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Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 August 2026

Independent All-Age Review of Mental Health, Learning Disability, Autism and ADHD services in Kent and Medway

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Summary

This report provides information from NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (ICB) about its plans to embark on an independent all-age review that could cover mental health, learning disability, autism and ADHD services across Kent and Medway.

1. Recommendation

- 1.1. The Committee is requested to note the ICB's submission, including the information set out at Appendices 1 and 2 to the report and provide any comments it wishes to make in relation to the review.

2. Budget and policy framework

- 2.1. Under the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Council may review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision, and operation of the health service in Medway. In carrying out health scrutiny a local authority must invite interested parties to comment and take account of any relevant information available to it, and, in particular, relevant information provided to it by a local Healthwatch. The Council has delegated responsibility for discharging this function to this Committee and to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the Council's Constitution.

3. Background

- 3.1. NHS Kent and Medway (the ICB) has published draft commissioning intentions for 2027/28 and is currently conducting engagement activity with a view to finalising them this Autumn. As part of this work, the ICB are developing proposals for an independent all-age review that could cover

mental health, learning disability, autism and ADHD services across Kent and Medway.

- 3.2. The intention of the review is to provide a comprehensive assessment of current commissioning arrangements, provider effectiveness, service models, outcomes, productivity, resource utilisation and financial sustainability, whilst also helping to inform future commissioning decisions and the development of future models of care. Before finalising the scope and commencing procurement, the ICB wanted to take the opportunity to engage widely across the system and seek views on both the proposed scope and the approach it intends to take. The ICB are deliberately approaching this as a system-wide piece of work. Whilst the review is being commissioned by the Integrated Care Board, its purpose is to help the whole system collectively understand whether current arrangements are delivering the outcomes we want for our population and whether they remain fit for purpose in the context of increasing demand, greater complexity of need, financial pressures and our shared ambition to develop more preventative, integrated and neighbourhood-based models of care.
 - 3.3. The review is currently intended to cover the full breadth of mental health, learning disability, autism and ADHD services across all age groups. It will consider prevention, early intervention, community services, crisis services, inpatient provision and specialist pathways. It will also examine the effectiveness of commissioning arrangements, provider effectiveness, workforce deployment, productivity, financial sustainability and the extent to which services are delivering the outcomes expected by residents, patients, carers and commissioners. Importantly, whilst the review will assess the current position, it is intended to be forward looking. The ICB want it to help define what future commissioning arrangements, service models and provider configurations may be required to support improved outcomes, reduced inequalities, better value for money and a more sustainable system over the longer term
 - 3.4. A specific engagement period has run over recent weeks, aligned to the ICB's commissioning intentions (which are set out at agenda item 6), ending on 11th August (see attached letter to partners and scope). Feedback received will be used to refine our commissioning intentions and strengthen the final scope before procurement and mobilisation activity commences.
 - 3.5. The ICB believes this review represents an important opportunity for the system to take a comprehensive and objective look at how we collectively support people with mental health needs, learning disabilities, autism and ADHD across Kent and Medway. It is important that the review benefits from the expertise, experience and insight that exists across our organisations, and the ICB would therefore greatly value the Committee's contribution at this stage.
4. Risk management
 - 4.1. There are no direct risks for the Council arising from this report.

5. Financial implications

- 5.1. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

6. Legal implications

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications for the Council arising from this report.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – stakeholder letter

Appendix 2 – review scope

Background papers

None