

**Kent and Medway Sustainability and  
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**Sent via email**

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Your Ref: -  
Our Ref: GD/mjc

18 April 2019

Dear Councillor Chandler

**The Mental Health Workstream – STP**

Many thanks for taking the time to write to me about the HOSC meeting on 1 March 2019. I can understand your concern about the many components of mental health and the desire for assurance that important connections are being made.

I can confirm that there is an existing STP Mental Health Workstream in place which is responsible for overseeing the delivery of nationally-set priorities for mental health services for people of all ages. This includes those especially relevant to children and young people such as specialist Children and Young People's Mental Health services, Eating Disorder Services and Early Intervention in Psychosis Services. The Workstream Board also oversees system requirements in relation to Mental Health Investment and workforce planning. The Board includes representation from CCGs, local mental health providers, Councils, Public Health and the STP.

The Workstream therefore does have oversight of care for all ages and links directly with the Local Transformation Board. We are currently identifying the discrepancies in care between children and young adult mental health services and adult services in order that we have a programme to address those differences and improve the experience of transition where that is required. The Workstream will continue to facilitate collaboration and take a lead on mental health service areas where intergenerational equity is vital.

It might be helpful to share some examples of the joined-up work across Kent.

In relation to mental health crisis, KMPT and NELFT share the MH S136 provision in Dartford which was an agreed intervention across the system to improve access for children under the age of 18 in Kent and Medway: before this there was not a children's

S136 place of safety in the county. The plan is now for NELFT to deliver a bespoke children's S136 at the Woodlands site in Staplehurst.

The transition from child to adult is a key area of system-wide focus. KMPT, NELFT and the commissioners have on numerous occasions agreed to individual placements for children who are just under 18 to access adult inpatient provision in order to ensure a smooth transition and to ensure individual needs are met in the correct environment. When appropriate, this work has included care planning with acute and SECAMB colleagues to work across age groups to meet identified needs.

East Kent CCGs have funded a project to scope what an 18-25 offer could look like. North Kent CCGs are funding a Primary Care Mental Health Specialist to support young people on NELFT case load who are transitioning to adult services: the service provides full mental health assessment; treatment plan and short term follow up by the PCMHS team or refers for onward support and management to the most suitable service.


Another example is the development of an all age neurodevelopmental pathway. Currently, an adult pathway is described and a business case put forward for funding. We will now working across Kent with a view to extending that to be all age; making sure that the services are aligned and the same outcomes achieved.

The STP is taking a whole-life-course view in relation to population mental health and wellbeing. We will do more on predictive/systems dynamics modelling this year as a part of this, e.g. predicted impacts of changing levels of CYPMH services access on adult mental illness, and applying trauma-aware approaches.

I hope this letter gives you confidence about the scope of system-wide, joined-up planning and commissioning across Kent and how that addresses Children and the transition period. We do acknowledge that there is more to be done.

We would, of course, be pleased to meet with the HOSC again for further discussions. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Douglas', with a stylized, flowing script.

Glenn Douglas  
Chief Executive of Kent and Medway STP and  
Accountable Officer for Kent and Medway CCGs

cc Rachel Jones – Director of Strategy and Partnerships  
Lauretta Kavanagh – Programme Lead STP Mental Health Workstream  
Adam Wickings - Deputy Managing Director, MNWK CCGs  
Karen Benbow - Director of Commissioning, East Kent CCGs