

HAF PROGRAMME PARTNER NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

Welcome to 2024, and a huge thank you to all our HAF Programme partners who delivered a HAF programme in 2023. It was lovely to get out and visit so many programmes last year, and to see the positive impact of the HAF Programme funding for children and families in Kent.

The team has been busy monitoring the winter programme, so if you have had an email requesting further information, please do respond so that we can complete the monitoring and process your winter payments.

If you have not yet sent in up-to-date policies and documents, please do so as soon as possible so that we can process your 2024 applications. Please be reminded that you need to send in any DSL, first aid, and food hygiene certificates for new staff that you are planning to use to deliver your 2024 programme.

We are excited to welcome several new partners and delighted that so many partners who have worked with us already are joining us again in 2024.

This newsletter gives you up to date and pertinent information to help you deliver a successful HAF Programme which meets the criteria for the HAF funding in 2024.

Network Meetings

Following the successful model that we delivered in 2024 we will be offering three rounds of network meetings in 2024. These are designed to offer you:

- opportunities to develop the quality of your HAF delivery
- networking opportunities with other partners in Kent who deliver the HAF Programme
- access to the HAF team for further help and support.

The February drop-in meeting will be held at:

Aylesham Business Hub, Tuesday 20th February 10am to 1pm

Ackholt Road, Aylesham, Canterbury CT3 3AJ_Tel:01304 841487

This is an opportunity for you to talk to individual members of the HAF Programme team about your own programme and get support and advice about developing and building your HAF offer. Please tell us what you would like to discuss in advance so that we can ensure that an appropriate member of the team is available to talk to you. You can book a time slot, or just drop in and wait for a member of the team to be available.

Please register for your places by emailing KentHAF@theeducationpeople.org
Please tell us:

- who will be attending
- their contact numbers

- the topic that you would like to discuss.

The February networking session will be held at:

Baypoint Sports Club on Tuesday 27th February 10am – 1pm

(Coffee from 9.30am)

Ramsgate Road, Sandwich CT13 9QL (It is close to the A256) Tel:01304 613022

This is a network meeting which offers input from the HAF team to help you meet the criteria for the HAF funding and opportunities to talk to other HAF partners.

Please register for your places by emailing KentHAF@theeducationpeople.org

Please tell us:

- who will be attending
- their contact numbers.

You may have up to 2 places per site that you run from.

Bookings for both meetings need to be made by Friday 16th February.

Safer Recruitment Checks

The team have started to work with all HAF Programme partners to ensure that they have a robust system of recruitment checks in place for staff who work on the HAF Programme. We will be continuing with these checks and will be in touch with partners who have not yet had their checks completed. **You are required to undertake these checks even if staff are self-employed. It is good practice to carry out a new DBS check on all staff and not to rely on checks undertaken by other organisations.**

We include the template that has been sent out previously, and an excel version which some partners may find easier to work with. Many partners already have their own systems in place; we do not expect you to change these. If you have any questions around this, please contact the HAF inbox.

Ofsted

Many partners are now registering with Ofsted. This helps them to build their business and allows families to use childcare vouchers to top up the hours provided through the HAF Programme. We strongly recommend that all partners register with Ofsted. Partners who are not registered are limited in the way that they can deliver the HAF Programme.

Signposting Families

Our visits in 2023 demonstrated that some partners struggle to signpost families to further information, so we are including information in this newsletter which can be used to support both your staff teams and your families. Please share this information as part of your signposting.

Maya's Community Cafe

Maya's Community Support Café is based in Herne Bay and is open to all Kent residents. Maya's has an open Food Bank with no registration, referral process or proof of benefits. This is open to all, with a selection of fresh food and tins stocked every day. There is a free shop with an array of clothes, shoes, toys, bedding, blankets, beds, household items and bric-a-brac. These items are free unless the person would like to give a donation. Free haircuts are offered to those struggling with the cost of living. There are also various drop-in sessions for all to access with support and advice given on money, housing and employment.

The concept of a free shop is unique and popular, especially given the cost-of-living crisis. It reduces waste and brings the community together to support one another. Maya's has captured the attention of national news outlets who have run several stories on the shop. Kent County Council social services regularly refer families who have escaped domestic violence to the free shop where they can be kitted out with everything they need to start again. All for free.

Please keep Maya's Community Support Cafe in mind when working with families, especially those that work in the Canterbury District. We would advise that you go and speak to Maya about your HAF Programme and how you support families; she has some amazing connections in the community. Her contact details are email: maya@mayas.org.uk Address: Maya's, 20 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LH, Maya's Community Support Café: 01227 506607, Maya's Free Shop 01227 687255, Furniture bank enquiries contact Pat Richards: 07525 346541. She also has a Facebook page where she advertises everything and updates daily.

Upcoming Roadshow Events

The SEND Roadshows are a great place to start if your child has, or you think they may have, special educational needs and you are unsure where to go for advice and support. Families can meet and speak to people from health, community and education, as well as specialist support.

The following SEND roadshow events are confirmed for 2024:

- Dover district – January 2024 – date and details TBC
- Gravesham district – 26 February 2024 – Northfleet Youth Hub
- Thanet district – 12 March 2024 – 9.30–12.30 – Quarterdeck Youth Hub Margate
- Dartford district – 17 April 2024 – Swanley Youth Hub
- Ashford district – 18 June 2024 – details to come

Services and organisations attending the roadshows vary from district to district,

depending on the needs of families in the area.

There will, however, always be representatives from the SEND Information Hub, Kent PACT and IASK to support families in person.

How do I book a place?

It's free to book a place at our roadshows. Just email sendroadshows@kent.gov.uk to register your place and receive more information about the roadshow you want to attend.



Here is some information for any of your families who have or may be expecting a new baby:

Citizens Advice: Money and Perinatal Mental Health - The Citizens Advice Money and Perinatal Mental Health Service is for new parents or soon-to-be parents in Kent who are struggling with money and mental health. It provides free, confidential and impartial money advice and support to help people take control of their finances. A dedicated specialist adviser provides support to:

- deal with any debt
- manage money better
- identify and claim new benefits
- improve mental health, wellbeing and more.

Support can be requested by emailing referral@nwkent.cab.org.uk

Asthma Training – to share with staff and families

The NHS has training available for all who care for children and young people with asthma to help improve their understanding and awareness of the issue.

The e-learning for health website has free [online training](#) for all levels of professionals who work with children and young people (CYP) with asthma.

We encourage anyone who supports children and young people to complete this free [online training](#). This may include, but is not limited to:

- teachers and school support staff
- youth workers
- children's group leaders (e.g. wraparound and holiday clubs, uniform groups, sports and hobby clubs)
- staff working in Children and Family Centres
- social care and housing staff
- parents, carers, and friends of young people with asthma.

Support for Kent's Young Carers

If you are supporting a child or young person who has caring duties for a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health or substance misuse issue, or who provides emotional support for a sibling with SEND, you can refer them to our Young Carers service.

The Kent Young Carers service offers a range of short-term interventions including signposting, one-to-one support, in school support and workshops. Young carers are also entitled to a **free bus pass**.

To find out more, visit the [Kent Young Carers website](#).

Other mental health support available



Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) – [KCHFT](#) offers a range of resources, information, advice, and guidance including how to access counselling support.

Kent Resilience Hub

Kent Resilience Hub – Visit [Kent Resilience Hub](#) where you can increase your understanding, find approaches and tools or navigate your way to support and services relating to resilience and emotional wellbeing.



Kooth – A [website](#) for 10 to 25-year olds to get free, safe, and anonymous support.



Moodspark – The [Moodspark website](#) is for young people aged 10 to 16 to learn to look after their emotional and mental health.

SAFEGUARDING

Designated Safeguarding Lead Training

Please be reminded that any certification for this only lasts two years. We strongly recommend that you have at least 2 DSL trained staff to ensure that someone is available in the event of unexpected issues or sickness with one member of the team. Whilst we expect each partner to have someone with up-to-date Designated Safeguarding Lead training this is a reminder that we strongly recommend that **each site manager** has undertaken this training, with two trained staff on sites which accommodate over 100 children.

Please use this link and follow the instructions below:

<https://www.kscmp.org.uk/training/multi-agency>

Underneath login it says – create account <https://app.melearning.co.uk/auth/self-registration/HPBNWSDT> and you can set up an account on the form.

- Once you have clicked **create account** it takes you to a form, do not be put off by the key that it asks for, let the circle whirr for a moment and the **form** pops up
- You then **create your username and login** (keep a note of this for the future)
- You will then be asked **your unit** - if you scroll down under Kent and Medway there are individual applicants listed. We would suggest this is the category that you should register under.
- Once you have completed the form and submitted it you will receive a verification email which allows you to use the email and login.
- Once you have set up your account go back and login.
- It comes up as my courses. You can then click on courses (along the bar at the top) and they all come up.
- If you scroll down, you can see the courses that are available.
- Scroll down further and e-learning courses are listed.



- You are looking for **child safeguarding for designated practitioners**. It is at the top of the list and there are currently places available.

Please follow the instructions below:

Once you have completed the training you will need to go back to your account. You may need to do a course evaluation. Once this is done it generates the certificate into your account and you can then **download the certificate** and send it to us.

Please ensure that you have sufficient staff trained to this level.

HAF Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Awareness - HAF programme E-Learning course can be accessed via [The Education People website](#).

This is intended to be an introductory safeguarding E-Learning course to ensure that all staff have the essential knowledge and skills needed to recognise, report and record child safeguarding concerns and this course highlights the local Kent processes. Please enter the following voucher code at the checkout to access this training for free: **HAF23**. Please note this code must not be shared with anyone outside your organisation. If you or your staff have any questions regarding the content covered within the course, please contact the Education Safeguarding Service directly: EducationSafeguardingTD@kent.gov.uk. For any technical queries, for example accessing the course or downloading certificates, please contact cpd@theeducationpeople.org

We would expect every staff member to undertake this training and ask that you include this E- Learning as part of any new staff members induction.

Using Social Media

Please use the new hashtag for all your posts for the Easter programme, we look forward to seeing what is being posted in Kent! **#HAF2024**

As always, the HAF Programme team is happy to help you with your programme, so please do email us if we can be of any assistance.

KentHAF@theeducationpeople.org

We look forward to seeing you at the network meetings.

Wishing you every success in your 2024 delivery of the HAF programme,

The HAF Programme team.