



DIGITAL KENT



Supported by
Kent County Council's
Helping Hands Scheme



Update #10 | Wednesday 31st August

Welcome to our August Newsletter!

Digital Kent has been busy throughout August, and we've been making the most of the summer by getting out in the community and working closely with our partners! We have been out and about all over Kent, bringing digital skills to everyone in need, and our Digital Champions Network is booming! Read on to find out more about what we've all been doing to tackle digital exclusion in Kent.



Digital Kent Networking Event

On Thursday 25th August, Digital Kent hosted its very first Digital Champion Networking Event and it was a big success! Organised by our Project Support Coordinator Sophia Turk, we wanted to bring together Digital Champions from across Kent, to meet face to face and network with each other.

We heard from our Digital Lead Sam Lain-Rose about digital inclusion efforts across Kent, and from Conrad Mohr at Circular Computing, who spoke about sustainable technology. We also had a talk from Alex Harvey from Reality in Virtual Reality (RiVR), who spoke about how businesses can create their own training videos through virtual reality.

Finally, we had the honour of hearing from Elsa Lewis, who spoke about her experiences as a Digital Champion, and we were so happy to award Elsa with our Digital Champion of the Month award!

It was wonderful to meet in person the Champions that we have often only seen through a screen. There are so many inspiring people in Kent who want to work towards ending digital exclusion, and it is a privilege to bring them together. To read more about the night, check out our blog post here:

<https://www.digitalkent.uk/news/detail/success-at-first-digital-kent-networking-event-136>



Check out our Social Media:



Digital Inclusion & Capability
Strategy, Policy, Partnerships and Corporate Assurance
Strategic & Corporate Services

digitalinclusion@kent.gov.uk

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Digital Innovation Centre Team Day

Digital Kent had a fantastic team away day at the Digital Innovation Centre for Kent and Medway. It was amazing to learn about the DIC and the work the team there is doing to use digital innovation to teach, research and learn.

They have so much going on at the Centre, and we had so much fun learning about their projects! Read all about it here:

<https://www.digitalkent.uk/news/detail/digital-innovation-centre-team-day-139>



Bewl Water Youth Hub

Engagement Officers Brooke Ardley and Jake Huggett had an amazing morning at Bewl Water working with a fantastic group of young people who are or at risk of becoming NEET, as part of a weeklong course aimed at upskilling and engaging with these young people

To read more about how the day went, check out our full blog post here:

<https://www.digitalkent.uk/news/detail/bewl-water-youth-hub-visit-137>



Welcome to EMPOWERCARE Ambassadors



We would like to welcome a number of new Digital Champions to our network who have joined us from Kent County Council's EMPOWERCARE Project. EMPOWERCARE was a technological and social innovation research project, looking into how technology can help address gaps in care for those aged 65 and over, and for those 50 and over with at least one chronic condition. The project was a huge success, putting people at the heart of service design to help reduce isolation and improve the quality of life for an ageing population. Though their project is coming to a close over the next few months, we didn't want their progress to come to a halt too. The Digital Champion Network has therefore welcomed a number of their ambassadors who wish to continue volunteering and supporting digital inclusion throughout Kent. We're so pleased to have the EMPOWERCARE volunteers onboard with us, and hope to continue working towards our shared goal of ending digital exclusion.

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DWP Launches Social Tariff Support

The Department for Work and Pensions is launching a new service at the end of August 2022, to allow internet service providers to verify, with customers' permission, whether they are in receipt of a relevant benefit and therefore eligible for extra financial support.

This is fantastic news for those on low income to access better tariff deals. Read more about the initiative here:

<https://www.digitalkent.uk/news/detail/dwp-launches-social-tariff-support-service-135>

Digital Support at U3A Gravesham

Digital Kent members Bryony Goble and Doris Shaba-Jeffries were invited along to U3A Gravesham's monthly meeting to talk about what we do and what help we can offer to their group.

Read all about the day and how our Digital Champion Network was involved here:

<https://www.digitalkent.uk/news/detail/digital-inclusion-and-chocolate-talks-at-u3a-gravesham-140>

Sustainability with Genuine Solutions

Our Digital Lead Sam Lain-Rose and Project Support Coordinator had the pleasure of being shown around the mobile recycling facilities at Genuine Solutions HQ. They are a fantastic company working, towards extending the life of mobile technology and stopping waste.

We're looking forward to exploring how we can work together to reduce items going to landfill, whilst generating value for social projects. You can find out more about their recycling and recovery solutions here: <https://genuinesolutions.co.uk/>



Digital Skills Quiz at Inspired Friendships

Jake Huggett and Chris Reddy went along to celebrate Inspired Friendship's 2-year anniversary and run a digital skills quiz! Did you know, early computer programmes used the same technique as lace workers?

Read all about and learn some fun digital facts here: <https://www.digitalkent.uk/news/detail/digital-skills-quiz-at-inspired-friendships-141>

...And More!

There is so much we've achieved recently, and so many digital skills sessions run, that it's impossible to mention them all here! We have been all over Kent, running community events in Libraries, community centres and more. We already have tons planned for next month, so watch this space. If you would like to read more about what we've been doing, you can find us on social media or check out our news page here: <https://www.digitalkent.uk/news>

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POWER IN PARTNERSHIPS

Read on to find out more about our partners and opportunities they can offer you and your network!



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ReferKent System Launch



The Strengthening Referrals Team are delighted to be launching the ReferKent system county-wide following a successful pilot.

ReferKent is an online referral system that aims to strengthen referrals across Kent for adults and families who may be experiencing financial hardship. It's a simple and secure platform which enables you to go beyond signposting and make quick and secure referrals to other organisations in Kent who may be able to complement the support you are providing with their own specialist services.

The receiving agency will be able to pick up the individual's details and make contact with them to discuss further support, taking the pressure off the individuals to have to reach out first.

The service is free and simple to sign up to and is ideal for any organisation that supports Kent residents, including district councils and the voluntary sector.

If you would like to know more about ReferKent, please visit our website: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/referkent> or email us at referkent@kent.gov.uk

KCC Household Support Fund

Funded by the UK government, the Household Support Fund scheme supports vulnerable Kent households in need of help with significantly rising living costs. As one element of support, we have set up a scheme for professionals to refer people into, and details of this are **not** to be shared wider. If you know of other organisations that would benefit from access to this scheme, please provide their details to householdsupportfund@kent.gov.uk – **please note professionals must be working with the individual or household that they are applying for.**

Professionals can apply up until 30 September 2022, or until the budget is spent. If successful, support will be provided in the form of £150 in energy vouchers for pre-paid gas and electricity meters and direct debit customers who are responsible for paying the energy costs in the household. Vouchers will be sent by email or SMS text. If the household have no access to the internet or email, the vouchers will be posted to their home address. There is a limited amount of funding available for this scheme and funds will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, with only one award per household.

Who is Eligible? - There is an expectation for professionals to complete due diligence checks of applications to ensure that recipients of vouchers meet the eligibility criteria as set out below:

- Are aged 16 or over
- Are a Kent resident, permanently living within one of the 12 local authorities covered by Kent County Council (this excludes Medway, Bexley, or Bromley)
- Are in receipt of means-tested benefits or household income is less than £16,200 per annum before tax
- Haven't previously accessed this round of Household Support funding.

Useful Information: - When making an application professionals will need to be able to provide the following information to ensure that the application is processed.

- National Insurance number
- Energy providers name
- How the person pays for their energy (pre-payment meter, Direct Debit, or if off grid and using oil)
- Benefits received.

This is separate to the Household Support Fund scheme where Kent residents were able to apply directly, which has since closed. If support is required as a result of the increase in cost of living, apply for the Household Support Fund on the following link: [Apply for a fuel voucher](#). Any additional enquiries can be directed to householdsupportfund@kent.gov.uk

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Good Things Foundation:
The National Databank



THE NATIONAL DATABANK

FREE monthly mobile data, minutes and texts to tackle digital poverty.

If you are over 18 and struggling to pay for data to stay connected CAS can help.

We can provide 7gbs of FREE data a month for up to six months.

Contact info@cas-community.org or call 01322 389144 to find out more.



CAS COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS CIC
WORKING FOR YOU



www.cas-community.org

KCC: Actively Involved

Would you like to be more...
Actively Involved?

Have fun, meet people and make friends?

Are you 55 and over? or under 55 living with a complex health condition??

Do you feel isolated, bored, or perhaps lonely?

Do you live in the boroughs of Dartford, Gravesham or Swanley?

Actively Involved can help you
Call us now on 03000 810005
or email: active@involvekent.org.uk



Funded by: Kent County Council



This service is brought to you on behalf of KCC and involve (Charity 1066911) and their registered partners

IAPT: Improving Access to Psychological Therapies

If you would like full size PDF versions of any of these pamphlets, please do email us at digitalinclusion@kent.gov.uk



NHS Talking Therapies



01322 291380
northkentmind.co.uk

Our talking therapies are free and confidential.

Take a step towards feeling better - fill in the form on our website or give us a call.

www.insightiapt.org
0300 555 5555



SCAN ME

If you feel at risk of harming yourself, or can't keep yourself safe, call 999, visit A&E, or visit www.insightiapt.org/help for emergency contacts.



Leaflet produced Jan 2022



Free talking therapies

If you are feeling low, anxious, or stressed, we can help you.

- ✓ Improve your mood
- ✓ Get better sleep
- ✓ Feel more like yourself

www.insightiapt.org

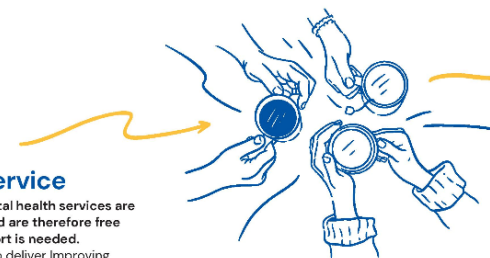


Get in touch

Call 0300 012 0012 (This number is free to call)
Website www.wearwithyou.org.uk/mental-health
Email enquiries@wearwithyou.org.uk

Being part of a group...

We run online courses for people experiencing things like stress, anxiety, low mood, sleep problems, money worries, social anxiety, and difficulties adjusting to long-term health conditions. Weekly group sessions are led by our trained practitioners and based on cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT). It can be reassuring to know you're not the only one experiencing difficulties. Being part of a group allows you to share advice and support with other people.



Free NHS Service

We Are With You mental health services are funded by the NHS and are therefore free to access when support is needed. We're commissioned to deliver Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services in Kent & Surrey.

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