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To: Cabinet – 14 January 2008

Subject: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Children and Young People's Health in Kent

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary Cabinet is asked to endorse the use of the Joint Strategic Needs assessment as an aid to planning and commissioning for the Children's Trust and its Locality arrangements as part of the developing partnership between Health and KCC.

Introduction and background

1. (1) Through the Children Act 2004 (section 10) Health Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) have a duty to co-operate with KCC to improve outcomes for children and young people.
- (2) The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Children and Young People's Health in Kent is a statutory document which each Health PCT is required to produce to inform health commissioning decisions. This is a new requirement and we understand that this is one of the first JSNA for children and young people produced in the country. It is noteworthy and helpful that agreement between the 2 PCTs has been reached to publish a document for the whole of Kent.
- (3) The development of this document was led by Dr Jonathan Sexton, Assistant Director of Public Health Canterbury/Swale, Eastern & Coastal Kent PCT, supported by a team from both Health and from KCC CFE as part of the developing relationship with Health being fostered through the Health Division within CFE and the KCC Public Health Unit.
- (4) It has been developed on the premise that improving children and young people's health in Kent is not just the job of Health services, but of all agencies and providers of services for children and young people in Kent.

Structure and methodology of the JSNA

2. (1) A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is the means by which Primary Care Trusts describe the future healthcare and wellbeing needs of local populations and the strategic direction of service delivery to link those needs.
- (2) The intention of this Needs Assessment is to provide an analysis of:
 - the data to show the health and wellbeing status of children in Kent,
 - demonstrate where inequalities exist,
 - use the views expressed by Kent children,
 - demonstrate evidence of effectiveness of interventions based on research studies,
 - use the information to determine the shape, future investment and direction of services.
- (3) The conclusions of the JSNA, in the form of recommendations, seek to define achievable improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes for Kent children, send signals to existing and potential providers of services about the scale of change, support the better delivery of health and wellbeing outcomes, inform subsequent stages of commissioning cycles, generally aid better decision making and further advise on the choice of local outcomes and targets.

Key Child Public Health Issues identified as needing greater attention in the JSNA

3. (1) Dysfunctions either of poor child development opportunities or wider factors that prevent optimal development of children, which include:
 - Some of the highest levels of child poverty in Europe (WHO 2007)¹;
 - Increasing inequalities in child health;
 - Emotional and behavioural problems;
 - Obesity;
 - Social interaction patterns²;
 - Teenage pregnancy – still the highest rates in Europe;
 - Accidents both at home or on the road;
 - Being a member of a vulnerable group e.g. LAC, teen parents, young offenders, those in need of protection and/or family support, young drug misusers, or a child of drug or alcohol misusing parents, children of asylum seekers;
 - Children with one problem are often at greater risk of experiencing others.

¹ NB Poverty is relative, not an absolute

² Eg social interaction patterns may affect, for example a pupils' attitude to learning and thus his/her ability to learn, or may impede a parent in asking for help appropriately and thus getting the help they need for their child.

Use of the JSNA

4. (1) The JSNA is a useful tool to support the joint planning, commissioning and delivery of services for children and young people in Kent under development through the Kent Children's Trust.
- (2) Every Child Matters and the NHS National Service Framework for Children are primarily concerned with standards of care in order that children's services are fit for purpose. This Strategic Needs Assessment will be used to identify issues requiring future investment grounded upon the identification of local issues. It should also identify other change issues necessary to advance improvements in the health and welfare of children and young people. For this reason there are obvious cross links from this Needs Assessment to the Children and Young Person's Plan.
- (3) Whilst the prime audience for the Needs Assessment is the multi-agency Kent Children's Trust, wherever possible the data is broken down to district level. Thus emerging Local Children's Trust Arrangements can use the data in the document together with its commentary to highlight local issues reflected in the relative position of each locality to the county as a whole and to make regional and England comparisons. KCC analysts are also developing a report card for each district, which will use the data stated here, summarised for focused local use.
- (4) There is more work to be done on improving information about child health particularly indicators that show how we are doing on inequalities in health. This will form part of the work of the Kent Public Health Observatory led by the Director of Public Health.
- (5) It is planned that a summary version of a revised JSNA will be produced in Autumn 2008 which shows how it has influenced commissioning and how we are progressing on reducing inequalities in health to influence commissioning in 2009/10.

Implications

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| 5. | (1) | Budget/Financial Impact | None |
| | (2) | Equality And Diversity | This document highlights and makes recommendations about tackling inequalities in children and young people's health across Kent |
| | (3) | Customer Service and Delivery | Use of this document to guide commissioning decisions will help improve the cost effectiveness of some services to children and young people. |
| | (4) | Towards 2010 Targets. | This document supports delivery of a number of T2010 targets |

Request

6. Cabinet is asked to **note** the JSNA and to **endorse** its use as a tool to support the development of the Kent Children's Trust, and the commissioning of locality based services.

7. Background Documents:

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Children and Young People's Health in Kent – attached as Appendix 1.

8. Other Useful Information:

Item 3 Cabinet 26th November 2007. Other general background information and documents are available on the Children's Trust WebPages:
<http://www.clusterweb.org.uk/children/childrenstrust>

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