

VSK WEEKLY UPDATE

VSK's Young People's Council Groups

Our Council Groups give children and young people the chance to share their views, have fun and get their voices heard about matters that affect them. Their feedback is shared with KCC senior decision makers to help make Children's Social Services the best they can be.

New members are always welcome and the Participation Team staff would be pleased to speak to carers and parents of children and young people who would like to find out more! If young people would like to be involved but can't attend the group in person, please do get in touch to find out how we can get their voices heard in different ways

We have a range of groups open to Kent Children in Care, Kent Care Leavers, Adopted children.

- **Super Council** (open to Kent Children in Care aged 7-11)
- **OCYPC** (open to Kent Children in Care aged 11-16)
- **Young Adult Council** (Open to Kent Children in Care and Care Leavers aged 16-25)
- **Children WHO Care** (open to the children of Kent foster carers aged 7 – 16)
- **OCYPC MAGIC** (open to children who have a Social Worker with SEND aged 11+)
- **The Adoptables** (open to Adopted Young People aged 11-18 living in Kent, Bexley or Medway)

Please contact the Participation Team for more information: VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk

29 October 2025

We're pleased to update you on this month's upcoming **free [online](#) and [in-person](#) workshops and events** available for kinship carers to book onto. They cover a range of topics including 'Managing challenging behaviour with children in kinship care', 'Life story work with children in kinship care', and 'Understanding trauma and attachment in children'. Funded by the Department for Education, these workshops and events are a dedicated space for kinship carers only. All events are listed on our [website](#)



Please do [share this flyer](#) with kinship carers in your schools to highlight the opportunities available to them.



Dandelion Time

We are delighted to let you know that VSK are funding a set number of places on the 2-day CPD course offered by Dandelion Time (West Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0NY

Enabling Learning in Children with Poor Attachment/ Trauma:

This two-day course offers an in-depth approach to deepening understanding about the impact of poor attachment and trauma, specifically focusing on a child or children you have worked with.

This course, which is spread over a two-week period, allows for an in-depth study of factors which affect children and their ability to learn. The course is intended for all those working with vulnerable children, for example, teachers, family liaison officers, special educational needs officers and early help workers.

There are three sets of dates available:

- Monday 10th November 2025 and Monday 24th November 2025 9.15am – 3.30pm
- Monday 26th January 2026 and Monday 9th February 2026 9.15am – 3.30pm
- Monday 27th April 2026 and Monday 11th May 2026 9.15am – 3.30pm

For more information please review their [Course training pack](#)

If you would like to participate in this course, then please fill out the booking form using the link below:

[Dandelion Time CPD Booking Form](#)

Dandelion Time will confirm your place upon receipt of the booking form.

Places allocated on a first come first serve basis.



Anna Freud

Anna Freud: The Brain, Behaviour & The Classroom

Online training, via Zoom

10th November 2025, 12:30-15:30

[The Brain, Behaviour and The Classroom | Anna Freud](#)

This training explores how neuroscience can help you understand and respond to behaviour that challenges, with practical strategies to reduce stress and promote wellbeing across your classroom and school

There is a cost (from £150) for this course, but please speak with your VSK link to see whether they may have funds available to support the cost.

We'd love to hear from you!



How have VSK supported you or your team recently? Please take a moment to let us know by clicking the link below:

[Feedback Form: Share how VSK supported you](#)



The Bell Foundation:**Helping EAL Learners Succeed - The Latest Evidence**

This free webinar will unpack the University of Oxford's latest data and analysis about EAL learners in English schools. Many of these learners, especially those who are joining school in a new language, will need tailored support to help them develop their English skills, access the curriculum, and achieve their full potential.

26th November 2025, 4pm

Please use the link below to register for the webinar:

[Helping EAL learners succeed: The latest evidence \(Webinar\) - The Bell Foundation](#)

Alongside this webinar, we have 20 places up for grabs for the exciting online course that can be offered to school staff that support EAL students happening on 13th January through to 14th February consisting of 3 modules of learning.

Here is the link to the course information page, in case you want to use it to find out more details or for promoting it to your staff: [Supporting New Arrivals Who Are New to English \(Online Course\) - The Bell Foundation](#)

Please contact Michelle.Olden@kent.gov.uk should you wish to be allocated some places for your school staff.

Supporting young people in care with their Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

If you are supporting a young person's Personal Education Plan (PEP), this guide suggests professional actions as they make their career and education choices – from Year 8 through to post-16 study.

[Actions which can be used in the PEP](#)





Emotional Wellbeing Workshop and Networking

i-THRIVE and Participation Team

Introduction to trauma, resilience and attachment

Ashford - Please register for the event [here](#).

Date: Wednesday 26th November 2025 **Time:** 10am-12pm (arrival from 9:30am)

Venue: Towers School and Sixth Form Centre, Faversham Road, TN24 9AL

Gravesend – Please register for the event [here](#).

Date: Tuesday 2nd December 2025 **Time:** 4pm-6pm (arrival from 3:30pm)

Venue: St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, Rochester Road, Gravesend, DA12 2JW

Students, alcohol, substances and mental health

Tunbridge Wells – Please register for the event [here](#).

Date: Monday 10th November 2025 **Time:** 4pm-6pm (arrival from 3:30pm)

Venue: The Skinners' School, St John's Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9PG

Maidstone – Please register for the event [here](#).

Date: Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Time: 4pm-6pm (arrival from 3:30pm)

Venue: Cornwallis Academy, Hubbards Lane, Maidstone, ME17 4HX



Margate Festive Teenage Market - The Teenage Market

Saturday 29th November 2025

Do you have a creative hobby that you would love to share with the world? Whether you're just starting out or already selling your work, the Margate Festive Teenage Market is the perfect place to showcase your talent and it's completely free to take part!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11.11.25	West Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30pm @ Cornwallis BOOK HERE
25.11.25	East Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30pm @ Riverside
03.12.25	North Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30pm @ TBC
09.12.25	South Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary
21.01.26	Designated Teacher Update 15:45 online
22.01.26	Designated Teacher Update 8am & 12pm online
11.03.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Update 8am, 12pm, 15:30 online
12.03.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Update 1pm @ TBC
24.04.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30
12.05.26	Designated Teacher Update 12:30 & 15:45 online
13.05.26	Designated Teacher Update 8:00 online
TBC	South Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary
30.06.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30
01.07.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:30 @ TBC
02.07.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:00 @ TBC
07.07.26	South Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary

Who To Contact



North Kent Assistant Head: Jo Hayes - northvsk@kent.gov.uk

West Kent Assistant Head: Jen Kemp - westvsk@kent.gov.uk

South Kent Assistant Head: Carole Bailey - southvsk@kent.gov.uk

East Kent Assistant Head: Simon Fosse-Collins - eastvsk@kent.gov.uk

Advisory Team Assistant Head: Emma Wills - vskadvisoryteam@kent.gov.uk

Post 16 Assistant Head: Catherine Thompson - 16plusvirtualschoolskent@kent.gov.uk

Post 16 NEET Team Lead: Samantha Perrin - 16plusvirtualschoolskent@kent.gov.uk

Out of County Team Lead: Amanda Ormond - virtualsschoolkentocc@kent.gov.uk



Instagram [participation_team](#)



Facebook [VSK Participation Team](#)



X [@VirtSchl_Kent](#)



[Home | Virtual School Kent \(lea.kent.sch.uk\)](http://lea.kent.sch.uk)

<http://kentcarestown.lea.kent.sch.uk>