Advice Together

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West Kent Partnership

Spring 2017 Newsletter

Nellbooker success:

Our easy-to-use referral system ***Nellbooker*** has recorded more than **2,000** referrals since it was launched three years ago.

It allows us to refer clients to the most suitable service in our **Advice Together** partnership.

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New mental health crisis cafe

West Kent is to get its first Crisis Café for the mentally ill this Spring.

The new out-of-hours café is expected to open its doors in Tonbridge at the end of April.

Staff and volunteers will be on hand with tea and a listening ear to help those in need.

The café will provide one-to-one support and the chance to have some space and time to talk.

The aim is to prevent mental health problems escalating and reduce the impact on hospitals and the police.

West Kent Mind will be running the café as a pilot project at 3 St Mary's Road, Tonbridge.

It will open **5-9pm on Thursdays and Saturdays only**.

Similar cafes around the UK have proved popular.

WKM said there was a need for this out of hours service because "a crisis doesn't stop at 5pm".

The pilot is being funded by West Kent Clinical CCG and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Law clinic for the elderly

Free legal advice will be on offer at **Age UK** Tonbridge from April.

Solicitors will be available on the first Friday of the month from 9.30-11.30am.

The legal advice clinic will take place at Age UK's offices at 5 Bradford Street, Tonbridge.

Warner's Solicitors are offering advice on making a will, Powers of Attorney, trusts, tax, bereavement and the Court of Protection.

A 30 minute appointment can be made by calling Age UK Tonbridge on 01732 366100.

First appointments are on Friday April 7th.

Events - March—June 2017

Kasbah
The office has moved to: Gingerbread House Office, 27a East Kent Avenue, Northfleet, Kent DA11 9HU.

DIAL continue to occupy KASBAH's original Head Office at The Hive. Phone nos. remain the same.

Churches Together Gravesham
Love Walking Health Walk:
Every Monday 9:30am-10.30am. Gordon Promenade, Gravesend. Meet outside Prom Café for a brisk walk with mild exercises.

West Kent Mind
Mental Health First Aid courses:
Learn how to spot early signs of mental illness.

Wed May 31 & Fri June 9—Youth course for those living or working with 11-18-year-olds.

Standard course: Fri April 28 & Wed May 3.

The Gr@nd
Basic English classes:
Adults Tuesdays 6.30-8pm.
Young people Thursdays 5.30-7pm.

Active Listening Service:
For 11-19-year-olds. Talk to someone in a safe, non-judgemental, confidential space.

Call The Gr@nd on 01474 320 123.

Run, walk, push for dementia

Register at:

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/runwalkpush

Put on your jogging shoes and start training for a family run for dementia in May.

There's a 10k for serious runners, or 5k and 3k versions for under 16's, the less fit and those in wheelchairs.

The event in Sevenoaks' Knole Park on **Sunday May 14th** is to raise cash for dementia services.

* Meanwhile, a **dementia café in West Kingsdown** is threatened with closure unless attendance increases.

Dementia patients and their carers are invited to the café from 10-12 on the first Tuesday of the month.

Transport is available. Call Ross on 01474 533 990.

Cricket anyone?

Street cricket is the latest idea to bring communities together.

The new free project takes place at 5.30-6.30pm on Wednesdays at Northfleet Youth Centre, Hall Road, Northfleet.

"Sport is an excellent way of bringing young people together, breaking down barriers and promoting cohesion," said Gurvinder Sandher, of **Kent Equality Cohesion Council** (pictured left).

Fancy being an adviser?

Swanley Citizens Advice is looking for new recruits.

The next training course for advisers starts this spring.

Volunteers need to train for one day a week over seven weeks.

They must then commit to working at least one day a week for at least six months.

Email: **training@nwkent.cab.org.uk**

Evening advice

New evening advice sessions start in Gravesend in April.

Citizens Advice Gravesham is offering a new drop-in service from April 4th.

Sessions will take place at The Civic Centre, Windmill Street, (pictured above) every **Tuesday** evening from **6-7.30pm**.

There is no need to book

Advisers can help with issues like benefits and tax credits, debt, housing, employment, family and relationship difficulties and consumer problems.

Punjabi translators will be available.

citizens advice Gravesham

Calling all volunteers

Carers First are hoping to recruit new helpers at Open Mornings this month.

They are looking for volunteers to befriend carers face-to-face or over the telephone.

New recruits are also needed to help out at support groups and for office work.

Open mornings are on:
* Tuesday March 7, 11am to 1pm at St Stephen's Church Community Centre, Waterloo Road, **Tonbridge**, TN9 2SW.

* Thursday March 23, 11am -1pm, Michael Gill Building, Tolgate Lane, **Strood**, ME2 4TG.

Can't get through to HMRC? Do it online!

Citizens Advice in North & West Kent has won new funding to help people access HMRC online.

Partners are able to refer clients into the project through **Nellbooker**.

The award extends this year's successful project for another year.

It follows reports of some clients waiting more than an hour to get through to HMRC on the 'phone.

Aimed at the socially excluded, the project helps clients deal with child benefit, tax credits, and tax issues.

Extra help is available for those with no confidence using the internet.

Good Things Foundation
Formerly Tinder Foundation

Advice Together
West Kent Partnership

Want to join us?

Email:
sian.mcfadyen@nwkent.cab.org.uk

Got any news?

Want to subscribe?

If you have any news or photos for our next newsletter, or you wish to subscribe/unsubscribe, Email:

sian.mcfadyen@nwkent.cab.org.uk

We are:

Over ***30 charity partners*** working together to offer the best service to our local communities across **West Kent**.

We cover **Gravesham Borough**, **Sevenoaks District, Tonbridge and Malling Borough and Dartford Borough.**

Our easy-to-use referral system ***Nellbooker*** allows us to refer clients to the most suitable service.

Our aim is to provide the best advice from the most appropriate partner.

We want to ensure our clients—especially the most vulnerable—get the help they need as quickly as possible.

We're on the web!

www.advicetogether.org.uk

Find us near you

Citizens Advice Outreaches in West Kent

Aylesford
Royal British Legion Industries, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL. Open Thurs. 9.30-12.30. Appt. only

Borough Green
Borough Green Library, High Street, Borough Green TN15 8BJ. Open Wed. 9.30-4pm. Appt. only

Gravesend Gurdwara
Guru Nanak Marg, off Sadding-ton Street, Gravesend DA12 1AG. Open Tues. 6-7.30pm.

Larkfield
Larkfield Library, Martin Square, Aylesford ME20 6QW. Open Tues. 9.30-12.30. Appt. only

Swanscombe outreach

New Ash Green

New Ash Green Youth Centre, Ash Road, Longfield DA3 8JY. Open Thurs. 9.30-12.

Northfleet

Northfleet Veterans Club, The Hill, Northfleet, DA11 9EU. Open Fri. 10.30-12.30.

Otford

Heritage Centre, High Street, Otford TN14 5PG. No longer weekly. Now open 1st Tuesday of the month only from 10-12.

Snodland

Snodland Library, 15-17 High Street, Snodland ME6 5DA. Open Tues. 9.30-2pm.
By appointment only.
Call 01732 440 488 first.

Swanscombe

Old Fire Station Café, Church Road, Swanscombe, DA10 0HF. Open Wed. 12-2pm.