

By: Graham Gibbens – Cabinet Member for Public Health
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To: Cabinet - 3 December 2007

Subject: Draft Proposal for a Public Health Observatory for Kent

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This paper recommends the establishment of a Kent Public Health Observatory in liaison with the South East Public Health Observatory. This will improve health intelligence to the NHS and KCC as an integrated service. The paper outlines the principles and functions of the observatory. It provides the rationale for a restructure of the current NHS Public Health Informatics Service which will be based on a specification for a modern integrated health intelligence service.

The service will contribute health improvement and reduction of health inequalities by ensuring that Kent has the most efficient and effective provision of Public Health Intelligence and Knowledge Management services in a defined unit called the Kent Observatory for Public Health (KOPH).

A phased approach is proposed to allow for the early establishment of the service to gain short term benefits, but also allowing for future developments to enhance the service and realise its full potential. The new service will be closely aligned with KCC priorities and strategic objectives and link closely with Public Health across Kent.

For Information

1. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

(i) NOTE the report and is asked to AGREE the establishment of the Kent Observatory of Public Health and SUPPORT its implementation in due course.

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