



**Kent Children
and Young People**

To District, Borough, Town and Parish Councillors
In Kent

David Adams
Reconnect Programme Director
Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

Phone: 03000 414989
Ask for: David Adams
Email: david.adams@kent.gov.uk

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Dear Councillor

Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme

I am delighted to write to you to ensure you are aware of the Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme. This exciting programme aims to support Kent's children and young people to reconnect to:

- Health and happiness
- Learning missed
- Friends, family and community
- Sports, activities and the outdoors
- Economic wellbeing.

By way of introduction, I provide a link to a [video](#) from our children and young people setting out why this programme is important to them, and what they would like it to achieve. I feel you will find this more inspirational and engaging than anything I might write to you.

This ambitious community programme invites the whole Kent community to join together to provide a range of exciting and supportive opportunities for all the county's children and young people. Reconnect is a programme for every child and young person in Kent, recognising that some will need more support than others and different types of support will be required by each individual. It will run until 31 August 2022. While it's being led by KCC, which will fund activities and promote opportunities, the key to the success of Reconnect is to empower others to get involved. Other local authorities and public bodies in Kent, MPs, schools, businesses, community groups, charities and volunteer organisations, clubs and societies, and individuals are all being asked to consider whether they could make a contribution. As requested by the children and young people consulted, the programme will be optimistic and forward-looking, focussing on opportunities for their futures.

Current Progress

We have been busy talking with children and young people, colleagues in partner organisations, faith and community groups, voluntary sector organisations, clubs and societies, and businesses to introduce the programme and encourage local engagement. Feedback has been positive and I am grateful to colleagues in the numerous organisations we have spoken to who have given their time and energy, contributing their views, engaging their contacts, pulling together local opportunities, and truly making this a whole community effort.

Today KCC's Cabinet approved £10m to fund the programme, having previously agreed grants, such as the Holiday Activities and Food Fund (£5.3m) would shelter under the umbrella of Reconnect. Localised co-ordination, commissioning and monitoring will take place via the district based Local Children's Partnership Groups which are being provided with £2.5m of this funding by the County Council.

We are currently focused on meeting the immediate needs of children and young people, and planning for summer activities, and will then look at what is needed for the next academic year. Immediate support in the form of services such as counselling and intensive mentoring are helping those most in need of help to reconnect to schooling and friendship groups, additional learning opportunities have been commissioned for the summer, activities such as fun days, holiday clubs, sports and outdoor opportunities are being arranged by a whole host of clubs, organisations and providers, to whom we are very grateful.

Role of Councillors in Reconnect

Clearly a wide range of settings and organisations are already working hard to achieve for their children the aims of the programme. However, we also know that no single organisation can do this alone; to be successful we need the whole community to rally around the cause. Reconnect has to involve everyone.

For this reason, **I would like to ask for your help in making sure clubs, groups and organisations in your district, parish or ward know about Reconnect and consider pledging support for the programme.** Organisations can tell us about their activities and what support they would like from us on the [Reconnect website](#).

If you have any questions about the programme, please email these to reconnect.kentcyp@kent.gov.uk. You can also sign-up to the Reconnect Newsletter [here](#).

Thank you so much for your time.

Yours sincerely



David Adams
Reconnect Programme Director