



Issue 30 - August 2024

 referKent

This newsletter provides insight on projects and services that can be referred to via ReferKent and the KCC Financial Hardship Programme.

Referral Relay Week 9th - 13th September

Referral Relay Week is coming! This week aims to enhance referrals, especially for those facing financial challenges, by increasing awareness of support services. The events includes **30-minute virtual sessions** with different organisations and connects professionals and organisations.

MONDAY

9th

TUESDAY

10th

AM

11am
**KCC's Financial
Hardship Team**
[book here](#)

11am
PayPlan
[book here](#)

PM

2pm
IE HUB
[book here](#)

2pm
**Money and
Pensions Service**
[book here](#)

WEDNESDAY

11th

AM

10:30am
Stop Loan Sharks
find out more [here](#)



PM



2pm
**BBC Children's in Need
Emergency Essentials**
[book here](#)

THURSDAY

12th

FRIDAY

13th

AM

11am
**Kent Money
Advice Hub**
[book here](#)

11am
Money Guiders
[book here](#)

PM

2pm
Buttle UK
[book here](#)

2pm
**Wave
Community Bank**
[book here](#)

If you have any questions or would like more information about these sessions, feel free to reach out to us at referkent@kent.gov.uk.



ReferKent Networking Forum

UPDATE

We will be holding our Networking Meetings bi-monthly from September 2024 with the invite to future meetings to follow in due course. Our next meeting is on 17th September at 10:30am!

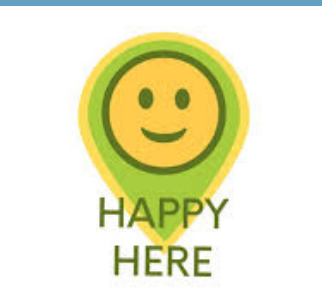
These meetings are a great way for you to make new connections, learn about what services other organisations are offering and to promote any new activities or events that you are running.

Attend on 17th Sept by clicking [here](#) - feel free to share with your professional contacts. They can also receive updates from us by completing [our mailing list form](#)

Here are some of the new Organisations that can be referred to on ReferKent:



Communigrow is a sustainable food education charity located in East Malling, Kent



Happy Here CIC is an online and in-person creative wellbeing support community



Arthritis Action is the UK charity giving hands-on, practical help to improve the quality of life for people living with arthritis

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Spotlight Sessions

We are excited to bring you a fantastic variety of Spotlight Sessions over the next few months, with more to be announced!

Spotlight Sessions are a great opportunity to learn about organisations and the support they offer across Kent, with the opportunity for discussion and questions. Please book your spaces now!



**Thursday 26th September
at 2pm - Bemix: [book here](#)**

Bemix is a Social Enterprise supporting people with learning difficulties and/or autism to achieve equality.



**Wednesday 9th October
at 10am - Active Kent
and Medway: [book here](#)**

Active Kent and Medway aims to improve lives throughout sport and physical activity.



**22nd October at 10am -
Town & Country Housing:
coming soon**

Town & Country Housing are a housing association based out of Tunbridge Wells.



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Spotlight Sessions



**Thursday 7th November at
2pm - Money and Pensions
Service: [book here](#)**

Money and Pensions Service provide high-quality money and pensions guidance and debt advice.



**Wednesday 20th November
at 2pm - National Energy
Foundation: coming soon**

National Energy Foundation raise awareness of the importance of sustainable housing for the health of the public and the planet.

**For more information on these
organisations and what to expect from their
Spotlight Sessions, please contact us at:
referkent@kent.gov.uk**



referKent Special Event



**Wednesday 11th September
10.30am - 12pm**

Stop Loan Sharks investigates and prosecutes illegal money lenders and provides support for borrowers in the UK.

The purpose of this loan shark training session is to provide information and knowledge about the issue of illegal money lenders, how it relates to your work, and how we can help those who have borrowed from illegal lenders.

This session will include key things to look out for as a sign that a friend, client or colleague may be involved with a loan shark.

The session will also show the impact that illegal lenders have on victims and communities and how we can work together to stop people falling into the clutches of criminals.

Book onto the Teams event [here](#)

STOP LOAN SHARKS
Intervention . Support . Education



DIGITAL CHAMPIONS NETWORK



Set up in November 2021, Digital Kent has one of the largest networks of community-based Digital Champions in the country with over 270 Active Champions taking opportunities onboard.

Thanks to the brilliant work of their Champions, Digital Kent are currently able to host over 40 Digital Hubs partnering with libraries across Kent, among various Champions led community sessions run with different partner organisations.

How can you support this network?

- *Actively promoting if you see posts on social media.*
- *Helping to raise awareness at your own community groups.*
- *Opportunity for staff members to join themselves if they want to support their own community outside of work & training and networking opportunities.*
- *Refer people to Digital Hubs and sessions in their local community*

Take this opportunity of professional and personal growth.

Join the Network to enhance your community

For more information please contact digitalsupport@kent.gov.uk

If you have a client that needs digital support, **refer to them via ReferKent now!**



Home Energy Advice Service Thanet District Council



Thanet District Council has a dedicated Home Energy Advice Service and you are now able to refer clients directly to them via ReferKent.

They can offer advice free of charge to all Thanet residents, whether they own their home, rent from a private landlord, through the council or Housing Association and regardless of their financial situation.

They can:

1. Give information on home energy grants that are available for home insulation, heating and to generate energy.
2. Support with energy and other household debts
3. Give advice on ways to save money on energy bills
4. Offer advice on renewable energy and the schemes available
5. Signpost to other relevant community services and schemes, and much more

If you are working with a Thanet resident that needs energy advice, **refer to them via ReferKent now!**





A GOOD THING

A Good Thing is an award-winning non-profit online platform that matches wonderful UK charities with organisations that have things to donate: helping charities while providing organisations with an ethical means of disposing of unwanted goods.


Literally anything can be given away to charities via A Good Thing. All sorts of weird and wonderful items have been already saved from landfill via the platform – from theatre props, T shirts and stationery to aluminium cans, laptops and candles.

- Umbrellas have gone to a charity supporting people with complex mental health needs.
- Greetings cards have gone to a project for women in prison.
- Gorgeous organic blankets have gone to vulnerable new mums.
- Furniture and paint have gone to a community space.
- Babygros have gone to families of people affected by substance misuse.
- Bamboo poles have gone to a beautiful community garden.

It takes just 30 seconds to create an account at www.agoodthing.org.uk/signup, and then a charity will begin receiving email alerts about free items nearby.

For more information please email: hello@agoodthing.org.uk or visit www.agoodthing.org.uk



An illustration of two people, a woman with dark hair and a man with curly hair, each inside a circular speech bubble. The woman's bubble is orange and the man's is yellow. Dotted lines connect the bubbles to each other and to the text.

**Do you have news
you would like to
share with the
ReferKent Network?**

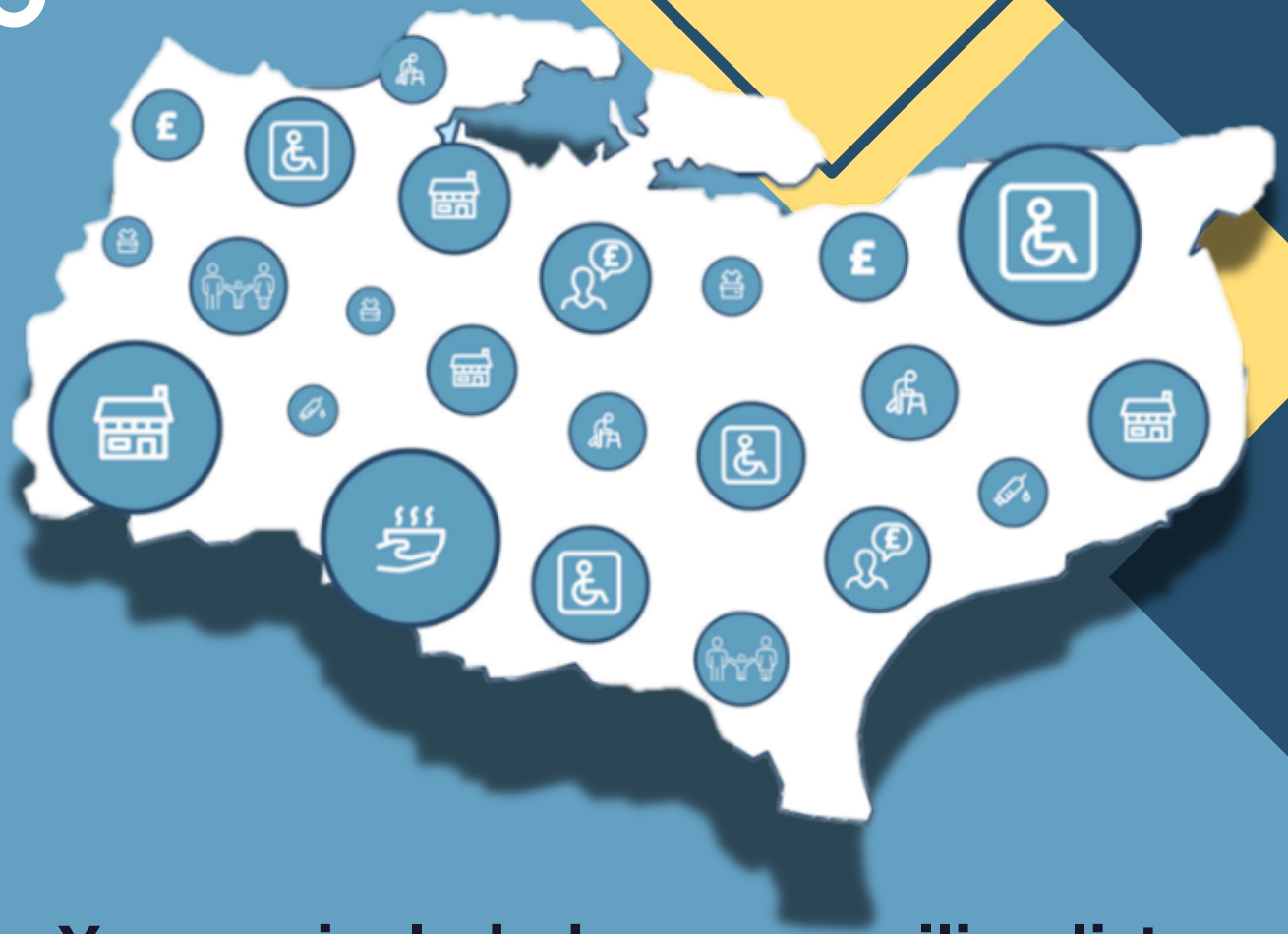
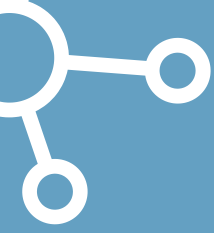
[click here](#)

Do you have information on projects and services that can be referred to for people who are experiencing or at risk of hardship across Kent? You can submit a newsletter article via our form.

Please note that each article will be reviewed to ensure it is complete and suitable to be included in the ReferKent Newsletter.

The deadline for submission is the first Tuesday of each month. Any articles submitted following then will be reviewed and included in the following month's edition.

Please click the link above and send any accompanying imagery to us at Referkent@kent.gov.uk



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Funded by
Kent County Council's
Helping Hands Scheme

