



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 **Friday 10 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>

Please note that these are ongoing engagement opportunities and are not part of a formal consultation.



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.