**District Conversations for Schools**

District Conversations enable partners to contact Open Access teams when they have identified needs at Support Level 2 that could be supported through community services. District Conversations will continue to be offered to multiagency partners to signpost to local activities and services including open access services. District Conversations must be responded to within 2 days of receiving the enquiry.

**Advice and guidance** can be provided locally on a range of topics, for example:

* Housing and benefits support
* Access to work support
* Local food bank and emergency provisions
* Emotional Wellbeing services for children, youth people and adults
* Local partnership services e.g. mediation, counselling, youth activities

**Face to face and virtual support**

There is now a Children’s Centre open in each district and 8 youth provisions open across the county that are Covid-safe.

Families are able to attend open access settings by appointment to get face to face support if required or telephone support for advice and guidance.

**Having a meaningful district conversation**

Open Access Delivery Managers and Senior Early Help workers should be expected to lead meaningful district conversations that identify community led support for the family to prevent unnecessary escalation to the front door for Support Level 2 needs.

Multi-agency partners should not be discussing family details without consent in accordance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) requirements within a district conversation therefore can only request general advice. If partners have any safeguarding queries for children or young people, they must comply with their own organisational safeguarding procedures and take advice from their Designated Safeguarding officer. For educational settings they are also able to escalate concerns to their Area Education Advisors.

A successful district conversation will enable a partner to continue to support the child, young person, and family within community services. This may include Open Access services, local partnerships, or resources that the partner may find useful.

If appropriate support cannot be identified during the conversation, please consider creative solutions working with partners and the LCPG groups to identify community services that need further development.

**District contact details below:**

**North Kent**

Dartford 03000 42 15 42 DartfordEarlyHelp@kent.gov.uk

Gravesham 03000 41 39 91 GraveshamEarlyHelp@kent.gov.uk

Swale 03000 42 11 62 EarlyHelpSwale@kent.gov.uk

**South Kent**

Ashford 03000 41 03 05 AshfordEarlyHelp@kent.gov.uk

Dover 03000 42 29 98 DoverEarlyHelp@kent.gov.uk

Folkestone and Hythe 03000 41 10 08 ShepwayEarlyHelp@kent.gov.uk

**East Kent**

Canterbury 03000 41 62 22 CanterburyEarlyHelp@kent.gov.uk

Thanet 03000 41 95 67 ThanetEarlyHelp@kent.gov.uk

**West Kent**

Maidstone 03000 42 23 40 MaidstoneEarlyHelp@kent.gov.uk

Sevenoaks 03000 41 04 15 SevenoaksEarlyHelp@kent.gov.uk

Tonbridge and Malling 03000 42 15 76 EarlyHelpNotificationT&M@kent.gov.uk

Tunbridge Wells 03000 41 62 00 TunbridgeWellsEarlyHelp@kent.gov.uk