

West Kent Area Partnership Update



04 December 2020

Welcome to West Kent Partnership Update

The West Kent Area update aims to keep partners informed of relevant and fast changing information, including partnership and service updates, training and development, best practice, access to opportunities, funding and resources.

Please feel free to contact us on the details provided at the end of this update if you would like to add information to a future edition.

Training and Personal Development Webinars – For Families and/or Practitioners

Introduction of Schools Officers (Police)

Information about the new Kent Police Schools Officer posts has just been shared outlining their [engagement](#). We also have a [workshop](#) being held on Monday 7 December from 10am to 1pm on MS Teams. If you would like to attend, please contact Sam Matthews by emailing Samantha.Matthews@kent.police.uk.

Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse Course

This digital online training programme, developed in partnership with the ManKind Initiative, is for anyone who comes into contact with possible male victims of domestic abuse, especially in frontline roles.

By completing this course, you will find out more about: different types of abuse, with examples of real experiences, signs which indicate possible domestic abuse, how to respond to male victims, male victim-friendly policies, services and communications

To access our e-learning site please visit <https://www.kscmp.org.uk/training/e-learning-courses>

Kent and Medway STP Suicide Prevention Programme – Webinar: Understanding and Assessing Suicide Risk During the Pandemic

A suicide prevention strategy within KCC was formulated in June 2020, following the analysis into the death of a number of females aged 18 to 35 during Lockdown in Spring 2020. The analysis identified a need to also support 17-year old Children In Care transitions to post-18 services during a difficult period. It was agreed training would be beneficial for KCC staff and multi-agency partners to support practitioners in learning basic skills in managing conversations and safety planning during those first contacts with individuals.

The session: Understanding and Assessing Suicide Risk During the Pandemic <https://www.kscmp.org.uk/training/multi-agency/understanding-and-assessing-suicide-risk-during-the-pandemic-level-2> will be held on MS Teams on 10 December 2020 from 2:30pm to 4pm, and will consider:

- What do we know? - Suicide statistics nationally and locally. High risk groups and factors to consider.
- Dispelling myths around suicide.
- Asking the Question and examining the language we use to support crisis management.
- Q&A with staff.

Service Updates

Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership (KSCMP) and Medway Safeguarding Children's Board (MSCB) – Thematic Factsheets

The KSCMP have developed new Thematic 5-minute Factsheets

<https://www.kscmp.org.uk/training/factsheets> to promote awareness of important safeguarding topics. These include adverse childhood experiences, contextual safeguarding, elective home education, online safeguarding and victim blaming language.

These are short, easy to read and have been designed with partners to give an overview of the relevant subject with links to other useful resources. The factsheets can be used: for individual learning, for discussion at team meetings and as part of wider learning events.

The MSCB have also developed topical Factsheets

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/mscb/downloads/download/20/mscb-fact-sheets> which cover themes from Learning Lessons Audits or from professionals. These include Child Sexual Exploitation, coercive and controlling behaviour, harmful sexual behaviour, and working with young people. They are for professionals and should be read alongside procedures.

Violence Reduction Unit

Attached are two published reports relating to issues around safeguarding young people involved in County Lines.



County Lines and
LAC - Crest Advisory



Safeguarding child
ren_at_risk_from_cri

Kooth at Christmas

Kooth.com online support and counselling will continue to be available to young people over the Christmas holidays.

Kooth are also offering free webinars for professionals to explain in more detail what Kooth is, how it works and to support staff in sharing Kooth with young people. Information is below - simply click on the link to register: Please ensure you register for the workshop of choice. All enquiries to kdawber@kooth.com

Monday, 7th December 10am – 11am

<https://forms.gle/wQbKfKX3MuH6LpGr8>

Tuesday, 8th December 9.30am – 10.30m

<https://forms.gle/wQbKfKX3MuH6LpGr8>

Barnardo's BeFree Positive Relationships Service

This new [programme from Barnardo's](#) supports girls (aged 10 to 18) who are at risk or have experienced abusive relationships or undergone adversity. **The service is free and available throughout Kent.** The service can be delivered as one to one meetings or as group sessions with the young people. There are a minimum of 6 to 10 sessions using an educative approach. The sessions explore unhealthy and healthy relationships, sexual health and consent (age appropriate), CSE, keeping safe online and offline, self-esteem and building resilience. At the moment, the programme is being conducted as remote virtual sessions but these can be arranged to take place either at school, home or a place where the young person feels comfortable. The [referral form](#) is also included.

Neema Kambona is the Project Worker in the area of Gravesham, Dartford and Sevenoaks and would be happy to discuss the programme and explain the referral process. If this is something you feel would be beneficial or have further questions, please contact her by emailing Neema.Kambona@barnardos.org.uk or call 07724 700801.

NHS – Change of number: Single Point of Access 0800 783 9111

The NHS Mental Health Crisis Team has a new Single Point of Access telephone number which will be in place by 1 December 2020. This new Freephone number is for anyone who needs urgent mental health support, advice and guidance and replaces the 0300 telephone number which can still be used but callers may be charged if calling from a mobile telephone number. Callers will be made aware of the new Freephone number when calling the Single Point of Access to help spread the message. For more details see their website <https://www.kmpt.nhs.uk/need-help/>

KCC/NHS/NELFT – Children and Young People's Mental Health Services: Infographic

This infographic <https://kentresiliencehub.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Kent-Emotional-Health-and-Wellbeing-System-on-a-page-professionals.pdf> sets out in a really simple manner what you can do if you are concerned about a child or young person's thoughts, feelings or behaviour and which pathway to follow.

Mary Dolly Foundation

The Mary Dolly Foundation <https://www.themarydollyfoundation.co.uk/> Mentoring Scheme is available and they are ready to take referrals so please do consider this service for young people you are working with. A referral form for the service is attached below:



ADULT REFERRAL
FORM - Mary Dolly.c

KCC plans to give food vouchers to eligible families this Christmas

Kent County Council is developing proposals to provide food vouchers to the families of children who are eligible to receive benefits-related Free School Meals ahead of the December school holidays.

The scheme would be part of a wider range of measures to help the lowest income households with food and fuel costs over winter.

Following on from the council's half-term holiday food voucher scheme, families with children who are in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals will receive vouchers to spend in supermarkets without the need to apply for them. As part of the proposals, the council aims to have all vouchers distributed well in advance of schools breaking up for the festive period.

Families will receive one £15 voucher per eligible child per week of the two-week December holiday, which can be spent online or instore at Asda or instore at Tesco. These are the UK's two largest supermarket chains that have the biggest distribution of stores across Kent.

Any family that has not received a voucher by Wednesday, December 9, and believes their children are eligible, should contact their school in the first instance.

KCC plans to launch a similar scheme to provide food vouchers for eligible families during the February half-term break and details will be available in the New Year. Meanwhile, the Kent Together helpline and webpage remain open for anyone in the county who is struggling during the pandemic. Any Kent resident who requires support with accessing food, or who has any other urgent needs, can call 03000 41 92 92 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/kenttogether 24 hours a day.

Samaritans – How to help a young person who is self-harming: animation

The Samaritans have produced a short animation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Qk7d3bhMqc&feature=youtu.be> (1 minute) setting out some of the simple things people can do to support a young person in their life who has self-harmed. The short film, developed with young people, might be useful for some of the people you work with or on behalf of, and their families and carers. More information is also available at: Samaritans.org <https://www.samaritans.org/how-we-can-help/if-youre-worried-about-someone-else/how-can-i-support-someone-who-has-self-harmed/>

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) – Information/Referrals

MARACs are meetings where information about high risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies. By bringing all agencies together at a MARAC, a risk focused, coordinated safety plan can be drawn up to support the victim and reduce the risk. Any frontline agency representative that undertakes a risk assessment with a victim, and thereby determines that their case meets the high-risk threshold, can refer a victim's case to a local MARAC.

IDVAs, police and health professionals commonly refer high risk victims to MARACs. Find out more information and how to refer

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0020/115751/MARAC-info.docx

Taking Action on Obesity (Live Webinar, 3rd February 2021 - Online Registration Now Open)

Tackling obesity is one of the greatest long-term health challenges this country faces. The World Bank released a comprehensive study of global data in August, which shows that obesity increases the risk of death from COVID-19 by nearly 50% and could make any potential vaccine less effective.

Recognising the need to take urgent action, the Department for Health and Social Care launched an ambitious **Tackling Obesity Strategy**. To deliver this both nationally and locally, the government will expand specialist support and healthy weight management services, encourage healthier food choices, restrict high fat, sugar and salt food (HFSS)

promotions and ban their advertisement before 9pm as well as rollout the **Better Health** campaign to encourage behaviour change on a population level.

This timely Policy Foresight live webinar provides an important platform for key partners from the NHS, local authorities, public health, third sector and other statutory agencies to examine the government's Obesity Strategy and explore innovative solutions to tackle obesity, promote preventative measures and empower people to live healthier lives.

[Taking Action on Obesity in Every Community](#)

Wednesday 3rd February 2021 – Live Webinar, 12.00 – 4.10pm

Key Speakers:

- **Jenny Oldroyd**, Deputy Director, Obesity, Food and Nutrition, **Department of Health and Social Care**
- **Jim McManus**, Director of Public Health, **Hertfordshire County Council**; Vice President, **Association of Directors of Public Health UK**; Chair, Whole Systems Approach to Obesity Advisory Group, Public Health England
- **Professor Louisa Ells**, Professor of Obesity, **Leeds Beckett University**; Specialist Academic Advisor, Public Health England
- **Alex Holt**, Programme Lead, **Food Active**

Should you/your colleagues wish to participate in this live webinar, please [register online](#) to secure your place(s). Alternatively, if you would prefer your organisation to be invoiced prior to payment please complete and submit an offline [booking form](#).

For further information please visit our website or download the [event flyer](#).

Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership – Male victims of DA Survey

A short anonymous survey (15-20 minutes) is available which aims to understand the experiences and needs of males aged 16+ who are survivors of domestic abuse. The findings will inform the specialist support services provided to male survivors of domestic abuse across Kent. To complete the survey click here

<https://surveys.kent.gov.uk/s/DomAbuseMenSurvey>

Kent and Medway Joint Exploitation Group (JEG) – Gangs Strategy Survey

The Kent and Medway JEG are reviewing the current Gang Strategy (2018 to 2021) for their upcoming strategic review. They would like to hear people's views on the impact that it has had, and also on what the future priorities of the strategy should be. Please complete and share this survey <https://surveys.kent.gov.uk/s/GangsStratSurvey> by 4 December 2020.

It should take 15-20 minutes and is confidential. Your answers will not be used to identify who you are. You are not asked to give your name, and your individual answers will not be seen by anyone other than The Kent and Medway Violence Reduction Unit and the KCC Analytics Team producing the report.

Funding Opportunities

Youth & Community

The government has announced emergency funding to protect grassroots and national youth organisations across the country. The Youth Covid-19 Support Fund will be available to grassroots youth clubs, uniformed youth groups, and national youth and

umbrella organisations to help lessen the impact of lost income over the winter period due to the pandemic.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-165-million-youth-covid-19-support-fund>

Red Cross – Hardship Fund

The Hardship Fund has been created by the British Red Cross with the support of Aviva to help those most financially impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. The fund aims to address acute hardship and suffering, providing a short-term financial safety net for people impacted by the pandemic and helping those who are unable to afford essentials including:

- Food and toiletries
- Somewhere safe to sleep
- Access to a telephone and the internet
- Fuel to keep the lights on, cook and stay warm.

For information on the fund, how it works and eligibility criteria: [Hardship Fund](#).

Kent Social Enterprise Loan Fund (KSELF)

KSELF is a social lending programme, aiming to bridge the increasing funding gap for new and existing social enterprises in Kent and Medway, by offering unsecured loans of between £10,000 and £100,000. The financial package will include an element of up to 30% grant of the loan amount. For details: [KSELF](#).

For queries: James Horne, fund manager, james@kentcf.org.uk / 01303 815 153.

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