

**From: Jenny Whittle, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services  
Meradin Peachey, Director of Public Health**

**To: Kent Health and Well Being Board**

**Subject: Improving Health Outcomes for Children and Young People –  
Better Health Outcomes Pledge**

**Summary:**

The consistently poor health outcomes for children in England have been highlighted in a letter sent by the Department of Health and the Local Government Association to Lead Members for Children and Chairs of Health and Well Being Boards. There is a call for all health and well being boards to demonstrate their commitment to improving opportunities for children and young people by giving them a better start in life.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Kent Health and Well Being Board is asked to consider and endorse the "Better health outcomes for children and young people pledge".

**1. Background**

- 1.1. In July 2013, a joint letter from the Department of Health, Local Government Association, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and Public Health England was sent to all Lead Members for children and young people and the Chairs of the Health and Well Being Boards. This highlighted the consistently poor health outcomes for children in England especially amongst those in vulnerable groups such as looked after children. It also noted considerable variations in child health across England with international comparisons showing clear areas for improvement in child health outcomes.
- 1.2. The signatories call for all health and well being boards to sign up to the "Better health outcomes for children and young people pledge" to demonstrate a commitment to giving children and young people a better start in life.

**2. The Pledge**

- 2.1. The pledge lists five ambitions for the Board:

- 1) Children, young people and their families will be at the heart of decision-making, with the health outcomes that matter most to them taking priority.

2) Services, from pregnancy through to adolescence and beyond, will be high quality, evidence based and safe, delivered at the right time, in the right place, by a properly planned, educated and trained workforce.

3) Good mental and physical health and early interventions, including for children and young people with long term conditions, will be of equal importance to caring for those who become acutely unwell.

4) Services will be integrated and care will be coordinated around the individual, with an optimal experience of transition to adult services for those young people who require ongoing health and care in adult life.

5) There will be clear leadership, accountability and assurance and organisations will work in partnership for the benefit of children and young people.

2.2. These ambitions are in direct alignment with Outcome 1 in the Kent Health and Wellbeing Strategy which aims to give every child the best start in life, with a particular focus on the integration of services for 0 – 11 year olds and improving the mental health of our children and young people. These ambitions aim to contribute to the following health outcomes:

- reduce child deaths
- prevent ill health for children and young people and improve their opportunities for better long-term health
- improve the mental health of our children and young people
- support and protect the most vulnerable
- provide better care for children and young people with long term conditions and disability

### **3. Conclusions**

3.1. For the Kent Health and Well Being Board to achieve the ambitions of this pledge there is a need for the Board to undertake further commitments in its approach to supporting improvements in child health. These are identified in the recommendations below.

### **4. Recommendations**

**4.1. The Kent Health and Well Being Board is asked to consider and endorse the "Better health outcomes for children and young people pledge".**

**4.2. To ensure the success of Ambition 2, the Board should recognise the need to plan for:**

- **Seamless pathways for children and young people aged 0-25. As an example - The new Children and Families Bill 2014 stipulates under Part 3 that there should be a single education, health and care plan (EHC) for SEN and disability.**
- **Integrated holistic multi-agency services that recognise the correlation between children's wellbeing and family and community systems. Whole family working and multi-agency support is crucial, particularly when it comes to vulnerable young parents, ADD and ASD, emotional health and wellbeing and early child development.**
- **Inclusive services that are accessible for all with clear transitional arrangement in places for young carers, parent carers, adult carers and disabled people of all ages.**

**4.3. There is a required commitment to integrated planned commissioning and care for children and young people, as Ambition 4 states. The Board will need to ensure commitment from CCGs, KCC, Schools, District councils and Public Health in order that services for children and young people are fully integrated across health and social care pathways, at the same time.**

**4.4. For Ambition 5 to be realised, Kent Health and Well Being Board will need to have a robust governance framework and sub-architecture in order that operational accountability lines are clear and that assurances can be provided appropriately to the Board for progress against the measured outcomes for child health. This is particularly relevant for the integration of the "function" of the previous Local Children's Trust Board's into the Local Health and Well-being Board.**

## **5. Background Documents**

- 5.1. *Better Health Outcomes for Children and Young People: our pledge*, Department of Health, Local Government Association, Public Health England & Royal College of Paediatricians and Child Health, July 2013 (attached)
- 5.2. Letter to Lead Member of Children's Services and Chair of the Health and Well Being Board, July 2013 (attached)

## **6. Contact Details**

### **Report Author**

**Jo Hook, Commissioning Manager (Children)**  
0300 333 5671  
[Joanna.hook@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Joanna.hook@kent.gov.uk)

**Su Xavier, Consultant in Public Health Medicine**  
0300 333 5849  
[Su.xavier@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Su.xavier@kent.gov.uk)

**Relevant Director:**

**Meradin Peachey, Director of Public Health**  
**0300 333 5214**  
**Meradin.Peachey@kent.gov.uk**