Top Marks Gained!

HeadStart Kent have been applauded by the Big Lottery Fund in the recent annual review recognising that schools and partners are seeing the value of HeadStart and using the annual survey results to inform future decisions. Strategic leadership is seen as a key asset in Kent, and the sustainability strategy developed in Kent is being used across the national partnerships.

In Kent coproduction and young people participation is seen as the golden thread and the legacy of the programme. They have been struck by the many examples of young people who have grown in confidence, willing to talk about their emotions and anxieties as well as demonstrating generous leadership through peer mentoring.

“New Improved” Resilience Conversations

We have listened to your feedback and this summer we have refreshed what was previously known as the Domains Based Conversation. Now simply called a Resilience Conversation, we have updated the areas of resilience to now include Health. Social Competencies and Positive Values have been merged and are now Emotions & Behaviours. Secure Base has been renamed to Feeling Secure, whilst Education, Talents & Interests and Friendships remain the same.

We now have a Resilience Talk Kit. This includes two tools, an updated Resilience Conversation tool which you should already be familiar with, and a new Self Reflection tool.

The Self Reflection tool enables young people to complete a set of questions around each area of resilience, enabling you to quickly identify if a conversation is necessary. We are currently recommending that Early Help continue to use the Resilience Conversation tool, and schools use the Self Reflection tool. However, as we implement these changes we welcome your feedback and suggestions as to what works best in practice. Both tools are supported with detailed guidance, as a well as quick reference flow diagrams.

The full Resilience Talk Kit resources can be accessed [here](http://example.com).
Leading the Way with Parent Engagement

HeadStart Kent is working with partners to develop a Kent Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Parent and Carer Engagement and Participation Plan. This is a key part of achieving our locals goals. The Plan has been developed with new Amplified Programme funding through Young Minds.

By 2021, we want parent and carer participation to be embedded right across our whole system, and to be delivering the following values:

**Collaborative:** everyone in the system is actively working together to make it happen

**Genuine:** if asked, every parent and carer who has been involved would say that being involved really made a difference

**Valuable:** it is resulting in change and action in the system

**Flexible:** it keeps improving through feedback from parents and carers and through everybody learning together

**Balanced:** it works effectively alongside children and young people’s participation to give each group the right volume of say on the right issues

In addition we will be holding a workshop on 16 October 2018 to develop a common evaluation framework to evaluate participation and co production effectively.

Children's Commissioners Director visit

This summer we had an official visit from Professor Leon Feinstein the Director of Evidence of the Children’s Commissioner for England.

Leon was impressed by the work delivered through the programme following the visit.

At the official launch of the Children’s Commissioner’s Report on Vulnerability at Westminster Leon spoke about the great work HeadStart Kent are doing with the police around domestic abuse and he mentioned the effective use of sharing data and schools and police working together.

During his visit Leon joined groups of young people at Canterbury Academy and St Johns Catholic Comprehensive School and also met with our Delivery partners.
The HeadStart Kent Big Conversation 2019

Our annual Big Conversation planning is already underway, with 130 young people already registered to attend. The event takes place on 27th March 2019 at Kent Event Centre, Detling, focusing on resilience and emotional wellbeing. There will be workshops and marketplace stalls throughout the day ending with a Q & A session with an expert panel.

This year we are planning and facilitating the event with Kent Youth County Council Mental Health group. Keen to ensure we meet the needs of the audience, we are asking for suggestions on the type of workshops young people would like to attend.

If you work with young people and they are attending/would like to attend, please get in touch and register their place along with the types of workshops they feel would be beneficial by emailing HeadStart@kent.gov.uk.

Kent Youth County Council Elections Register Now!

Registration is now open for any secondary school, college or youth club to be a polling station for the Kent Youth County Council (KYCC) elections which will take place from 12-25th November.

Registration forms are available on our website at www.kent.gov.uk/kyccelections

During this fortnight 60 young people will be elected to represent the voice of Kent young people and to campaign on the issues important to them.

We would love to have your school represented on Kent Youth County Council, so please encourage any interested students to register as a candidate, on our website.

www.kent.gov.uk/kyccelections

Maidstone & Thanet—HeadStart Begins

HeadStart has now been rolled out to Maidstone and Thanet. Initial meetings have taken place with key schools and other partners. There will be stakeholder events later in the year. Commissioned services, grants and staff training will be available soon and further details will be in the next newsletter and on our Resilience Hub.

We are also looking forward to starting our final Districts - Dover and Tonbridge and Malling in April 2019.

If you would like to get involved locally please email HeadStart@kent.gov.uk.
Splashing Times

During the summer holidays 20 young people came together from across the HeadStart local SpeakOut groups to a residential at Bewl water. The group took part in some fun team building activities to get to know each other, canoeing and paddle boarding.

The group had the opportunity to give feedback on the resilience Hub, undertake training to review Pay it Forward applications and assessed some bids.

Evaluation Findings

A summary report with findings from the first year of school implementation interviews is available on request from Sarah Collins, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer. (sarah.collins@kent.gov.uk).

Evaluation evidence briefings from the National Learning Team can be found at www.ucl.ac.uk/evidence-based-practice-unit/headstart-learning-team

New HeadStart Team Members

As the programme continues to expand there has been some changes within the team

Firstly congratulations to Jo Comber the Project Manager for Thanet (formerly project officer for Swale) and to Grace Dennis the Project Officer for the South Team (formerly project coordinator within the central team).

Welcome to our new team members:

Jamie Flaherty Senior Early Help Worker in Folkestone & Hythe.
Nicola Root Senior Early Help Worker in Ashford.
Joe Harrison central Data Project Officer.
Claire Buchanan Participation Worker in Maidstone.
Hannah Young Project Officer in Maidstone.
Colleen Matthews Senior Early Help Worker in Thanet.
Elizabeth Luck Project Coordinator in the central team.

Most of our team that was spending time in Swale and Gravesham will now be focused in Maidstone and Thanet. If you have any questions for the team, please contact the Project Managers.

Ashford, Dover, Folkestone & Hythe  Vicky Saward  Victoria.Saward@kent.gov.uk
Canterbury, Maidstone & Swale  Lauraine Griffiths  Lauraine.Griffiths@kent.gov.uk
Thanet  Jo Comer  Joanne.Comer@kent.gov.uk
Gravesham  Gwen Box  Gwedolen.Box@kent.gov.uk
This fund has now awarded over £33,000 in grants. We would like to give more groups of young people the opportunity to carry out a project with a grant of up to £1000 in order to help others. Applications are open now.

The project should aim to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of others in their community, (e.g. residential, club, school, community organisation) and should be led by the young people themselves, although some assistance from a trusted adult may be given in the grant application and planning of the project.

To apply for a grant of up to £1000, the online application form for the current round should be completed by 12th October. Click here to apply.