

A guide to Kent Research Partnership's Communities of Practice

What is a Community of Practice?

A Community of Practice (CoP) brings together people with different experiences and expertise around a shared interest in a particular topic. The aim is to consider issues from a range of perspectives and to come up with ways forward based on a diverse range of experience.

Following a series of networking events and prioritisation exercises, Kent Research Partnership launched our two Communities of Practice (CoPs) in June 2022: **Enhancing, diversifying and sustaining the social care workforce** and **Supporting people with complex needs throughout the lifespan**.

Our [Kent Research Partnership](#) CoPs are specifically research-focused, and they are one of the key mechanisms that we are using to build research capacity and confidence in the adult social care workforce, in line with the wider objectives of the partnership. Our members include a range of social care professionals such as social workers, registered managers, and allied health professionals, people who care for others or draw on care and support themselves, and colleagues from academic and policy roles at universities and local and national organisations.

We use the CoPs to try to 'bridge the gap' between research and practice, so typical meetings include:

- Members or guest speakers sharing ideas for research projects
- Using the CoP members as a consultation forum to guide current research projects
- Sharing findings from recent studies relevant to the CoP theme
- Updates from the Research Fellows who are being funded by Kent Research Partnership to complete a research project aligned with the CoP themes

How do I join?

You are welcome to join either or both CoPs by emailing KentResearchPartnership@kent.ac.uk. You will then receive calendar invites for the CoP(s) you want to register for, and you will gain access to our online platform where members continue the discussions between CoP meetings. You can also [follow us on Eventbrite](#) to sign up for individual meetings if you prefer. Both CoPs meet monthly via Zoom but there is no minimum commitment. The next meeting dates are:

	Enhancing, diversifying and sustaining the social care workforce	Supporting people with complex needs throughout the lifespan
April	Thursday 20th April (12:30-2pm) <i>Hannah Kingsford - Social Worker burnout and John Gallimore - getting young people into care</i>	Thursday 27th April (12:30-2pm) <i>Dr Dan Burrows - carers' assessments</i>
May	Thursday 18th May (12:30-2pm) <i>Dr Stacey Rand and Sarah Jeffreys & Helen Stone - care needs assessments</i>	Tuesday 23rd May (12:30-2pm) <i>Dr Stewart Morrison - footcare in care homes</i>
June	Tuesday 13th June (12-1:30pm) <i>Dr Serena Vicario and Dr Nadia Brookes - Workforce innovation</i>	Wednesday 21st June (1-2pm) <i>Lorne Power - barriers and enablers to developing impact from practitioner research</i>
July	Thursday 13th July (12-1:30pm) <i>Dr Jon Glasby - IMPACT project - recruitment and retention</i>	Tuesday 18th July (12:30-2pm) TBC
August	Summer break	
September	Wednesday 20th September (12-1:30pm) <i>Sally Nieman - my journey as a practitioner researcher exploring the social work role with older people in care homes</i>	Thursday 14th September (1-2pm) <i>Sophie Fournel - Research and Training Fellowship</i>

Contact us

Please contact the team by emailing KentResearchPartnership@kent.ac.uk or phone us on 03000 650962.