

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

22 APRIL 2014

WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH LOCAL PROVIDERS

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

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Summary

This report sets out a proposal to invite several key providers to attend the formal meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board (which are held in public) on a regular basis and to participate fully in the discussion of items of business on the agenda.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places a duty on local authorities to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) for its area. The HWB has a statutory duty to encourage providers of health or social care services to work in an integrated manner to advance the health and wellbeing of people in Medway.
- 1.2. The Council established the Medway HWB on 25 April 2013. The current membership of the Board is set out at Appendix A. This is set out in the item on the agenda relating to Review of 2013/2014.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Medway (2012-2017) is based on four underlying principles the first of which is a commitment to an integrated systems approach and partnership working. As reported to the Board, this is reflected in the Better Care Fund Plan along with the other three principles: a focus on prevention and early intervention in all areas, ongoing and effective stakeholder communication and engagement and a commitment to sustainability. It is widely acknowledged that the challenges facing the health and social care system must be addressed through greater integration of health and social care funding and systems and a whole system transformational approach.
- 2.2 As part of the National Learning Network for HWBs a paper called "Stronger Together" was published in 2013 providing guidance on how HWBs can work effectively with local providers. A copy of this paper has been circulated to Board members under separate cover with this agenda.

- 2.3 Research referred to in “Stronger Together” has shown there is a lot of support for stronger and wider engagement between HWBs and local providers who have a significant role to play in helping HWBs deliver their duties and goals. Medway’s HWB is developing a Communications and Engagement strategy and is committed to regular and effective dialogue with all providers using a range of mechanisms to achieve this.
- 2.5 Following informal discussions between the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board and various Board members, at this point the HWB is asked to consider extending an invitation to the following suggested key providers to attend formal meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board (which are held in public) on a regular basis and to participate fully in the discussion of items of business on the agenda.
- The Chief Executive of Medway NHS Foundation Trust
 - The Managing Director of Medway Community Healthcare
 - The Chief Executive of Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership
 - The Medical Secretary to the Kent Local Medical Committee (LMC)
- 2.6 This would strengthen the capacity of the Board to meet its statutory obligation to encourage providers of health or social care services to work in an integrated manner to advance the health and wellbeing of people in Medway. It would not involve extending the membership of the Board but would provide an opportunity for these key providers to attend and have a voice at formal meetings. Wider provider engagement would continue to take place through stakeholder events and other mechanisms.

3. Risk implications

- 3.1 Risk management is an integral part of good governance. The Council has a responsibility to identify and manage threats and risks to achieve its strategic objectives and enhance the value of services it provides to the community. The risks and challenges associated with wider provider engagement are set out on page 7 of “Stronger Together” and include:

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk
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1. Conflicts of interest	Providers invited to participate in HWB meetings will not be subject to the Code of Conduct applicable to the HWB members. They will not be required to register disclosable pecuniary interests or to declare other conflicts of interest.	The Monitoring Officer will include advice on HWB agenda papers asking providers to be aware of the HWB governance arrangements and to consider disclosing conflicts of interest where applicable and to withdraw from discussion. Providers attending Board meetings will not have a vote.
2. Engagement only with major providers	The HWB should be engaging with all providers (and prospective providers where applicable) to ensure they are not disadvantaged and that ideas for new, innovative and community – preventative approaches are fully explored.	The HWB will continue to engage with the wider range of providers and other stakeholders through a variety of mechanisms. Formal Board meetings are open to the public and all providers are welcome to attend and to submit their views to the Board ahead of meetings. Consideration will be given by the Board to any request to address their meetings.

4. Financial and legal implications

4.1 Section 194 (9) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 provides for the Council to be able extend the membership of the HWB but only after consultation with the Board. Under Section 194 (8) of the Act the Board itself may also appoint such additional persons to be members as it thinks appropriate. The proposal for consideration in this report does not involve an extension of the formal membership of the Board but rather an invitation to key providers to attend and participate in formal Board meetings (which are held in public) on a regular basis, in a non-voting capacity.

4.2 There are no specific financial implications connected with this report.

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Board is asked to consider whether to extend an invitation to the following key providers to attend formal meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board (which are held in public) on a regular basis and to participate fully in the discussion of items of business on the agenda.

- The Chief Executive of Medway NHS Foundation Trust
- The Managing Director of Medway Community Healthcare

- The Chief Executive of Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT)
- The Medical Secretary to the Kent Local Medical Committee (LMC)

5.2 If 5.1 above is agreed to also seek a named substitute for each provider organisation representative, who may attend meetings in the absence of the designated representative.

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Background papers - none