

From: Dan Watkins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
Richard Smith, Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health

To: Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 18 January 2024

Subject: **SOCIAL PRESCRIBING AND COMMUNITY NAVIGATION STRATEGY**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report: N/A

Electoral Division: All

Summary: The profile and level of investment in social prescribing and community navigation has increased considerably in recent times.

The Integrated Care Board and Local Authorities have been commissioning social prescribing and community navigation across Kent and Medway for a number of years, and Primary Care Networks have expanded their social prescribing workforce.

Recommendation(s): The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the Social Prescribing and Community Navigation Strategy attached as Appendix 1.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The profile and level of investment in social prescribing and community navigation has increased considerably in recent times.
- 1.2 The Integrated Care Board (ICB) and local authorities (LAs) have been commissioning social prescribing and community navigation across Kent and Medway for a number of years, and Primary Care Networks (PCN) have expanded their social prescribing workforce.
- 1.3 This rapid progression has led to an increase in the number of providers and services such as Link Workers, Community Navigators and Community Wardens.
- 1.4 There has been a mixture of top down (such as NHS England) and bottom up (local pilots and projects, including grant funded programmes) development and funding with a variety of initiatives. In turn this has led to a number of challenges described by partners in the Kent and Medway system:

- An uncoordinated and fragmented approach across the Kent and Medway system
 - Examples of duplication and confusion
 - An uncoordinated approach to the voluntary and community sector (critical partners of the model as both providers of social prescribing services and providers of activities)
 - Examples of geographical variation of provision
 - Inequity in service provision and funding
 - Variation in awareness of social prescribing services
- 1.5 Partners have come together across the system to develop and co-design a strategy, recognised and owned by all ICS partners to address inequalities in a coordinated way. The Social Prescribing and Community Navigation Strategy is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.6 An executive summary (attached as Appendix 2) pulls out the 14 actions identified in the full strategy that will improve the provision and quality of social prescribing and community navigation in Kent and Medway.
- 1.7 The strategy was endorsed by the Integrated Care Board Management Team on 3 January 2024.
- 1.8 Implementation of the Social Prescribing and Community Navigation Strategy across Kent & Medway will be led by Health and Care Partnerships (HCP) to ensure there are local adjustments as required, but with an ICB oversight, to ensure equity across the Integrated Care System.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Recommendation(s): The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **COMMENT** on the Social Prescribing and Community Navigation Strategy attached as Appendix 1.

3. Background Documents

None

4. Relevant Director

Richard Ellis
Director Adult and Integrated Commissioning
03000
Richard.ellis@kent.gov.uk