

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

**DECISION NO:**  
17/00053

**For publication**

**Key decision**

Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions

**Subject:** Direction of future provision of social care and support to adults with mental health needs

**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I:

- a) **APPROVE** the adoption of the Partnership Principles Kent's Forward View for Mental Health 2016 – 2021;
- b) **APPROVE** the overarching intentions plan for adults with mental health needs; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

The changing landscape for commissioning and provision of health and social care support services provides a unique opportunity for taking positive steps to realise a more fitting future operational delivery model, made possible by the Council executing its commissioning intentions, in the context of integrated or appropriate joined-up services, at individual, service and organisational levels.

**Financial Implications**

None

**Equality Implications**

All or any future service changes will be subject to a full Equalities Impact Assessment consistent with both our legal responsibilities and the Council's Equalities Objectives.

**Legal Implications**

A number of key pieces of legislation define the statutory responsibilities of adult social care and the most significant of these are the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Mental Health Act 1983. In broad terms these set the rights of individuals and obligations of the local authority covering needs assessment, care planning, provision and reviews.

In addition, there are emerging or new laws made by Parliament that have a material impact on mental health provision. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 is the most recent legislation that falls into this category and its full impact is currently being assessed.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 9 June 2017.

*Mrs C Fenton, Head of Mental Health, was in attendance for this item.*

1. Ms Southern introduced the report and outlined the background to the proposed adoption of the Partnership Principles, Kent's Forward View for Mental Health 2016 – 2021, on which the committee was being invited to comment. The new partnership principles were the culmination of a series of transformations made in recent years to services for people with

mental health issues.

2. Ms Southern, Mrs Fenton and Mr Ireland responded to comments and questions from Members, including the following:-
  - a) it was confirmed that no new or additional government or NHS funding was available to support the new arrangements and it was vital therefore that existing funding was spend very carefully to support good-quality integrated service provision;
  - b) it was vital also that the transition from children's to adults' services was as smooth as possible;
  - c) the recruitment and retention of community psychiatric care professionals had been a challenge as far back as the 1970s, when large institutions were closing down, and the importance of good recruitment and retention was still important. Ms Southern explained that such recruitment was undertaken by the NHS rather than the County Council and Mrs Fenton added that Kent had not experienced the shortage apparent in other areas of the country;
  - d) in response to a question about how monitoring of the outcomes of the 'Live it Well' project/initiative, Ms Southern explained that these had been closely monitored and the outcomes had fed into the new partnership principles;
  - e) in response to concern was expressed that delivery of CAMHS should not be at risk during the transition to the new directorate structure, Ms Southern explained that it was her responsibility to oversee delivery of CAMHS. Mr Ireland added that commissioning of services for people with mental health needs was undertaken by the NHS and that the work of the County Council's Specialist Children's Services team and the NHS were now more integrated than at any time before;
  - f) in response to a concern about services for older people living in isolation, Ms Southern explained that services for these people were now much more joined up than they had previously been and were being delivered through strategic partnerships, needing only one referral, to provide a service which covered all aspects of an older person's life;
  - g) the integration of services under the new partnership arrangements was generally welcomed but concern was expressed that those delivering services in the community must be suitably trained to prevent needs reaching crisis point. Ms Southern explained that work to upskill the workforce had been going on for three years. Mrs Fenton added that the new partnership arrangement would ensure that both referral to and discharge from secondary care would be as timely as possible;
  - h) in response to a question about whether or not the number of places available in Kent for adults with mental health needs was sufficient, Ms Southern explained that admissions were commissioned by CCGs or NHS England and that social care staff had no control of or influence over this. Asked what percentage of Kent people were admitted to beds within Kent, Ms Southern undertook to supply this information to the questioner outside the meeting;
  - i) Mr Ireland added that, for children with the most severe mental health needs, there were insufficient beds in Kent and, as a result, some children with severe or highly specialised needs might have to be placed in other parts of the UK. However, in terms of adults and children, the number placed in Kent was far greater than the number placed out of county, and Kent was thus a net importer of social care clients (or just people with MH needs?);

and

- j) in response to a question about how older people's medication would be reviewed to ensure that it was right, and was manageable, Ms Southern explained that social care staff worked closely with public health colleagues to identify any negative effects of medication on an older person's physical and mental health.

3. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, to:

- a) approve the adoption of the Partnership Principles, Kent's Forward View for Mental Health 2016 – 2021;
- b) approve the overarching intentions plan for adults with mental health needs; and
- c) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision,

be endorsed.

**Any alternatives considered:**

None

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

NONE



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signed

21 JULY 2017  
.....  
date

