

Kent County Council Community Services Consultation

Kent County Council (KCC) has launched a public consultation on its Community Services which runs from 17 January to 26 March 2023.

The consultation proposes changes to the way we use our buildings to deliver some of our community services. We invite your feedback on our proposals as part of this consultation.

Why are we proposing changes?

The Council has experienced big increases in costs and has less money to spend. So we need to look ahead and do things differently to make sure we can still help residents in the years to come. Whilst ensuring effective support for residents who need our services, we need to:

- tackle the rising costs of maintaining our many buildings
- find savings, so we can balance the budget
- reduce our carbon footprint to meet our Net-Zero ambitions.

What services are included in the proposals?

Children's Centres and Youth Hubs, Public Health Services for Children and Families, Community Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities, Community Learning and Skills, and Gateways.

What are we proposing?

- Having fewer permanent buildings, meaning that some of our buildings would close - we want to keep buildings in areas where they are needed the most
- Co-locating more of our services, meaning more than one service would be available from some of the buildings you might visit
- Continuing to deliver some services by outreach, which means they do not take place in a dedicated or permanent space, but move around to when and where they are needed
- Ensuring residents can continue to access services and information online.

Our proposals have been designed by considering where there is greatest need for our services.

Find out more and share your views

Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/communityservicesconsultation to find out about the proposals for your area. You can respond to the consultation by using the online questionnaire (or download the Word version).

On our website you will also find a list of our drop-in events where you can come along to talk about the proposals and ask your questions. In Swale the drop-in events are:

- Sheppey Gateway at Sheerness Library, 38-42 High Street, Sheerness, ME12 1NL Monday 27 February 10am-1pm
- Milton Court Children's Centre, Brewery Road, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne, ME10 2EE Thursday 23 February 4-8pm

KCC's Kent Communities Programme Team

communityservicesfeedback@kent.gov.uk

Summary of buildings in the Eastern Area potentially affected by KCC proposals:

(Detailed explanations can be found in the consultation document, page numbers indicated below.)

KCC proposals for co-locating services **(page 41)**:

Proposed Community Hub Location	Co-located Services
Faversham Library (existing co-location)	Community Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities and Library

This table shows each of the buildings we propose to retain and which we propose to leave. Buildings that we have indicated to 'Remain' are proposed to become Family Hubs **(page 52 - 60)**.

Current Children's Centre / Youth Hub Buildings	Proposal	Nearest Alternative	Distance in Miles
Bysing Wood Children's Centre' Faversham	Remain		
St Mary's Children's Centre, Orchard Place, Faversham	Leave	Bysing Wood Children's Centre	1.5
		Murston Children's Centre	7.5
		Milton Court Children's Centre	9.0

This table is specifically about Health Visiting Services. It shows the children's centres that accommodate Health Visiting Services which are proposed to close. It then tells you the nearest venue where you would be able to access this service instead. You will notice that some of the provision is by outreach **(page 73)**:

Current Children's Centre Buildings	Nearest Alternative	Distance in Miles
St Mary's Children's Centre Orchard Place, Faversham	Bysing Wood Children's Centre	1.5
	Murston Children's Centre	7.5
	Milton Court Children's Centre	9.0
	Current outreach in Abbey Ward	0.3

The table below shows the wards where there is existing outreach provision and where we propose to deliver new outreach provision, and which services this will involve **(page 78)**:

Ward	Services	Current Outreach or New Proposed Outreach
Abbey	Health Visiting Service	Current and continuing outreach