

Kent County Council

Our plans for Wellbeing Services in the Community

Easy read version



Tell us what you think by 27 January 2025

Introduction



Hello
We are Kent County Council.
We say KCC for short.
A consultation is when we find out what you think about changes we might make.



We would like to know what you think about our plans for **Wellbeing Services in the Community. This includes community navigation.**

This is an easy read version of the consultation document.

You can read the whole document on our website at www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingconsultation

It has more information and you may need someone to help you with it.

What are these services?

These services:

- help people stay connected,
- look after their mental health and,
- look after their physical health.



The aim of these services is to help people before they need support from social care.

This is called prevention.

Voluntary and Social Enterprises



Who runs them?

They are run by voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations. We give them money for this.

These are organisations that do not run to make a profit.



Why are we wanting to change things?

We would like to develop the services so they:

- Do not do the same thing twice
- Make the best use of money
- Help those with the most need.



Our plans

You can read what we would like to do (our proposals) in the next few pages.



Tell us what you think

When you have read our plans you can tell us what you think in the Easy Read survey booklet.

It is on our website
www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingconsultation

Tell us what you think by 27 January 2025



What do we mean by prevention?

Prevention means stopping something happening or delaying it.

We have to do this by law. This is part of the Care Act 2014.



The Act tells councils that they must have services in place that support people to look after their health and wellbeing to help stop it getting worse.

This also includes information, advice and guidance.



What are Wellbeing Services in the Community?

Wellbeing Services in the Community help prevent someone from needing social care by keeping them well and independent for longer.

Which Wellbeing Services are in this consultation?



Wellbeing services for older people over the age of 55.

These services offer social contact, creative and physical activities.

They are provided by Social Enterprise Kent, Involve Kent and Imago Community. But may be delivered by other organisations they pass the money onto in the community.

14,462 people used these services last year.



Community Navigation

This helps people over the age of 55 find the right information and guidance they need to access community health and social care services.

This could be (amongst others)

- Identifying and planning support
- Information on support in the community
- Filling in forms
- Assessment processes for housing or care

This is provided by Social Enterprise Kent, Involve Kent and Imago Community.

17,045 people used these services last year



Mental Health Wellbeing Services in the Community

These services support people with their mental health.

The services support people to prevent their mental health needs increasing or help them recover.

The services are run by Porchlight and Shaw Trust which is also known as Live Well Kent. They pass the money on to organisations to run the services on their behalf.

6,680 people used these services last year.

There is an **Innovation Fund** which is used for testing new ways of helping people.

Why are we proposing these changes?



The contracts for these services were set up in 2019.

Since then the way we deliver social care has changed.

We would like to make sure prevention services are the best they can be for the money that is spent.

And for the people that really need the services.



We now look more towards people's strengths, and what they want, to give them personalised support and have a good life.



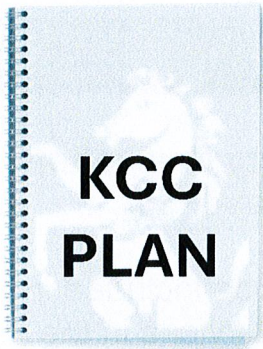
We now have **Adult Social Care Connect**.

This is our first point of contact for adult social care. It gives people information, advice and guidance. We want to make the most of what support is already in the community by telling people about it.

This service is provided by telephone, email or in person.



It is important to know that KCC will continue to meet its responsibilities for people who are assessed as needing social care and support.



How much money the council has

The council's plan 'Securing Kent's Future – Budget Recovery Strategy' was made in 2023.

The plan shows that the council has been paying out more for social care than it gets in. This means there is a growing need for services, but less money to spend on them.



The council has made savings but, it still needs to make more while limiting the effect on people who use these services.

What we are proposing (what we would like to do)



1. Stop paying for Community Navigation services for people aged over 55.

Some of these services will be included in the redesigned Wellbeing Services in the Community for people aged over 55.



2. Redesign Wellbeing Services in the Community for people aged over 55.

The service would still be there for people who need a higher level of support which helps them remain independent.

This could be supporting people access housing, independent living support and community equipment.

The services would cover Kent and be provided by Social Enterprise Kent, Imago Community and Involve Kent.



3. Stop paying for the Innovation Fund through Porchlight and Shaw Trust.

We also propose a **saving to Porchlight's central team**, who review data and feedback.

Remove Shaw Trust **unallocated spend**. Shaw Trust leaves an amount of money each year for contract changes.

By removing this it will save money and resources.



The money saved will have impacts on social care which could mean we have to spend money in other areas.

But we think the benefits of the changes will make the services the best they can be for the money that is spent. And for the people that really need the services.



The rest of the services will not be affected by this proposal.



When could the changes happen?

The changes could come into place from July 2025.

These may affect people in different ways.

You can read more about this in the full consultation document and in our Equality Impact Assessment.

These are available on our website www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingconsultation



Tell us what you think

Before any decisions are made, we want to hear your views on:

- How the proposed reductions could impact you
- Any other information we need to think about
- Any other ideas on how we could make savings.



Come along to an in-person meeting

There are some public meetings about the changes. You can see the list of meetings at the end of this document or on the website.

www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingconsultation

What happens next?



We will look carefully at what people have told us.

We will use what you and others say to help us decide what to do.

We will put a report on the website about what people have said

www.kent.gov.uk/wellbeingconsultation

And we will say what we decide to do.



Would you like more information?

If you would like more information, please read the full consultation document on our website.

This easy read version is designed to give you the most clear and short version of the key points.

Drop-in sessions to discuss this consultation

Date	Location	Address	Time
Wed 18 Dec	Folkestone	Three Hills Sports Park, Cheriton Road, Folkestone CT19 5JU	10am to 4pm
Thu 19 Dec	Dartford	Dartford Adult Education, Summerhill Road, Dartford DA1 2LP	10am to 4pm
Mon 6 Jan	Swanley	Swanley Link, London Road, Swanley, BR8 7AE	10am to 4pm
Tue 7 Jan	Broadstairs	Broadstairs Library, The Broadway, Broadstairs, CT10 2BS	10am to 4pm
Wed 8 Jan	Tunbridge Wells	The Camden Centre, 1 Market Square, Royal Victoria Place, Tunbridge Wells TN1 2SW	10am to 4pm
Thu 9 Jan	Maidstone	Maidstone Library, James Whatman Way, Maidstone ME14 1LQ	10am to 4pm
Mon 13 Jan	Gravesend	Gravesend Library, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BE	10am to 4pm
Tue 14 Jan	Ashford	Ashford Gateway Library, Church Road, Ashford, TN23 1AS	10am to 4pm
Wed 15 Jan	Tunbridge Wells	Southborough Civic Centre, 137 London Road, Southborough, TN4 0NA	10am to 4pm
Thu 16 Jan	Canterbury	Canterbury Adult Education Centre, The Canterbury Academy, Knight Avenue, Canterbury, CT2 8QA	10am to 4pm
Mon 20 Jan	Dover	St Mary's Parish Centre, Cannon Street, Dover, CT16 1BY	10am to 4pm
Tue 21 Jan	Tonbridge	Angel Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge TN9 1SF	10am to 4pm
Wed 22 Jan	Ramsgate	Ramsgate Library, Guildford Lawn, Ramsgate, CT11 9AY	10am to 4pm
Thu 23 Jan	Sittingbourne	Swale Community and Voluntary Services, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne, ME10 4NU	10am to 4pm

