

**Office of the Deputy Chief Executive
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Sent via email

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Dear Colleagues,

Engagement on the Proposed Independent All-Age Review of Mental Health, Learning Disability, Autism and ADHD Services

As you will be aware, NHS Kent and Medway is currently progressing a broader discussion regarding future commissioning intentions, future models of care and the long-term transformation priorities that will shape health and care services across our system over the coming years.

As part of this work, we are developing proposals for an independent all-age review of mental health, learning disability, autism and ADHD services across Kent and Medway (see proposal attached). 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, we wanted to take the opportunity to engage widely across the system and seek your views on both the proposed scope and the approach we intend to take.

We 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 all of us 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.

The review is 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. We 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.

We are therefore keen to hear your views on a number of areas.

In particular, we would welcome feedback on whether the proposed scope addresses the most significant challenges and opportunities facing mental health, learning disability, autism and ADHD services across Kent and Medway. We would also welcome any views on areas that may require greater emphasis or further exploration, together with any local insights, intelligence or learning that you believe should be reflected within the review.

We are equally interested in understanding how organisations would like to be involved as the review develops. We anticipate establishing a number of supporting governance and engagement arrangements, including clinical, stakeholder and lived experience reference groups, and would welcome views on how these can be structured to ensure meaningful involvement and strong system ownership throughout the process.

This engagement period will run over the coming fortnight. Feedback received will be used to refine and strengthen the final scope before procurement and mobilisation activity commences.

To support this work, Dominic Cox will be leading the establishment and mobilisation of the review programme throughout the summer on behalf of the ICB. Dominic will coordinate stakeholder engagement, help shape the final specification, support development of the governance arrangements and act as the principal point of contact as we move towards formal commencement of the review. I would be most grateful if you could provide any feedback Dominic Cox [REDACTED] copying in Ed Waller [REDACTED] by close of play Tuesday 11th August.

We believe 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 we would therefore greatly value your contribution at this stage.

We would be grateful for any comments, observations or suggestions over the next two weeks and look forward to working with you as this important programme of work develops.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Ed Waller
Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Strategic Commissioning Officer
NHS Kent and Medway

[REDACTED]

Kate Langford
Chief Medical Officer
NHS Kent and Medway

