

Update from the meeting of the East Kent Programme Board 12 October 2017

About the East Kent Programme Board

The East Kent Programme Board has been set up by local health and care commissioners to spearhead the drive to determine how best to provide health and care services to the population of east Kent. Its work is part of the wider Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for Kent and Medway.

Comprising all organisations involved in the planning, provision and delivery of health and care services in this area, the Board is an advisory board with a clinical chair. Its membership includes the chief executives and most senior clinicians, practitioners and leaders of east Kent's NHS and care services. The Board oversees a work programme and advises local health and care commissioners whose role it is to plan the future pattern of services across east Kent.

As of 17 November 2016, the East Kent Programme Board has a new and formalised role within the governance structure of the Kent and Medway STP. This allows the Board to build on the work it has done at an east Kent level with colleagues in health and social care across Kent and Medway.

The following update covers the key agenda items discussed at the meeting.

Local care update

All four Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in east Kent and East Kent Hospitals University Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding a new system of local care relating to the provision and delivery of some cardiology, respiratory and rheumatology services. A new approach to these three key areas will see more planned care taking place outside of hospital and in a community setting meaning that patients will not need to travel to a hospital for treatment, can receive care closer to home, hospital beds across east Kent will be freed up for more urgent and emergency cases and specialist senior clinical care can be concentrated on treating these cases.

The new approach is being implemented during October and November and all organisations have been asked to share data so that an accurate and timely picture of the status of implementation can be built with the Board receiving regular reports on progress.

The Board also received an update on the implementation of the pneumonia pathway and frailty work that is currently being progressed across east Kent and will receive further updates about this at future meetings.



The East Kent Programme Board member organisations include:

NHS South Kent Coast CCG; NHS Canterbury and Coastal CCG; NHS Ashford CCG; NHS Thanet CCG; East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust; Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust; Kent & Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust; South East Coast Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust; Encompass Vanguard and Kent County Council.

Stroke

The Board received an update on the Kent and Medway stroke review. The Stroke Programme Board, which is leading the review of acute stroke services on behalf of the Kent and Medway STP, has looked at several possible models and expects to make an announcement on the list of options it will consult on early next year.

This follows a programme of detailed engagement with key stakeholders, in-depth clinical review and evaluation and the consideration of a wide number of options.

The shortlist is likely to include several options involving three specialist hyper acute stroke centres at existing acute hospitals. This shortlist will then be presented to a joint committee of clinical commissioners, independently chaired, who will make the final decision on the shortlist for consultation. Commissioners expect to take these proposals out to a formal public consultation in early Spring 2018.

Workforce update

At STP level, a dedicated workstream is looking at how best to build a sustainable workforce for the future across Kent and Medway. Within east Kent, work has been going on for some time to map current and future demand, identify areas of particular challenge and to develop plans alongside other workstreams to help achieve a sustainable workforce for health and care services.

In east Kent, major workforce challenges have been identified as:

- an ageing population and increased demand for services
- difficulty recruiting and retaining specialist and non-specialist staff i.e. GPs, ED (emergency department) medical staff, nursing, social care workers
- not consistently meeting clinical standards/guidance for workforce levels; and,
- high reliance on temporary staffing at high cost and variability in quality.

The Board received an update on progress to date including a report on the outcomes of a multidisciplinary workshop held at the beginning of October, attended by representatives from all partner organisations across the east Kent health and care economy.

The workshop's main aims were to: recognise the current workforce risks that all partners are managing; identify current and future workforce needs; quantify the gaps between new care models.

Key themes from the workshop included:

- the use of existing skills, capabilities and resources in adopting changes in working practices;
- the need for greater trust and confidence between organisations in the training and competencies of roles shared and working across local care;
- enthusiasm for more shared learning and examples of working differently across East Kent;
- the suggestion of a shared framework that supports changes, promotes localism whilst maintaining an East Kent identity to support future resource and skills development;

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- a core set of common competencies that exist across all staff groups supporting the delivery of new models for example leadership skills as part of multi-disciplinary teams;
- the development of a workforce strategy for east Kent;
- greater clarity and the use of a common language across roles and services to support more effective and consistent care navigation.

The Board noted that concerns about the health and care workforce is a key theme that has surfaced during engagement activity, with recent listening events and staff feedback highlighting anxieties about staffing, morale, recruitment and retention.

Whilst there has been a significant amount of work already done to assess the current workforce model and future needs, more work is needed to refine any gaps in capacity and capabilities and a further update on workforce development will be shared at the next meeting in November.

For more information about the work of the East Kent Programme Board visit:

<http://kentandmedway.nhs.uk/where-you-live/plans-east-kent/>

Ends



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