

**Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG Mental Health local Mental Health  
Action Group update**

**March 2016**

**0-25 Children, Young People and Young Adult service development**

**National context**

The Autumn Statement (December 2014) and Budget (March 2015) announced plans to transform children's mental health services, aligning with recommendations set out in the NHS *Five Year Forward View* with the national ambition that this will build capacity and capability across the system so that by 2020 we will make measurable progress towards closing the health and wellbeing gap and securing sustainable improvements in children and young people's mental health outcomes.

A national taskforce was set up by Norman Lamb, the then Minister for Care and Support, to establish a clear consensus on how to make it easier for children and young people to access high quality mental health care when they need it. '*Future in Mind*' was the product and this describes an integrated whole system approach to driving further improvements in children and young people's mental health outcomes with the NHS, Public Health, voluntary and community, local authority children's services, education and youth justice sectors working together. The report included prioritising investment for children and young people at local level through robust action planning and engagement, developed in publicly available agreed Local Transformation Plans for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing.

**Local Context**

The national work reported similar concerns to those in Kent with work already underway on the development of '*The Way Forward: Kent's Emotional Wellbeing Strategy for Children, Young People, Young Adult's and Families*'.

In September 2014, partners on Kent Children's Health and Wellbeing Board published the first part of the new Strategy for children, young people and young adults. This document set out a framework of four key outcomes, based on national and local research and early consultation activity with families and professionals, and made the commitment to translate these principles into a multi-agency Kent Local Transformation Plan which strategically aligns with the NHS '*Five Year Forward View*', the 49 recommendations of '*Future in Mind*', the '*Kent and Medway Crisis Care Concordat*' and Kent County Council (KCC) Transformation Programme for 0-25 years old.

The recommendations in the Kent Local Transformation Plan lay the foundations for a new system of support that extends beyond the traditional reach of commissioned services, recognising that promoting and protecting the emotional wellbeing of our children and young people is far bigger than any individual organisation. The Plan outlines the work to take place across Kent between now and 2020. A significant element of the Plan is regarding procurement and delivery of the child and adolescent service contract across the whole pathway, including universal services (for example schools, health visitors) commissioned by Public Health, Early Help commissioned by KCC and specialist secondary care provision commissioned by the CCG with an element from KCC for Children in Care.

The developments will be overseen by the Procurement Programme Board and a Transformation Board.

*The Kent Transformation Plan has now been published on the Live it Well website and can be accessed via the link below:*

<http://www.liveitwell.org.uk/policies/kent-transformation-plan-for-children-young-people-and-young-adults/>

## **Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Service**

Two clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in north Kent have awarded a community mental health and wellbeing contract to local charity, Porchlight.

After a joint procurement exercise with Kent County Council and an open market process, NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley (DGS) CCG and NHS Swale CCG have announced the Kent based charity as their preferred Strategic Partner.

From 1 May 2016, the management of Improved Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), Primary Care Mental Health Specialists and Personality Disorder Peer Support services will transfer to Porchlight.

CCGs are responsible for buying and managing a wide range of local health services that include prevention, early intervention, support and recovery programmes for people experiencing mental ill health.

Patricia Davies, Accountable Officer for NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley (DGS) and NHS Swale CCGs, who plan and buy most health services in the area, said: "We look forward to working with Porchlight and other partners to build on, and develop mental health services in our area. This new contract provides an excellent opportunity for partnership working between the health and voluntary sector to deliver an integrated community service.

“Patients will continue to receive high quality care throughout the transition and beyond, with the added benefit of accessing a range of tailored community health services through a single point of contact.”

With proven experience and a strong track record of supporting vulnerable people across the county, Porchlight has helped thousands of people with economic, social or mental health issues to live independently, play an active role in their local community and to fulfil their potential.

“We’re very proud to have been awarded the contract to deliver this innovative and outcome focused service,” said Mike Barrett, Chief Executive of Porchlight. We’ve already got a great reputation for partnership working and providing personalised support to address a person’s whole need, helping them develop the resilience and skills to move towards a more positive future.

“As Strategic Lead for this new service, we’ll be working closely with other commissioned mental health service providers and with more than 60 local agencies specialising in arts, employment, volunteering, exercise and sports, as well as ensuring that high quality psychological therapies and other healthcare services are widely available to anyone who needs them.

“The new service is all about helping people access a network of resources within their own community, so that they can choose the support that is right for them and take control of their own recovery. By providing lasting and sustainable support within local communities, we can promote social inclusion and wellbeing and give people the information and skills they need for a healthy, independent life.”

The contract is worth approximately £2 million per year for the next three years across Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley and Swale CCG areas.

For more information about support services in Kent, go to [www.liveitwell.org.uk](http://www.liveitwell.org.uk)