

## Kent HAF Programme June 2024 Newsletter

### **Thank you!**

Thank you for your valuable feedback in your monitoring forms from Easter, we have collated your responses and will share relevant information with the DfE and consider the challenges that you have faced to see how we can better support you going forwards. Some of the challenges that were mentioned were outside of the control of the team, such as when the funding was available. Other challenges, such as the amount of paperwork and documentation required, has been noted and we have reviewed our processes to try and simplify them where possible.

It was lovely to get some responses which recognised the huge amount of support that we offer to partners in Kent and which demonstrated how much this is appreciated. One example was:

*It's been two and a half years now and everything is in place for us providers to go and deliver our camps. The information is always provided early and there is always someone to answer a question if one arises. I love working with you and I look forward to the summer. 😊*

### **Refer Kent – To Support Your Signposting**

[Issue 27- Refer Kent Newsletter - May 2024.pdf](#)

ReferKent has also now launched a Padlet; a central resource for all items relating to ReferKent. Here, you can find more information about ReferKent, the link to sign-up, information about our past and upcoming spotlight sessions, newsletters and much more.

[Please do take a look at the Padlet](#)

ReferKent is an online referral platform, which aims to mitigate the action of signposting. Organisations, including schools, are invited to sign up, to make and/or receive referrals. ReferKent can be used as a tool to search for organisations within areas and/or categories and used to make quick and simple referrals. Referrals can be tracked so you can check the progress of each referral you make.

### **Safeguarding - KCC Front Door Update**

Integrated Children's Services has asked this message to be shared so that everyone has the most up to date information regarding making a referral for support for a child or young person. The message was updated on [Front Door - KELSI](#).

This will also be communicated to the Sector through newsletters from KSCMP [News - Kent Safeguarding Children Multi-Agency Partnership \(kscmp.org.uk\)](#)



- From Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, Requests for Support (RFS), from professionals, will have to be submitted via the [KCC Children's Portal](#).
- Professionals submitting RFS via email on or after this date, will receive a reply from us asking them to *resubmit* their RFS via the [KCC Children's Portal](#).
- Using the [KCC Children's Portal](#) to submit RFS, means all the information we need to make informed safeguarding decisions is captured from the outset; referrals are of better quality and progressed quicker.
- Requests for Information about children and families will only be provided where we have consent from those with parental responsibility to share the information with you.
- We are now receiving more requests via the Children's Portal than ever before. 43% in March 24, up from an average of 33% - thank you!

### **What professionals and multi-agency partners can start doing now:**

- Create an account on the KCC Children's Portal. There is a helpful guide and video on the KSCMP website, [Worried about a child](#) page to help you do this.
- If you have a concern about a child, submit a request for support through the [KCC Children's Portal](#) rather than by email.
- Familiarise yourself with the current [Support Level Guidance](#)

### **Urgent Request for Support Outside Office Hours**

**Please note, where urgent safeguarding action is required and your request is submitted outside of normal working hours (from 5pm – 8.30am weekdays, weekends, bank holidays) please contact the Out of Hours Service on 03000 419191.**

For further information and support please use the website:

[Reporting safeguarding concerns and making referrals in Kent](#)

### **Bitesize – New Provider Session!**

We are pleased to release a newly recorded session for HAF providers on **Value for Money**, delivered by HAF Adviser Lorraine Penson.

**Costs of delivery are rising**, and cost of living pressures being felt by families and HAF providers means that the need to achieve value for money by maximising all available resources to achieve the best possible outcome is a priority.

This session explores some of the ways in which HAF providers are adding value in their HAF planning and delivery. Developing new partnerships, securing additional low cost/free resources or by taking advantage of additional funding opportunities are just some of the ways in which providers are finding ways to do more with their budgets, reach additional children, develop community resources and support sustainability.

This session features three case studies from Bolsover District Council in Derbyshire, Darnhall Nursery and Primary school in Cheshire East and Chester, and

Eastway Nursery and Primary School, Wirral who have developed health and wellbeing days and a social supermarket to support local children and their families.

You can view the recording here - <https://vimeo.com/939024753/87fef63bed>

The links to other provider focused sessions are below:

- [Safeguarding and Child Protection](#)
- [Extending Children's Food Experiences - YouTube](#)
- [Food & Nutritional Awareness](#)
- [Playwork Principles](#)
- [Building in Active Sports and Games](#)
- [Partnerships with Parents to Meet Children's Needs, Including a Focus on SEND](#)
- [Value for Money](#)

### **Support from the Team**

The team have listened to your feedback and have implemented further support strategies so that partners can get information in a variety of ways. Currently we have:

- **a drop in** for partners to have 1:1 conversations with a member of the team on **Tuesday 18 June**
- **a HAF Programme network meeting on Tuesday 25 June**
- the team are available for individual meetings and **chats** during **the week of the 1 July** so that you can talk to us about any details that you would like support with.

Information about all of these has been sent out previously.

### **Site Visits**

The team will be undertaking site visits to any new sites and all new partners, unless the programme is being delivered in a school. **Please be aware that your summer programme cannot be agreed until this has taken place.**

### **Safer Recruitment Checks**

Many of you have now had these checks done, but please note that **we cannot agree a summer programme until these checks are in place.** Information has been sent out about this previously.

### **Summer Activities**

There will be funding for each programme to provide one enrichment activity for their programme. The details about how to access this funding will be released shortly. Please ensure that you understand what criteria you will need to fulfil to access the funding.

## EVouchers

The vouchers for families to book places on your programme will be released on Wednesday 26 June. **Please do not upload your programme until you receive an email inviting you to do so.** The team cannot invite you to upload your activity until you have provided all the required information and documentation.

## Summer Visits

The team are required by the DfE to make a visit to every programme that is running at least once a year. We will be in touch nearer the time to book the visits. Please be aware that we don't have a lot of flexibility with dates and times, when booking these visits. There are over a hundred visits to schedule in and these are planned to enable the team to achieve this. We use the dates and times submitted on your summer forms to plan these visits. **Please ensure that the team are notified promptly of any changes to dates and times of delivery.**

## Christmas Considerations

We do apologise for mentioning the "C" word so early, but we are already having several conversations with partners about what the Christmas delivery might look like. Christmas is on a Wednesday, and this is making the dates for delivery a challenge to manage. In addition:

- some venues have said that they will not be making the venue available for the Christmas delivery. **Please check at the earliest opportunity if your venue will be available so that you have time to make alternative arrangements**
- the dates are also making it difficult to secure staff as some are not able to work on Christmas Eve, and with two bank holidays this is making the first week of Christmas delivery a real challenge. Please have conversations with your staff team so you have a clear picture of what you might be able to deliver
- the available dates are making it a challenge for some Programmes to offer the four days over the Christmas period. Please be aware that there is a two-day model which can be used, which requires you to deliver two days face to face and provide food and activities for the families for the other two days. The funding for this is different and is currently £81. This is the funding for two days delivery (£61) and £20 per child for food and activities packs.

## The Local Offer SEND Community Directory

The community directory is filled with hundreds of support groups, charities and activities for children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities across Kent. Find your nearest accessible friendly club, sporting activities, events, parent groups and online education support.

[Visit the Community Directory.](#)



### **Family Fund - Helping Disabled Children**

Grants are available for families on a low income who are raising a child or young person with a long-term disability, disabling condition or life-limiting illness.

Grants from the Family Fund can be used for a wide variety of things from white goods to laptops and even include driving lessons.

To see if your family is eligible for a grant, they will need to assess your income and the impact of disability on your child. Grants are also dependent on available funding.

### **Are we eligible? - Family Fund**



As always, if you have any feedback or queries around the [SEND Information Hub](#) website (Kent's Local Offer) or the [local offer directory](#), email us [yourvoice2@kent.gov.uk](mailto:yourvoice2@kent.gov.uk).

### **Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) - Kent County Council**



Alternatively, you can attend one of our information sessions. Our information sessions are individual bookable video appointments, where we support parent and carers with questions they may have about their child's SEND support. We also support multi agency drop-ins within the community.

[Book a place at one of our information sessions](#)

[Home | IASK](#)

**Health Toolkit for Primary School Children**

**Stop Think Choose**



**NHS toolkit for primary school children**  
Download at [StopThinkChoose.co.uk](http://StopThinkChoose.co.uk)

**Your guide to choosing the right NHS service for your children**



## SIGN UP: Free Path to Paris summer activity pack to celebrate the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games



Team GB and ParalympicsGB, as part of their official Path to Paris programme, have created an activity pack for you to use this summer which uses the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games to inspire children to take a virtual journey to Paris – by being active.

Path to Paris' free activity pack is designed to be flexible, so you can use it in whatever way works for you. There are lots of quick and easy ways to get active to complete the Path to Paris and help the children and young people in your setting be part of the Paris 2024 Games.

There are a **limited number of free packs available** exclusively for HAF providers, so [order your pack](#) now and Path to Paris will deliver it in the post to you. The first 100 sign-ups will also receive a set of 30 pin badges! For more information click [here](#).

### What's in the pack?

- Follow the **Travel Guide** which introduces the Olympic and Paralympic Games, provides an activity for each of the city stops on the way to Paris along with advice about how to host your own Games event.
- Track your progress on the **A1 Journey Tracker** map that comes with every pack.

Use the celebration templates (e.g., **Bunting, Medal Designing, Certificates**) to keep everyone engaged.

**The HAF Programme team wish you all the best for your summer delivery!**