

**KENT AND MEDWAY  
JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**15 MARCH 2022**

**JOINT KENT AND MEDWAY HEALTH AND WELLBEING  
BOARD: CLOSE DOWN REPORT**

Report from: Mrs Clair Bell, Chairman  
Cllr David Brake, Vice-Chairman

Author: Karen Cook, Policy and Relationships Adviser  
(Health): Kent County Council

**Summary**

A decision has been made by both Medway and Kent's Health and Wellbeing Boards that the Joint Kent and Medway Health and Wellbeing Board should be disestablished as an advisory Joint Sub Committee. It will, in effect, be replaced by the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Partnership.

This report reviews the role and impact of the Joint Board during the 4 years it has been operating.

The Chairman and Vice-chairman would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported the Joint Board and laid the foundations for system wide leadership as we move into the Integrated Care System.

**1. Budget and Policy Framework**

1.1 The Kent and Medway Joint Health and Wellbeing Board (Joint Board) was established in 2018 as an advisory Joint Sub Committee of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board and the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board under Section 198(c) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The decision to disestablish the Joint Board was taken by the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board on 16 September 2021 and the Medway Health and Wellbeing Board on 10 February 2022.

**2. Background**

2.1 The Health and Care Bill has been delayed but is now continuing its journey through Parliament. It is expected to receive Royal Assent at the end of March and to be implemented from July 2022, rather than the original launch date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

2.2 The Bill sets out the requirement for all Health and Care Systems to put an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) in place. This will be a Joint Committee between the NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB), Kent County Council and Medway Council, and will, in effect, duplicate the role and purpose of the existing Joint Board. Therefore, it has been agreed that the Joint Board is

disestablished from 31 March 2022, in preparation for the formal establishment of the Integrated Care Partnership in July 2022. As part of these interim arrangements, it is also proposed that the Integrated Care Partnership will run in shadow form until July 2022, for which discussions are ongoing.

- 2.3 As the Joint Board is closing down this paper aims to report on its work and impact during the last four years.

### **3. Review**

- 3.1 The Joint Board was formed to secure a collaborative approach between the Kent and Medway Health and Wellbeing Boards and the NHS as the health and care system began to work in closer partnership across the County. It was originally set up for a period two years but after that time all partners agreed to continue.

- 3.2 The Board was set up to:

- i. Ensure collective leadership to improve health and well-being outcomes across both local authority areas,
- ii. to enable shared discussion and consensus about the emerging Health and Care Partnership across the Kent and Medway footprint in an open and transparent way.
- iii. Help to ensure the Partnership has democratic legitimacy and accountability, to seek assurance that health care services paid for by public monies are provided in a cost-effective manner.
- iv. Consider the work of the Partnership and encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social care services in the area to work in an integrated manner
- v. Take account of and advise on the wider statutory duties of Health and Social Care Partners

### **3.3 Action During year 1 and 2 (2018-2019)**

In fulfilling its terms of reference, the Joint Board received reports on the following topics during its first two years:

- 3.3.1 The development of the Kent and Medway Health and Care System from the informal Sustainability and Transformation Partnership to the Integrated Care System which will be enshrined in law from April 2022. This included

- Overview of the structural changes across the system, including moving from 8 NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups to 1 Clinical Commissioning Group and the subsequent development of the Integrated Care System
- Workforce challenges
- Infrastructure developments including Estates, digital and technological solutions.

- 3.3.2 Innovation and new models of care

- the development of local care models that supported primary care across Kent and Medway including the introduction of Multi-disciplinary teams.
- Impact of the Encompass Multi Specialty Community Provider Vanguard in East Kent
- Reports on the work of the Design and Learning Centre for Clinical and Social Innovation

3.3.3 The work of preventing ill health and improving health outcomes for the population. Reports have covered

- Progress of the Kent and Medway Prevention Action Plan
- Reducing Tobacco usage
- Understanding patterns of Obesity
- NHS Health Checks for people aged 40-75
- Reducing Alcohol Consumption
- Physical activity
- Health Checks for people who have a Learning Disability

3.3.4 In September 2019 the Joint Board undertook a review to discuss its role and purpose and it was agreed that it would prioritise understanding and tackling deep-rooted health inequalities that were affecting communities across Kent and Medway. This included more focus on children and young people, those with a learning disability, autism or mental health problems and those environmental and lifestyle factors (the wider determinants of health- such as housing, employment and education) that have the greatest impact on health outcomes.

#### 3.4 **Activity during Year 3 and 4 (2020-2022).**

3.4.1 In 2020 the emergency response to Covid -19 disrupted business as usual and delayed the development of a work programme focussed on health inequalities.. During this time the Joint Board fulfilled the important role of the Local Outbreak Engagement Board and provided political ownership, public-facing engagement and communication for Kent and Medway's outbreak response as required by National Government.

3.4.2 As it became clear that Covid-19 was disproportionately affecting some parts of the population the Joint Board decided to concentrate its attention on the emerging impact of Covid 19 and the widening health inequalities found in Kent and Medway. A development session took place on June 10th, 2021, and included the members of the Joint Board and the members of the Integrated Care System Partnership Board, bringing together the widest leadership of the Kent and Medway Integrated Care System for the first time. At that session it was agreed that an action plan would be developed to support the systemwide adoption of agreed priorities to tackle Health Inequalities.

3.4.3 At the same time a new programme of work was launched looking at Population Health Management and how, as a System we understand and plan health and care services for our communities. The work of the programme continues with the aim to accelerate changes to care delivery to achieve better outcomes and experiences for selected populations. It was

agreed by the Joint Board that that the learning from this programme should influence the priority setting for the Health Inequalities Action Plan and the two link together to provide a coherent, strategic approach for joint planning and delivery going forward.

3.4.4 In December 2021 the Joint Board received a report called A Health Inequalities Strategic Action Plan: Informing the Priority Areas for Action pulling this significant programme of work together with findings and recommendations for prioritising and focusing our approach to prevention.

3.4.5 During this period, it also considered reports on:

- Case for change: Children and Young People strategic framework
- Kent and Medway prehabilitation programme
- Preventing Suicide in Kent and Medway: strategy 2021-2025
- Public Health Reflections on Impact of COVID19 on Mental Health and Progress on Resilience and Recovery post 2020.
- Health and Wellbeing of Coastal Communities

#### **4. Legacy**

4.1 All partners agree that the Joint Board has reached its natural end and the Integrated Care Partnership Committee will replace it. It should be remembered that the Joint Board held the unique position of having a wide partnership membership across NHS and Local authorities including Medway Council, Kent County Council and Districts providing a strong democratic voice in the future design and delivery of health and social care services in Kent and Medway. Wider stakeholders represented the voice of the public and lived experience and it was an open and public facing meeting. The statutory requirement to have an Integrated Care Partnership with a similar role to that of the Joint Board in every System across the Country is an endorsement of the approach that Kent and Medway adopted in 2018.

4.2 The work that began through the Joint Board to identify system wide priorities for tackling health Inequalities and promoting population health management will carry on as a significant work programme in the Integrated Care System.

4.3 The Joint Board has provided the setting for the development of stronger, more collaborative leadership and the emerging Integrated Care Partnership confirms the important role that wider partners have in promoting the health and wellbeing of the population. There is no doubt that the Integrated Care Partnership will build on the foundations laid by the Joint Board and that these foundations stand us in good stead to go forward, working together to improve the health outcomes of all our residents.

#### **6. Financial, Legal and Risk Management Implications**

6.1 None

#### **7. Recommendations**

The Kent and Medway Joint Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- a) Note the report
- b) Reflect on the legacy of the Joint Board

**Lead officer contact**

Karen Cook, Policy and Relationship Adviser (Health). Strategy, Policy, Relationships and Corporate Assurance: [karen.cook@kent.gov.uk](mailto:karen.cook@kent.gov.uk) Tel: 03000 415281