



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



Welcome to e-connect

June is a month of celebration!

It might seem odd when we're still very much living through a pandemic to be in a celebratory mood, but remaining positive and banding together as a community are important during difficult times.

June is Pride month, and although we won't be able to celebrate in our normal fashion – by joining parades around Kent – we will be joining the [NHS Virtual Pride](#) today (26 June) and celebrating our LGBTQ+ community throughout the summer months, so stay tuned for more information. This month has also been [Volunteers Week](#) and [Carers Week](#) – both vital groups at KMPT and it's such an honour to be able to show our gratitude for all their hard work and dedication.

We're also looking forward to the NHS' 72nd Birthday on 5th July – a perfect opportunity for us to come together as a community and reflect upon the last few months, which have without a doubt been some of the NHS' most demanding times. Even though it is the birthday of the NHS, we will also be taking this opportunity to thank and celebrate everyone who worked or contributed to helping us get through the peak of the crisis. We are as a collective very proud to work for and be a part of the NHS, and even prouder to be part of such an amazing community.

Of course June 2020 will always be remembered as a month of great change. As a Trust we were shocked and appalled by news of the death of George Floyd in the USA in May, and have thrown our support to all our Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) colleagues. We think of ourselves as an inclusive and compassionate organisation, but the last month has taught us all that there is so much more to learn and that we need to grow in our fight for equality for all of our employees and patients.

On 25 June 2020, we held our monthly Board meeting – but this month, it was different. We all knew that this meeting was where we needed to unite and commit to making a change to ensure our KMPT colleagues from a BAME background feel as valued, as special, as celebrated, as vital, as talented, as cherished, as respected, as appreciated, as supported and as important as everyone else. This was an important day, and we were delighted that so many staff joined us by video conference to witness these discussions.

We were formally addressed by BAME Chair Simon Cook who held the floor for over half an hour and talked powerfully and from the heart about what it is like to be from a BAME background and why things must now change, and they will. Helen Creatorex, our Chief Executive, was tasked with setting out our ambitions as a Trust, as we seek to become a trail blazer in the field of equality and diversity, truly celebrating the richness of our workforce and most importantly making sure that KMPT is a great place to work for every single one of us.

We hope that over the coming months this sense of unity continues to hold us together as an organisation, and we look forward to seeking and seeing change.



Staying safe in KMPT buildings

In line with recent recommendations from the World Health Organisation, we are introducing new measures at KMPT to keep visitors, patients, and staff safe.

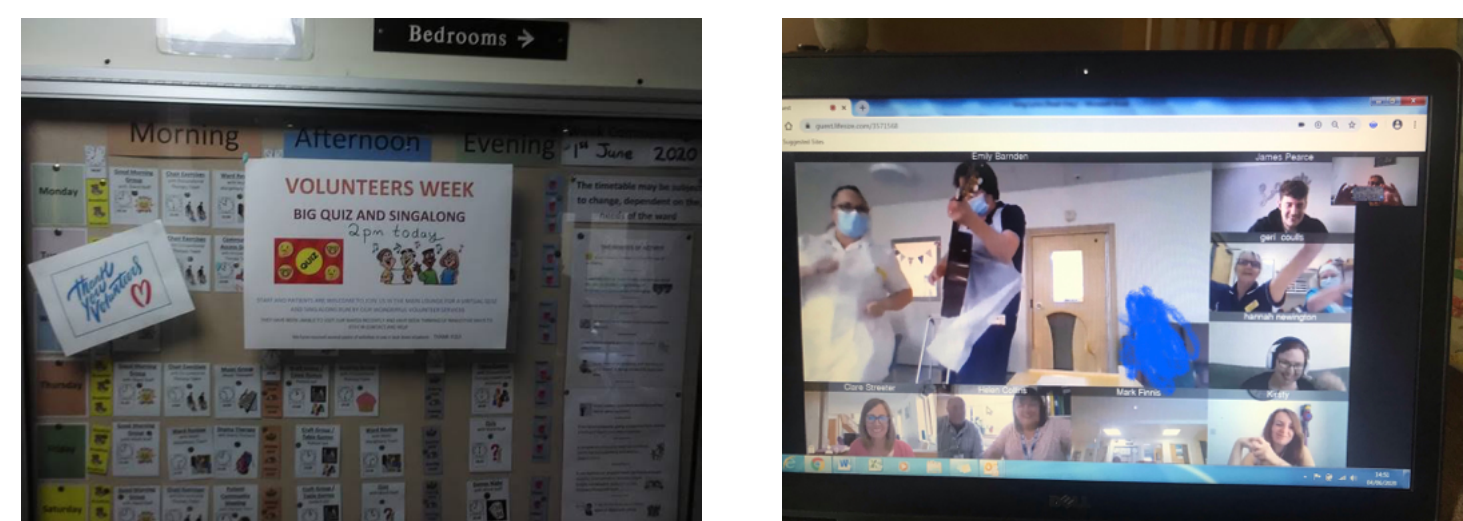
From the 15 June 2020 anyone attending one of our buildings for clinical support will need to wear a mask or face covering. This includes staff, patients and any visitors.

We ask that any visitors bring a face covering with them whenever possible, but a mask can be made available on arrival if necessary.

We understand that some people, cannot wear face coverings due to physical or mental health conditions, so if any patients, staff or visitors fall into that category, we ask that you speak to a member of the team. We will do all we can to find a solution to help everyone stay as safe as possible on our sites at all times.

All visitors will be expected to comply with existing social distancing and hand hygiene measures in addition to the face coverings while on our sites.

[Find out more »](#)



Volunteers Week was a great success!

1-7 June 2020 was Volunteers Week. Here at KMPT has over 250 registered volunteers, who give their time to provide services and support for our patients and loved ones.

During the week, our Voluntary Services team sent out volunteer appreciation gifts, which included tea, coffee and biscuits, to let them know we were thinking of them, and that they are of course very much valued.

We also held quizzes and sing along sessions on Jasmine, Heather, Woodchurch and Ruby wards; held a virtual staff quiz, and visited some of our older volunteers to deliver plants for their gardens.

We also shared stories about how our volunteers are working differently during COVID-19. Like Marc, who after being furloughed, volunteered to be a driver for KMPT, and Laura who volunteers with our dementia groups and helped her buddy John to use Skype so he could keep in touch with his family.

Check out our [Facebook page](#) for more stories about our volunteers.

[Find out more »](#)



Tell us about your care

Throughout June, we have been sending out beautifully designed postcards, with our patients surveys.

Our wonderful rainbow postcards were inspired by Lived experience advisor, Louise Jessup's, stunning embroidery designs that she created for each of our wards at KMPT.

The surveys provide an ideal way for patients to let us know about what is good about their care and any areas where we can still improve. We want our patients and carers to know their voices will be heard. Our aim is to deliver brilliant care through brilliant people. We understand these times can be tough and we want you to know we're listening.

If you did not receive one of our postcards, we still want to hear from you and would appreciate any feedback you wish to give. Help us to help you by clicking on the link below.

[Find out more »](#)

Carers Week 2020

Throughout the COVID-19 outbreak, carers up and down the country have continued or increased their caring role in order to support the disabled, ill, older and most vulnerable members of society.

We have a lot of carers within our KMPT community who are inspirational and completely amazing – and now, more than ever, it's essential they feel supported and helped in their role. We are currently developing a Carers involvement strategy for the Forensic Services. The strategy aims to ensure that the Carer involvement initiatives developed are embedded into everyday practice within the secure and community forensic services in KMPT. Stay tuned for more information.

We have a lot of support groups, networks and resources available to carers, which can be found on our website. Take a look at our [Friends and Family forensic services newsletter](#), or join one of our [carer consultative committees](#), to find out more.



[Find out more »](#)

Acts of kindness

As life continues in this strange pandemic bubble, we are constantly hearing of acts of great kindness that members of the community are showing to one another. Two stories in particular have really touched us – and those are of Bella and Jessica.

Bella is five, and the neighbour of one of our nurses in Dartford. She had just learnt to ride her bike, and so decided to do a sponsored ride to raise money for KMPT. Bella completed her bike ride on 16 May, and managed to raise a staggering £300. The money was gratefully received by the Friends of Mental Health and will be split between wards at Little Brook.

10 year old Jessica, the daughter of our Medical HR recruitment officer, decided to write letters to her elderly neighbours, with words of encouragement to help them feel less lonely during lockdown. Her neighbours have been so touched, that they have been leaving cards, letters and gifts for Jessica to find on her journey, whilst she hand delivers all of her letters. It's brought the whole road together and has really lifted spirits!

If you have a story of COVID-19 kindness to share with us, please email: kmptcommunications@nhs.net



[Find out more »](#)



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Sign up to other newsletters from KMPT and other partner organisations we work alongside to deliver our mental health services.

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

We'd love to hear what you think.

If you have any feedback about econnect that you would like to share, please contact the communications team at kmptcommunications@nhs.net

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