

Thanet District Partnership Group Notes of Meeting held on 13th June 2011

Feedback from Kent Partnership Board

Changes to Charging for KCC Adult Social Services

From Autumn 2011 KCC will be changing the way they charge people for services. They are sending out a questionnaire to find out what people think about this.



Commissioning for Carers

The Board talked about what support carers needed most.



- Places to get information, advice and guidance.
- A simple way to get services they need.
- Carers assessments.
- Support services.



Future Ideas for Local Groups

The latest ideas on the future structure of the Kent Partnership Board and District Partnerships Groups was shared.



Changes to the Benefit System

Stuart Rayner from Job Centre Plus told us how changes will be made to benefits over the next few years. This will affect people who receive Incapacity Benefit or Income Support on grounds of health or Severe Disablement Benefit. The new benefit will be called Employment Support Allowance.



Most people will need to take part in a Work Capability Assessment. The company who will do these assessments are Atos Healthcare. They will look at what people can do not what you can't do. Nothing will change until a decision has been made on your case.



There are 2 groups within Employment Support Allowance. In the Work Related Activity Group people will help and support to prepare for and find work. You will need to attend work focused interviews. If you don't go to these interviews your money will be affected. You may also be able to claim job seeker allowance.



People placed in the Support Group will not be expected to go out and find work. However people can do voluntary work if they want to.



If your benefits change it may affect your housing and council tax benefits. Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will tell the local authority if your benefits change.



When it is your turn to be assessed you will get a letter in the post. The letter will ask if DWP have the right phone number for you. It will also give you a reference number for your case. You can have someone to answer questions on your behalf.



You will then receive a phone call to find out if you need any extra help. It is important that you tell DWP if you need help with the process. You can have someone to answer questions on your behalf.



You will be sent a medical questionnaire to fill out. You can have someone help you with this form. You must put down all the information you can about each question, don't just answer



yes or no. If you are seeing a specialist doctor or attend an organisation that helps you (eg Cuppa's, DPG etc), they can write a letter to support your needs.

Atos will ring you to arrange an assessment. The nearest place for assessment is Canterbury. They will ask if you need any help at this meeting. You can ask for a different day and time. You must attend this interview as it will affect the decision made about your benefits. You can take someone with you and take them into the assessment. Arrive early, if you miss your appointment they will not see you.



You can claim back your travel expenses when you get there if you have your receipt or ticket. This will not be paid in cash it will go straight into your bank account. If you do not have a bank account you can ask for it to be paid to someone else.

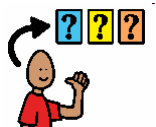
You need to take identification with you to the assessment as well as any hospital information, medication and medical aids eg walking stick hearing aid, glasses.

Your appointment will take between 20 and 60 minutes.

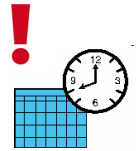
You will get a phone call telling you whether or not you will get Employment Support Allowance. Arrangements will be made for you to go to a work focused interview and the work programme.



If you are not entitled to Employment Support Allowance you can appeal the decision. It is important that you send any other information to support your appeal. You can tell them that you want to appeal on the phone when they ring you with a decision.



You only have one calendar month from the date of the letter to appeal. You must appeal in writing. You can get someone to phone on your behalf to appeal. You can ask them to explain and write to you to say why you have not been given Employment Support Allowance.



Kent Good Health Group

Jeanette Dean-Kimili and Clive Deacon told us about things that the Kent Good Health Group has been doing. The Good Health Group works to make health services in Kent better.



Hospital Communication Books are now in all wards in hospitals in Kent. This book helps people to tell the doctor things and also understand what the doctor or nurse is saying. There are posters telling people about this book in the hospitals.



Hospitals have been told they must have an easy to understand way for people to make complaints. William Harvey Hospital are working on this.



The Good Health Group has also been working with GPs to make sure people get annual health checks. This is to make sure people get screening tests eg for diabetes. Annual Health Checks be offered for another year.



Each local Community Learning Disability Team now has a contact nurse for GPs to contact if they have questions about learning disabilities.

Training to help GPs be more aware of the needs of people with learning disabilities has been put on the GPs website.



Jeanette gave the DPG a copy of document that shows how well Kent has done over the year to improve health services. The Good Health Group will now work on things this document says could be better.

The Good Day Programme

The Consultation on Thanet Day Service will be asking for people's views and comments about a proposed new day service in Thanet.



People need to have more choice about things they choose to do. This is why the consultation is being held.



The current Day Centre is out of the town next to industrial units. Lots of younger people are saying they don't like where the Day Centre is situated. They want to be closer to the town where things are happening.

The proposals are :

- Give direct payments to people so they can choose where they do their activities.
- Find out what parts of the current service people want to keep. This will be done through person centred plans.
- Set up community hubs. This means not using a big centre on its own but giving money to community centres and leisure centres that already exist so they can have better facilities ie changing places.
- Staff will be skilled to support people in the community.
- People living in residential care will have the choice to ask their residential care provider to organise their day activities.
- Move away from one big building to more community activities.



As part of the consultation KCC will be talking to:

- People who use Thanet Day Centre
- Families and carers
- People who might want to use the service in future
- Staff at the Day Centre



- Other organisations who link with the service eg health, thanet college

The Consultation will end on 27th September 2011. More information is available on KCC website at Website www.kent.gov.uk.

Sound Bite—community Music Café

This café is in Ramsgate. It will be open every Wednesday from 4pm to 8pm for 12 weeks. Food served is healthy, there is music and a chance to learn to play instruments. If people show that they want this sort of café it will open up permanently.



St Gabriel's, Westgate

A new Adult Social Centre is now open from Monday to Friday. There are lots of different activities available. On Wednesdays from 4pm to 6pm people can get support to meet up with people and do lots of different things. The Social Centre also offers drama, room hire, cinema for hire and art sessions.

