



# THE KENT CONNECTS NEWSLETTER

## Who are Kent Connects?

Kent Connects is a collaborative partnership of public sector organisations across Kent and Medway, including all 12 district and borough councils, Medway Council, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Kent Police and GOETEC (a consortium of universities and colleges in the Southeast working to advance digital connectivity and technology adoption in education).

Our members pay an annual subscription to be part of Kent Connects, which enables us to deliver joint projects, strategic initiatives and shared learning opportunities. The partnership also hosts specialist groups where partners send representatives to collaborate on key topics such as cyber security, digital transformation and emerging technologies

Together, we aim to strengthen resilience, embrace innovation and respond to the evolving challenges facing local government and the wider public sector.

## Merry Christmas from Kent Connects



As we wrap up 2025, we want to take a moment to thank all our partners and colleagues for your continued support and collaboration throughout the year. This year marked an exciting milestone with the arrival of our new Partnership Manager, Emily Jones, whose leadership has brought renewed energy and engagement across the network.

Together, we've seen increased involvement from partners and begun shaping proposals to develop the partnership in response to the evolving needs of our members and the wider political and contextual shifts impacting the public sector.

Your time, effort and commitment have been invaluable in making this progress possible. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be both exciting and challenging as we continue to adapt and innovate. We can't wait to work with you to build on this momentum and deliver even greater impact.

From all of us at Kent Connects, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# Annual Conference 2026



Kent Connects and KPSN are excited to announce a joint conference on Thursday, 4th June 2026 at the Ashford International Hotel.

This event will bring together tech talks, public sector panel discussions and opportunities to share experiences and learn from partners across the country. It's a fantastic chance to connect, collaborate and explore innovative ideas shaping the future of digital and public services

Register your interest now by emailing [kpsn@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kpsn@kent.gov.uk). Full booking details will be released in the New Year.

## Join the conversation: Kent DigiFest Returns

Kent DigiFest is back for two weeks of innovation and collaboration, focused on using technology to improve resident services and make everyday work smarter and faster.

### Key Dates

#### January 19 & 29

Join us at Village Maidstone for networking, cross-council collaboration, and a packed agenda featuring:

- Kent Police Cyber Escape Room
- Panel discussions
- AI demonstrations
- And much more!

#### Remote Sessions

Between these dates, essential online sessions will make it easy to take part from your desk.



### A Collective Effort

Proudly supported by Kent Connects, DigiFest brings together councils across Kent to share lessons, spark new projects, and celebrate innovation.

### Why Attend?

Whether you're leading a digital project, exploring new tools, or simply curious about how tech can support your team, DigiFest is the perfect opportunity to connect and learn.

**Register Here** to secure your place and stay updated.

***Let's shape a future where technology works for everyone!***