

Kent Older Persons / Seniors Forum Newsletter



ISSUE 1
SPRING 2014

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Introduction

Welcome to the first news letter for the Kent Older Peoples / Seniors Forum which provides an overview of the work being carried out in the County for Older People and their carers. It is planned to release a newsletter giving key dates of forthcoming events, contact details of relevant organisations and services and any other relevant information regarding the commissioning of services on a quarterly basis.

Cabinet Member Column

Graham Gibbens – KCC Cabinet

Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health. The social care elements of his responsibilities cover Older People, those with physical disabilities, learning disabilities and mental health



The support for older people as central to his responsibilities. As we move forward over the next twenty years or so, the number of people aged over 85 is predicted to rise by 387,000 and those suffering some form of dementia are predicted to double to over 30,000 by 2026. This means that we have to plan now for how we are going to care for and support an increasingly ageing population. At the same time the funds for social care are not increasing in pace with demand. This has meant we have to find new ways to deliver quality services. In particular, I have supported more development of extra care sheltered housing; this concept allows older people to live Independently with their own front door for as long as possible provided that the appropriate levels of support are put in place.

Support for carers is going to be critical as we move forward and more people become carers for their loved ones. Despite budget cut backs, I am delighted that the support to Carers has increased from £4,157,616 during 2012/13 to £7,904,848 in 2013/14. The Care Bill is presently proceeding through Parliament; this is the most significant piece of legislation to impact upon the care of older people in a generation.



Andrew Dinlot

Contact
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Dementia
Friendly
Communities

Continued

It makes the recommendations of the Dilnot report—which recommended Government caps the amount any older person pays for their care – a reality and really does give people security that they will be able to live in comfort throughout old age

Key Dates

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 11th April 14

Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee - 2nd May 14

Full Council - 15th May 14

Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel - 28th May 14

Health and Wellbeing Board - 28th May 14

Care Navigator

The care navigator service is available to people aged over 50 looking for free impartial advice who feel they need extra support to remain independent in their own home. The service is not only for the person who needs help and support, but also for their family and carers too. A care navigator will provide a range of support including information and advice, action planning, problem solving and signposting including things such as:

- Benefits awareness and financial issues
- Aids, equipment and adaptations
- Telecare assessment
- Housing issues
- Safety in the home
- Support self-assessments/ form filling

Dementia Friendly Communities

Developing Kent as a Dementia Friendly Community – Improving the quality of life for people living with dementia and their families/carers, using a whole systems approach to transformation. The SILK Team's tried and tested approach is creative and participatory, enabling residents and professionals to review, design, test and deliver new service models. Throughout the whole programme of work, genuine co-production in practice to ensure all activity is grounded in the needs and aspirations of people living with dementia in Kent. To find out more or get involved in your area you can email 'silk.team@kent.gov.uk' or call 01622 694639.

Carers Support



Contact details
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More than 150,000 people in Kent are carrying out a vital role as carers for a sick, elderly or disabled relative.

But caring can take a huge emotional and physical toll and if they don't get support and a chance to have some time to themselves, they can soon reach crisis point.

KCC and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) have jointly commissioned a carers assessment and support service, investing £3.9m for 2013/4, to provide information, advice and guidance, Statutory Carers

Assessments as well as a range of emotional and practical support to those who need it. The service is delivered by four providers across Kent.

Early identification of carers is essential in being able to provide the right support at the right time to allow the carer to carry on caring while also leading a life of their own. In the first nine months since the new assessment and support service was introduced, over 2,700 carers, previously unknown to KCC, have been identified and supported.

Carers also say that being able to take a short break is one of their most valued services, so investment in this has increased by £3.2m. There is also a new service that allows carers to attend their own GP and hospital appointments to help them look after their own health while carrying out caring responsibilities.

Advocacy

Kent County Council Families and Social Care (Adults) commission a range of advocacy services across the county. Advocacy is a process of supporting and enabling people to express their views and concerns, access information, explore choices and options, and inform and promote their rights and responsibilities. Advocacy in all its forms seeks to ensure that people, particularly those who are most vulnerable in society, are able to:

Have their voice heard on issues that are important to them.

- Defend and safeguard their rights.

Have their views and wishes genuinely considered when decisions are being made about their lives. Kent County Council Families and Social Care (Adults) provide both statutory Advocacy, as required by legislation (Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy Service and Independent Mental Health Advocacy Service) and non-statutory Advocacy (not established in legislation) Age UK provide advocacy service specifically for older adults countywide. Invicta Advocacy Network provide a Dementia specific advocacy service in West Kent, with other Advocacy Services supporting people with Mental health needs, learning disability and physical disability.





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KCC Commissioned Services

KCC has recently commissioned some befriending services following some research which showed that loneliness has a similar impact to mortality as smoking fifteen cigarettes a day. This service is designed to identify socially isolated adults in order to:

- help them live more fulfilled lives
- reduce social exclusion
- increase their access to community resources and amenities
- improve their health and wellbeing
- optimise their independence
- help them better access information, advice and guidance

KCC are looking to re-commission community equipment services (medical equipment and equipment to help independent living). Some public opinion will be sought regarding this. More information will follow.

There is some work going on at the moment to gather insight from people about health and social care services, which is being led by NHS Kent and Medway Commissioning Support Unit – until now they have taken a fairly NHS “patient” focussed approach with the contacts they hold but now they are looking to gain more generic insights about what members of communities think about service provision.

Key Contacts:

Befriending Service

East Kent – Porchlight, Service manager:

Jason McCarthy - JasonMcCarthy@porchlight.org.uk; 01227 760078

West Kent – Age UK consortium, Lead Officer:

Paul Coles - paul.coles@ageukmaidstone.org.uk - 01622 753618

Not only for the person who needs help and support, but also for their family and carers too. A care navigator will provide a range of support including information and advice, action planning, problem solving and signposting including things such as:

- Benefits awareness and financial issues
- Aids, equipment and adaptations
- Telecare assessment
- Housing issues
- Safety in the home
- Support self-assessments/ form filling



Carers Support Contact Details



Carers First provide the carers' assessment and support service in SW Kent, Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley:
www.carersfirst.org.uk, 0300 3031555

Maidstone and Malling Carers Project provide the carers' assessment and support service in Maidstone and Malling:
www.vam-online.org.uk, 01622 685276

Carers Support Ashford provide the carers' assessment and support service in Ashford, Shepway and Swale:
www.carers-ashford.org.uk, 01233 664393

Carers Support Canterbury, Thanet and Dover provide the carers' assessment and support service in these areas:
www.carers-supportcdt.org.uk, 01304 364637

Key Contacts Continued:

Crossroads Care Kent and Medway provide the short breaks service to support carers to attend their own GP and hospital appointments: 0845 900 3735

Ashford and District Volunteer Centre – Sue Sawyer,
manager@volunteering-ashford.org

CARM (Caring All Together on Romney Marsh – Helen Mattock,
helen@carmromneymarsh.org.uk

Good neighbour Project (South West Kent) – Theresa Halliday,
theresahalliday@btconnect.com

Gravesend and Dartford Muslim Association – M A Malik,
fmmalik.786@gmail.com

Hospice in the Weald – Rob Woolley, Rob.Woolley@hospiceintheweald.org.uk

NWK Volunteer Centre – Pauline Annetts,
pauline@nwkvolunteers.org.uk

Shepway Volunteer Centre – Janet Johnson,
manager@volunteershepway.co.uk

Swale VCS – Chris White, chris@swalecvs.co.uk

The Over 60's Community (Northgate Ward, Canterbury) –
 Ann Bradley, northgateward@oversixties.fsnet.co.uk

VAM (Voluntary Action Maidstone), Charlotte Osbourn-Forde,
charlotte@vam-online.org.uk



Community Engagement Team Contact Details:

<i>Community Engagement Officer</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Contact Telephone</i>	<i>Contact Email</i>
Annette Haigh	Ashford	07801454848	Annette.haigh@kent.gov.uk
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Will Farmer	Gravesham	01622 694032	Will.farmer@kent.gov.uk
Abi Jessop	Maidstone	01622 694217	Abi.jessop@kent.gov.uk
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Allison Allan	Shepway	01622 694345	Allison.allan@kent.gov.uk
Bill Ronan	Swale	01622 696889	Bill.ronan@kent.gov.uk
Anne Charman	Thanet	01622 696389	Anne.charman@kent.gov.uk
James Harman	Tonbridge & Malling	01622 694195	James.harman@kent.gov.uk
Léonie Harrington	Tunbridge Wells	01622 694691	Leonie.harrington@kent.gov.uk

Your feedback is greatly appreciated – any comments, constructive criticism or compliments should be emailed to

communityengagement@kent.gov.uk

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