

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Information for disabled students 2012/13



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This information is for anyone with a disability who may wish to learn with us. It gives information about the services we offer. We have tried to make it as useful as possible. Please let us know how we can improve it further.

We have a short version with pictures for adults with learning disabilities and those whose first language is not English.

If you would like it in another format, such as audio, Braille, large print or in another language, please contact our Marketing Department. Telephone **01795 415900** or email adulthood.marketing@kent.gov.uk



Our commitment to you

Community Learning & Skills (CLS) which includes both Kent Adult Education (KAE) and KEY Training Services (KEY) welcomes students with disabilities. We want everyone to enjoy learning with us. We aim to provide a safe place to learn where everyone is welcome and treated with respect and dignity. We are committed to ensuring all students, wherever they attend our courses, are aware of their rights and responsibilities in creating a safe learning environment. Everyone has the right to be safe.

We recognise that those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities have the same rights of access to education and training as other people.

We have a wide range of courses at a large number of venues. Every year we have many students with disabilities who successfully complete their courses and achieve their goals. This includes adults with physical and/or sensory disabilities, medical conditions, adults with learning disabilities and those recovering from mental health difficulties.

We make every effort to respond quickly and flexibly to individual and diverse needs. We hope to work with you so that your experience and expertise will enable us to make the adjustments that you may need to help you succeed on your course.

The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as a substantial physical or mental impairment that has an adverse and long-term effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This definition may not cover some people who do have difficulties with learning.

KAE and KEY aim to support all students on an individual basis, whether you have rights under the law or not.

Who can I contact?

Our staff are here to help you, from the first time you make contact with us until the end of your course. They have a wide range of skills and expertise and will do their best to make sure you are happy and well supported.

Our Programme Managers (KAE) and course staff (KEY) can help you with specific information and advice about your course, such as content, level, costs and progression to other courses and qualifications. Our Centre staff will be pleased to help you with general enquiries about their centres, and refer you to the right person to help you with more detailed enquiries about programmes.

If you have any individual issues that arise outside the classroom, workshop or training venue, such as the use of any of our facilities or taking part in outside visits, please also discuss this with us.

For more information about a particular KAE centre, please call **0845 606 5606** or look at our website www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk. For more information about KEY, please call **0800 7314297** or visit our website www.keytrainingservices.org.uk

How can I enrol?

You can enrol in person, by telephone, by post or via the website. If you find this difficult, you may also ask a friend or relative to enrol for you if you give him/her your personal details.

We will ask you if you have a disability or any additional support needs that we need to know about if relevant to your attendance on your course and if you would like to discuss it with a member of staff. You can then talk together about what you need.

Are your centres accessible?

The reception areas of all main centres are fully accessible, with level access, lifts or ramps. All reception counters are fitted with hearing loops. Some centres have lifts, accessible toilets and special parking. Details of these services can be found on our website.

If there is a difficulty in accessing your class, workshop or training venue, we will do our best to move it to an accessible room and discuss any other options with you. If you have a disability which may affect you leaving the building in an emergency, please discuss this with us. Your safety is very important to us.

What support is available?

At many of our centres, we have adjustable desks and chairs, portable hearing loops and Conversors, tape recorders, additional task lighting and assistive software and hardware for computer use. Please contact your local centre to find out more.

If you need handouts in large print or on coloured paper, please ask your tutor as soon as you can. If you have difficulty with things such as note-taking or exam preparation, you may be able to join one of our free classes. Talk to your tutor, ask for an appointment to see a Programme Manager for Skills for Life or call into a Skills Plus Centre.

If you have difficulty with reading, writing, numeracy, or communication we have specialist staff who can help you. Your tutor or Programme Manager will discuss options with you. We offer a range of classes and sometimes we can arrange for a Teaching Assistant (KAE) or Functional Skills Tutor (KEY) to help you on an individual basis.

Can I bring someone with me to class if I need to?

We understand that, for some people, attending class without additional support can make attendance very difficult and sometimes impossible. If this is the case and you wish to bring someone with you to provide personal care and/or 1-2-1 support in your class or workshop, please discuss this with us to make the necessary arrangements. We will ask your assistant to sign an agreement that explains responsibilities.

Can I get special arrangements for exams?

If you are on a vocational course and think you may need extra support at exam time, please speak to your tutor as soon as you can. We will then be able to help you to make special arrangements with the awarding body. These adjustments could be extra time, large print papers, a scribe or a separate room.

Can I get help with fees?

Reduced fees are available for some courses for students who receive certain benefits. We also have a Learner Support Fund that can help students who would otherwise find it difficult to join a course of their choice. This fund may help with the costs of fees and, in some cases, transport, books and childcare.

For KAE, please check in our Course Directories, on our website or speak to one of our staff in the Centres. For KEY, please telephone the enquiry number **0800 731297**.

Will you keep personal information about my disability confidential?

We always ask you for your permission to pass on any information you give us about your disability, or any other personal information, that is relevant to your attendance on your course. We will only pass it on to the staff who need to know in order to put special arrangements in place, with your agreement. If you do not wish this information to be passed on, please inform a member of staff. This may mean that we are limited in any special arrangements we can make.

If there are Health and Safety issues involved, we will discuss this with you at the time.

All our records are kept secure and confidential, in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

How can I have a say?

We are always pleased to hear your views, as this can help us improve what we do. You can leave a note in your centre or with your tutor or speak to any member of our staff. If anything is troubling you in relation to your course, or the use of our facilities, please talk to your tutor or any member of our staff at an early stage as we hope to put most problems right quickly.

You can make a complaint either in person, by letter, by phone, by fax or by e-mail. Please give as much information as you can. We will acknowledge and respond to your complaint within 3 working days and give you a fuller response within 20 days. If you wish you can write directly to a manager at your local centre (KAE), Quality Manager (KEY) or our Head of Service.

If you need additional support in making your complaint, such as the use of a signer, tapes, translator or interpreter, please speak to us as early as you can.

We want to involve all students, including those with disabilities, in improving our services. We are currently looking at new ways to involve students locally, and via our new website, so we can hear your views directly about what matters to you. If you have any ideas or are interested in working with us, please get in touch.

Kent Adult Education Centres

- The addresses of our main centres are listed in our course directories and on our website www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk
- The website also provides local maps and details of local public transport services.
- Opening times for each centre will vary. Please check our website for up-to-date information.

KEY Training Services Centres

- The addresses of our main centres are listed on the website www.keytrainingservices.org.uk
- Reception opening times are Monday to Thursday 08:30 - 16:30 Fridays 08:30 - 16:00.