring safety
- leadership.

We want to hear from you!

CQC won't just be looking at how we are performing as a council, but also how we are working with our providers, partners and people who draw on support. If you work closely with us, or receive care and support from the council, you may be asked for your views to support the assurance process.

We are currently completing a self-assessment process to identify how we are currently performing against the four themes, and **we would love to hear your views**.

Join one of our online Zoom workshops in March

We are setting up a **co-production group** to bring together people with lived experience, partners and providers through four short virtual online sessions throughout March; each session focusing on one of the four themes.

- **Workshop 1:** Working with people **Tuesday 14 March, 10am-11.30am**
- **Workshop 2:** Providing support **Thursday 16 March, 2pm-3.30pm**
- **Workshop 3:** Ensuring safety **Monday 20 March, 3pm-4.30pm**
- **Workshop 4:** Leadership **Thursday 23 March, 11am-12.30pm**

If you would like to join one, some or all of the groups, please sign up at: makingadifference@kent.gov.uk by **Monday 6 March 2023**, letting us know which workshops you would like to attend.

Your views are important to us

If you are unable to join us online, but would still like to share your views, we have put together a short questionnaire focused on the national CQC '**We statements**'.

We do want to hear from you, so please complete the survey here by **31 March 2023**:

<https://forms.office.com/e/xti5HTzn9R>



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.

Community Services consultation

We are proposing changes to the way we use our buildings to deliver some of our community services. We invite your feedback on our proposals as part of this consultation.



Have your say

kent.gov.uk/communityservicesconsultation

Consultation runs between 17 January - 26 March 2023



Why are we proposing changes?

The Council has experienced big increases in costs and has less money to spend. So, we need to look ahead and do things differently to make sure we can still help residents in the years to come.

Whilst ensuring we provide effective support for residents who need our services, we need to:

- tackle the rising costs of maintaining our many buildings

- find savings, so we can balance the budget
- reduce our carbon footprint to meet our Net-Zero ambitions.

What services are included in the proposals?

The services are:

- Children's Centers and Youth Hubs
- Public Health Services for Children and Families
- Community Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Community Learning and Skills (Adult Education)
- Gateways.

More information can be found [here](#).

We'd love to hear from you!

Our mailing address is:

Stakeholderteam@kent.gov.uk