

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

5 NOVEMBER 2019

NHS LONG TERM PLAN AND PUBLIC HEALTH GREEN PAPER BRIEFING

Report from/ author: James, Williams, Director of Public Health

Summary

This report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with a brief summary of the content of the public health green paper 'Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s'. This consultation document was published in July 2019 with consultation ending on the 14 of October 2019.

The green paper proposes radical changes to the way in which the public are supported to take action to protect and improve their health. It also emphasises the need for the NHS to do more to tackle risk factors and issues that are increasing health inequality in England.

Key areas of focus include: Improving outcomes for Children; Mental ill-Health; Cardiovascular Disease; Smoking; Diabetes; and the wider determinates of health.

There is a strong emphasis on the use of digital tools, smart technology. There is also a focus on the concept of population health management. Given the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the aspirations outlined in the green paper (if adopted by central government) will support the delivery of the local priorities for health improvement set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) have previously received briefings on the NHS Long Term Plan (LTP). The Public Health Green Paper forms part of the NHS transformation programme. Its primary focus is to support the delivery of prevention at scale. The intended purpose is for the NHS to prioritise and resource interventions that will improve outcomes at the population level. This is to be welcomed. Local authority public health budgets have been subject to significant and ongoing cuts made by central government since 2015. This green paper offers an opportunity to truly embed prevention within the policy and commissioning framework of the NHS. This will enable stronger partnership working between health and social care services.

1.2 It will also impact on:

- The delivery of the improved population outcomes set out in the refreshed Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategic for Medway.
- The relationships (future service development innovation and collaborative working) between the NHS and local authority partners in Medway (and Swale) given the establishment of a single CCG for Kent and Medway and the creation of a Medway and Swale Integrated Care Partnership.

2. Background

2.1 On July 23 2019, the Department for Health and Social Care published a public health consultation document: Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s. This green paper sets out central governments approach to delivering prevention 'at scale'. Its primary purpose is to reinvigorate the NHS approach to prevention. It aims to create an environment within the NHS system whereby prevention of illness and disease and addressing the key issues impacting on health and wellbeing are the first priority. The focus is a move away from 'the cure' of illness and disease, to preventing occurrence.

2.2 The critical factor for HWB members to note is the emphasis placed on the NHS to invest its resources to support prevention. This is to be done in partnership with other stakeholders and specifically local authorities. There is however a specific focus within the green paper to align interventions to support the ambitions set out in the NHS LTP. This has led to some criticism by some, that the green paper is primarily focussed on disease prevention, as opposed to addressing the wider determinants of health.

2.3 The key elements within the green paper for the board to note are:

- A focus on early years, in particular providing additional NHS resources to support children with learning disabilities and autism.
- Use of new predictive technology and tools to identify and prevent illness (Screening and genomics).
- Renewed focus on tackling smoking, and related risk factors that increase health inequalities and cause premature death (topics include childhood obesity, cardiovascular disease, NHS Health Checks, Mental Health prevention, diabetes prevention).
- Social Prescribing drive: over 1 million people to access a social prescription by 2023/24.

2.4 Board members are aware of the Long Term Plan (LTP). This plan sets out the national priorities for the NHS. It identifies the issues that are responsible for the greatest burden of death and disability within society. The LTP describes what action must be taken to address these challenges. There is a specific emphasis to redesign the NHS (and social care interface) to address areas of unmet need. For example addressing factors that impact on population mental health, given the impact poor mental health has on physical health. The LTP makes the case for prevention to tackle risk factors that increase the likelihood of individuals dying prematurely from diseases such as

cancer and cardiovascular disease. There is also a focus on the NHS improving services for children and young people in general and specifically those with Learning Disabilities and autism.

2.5 The key principles underpinning the transformation of NHS and social care services and implementation of the NHS LTP are:

- Creation of a single strategic NHS system commissioner (CCG). This commissioner is to be responsible and accountable for a defined geographical area. It would also be responsible for adapting a range of regulatory and quality improvement functions currently undertaken by other NHS bodies (NHS England/NHS Improvement) for NHS services.
- Development of Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs). These ICPs are to act as the key vehicle to bring together local acute and community services, primary care, the voluntary and private sector.
- Establishment of Primary Care Networks (PCNs). Cementing collaboration between GP practices and other provider organisations, based on GP practice alignment of between 30 to 50,000 patients.

2.6 The consultation on the green paper closed on the 14 October 2019. Submissions have been made by the Director of Public Health following consultation with stakeholders. It has been accepted by central government that the ambitions in the green paper are quite disease focussed and could therefore be deemed to be narrow. This focus appears intended in that the Department of Health directly wants to focus the NHS on to the secondary prevention of diseases linked to the major killers (Cancer, Cardiovascular and Respiratory Diseases).

3. Options

3.1 The consultation on the green paper has now ended. The HWB will be updated in relation to any changes or revisions that might have a bearing on local implementation of the aspirations set out in the green paper.

4. Advice and analysis

4.1 The public health green paper acknowledges there has been a strategic disconnect between NHS policy and decision making in relation to prevention at national and local level. For example within Medway, partners have a long history of collaboration, engagement and joint working. NHS Medway CCG has funded a number of major initiatives focussed on tackling the wider determinants of health (involving Medway for example). The partnership commissioning function jointly resourced by the Council and CCG is a further example of joint working. The green paper does however offer additional opportunities for innovation. The focus on targeted and tailored support for individuals and groups, aligns well with our local ambitions to enhance the social care offer and empower individuals through the '3 conversations model'. It also links to our local social prescribing programme, which is a joint endeavour with NHS Medway CCG and local voluntary and community groups.

4.2 There is potential for services to be reprioritised by the NHS to areas of greatest need. This could lead to the Medway population being disadvantaged

(acute stroke/vascular services are examples). There are however safeguards in place to mitigate against these challenges. Medway is represented at all Sustainability and Transformation Partnership/ICS oversight groups. The Leader and Chief Executive, Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services and Director of Public Health sit on the strategic partnership board. In addition, the majority of the work will be delivered at ICP as opposed to Integrated Care System (ICS) level. Medway Council is responsible for the commissioning of social care and public health services. These services are critical to the success of any future system transformation. Medway Council also hosts the partnership commissioning function. These integrated arrangements do not exist in other areas of Kent at this time.

- 4.3 There is no real surprise in terms of the focus on tackling disease risk factors such as smoking, obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and mental ill-health. The proposal to develop alcohol treatment services within acute hospitals is also welcome. There is an opportunity locally to engage with the digital innovation elements. Within Medway we have initiated a number of bespoke digital transformation programmes to benefit our population. Having established the first (national) digital stop smoking service, we are well placed to build on any new proposals that enable people to take more control over the issues affecting them and self-management (with tailored support).
- 4.4 The HWB should also note the proposals to rationalise the manner in which NHS screening services are managed and delivered. NHS England have published a review that will change the governance and oversight of screening services in England. This basically means all screening services will be managed and overseen by NHS England as opposed to current shared arrangements with Public Health England. These changes should lead to screening services being much more responsive to local issues. They will be managed at regional or sub regional level by NHS England (potentially Kent and Medway). The outcome should be that there is better collaboration and engagement between local partners. This should lead to improved uptake of screening services. People at risk of harm being identified earlier and offered appropriate further diagnostic testing and treatment if necessary.
- 4.5 The green paper presents the opportunity to transform the NHS and embed the concept of prevention within the new structures that have been created as part of the LTP transformation programme. Consultation outcomes dependent, there is an opportunity that this green paper (appropriately aligned to deliver alongside local aspirations and systems) has the potential to galvanise the NHS in whole system working to deliver better outcomes for local people and tackle health inequalities.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 There are a number of risks associated with this green paper. The primary risk is that any revisions to the green paper do not take account of the need for the NHS to focus on the wider determinates of health. Therefore, the emphasis of action within the NHS being on secondary prevention and chronic disease management, as opposed to tackling the issues giving rise to illness and disease in the first instance. The second risk is that the creation of a single CCG for Kent and Medway leads to the reprioritisation of NHS away

from Medway. The likelihood of this occurring are low given the establishment of the Medway and Swale ICP and the proactive population.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 The Director of Public Health has engaged with a range of stakeholders across Kent and Medway to inform his response to the consultation. The Director of Public's Health's response is set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The green paper presents an opportunity to significantly increase the resources invested by the NHS into prevention. The actual amount of this investment within Medway is not currently known. Work is however underway with NHS directors of finance to quantify the requirement. Central government has also announced a partial reversal of cuts to local authority ring-fenced public health grants. The actual grant amounts for 2020/21 are yet to be notified.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no specific legal implications directly associated with the public health green paper. There may however be a need to clarify future governance and engagement arrangements between the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board and the single CCG for Kent and Medway.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the report.

Lead officer contact

James Williams
Director of Public Health
01634 334038
James.Williams@medway.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – DPH consultation response

Background papers

Public Health Green Paper Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s – consultation document

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/advancing-our-health-prevention-in-the-2020s/advancing-our-health-prevention-in-the-2020s-consultation-document>

Report of the Independent Review of Adult Screening Programmes in England

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/report-of-the-independent-review-of-adult-screening-programme-in-england.pdf>