

From: Carolyn McKenzie Kent County Council
To: Kent Health and Well Being Board – 20 July 2016
Subject: Health and the Kent Environment Strategy

Summary: The *Kent Environment Strategy: A strategy for environment, health and economy* was adopted by Kent Leaders in November 2015, and Kent County Council in January 2016. Following this, a draft implementation plan is being developed focusing on those actions that are best delivered in partnership, giving the greatest outcome.

The purpose of this report is twofold: to highlight the links between the Kent Environment Strategy, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the work of Clinical Commissioning Groups, particularly associated risks and opportunities and to identify areas of activity where working together could lead to shared positive benefits and outcomes.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Kent Environment Strategy: A strategy for environment, health and economy (KES) was agreed by Kent Leaders in November 2015 and adopted by Kent County Council in January 2016. The strategy is currently being taken through borough and district authority decision processes. A draft implementation plan is being developed to deliver the strategic priorities identified. Activities within the plan will be outcome focused with a number of partners taking ownership of individual actions.
- 1.2 As a result of the development of the sustainability chapter of the JSNA, a significant change in the revised Strategy is the strengthened links between health and environment. There are a number of health risks related to environmental factors for example poor air quality, but also opportunities to deliver positive health benefits, particularly in relation to the natural and historic environment.
- 1.3 This report seeks to match the priorities of the KES against the Health and Well Being Strategy and the Public Health Outcomes Framework, identifying joint priorities for action,, where resources could be maximised and additional benefits achieved.

2. Health and Environment – Joint and Shared Priorities

- 2.1 Domains One and Two of the Public Health Framework and Outcome Two of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Strategy make the strongest links between health and the environment.
- 2.2 The areas where environmental factors have the most significant impact on health outcomes and indicators, both positive and negative, which could be tackled through joint commissioning are highlighted below.

- Utilisation of open space and the natural and historic environment to tackle health issues such as obesity, isolation and mental health
- Support for Active Travel initiatives which will have a positive impact on air quality, as well as obesity, mental health
- Initiatives to improve the warmth of the homes of those residents with pre-existing health conditions to reduce excess winter deaths and support independent living
- Identification and mitigation of the health risks of climate change and severe weather events on the health of Kent residents

2.3 There is now considerable research documenting these links and the mutual benefits that can be achieved through health and environment professionals co-commissioning outcomes. For example, supporting conservation volunteering can tackle obesity, social isolation and mental health issues and more directly the Kent Warm Homes and Winter Warmth project targets excess winter deaths as well as carbon reduction through installing heating systems in homes of those with pre-existing health conditions.

2.4 Appendix 1 maps the links between the Public Health Indicators and the KES Priorities and highlights some existing initiatives that are already delivering positive benefits. However, activity to date has not been consistent across Kent and much more could be achieved through the implementation of the KES.

3. Conclusions

3.1 There are strong links between health and the environment, both risks and also opportunities. Many positive benefits and outcomes could be achieved by those in the health and environment sectors co-developing and co-commissioning environment and health initiatives.

3.2 As part of the development and delivery of the KES, it is recommended that the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board agree a number of priority areas as outlined in section two of this report where health and environment professionals should be encouraged and supported by the HWBB to work together and jointly commission mutually beneficial outcomes.

9. Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Discuss the areas of synergy between the public health outcomes, the Kent Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Kent Environment Strategy and agree the priority areas for action as highlighted in section two that will be supported and by the HWBB
2. Identify key personnel to work with the KES team to take these initiatives forward
3. Identify areas where more support is needed by health partners from the KES team

10. Background Documents – Kent Environment Strategy

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/environmentstrategy>

11. Contact details

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Appendix 1: Health and Environment Synergies

Public Health Outcome	Kent Environment Strategy Priority	Existing/potential initiatives
<p>Natural Environment – Access to/use of Green Spaces</p> <p>1.16 Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise/health reasons</p> <p>1.18 Social Isolation</p>	<p>1.1 Strengthen our understanding of the health, social and economic value of our natural and historical assets.</p> <p>7.1 Improved access for all</p>	<p>Volunteering – Country Parks and Countryside Management Partnerships</p> <p>Green Gyms</p> <p>Forest Schools</p> <p>Explore Kent - promoting access to the countryside</p>
<p>Air Quality</p> <p>3.01 Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution (England 5.3, South East 5.2, Kent 5.4)</p>	<p>1.5 Build our understanding of local air and noise pollution and associated health outcomes to determine targeted actions</p> <p>7.2 Support residents, businesses and communities in being well connected to services, with sustainable and active travel options</p>	<p>Low Emissions Strategy (Development)</p> <p>Active Travel Strategy</p> <p>JAMBUSTERS - Support take up of Active Travel options – schools travel planning to reduce car use and support active travel</p>
<p>Fuel Poverty</p> <p>1.17 Fuel Poverty</p> <p>Excess Winter Deaths</p>	<p>6.2 Improve the resource efficiency of our homes, reducing costs, tackling fuel poverty and improving health outcomes</p>	<p>Kent Warm Homes – www.kent.gov.uk/warmhomes and Winter Warmth</p> <p>Kent Fuel Poverty Action Plan</p>
<p>Severe Weather/climate change</p> <p>3.07 Comprehensive, agreed inter-agency plans for responding to health protection incidents and emergencies</p>	<p>1.2 Continue to assess the economic, health and social impacts of climate change on our businesses, services and residents and take action where appropriate.</p>	<p>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Review, to incorporate new risks identified by the Committee on Climate Change Risk Assessment (12 July 06)</p> <p>Public Health Champions Training</p>

