

## 1. Purpose of the paper

Following the KCC HOSC meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> September a further update was requested from the STP once Winter Plans for Kent and Medway had been tested and finalised. This paper provides an update.

## 2. Update

All four health systems in Kent and Medway (West Kent, Dartford, East Kent and Medway & Swale) have completed testing of their winter plans through a series test conference calls and face to face table top exercises. Key lessons have focussed on improving information sharing, early escalation of issues to prevent delays for patients and improved communication within and between systems.

Following a review of draft plans for the four systems by a joint NHS England, NHS Improvement and STP team additional support was provided to the Medway & Swale and East Kent systems through a series of workshops funded by NHS Improvement and facilitated by 20:20 in order to provide an independent perspective. These workshops have helped systems to unlock a number of outstanding issues and to build resilience and relationships across system senior teams.

Final plans for each system building in learning from test events, feedback from regulators and shared learning across Kent and Medway have, this week, been submitted to regulators and are now in place for use.

Each system has undertaken demand and capacity modelling as part of their planning and this has been used to inform local investment of NHS and social care winter funding. In addition to investment of revenue funding across health and social care capital funding has been secured to support East Kent hospitals in increase capacity and to move elective orthopaedic care to Canterbury supporting patient flow and capacity at the Ashford and Margate sites.

As a broader STP system we have in place a joint communications plans across STP partners for both staff and the public which provides an overarching framework for provider plans and is supported by STP funding to support systems to provide consistent messaging. The STP will also host proactive calls each week with systems to support early identification of pressure and proactive approaches to preventing escalation. A joint approach by the STP, NHS England and NHS Improvement is being used with a view to reducing the reporting burden for systems.

All systems will be using consistent SHREWD dashboard to report and monitor key demand, capacity and flow metrics across key pathways and providers. This is available to local, county and regional teams to aid reporting and will provide early alerting of potential pinch points and challenges.

A further update will provided to the KCC HOSC following completion of winter debrief events in 2019.