

# The Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board Newsletter



**April 2020**

## **KMSAB Website - Coronavirus Update**

The KMSAB Business Unit has launched a Coronavirus Update section to the KMSAB page on the Kent.gov.uk website.

Here you will find links for both professionals and members of the public on the latest advice and guidance in relation to COVID-19.

To access the page, please click [here](#).

## **24 Hour Mental Health Crisis Text Service**

A new 24-hour service for anyone of any age in Kent and Medway in need of mental health crisis support was launched on 1st April 2020.

Support is now available simply by texting the word "Kent" or the word "Medway" to 85258.

This is a 24/7 confidential service and is free for most mobile phone networks. It is designed to be as easy to access as possible with no app or data required, no registration process and no fee. Every conversation is with a human being and there are three levels of risk management and quality assurance operating across the service.

For further information please visit the [Kent County Council Website](#).

The service is provided by the national charity *Shout*. You can read more about how the service is provided by visiting their [website](#).

The links below also provide further information on how to look after your Mental Health and Wellbeing during these times:

- [Mind - Coronavirus and your wellbeing](#)
- [KCC - Release the Pressure](#)
- [NHS - Every Mind Matters](#)
- [Armed Forces - Helpline Support for the Armed Forces Community](#)

## KCC Public Protection - COVID-19 Scams and Guidance

KCC Public Protection has created a page that lists scams that are using COVID-19 to target Kent and Medway residents and their families. This page includes:

- Types of scams
- What to do if you come across these scams
- How to report them
- Reliable information sources

To view the KCC Public Protection Scams and Guidance page, click [here](#).

### Kent Police Scam Awareness

Kent Police are working hard to make the public aware of the latest scams through the use of social media as we see a national rise in scams relating to COVID-19. For the latest advice please follow [@kentpoliceECU](#) and [@kent\\_police@kent\\_police](#) or visit the [Action Fraud website](#).

Surrey Police has a helpful resource '[the little book of big scams](#)', published in 2015 which addresses different types of scams and what to do if this happens to you.

## Social Isolation - Domestic Abuse



Kent Police has launched a campaign for domestic abuse victims during the COVID-19 Pandemic, highlighting how to contact them if a person is experiencing abuse and other agencies who can offer their help.

To read the details of the support available, please click [here](#).

## Counter Terrorism Police - Radicalisation and COVID-19

Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) has warned that the impact of Covid-19 and social isolation could make some of society's most vulnerable people more susceptible to radicalisation and other forms of grooming.

But the National Coordinator for Prevent, Chief Superintendent Nik Adams, has emphasised the help and support available for families that may be struggling to cope through their [Let's Talk About It](#) and [Action Counter Terrorism](#) websites which contain information and guidance.

To read the full press release from Chief Superintendent Adams, click [here](#).

## Adolescent to Parent Violence during COVID-19

The National Domestic Abuse helpline has reportedly seen a 25% increase in calls and online requests for help since the lockdown. For many parents, being in isolation with their children can mean they are exposed more to potential violent outbursts and coercion and control from their child. Please see below links to both local and national support and how to make a referral:

### Local Support:

- To find support in your local area, visit the [Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Website](#).

### National Support:

- [National Domestic Abuse Support Line](#)
- [SafeLives](#)
- [Relate](#)
- [FamilyLives](#)

### How to make a referral:

Kent: [Report a child safeguarding concern in Kent](#)

Medway: [Report a child safeguarding concern in Medway](#)

## National Resources



# Department of Health & Social Care

### **The Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The Department of Health and Social Care published their latest guidance on the MCA & DoLS during COVID-19 on 9th April 2020, for Hospitals, Care Homes and Supervisory Bodies.

This guidance offers temporary, proportionate measures to support DoLS decision-makers to provide the best possible care to those who need it whilst preventing transmission of the virus.

It is also important to note that this guidance is temporary and applies until withdrawn by the Department of Health and Social Care.

To read the newly published guidance, please click [here](#).

### **Care Act easements: guidance for local authorities**

This guidance sets out how Local Authorities can use the new Care Act easements, created under the Coronavirus Act 2020, to ensure the best possible care for people in our society during this exceptional period.

To read the guidance, please click [here](#).

39 Essex Chambers have also produced a guidance note in response to queries that they have received in relation to the Care Act easements. To read the guidance note, click [here](#).



**SCIE Guidance on Safeguarding adults during the COVID-19 Crisis**

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) has updated their [safeguarding adult's advice for Social Care during the COVID-19 crisis](#).

They have also released the following advice and guidance, some of which is also listed within the [SCIE Hub](#):

- [supporting autistic people and people with learning disabilities](#), aimed at families and professionals who are supporting autistic adults and adults with learning disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection control for care providers](#), which sets out best practice for care providers to remain safe and prevent COVID-19 from spreading.
- [Supporting people who are isolated or vulnerable during the COVID-19 crisis](#), which shares information, resources and ideas that can be used by social workers, care workers and others to also help address anxiety and other concerns whilst keeping people safe.
- [Domestic Violence and Abuse: Safeguarding during the COVID-19 crisis](#), aimed at professionals and organisations who are involved in supporting and safeguarding adults and children who are experiencing domestic abuse.

#### **Alcohol Change UK – Supporting the most vulnerable drinkers during COVID-19**

Alcohol Change UK has highlighted some relevant issues that have been seen for change resistant drinkers during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include:

- Ensuring that supplies of alcohol are not interrupted to prevent potentially fatal withdrawals;
- The importance of making sure clients have something to eat to ensure that they do not decline further;
- Emphasising the need to follow government guidance on social distancing so that this group do not become a vector for the virus;
- The value of text messaging and phone calls to keep people in touch with help;
- The potential for this crisis to be an opportunity to build a better, supportive relationship, even at a distance, with a client and to encourage some people to make positive changes.

For more information and to read the updated blog, visit the website [here](#).

Please also take a moment to visit [Alcohol Change UK's information and advice hub](#) for up to date information and advice on alcohol generally during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Public Health England (PHE) has published COVID-19 guidance for commissioners and providers of services for people who use drugs or alcohol. This is to support the continuity of drug and alcohol treatment services throughout the Coronavirus pandemic while protecting staff and service users.

To view the PHE guidance, click [here](#).

#### **Let's Talk Stalking**

Staffordshire Police has released a useful video on Stalking and the four behaviours to look out for. It also highlights what a person should do if they are experiencing any of these behaviours from someone and how to report it.

To view the video and accompanying resources, please click [here](#).



## Have your say!

### **The Ann Craft Trust**

The Ann Craft Trust has developed a Covid-19 Advice page where you can find the latest blogs and guidance. To view their page, click [here](#).

*They want to hear from you!*

The Trust has asked if there is any specific information that you as practitioners would like to see from them that would support you when carrying out your roles in the current situation. Do you have any particular challenges or concerns that you have come across which you feel could be addressed?

They are keen to hear your thoughts and want to ensure that what the advice they are providing is relevant to practitioners.

To share your thoughts, challenges or concerns, please email [KMSAB@kent.gov.uk](mailto:KMSAB@kent.gov.uk), where these will get fed back to the Ann Craft Trust.

### **The Ann Craft Trust Safeguarding Hour**

Changes in legislation and the current lockdown will pose a challenge for Safeguarding. The Ann Craft Trust has launched a dedicated safeguarding hour on Twitter, every Wednesday, to give you the opportunity to ask questions and get the support from the wider safeguarding community online.

To Join in the safeguarding hour every Wednesday from 12pm - 1pm, visit [@AnnCraftTrust](#) and tag your question with #ACTSafeguardingHour.

Alternatively, if you do not have access to Twitter but have a question or wish to discuss a safeguarding issue, please get in touch by clicking [here](#).

### **Alcohol Change UK – COVID-19**

Alcohol Change UK are keen to hear what impact COVID-19 is having locally on change resistant drinkers, treatment services and their clients. If there are any significant problems that you are encountering or any issues that need to be flagged up at a national level, please contact [Mike Ward](#) with any feedback about what you are experiencing.

## Upcoming Events

### **New date for KMSAB Independent Chair Adult Safeguarding Briefings**

Deborah Stuart-Angus, the Independent Chair for the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board, will be delivering 4 sessions over the course of 2 days for the voluntary sector which were due to take place in June and October 2020.

Due to COVID-19, the decision has been made to postpone the June briefing. Therefore, these sessions will now be taking place in October 2020 and February 2021.

The Business Unit are still providing the opportunity for partners to occupy a stand for the duration of these sessions to provide further resources and information in relation to Adult Safeguarding to those in attendance.

If you are interested in co-ordinating a stand for any of these events, please email [KMSAB@kent.gov.uk](mailto:KMSAB@kent.gov.uk) for further information.

## What's on in May?

4th May - Firefighters Memorial Day

18th May – 24th May - Mental Health Awareness Week

20th May – 26th May - Dementia Action / Awareness Week

25th May - International Missing Children's Day

**If you would like to sign up to receive the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board newsletter, or would like to add anything to the next edition, please email [KMSAB@kent.gov.uk](mailto:KMSAB@kent.gov.uk).**