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To: Health and Wellbeing Board – 26 March 2014

Subject: **CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: A report which invites the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider a proposal by the Children's Health and Wellbeing Board (formerly Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Board), to be considered as an informal Working Group of the Health and Wellbeing Board that focuses on children's services.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. NOTE the contents of this report
2. ENDORSE the proposal that Children's Health and Wellbeing Board should operate as an informal Working Group to the Board as outlined in paragraph 3.4

1. Introduction

- (1) Children's Health and Wellbeing Board (formerly Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Board) discussed and agreed in principle to forge a more direct working relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) at its meeting on 5 February 2014.
 - (2) The expressed view of the Children's Health and Wellbeing Board (CHWB) is consistent with the direction of travel of the previous report to the HWB, titled "Working Arrangements Between Boards" on 17 July 2013. More recently, the HWB had endorsed the establishment of an informal Working Group focused on adult services. This group is better known as the Pioneer Steering Group, which is instrumental in helping to drive forward with the renewed focus on the health and social care integration agenda.
 - (3) The purpose of this report is to set out the proposed intention of and the in-principle decision of the CHWB, subject to the discussion and endorsement by the HWB.
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2. Policy Context

- (1) Working Together to Safeguard Children, (March 2013), sets out the latest children's services guidance that governs the work of all the relevant partnership organisations, in exercising their functions to contribute to keeping children and young people safe. It is noted that, Working Together references that fact that the Children Act 2004, 'places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children'. The guidance also reiterates requirements to promote cooperation between the relevant partners.
- (2) The CHWB recognises that the integration agenda, of which the HWB is the chief promoter, is also relevant to children's services, as it to adult services. Without an exception, all the key partners are considering or embarking on furthering service integration in order to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- (3) One of the objectives of the Kent Joint Health and Well Being Strategy is to "transform services to improve health and care outcomes, the experience for patients/service users, and value for money and quality, for example better community care, moving services closer to home and improving access for patients and carers". This objective is consistent with the Every Day Matters, the strategic plan for children and young people endorsed by the CHWB and HWB.

3. Proposal for the Children's Health and Wellbeing Board to report to the Health and Wellbeing Board

- (1) In the light of the assessment of the role, and how the Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Board had operated, the CHWB formed the view that it would be beneficial to change its relationship with the HWB.
 - (2) The CHWB recognises the important place of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and its role in identifying needs, gaps in provisions and shaping commissioning (jointly where necessary) and integration of services where these would add value and improved outcomes.
 - (3) The CHWB acknowledges that one of its principal roles is to provide strategic leadership concerning children's services issues, and where necessary, encourage commissioners that sit across the spectrum of relevant partner organisations to pool resources, if not going for true integration.
 - (4) The CHWB is of the view that its intention to be re-established as the informal Working Group of the HWB, with a remit for children's services, logically provides a balancing effect, alongside the informal Working Group (the Pioneer Steering Group) concerned with adult services.
 - (5) There are compelling reasons for the agencies with responsibilities for children's services to mount a programme, similar in nature, to the Pioneer initiative that is driving the work of the Better Care Fund (previously Integration and Transformation Fund).
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- (6) The acceptance of the CHWB proposal put before the HWB would also cement the agreement to locate local children's arrangements under the umbrella of the local Health and Wellbeing Boards. It would simplify the reporting arrangements and provide a more visible reporting line from the local Children's Operational Group to the local Health and Wellbeing Board and to the Kent HWB.
- (7) The proposed arrangements would also have the effect of streamlining the relationship between the HWB and the Kent Safeguarding Children Board. The Protocol between the Kent Safeguarding Children Board and the Joint Commissioning Board would be revised accordingly.

4. Conclusion

- (1) This report has put forward the positive intention of the CHWB to report to the HWB for the reasons set out in the preceding paragraphs. It has identified the need as well as some of the benefits that could come out of the proposals.
- (2) The decision to move the function of local children's arrangements under the sphere of the local Health and Wellbeing Board would be further strengthened.

5. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

5.1 **NOTE** the contents of this report

5.2 **ENDORSE** the proposal that Children's Health and Wellbeing Board should operate as an informal Working Group to the Board as outlined in paragraph 3.4 above.

Background Documents

Kent Joint Health and Well Being Strategy, 2013

Every Day Matters, 2013

Working Together, 2013

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