



Kent and Medway
NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust



News and events from Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust.



Welcome to e-connect!

As the COVID-19 restrictions are eased, delivering brilliant care and looking after the health and wellbeing of our patients, remains our main priority.

Mask and face coverings for patients and visitors remains the same in healthcare settings unless exempt. Please ensure if visiting any of our buildings that you adhere to the rules we have in place to protect everyone. Our staff who are working with patients will continue to wear face masks during any patient contact or indirect patient interaction, such as in a waiting areas, corridor, or reception area.

We recently celebrated International Nurses' Day and our brilliant nurses and the brilliant care they deliver to our patients. To mark this special day we introduced just a few of our nurses on our [website](#) and on social media as an opportunity for you to get to know them, learn more about their careers and what they love about being a nurse. Plus, you can read more about a number of key projects taking place that KMPT are involved in to help deliver brilliant care through brilliant people.

We hope you enjoy the Jubilee weekend and celebrations ahead and have time to relax and unwind with friends, family and loved ones.



Our Strategic Priorities 2022-23

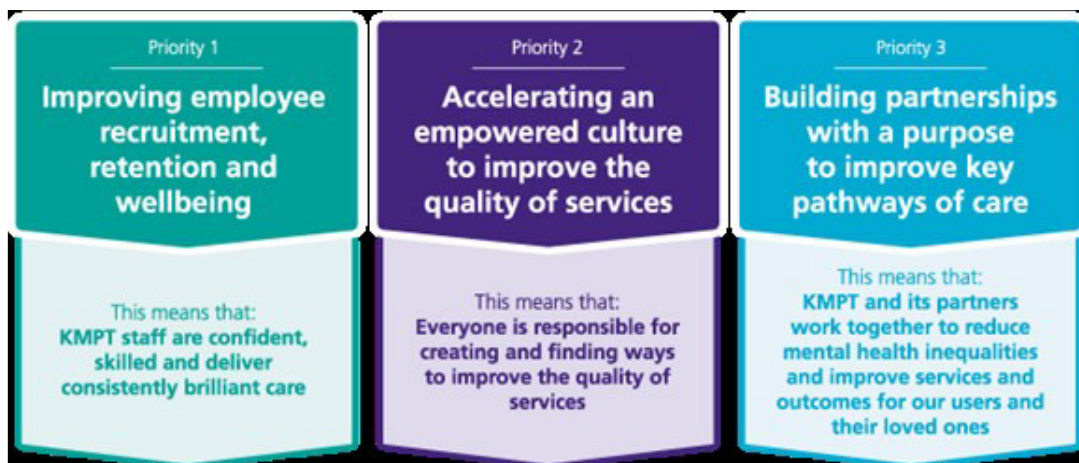
We have one simple mission at KMPT, to deliver brilliant care through brilliant people.

This year we have refreshed our strategic priorities, so that we can make KMPT even better for our staff and service users.

During the next financial year our focus will be on:

- People - by improving employee recruitment, retention and wellbeing.
- Quality - by accelerating an empowered culture to improve the quality of services.
- Partnerships, by building partnerships with a purpose to improve key pathways of care.

The below image explains our priorities for the year and what this will mean.



Work begins on new, state of the art mental health ward in Maidstone

We have begun work on a new, purpose-built, inpatient facility for older adults with functional mental health needs.

The new Ruby ward building will be situated on our Hermitage Lane site in Maidstone, relocating from its current home at Medway Maritime Hospital.

The £12.65 million investment was awarded to the local NHS as part of a national drive to eradicate 'dormitory' style wards in inpatient mental health facilities. It will ensure that Kent and Medway residents have access to the highest standards of inpatient mental health care, should they need it.

It will include single ensuite rooms, space for providing counselling, group therapy, creative activities and access to specially designed garden areas. Dedicated areas indoors and outside for patients and visitors feature in the new design as well as facilities to help people relearn essential skills such as

cooking and cleaning.

Helen Greatorex, Chief Executive at KMPT said: "I am delighted that the last of our dormitory wards is to be replaced with a modern, state of the art facility that properly respects the privacy and dignity of our patients. People who use our services and their loved ones have a right to expect high quality care delivered in a high quality environment. Our new facility will deliver just that.

Full planning permission was granted by Maidstone Borough Council in December 2022 and the Kier Group was awarded the contract to build the new Ruby ward in February 2022. The new inpatient facility will open in July 2023.

David McKenzie, managing director at Kier Construction London, South and Strategic Projects, said: "We're pleased to have been appointed by Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust to undertake this enriching project in Maidstone. We bring with us extensive experience and technical expertise in delivering complex healthcare facilities with a specific focus on mental health needs. This new building will provide a warm and welcoming environment which will support patients and their families, and aid in faster patient recovery.



New NHS service to fast-track dementia diagnosis launches in Kent and Medway

Kent and Medway residents worried about their memory will be able to get a diagnosis quicker, thanks to our new Enhanced Memory Assessment and Intervention service.

The service will be rolled out from June 2022. It has been developed by Kent and Medway clinicians and will be available to people with concerns about their memory who are referred by their GP or other healthcare professional. People will be assessed and then diagnosed by clinicians on the same day and within six weeks of their GP referral. Currently there are two separate stages to diagnosis, the first is an assessment and the second is a follow up appointment with a clinician which can take on average 18 weeks from a referral.

On referral to KMPT, people will be seen by the enhanced team which will involve a comprehensive memory assessment, diagnosis from a consultant psychiatrist, and a range of interventions individualised to the persons' needs, as well as support following diagnosis.

The service is part of a wider programme of work being delivered by KMPT and the Kent and Medway Integrated Care System (ICS) to improve dementia services in the county. This includes work around raising dementia awareness and pre and post-diagnostic support to enable people with

dementia to live well. KMPT has also started a programme with GPs to train them to become dementia experts, which will see more people diagnosed in primary care settings in the future.

KMPT also joined forces with Alzheimer's Society for National Dementia Action Week (16-22 May) to raise awareness of the signs of dementia among the public and across primary care. Alzheimer's Society research shows that the misconception around memory loss being a sign of normal ageing is the biggest barrier to people seeking a dementia diagnosis.

Dr Afifa Qazi, Chief Medical Officer and Consultant Psychiatrist at KMPT said: "Memory loss is not a normal part of getting older and could be a sign of early dementia. From time to time we can all forget things, but if forgetfulness is getting worse or affecting your everyday life then please come forward and reach out for help. You can contact the Alzheimer's Society or your GP. The sooner people are referred by their GP the quicker we can diagnose them through our new service and offer the best quality treatment."

If you are worried about your memory talk to your GP or the Alzheimer's Society by calling their Dementia Connect support line 0333 150 3456 or visiting their new memory hub at alzheimers.org.uk/memoryloss where you can use their new symptom checker.

Each person experiences dementia in their own individual way. Different types of dementia also tend to affect people differently, especially in the early stages. However, there are some common early signs and symptoms of dementia. These include:

- [memory loss](#) – for example, problems recalling things that happened recently
- difficulty concentrating, planning or organising – for example, struggling to make decisions, solve problems or follow a series of steps (such as cooking a meal)
- problems with [language and communication](#) – for example, difficulties following a conversation or finding the right word for something
- [misunderstanding what is being seen](#) – for example, problems judging distances (such as on stairs) or perceiving the edges of objects, and misinterpreting patterns or reflections
- being confused about time or place – for example, losing track of the time or date, or becoming confused about where they are
- mood changes or difficulty controlling emotions – for example, becoming unusually [anxious](#), [irritable](#), sad or frightened, [losing interest in things](#) and personality changes.

[Read more](#)

Meet our people

This month we're focusing on our East Kent Rapid Transfer Dementia Service, which launched in 2020 and is a specialist service based at the Kent and Canterbury hospital.

The service offers specialist mental health and dementia care assessment for people with a diagnosis or probable diagnosis of dementia with complex needs. We work with people on Kent and Canterbury Hospital's acute wards, however, this can be extended to the William Harvey Hospital at Ashford and the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital at Margate.

Let's hear from Karen Hambling, one of our brilliant mental health nurses and the team leader for the service.



"I have practiced as a mental health nurse at KMPT for 14-years since I qualified in 2008 from Canterbury Christchurch University, covering roles including staff nurse, community psychiatric nurse, team leader and non-medical prescriber.

"Throughout my career I have met some wonderful people with varied life experiences and interests, each with a different and engaging story to tell. Being a nurse is extremely meaningful to me. I find supporting people and their family or loved ones through periods of unrest and illness, through to recovery extremely rewarding.

"Nurses can be a light at the end of the tunnel. The support you thought was unreachable, an understanding ear or the unconditional, positivity needed to help lift someone's grey cloud.

"Being a nurse is an opportunity and a role that I take great pride in. Working for KMPT has allowed me to experience great team work as well as supporting the improvement of mental health services for those living in Kent and Medway."

Find out more about the [East Kent Rapid Transfer Dementia service](#) on our website.

Join our Carers' Conference

We are partnering with Kent Community NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) to deliver our first joint Carers' Conference on Thursday 9 June 2022 to celebrate Carers' Week (7 - 12 June 2022).

This event will provide an opportunity for families and unpaid carers to access support from health and social care services across Kent and Medway, and hear about the experiences of other carers.

You can join us virtually, or drop in for as long or as little as you like at Repton Connect Community Centre, Repton Avenue, Ashford, Kent, TN23 3RX.

There will be workshops, presentations and a marketplace of stalls available from 11am to 5pm on Thursday, 9 June 2022. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Please register to attend for one of the following options:

- Virtual only: you will be sent a link ahead of the day to view the conference online
- All day: you can attend from 11am to 5pm
- Part one: you can attend from 11am to 2pm
- Part two: you can attend from 2 to 5pm

You can register your place and view the agenda by visiting this link to the [Eventbrite website](#).



Get involved and join our

Carers' Conference

Thursday, 9 June 2022

Repton Connect Community Centre
Ashford TN23 3RX



Working together: Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust and Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust



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Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, Farm Villa, Hermitage Lane, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 9PH

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