

Ashford Health and Wellbeing Board 19th October 2015

Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment workshop of 22nd September and Kent Health and Wellbeing Board meeting of 16th September

Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Workshop

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Kent is due to be updated next year. The Kent Health and Wellbeing Board hosted a workshop for stakeholders and other interested parties on 22nd June. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss how the JSNA could be more relevant to those that use it, especially in its function of informing the plans and decisions of the various commissioners of health, social care and public health services.

Over 80 people attended from across the various sectors including CCG representatives, providers and the VCS. Some short presentations introduced the morning followed by workshops on various topics designed to improve our understanding of what the JSNA needs to contain, who has valuable contributions to make to the data and information it contains, and how it can be presented and supported by other information and tools to make it properly useful to commissioners and others.

The results are currently being analysed and will be reported back to the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board in the new year. The next revision of the JSNA is due to be discussed at the Kent H&WB next May.

Kent Health and Wellbeing Board

The Kent H&WB met on the 16th September. Main agenda items included reports on the Strategic Priorities of Healthwatch Kent; key items from the current JSNA that need to be reflected in the commissioning plans of CCGs and others in the next commissioning round; the Kent Emotional Wellbeing Strategy for Children, Young People and Young Adults (0-25 yrs); the relationship between the Kent Board and the local health and wellbeing boards; the issue of the Kent board and its relationship with the Voluntary and Community sector; the Kent Health and Social Care Integration Test Bed site submission; and the minutes from the local health and wellbeing boards.

Full details can be found at:

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=790&MIId=5835&Ver=4>

Local Health and Wellbeing Boards and their relationship with the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board

The relationship between the Kent Board and its local subcommittees has been an issue for discussion for some time. Both parties have voiced dissatisfaction in the past and this report followed a review of how the relationship is working, and perceived to be working, conducted over the Summer.

The report contains a raft of 17 recommendations, 6 of which relate to the Kent Board. These are designed to clarify the expectations of the Kent Board with respect to what the local boards should do and how they should go about their business. They are designed to be enabling rather than proscriptive and to provide a framework that local boards can develop within. Local boards are being offered support from the KCC policy function and opportunities provided by the LGA to assist their implementation of the recommendations and their development. Over the next 6-12 months it is hoped that local boards can establish how they wish to take local issues forward within the framework expected by the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board.

Kent Health and Wellbeing Board and strategic relationship with VCS

Another issue that has been raised from time to time and featured in the discussions around the Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy at the event held in June, is that of the Kent board's relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector. KCC has recently agreed a new VCS policy to inform its work with the sector and this has added impetus to the debate around the role of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board.

The report outlined the issues involved and was based on the assumption that whilst engagement with the VCS at the local board level is essential, the relationship at a more strategic level is less clear.

The Kent Board agreed to set up a small working group to look at two related questions:

Should the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board have a strategic relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector above and beyond that which will be forged at a more local level ?

If so, what should that relationship be about and what mechanisms will need to be established to progress this ?

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