

By: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

To: Health and Wellbeing Board, 19 November 2014

Subject: **Systems Resilience**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: While there is a shared consensus around the vision as to how health and care services need to change to improve patient care, the Board needs to be aware of a number of challenges which may require a whole-systems response.

Recommendation(s):

The Board is asked to note the report and discuss what steps it needs to take to seek assurance that the appropriate steps are being taken to minimise the risks these challenges pose to the sustainability of local health and care services.

1. Introduction

(a) The shared vision of health, public health, and social care commissioner across Kent is clear and set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The health and care system cannot carry on doing the same things. Health and Social care needs to be reformed to offer people much greater individualisation of services and more control over what and how the services they need are provided. Kent has responded enthusiastically to this challenge through its Integration Pioneer programme and with the support of the Better Care Fund.

(b) Achieving these changes will not be easy. Pressures on the health and social care system are building, threatening its sustainability. These demands often manifest themselves in the acute hospital sector but addressing them requires a response from the whole system.

2. Local Challenges

(a) No one part of the health and care system can be seen in isolation and problems in one area have an impact on the whole County. There are a number of risks to the goal of putting the Kent's health and care system on a sustainable footing for the longer term. Some of the key ones are set out below:

- Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust – Dealing with capacity issues related to patient flows from South East London;

- East Kent Hospitals NHS University Foundation Trust - Currently in special measures;
- Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – Expecting results of a recent CQC inspection (issues raised in visits earlier this year);
- Medway NHS Foundation Trust – Currently in special measures.

(b) The Board has a role in seeking assurance that the appropriate steps are being taken to minimise the risk that any one of these could escalate to the point of destabilising the whole health and care system and subsequently make it less likely that Kent will be able to achieve its shared vision.

Recommendation(s)

The Board is asked to note the report and discuss what steps it needs to take to seek assurance that the appropriate steps are being taken to minimise the risks these challenges pose to the sustainability of local health and care services.

Background Documents

Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

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