

**Report of: Jane Heeley, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council**

**To: West Kent CCG Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Subject: Obesity and Healthy Weight Task and Finish Group**

**Classification: Unrestricted**

**Date: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Following its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November this Board agreed 'Healthy Weight' as one of the key priorities. Initially this would be approached through a task and finish group that reviews the provision of relevant services throughout the life course.

1.2 This paper will recommend to the Board the aims and scope of the West Kent Obesity Task and Finish Group and review how the recommendations from the Childhood Obesity Task and Finish group have been developed since it presented its final report in April 2014.

## **2. PROPOSED SCOPE OF THE TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

2.1 The aims of the Task and Finish group are to provide guidance to the West Kent Health and Wellbeing Board on tackling the issues of overweight and obesity in two respects:

1. Enable the Board to articulate its ambition to address this problem; and
2. To identify for the Board the criteria against which it can hold commissioners to account for improving overweight and obesity rates and reducing obesogenic environments.

2.2 It is proposed that the scope of this Task and finish Group is to:

- undertake a detailed critical analysis of strategic plans of all partners, which includes commissioners, private and public sector providers, districts and voluntary sector for addressing this area, against the existing healthy weight pathway, to identify both gaps in the provision of relevant services and gaps in the integration of those services.
- develop an understanding why these gaps exist and make recommendations to address them;
- propose a process for co-ordinating the wide range of stakeholders involved in this area; and
- make recommendations for addressing "quick wins".

### **3. PROGRESS SINCE THE FINAL REPORT OF THE CHILDHOOD OBESITY TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

- 3.1 Services for children and young people are not currently addressing the needs of all age groups and it is recognised that commissioning arrangements need to be revised to address this. For example there is an absence of Tier 3 services for under 18's. Discussions are in progress with stakeholders to inform the development of PH commissioning intentions, which will be in line with NICE and commissioning guidance.
- 3.2 Referrals to current commissioned services are poor and better referral processes will be needed to ensure cost effectiveness especially as there is no additional funding, this is something the Board could influence and monitor. Some cost sharing may be needed across the health economy.
- 3.3 Closely associated with 3.2 above is the issue of supporting professionals to engage in conversations about weight with their patients/clients. It is agreed among many professionals throughout the system that there are barriers to raising the issues with overweight obese adults or parents of children that are overweight or obese. The need for training for professionals working across the pathway was a recommendation from the Childhood Obesity Task and Finish Group, which was reinforced by attendees at the Big Weight Debate in December. It is appreciated that this in its own right is a huge agenda and opportunities for enabling such training will be investigated by this task and finish group. It is anticipated that commissioning intentions will need to incorporate this and promote the concept of "making every contact count".
- 3.4 A report reviewing the key components for Public Health in maternity, relating to the Healthy Child has been produced and includes details of specialist services within the midwifery contract. The report is now available at [www.kmpho.nhs.uk](http://www.kmpho.nhs.uk). The key findings of this report and their implications for influencing this agenda will be presented to the Board meeting in March.
- 3.5 Kent Infant feeding Service was commissioned by Public Health KCC from 1st October. Website construction is underway, which includes a search facility for local services **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**>

A marketing plan to promote the site and integrate the work of the provider and Districts is in progress.

- 3.6 Concerns were raised that the current pathway is not functioning well, noting a disconnect at certain points and an emphasis on the clinical aspects of interventions.

Whilst there is some work in progress, to review the pathway consideration in West Kent should be given to NCMP operational subgroups becoming subgroups of COGs as they have elsewhere in Kent. This should enable COGs to be appraised of barriers in the system and provide some local scrutiny. The

Task and Finish Group will review this latest work and ensure that wider aspects such as community engagement, cook and eat programmes, physical activity and planning considerations are incorporated. Central to the role of this Task and Finish Group will be developing clarity around which parts of the system are not functioning well; what the barriers are and the actions needed to bring about positive change.

3.7 Further work to develop mapping for healthy weight services has been undertaken. However, this will need to be aligned to the Kent Obesity Strategy, once that has been agreed, to ensure the effective delivery of that strategy. Again this is something that this Task and Finish group will take into consideration.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 That the Board agree:

1. the proposed aims and scope of the Task and Finish Group;
2. that the operational membership of this group comprises initially the lead consultant in Public Health and Public Health Specialist for Healthy Weight, District lead for Healthy Weight and CCG lead for healthy weight; and
3. a senior elected Member lead is appointed to the Group as designated authority from the Board to progress recommendations.