



27 August 2019

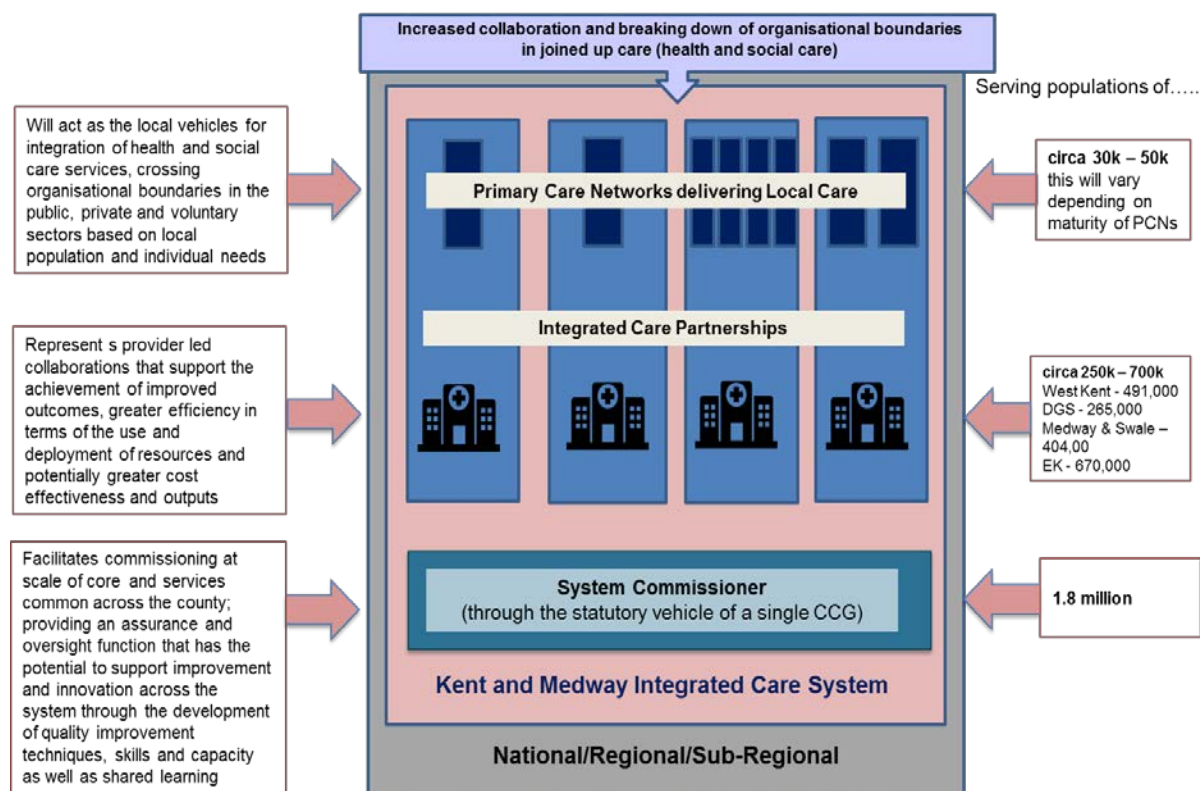
To all Kent and Medway GP practices

Dear Colleague,

As you are aware the eight CCGs in Kent and Medway are proposing to merge and are asking each practice to vote to become one single Kent and Medway CCG. The LMC has been working with Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) and the system transformation programme within it to ensure that General Practice is represented at this time of change and that the whole system understands what General Practice can deliver now and in the future.

The current transformation represents an endorsement from NHS England (NHSE) that General Practice has clinical leaders who are making a positive difference and bring expertise which is invaluable to delivering high quality care. We need to ensure that the system embraces the voice of primary care and listens to its ideas and concerns.

The vote to endorse the merger of the current CCGs into Kent and Medway CCG represents a pivotal step in the proposed changes. The transformation plans from NHSE/NHS Improvement (NHSI) and Kent and Medway outline how General Practice and PCNs will be the building blocks of the future architecture. We recognise that currently PCNs are in the formative stage and need time and adequate resources to develop.



Kent LMC and the system transformation programme have met to discuss the various issues faced by General Practice and the wider system and have agreed to continue working together during this time of change.

We have agreed a number of principles concerning General Practice and its representation, including:

- 1) The Kent and Medway system recognises that there is a gap between the provisions of the PCN Directed Enhanced Service (DES) as it is currently and the expectations of local care plans.
- 2) It is clear that as General Practice is under a great deal of stress at present, no further work beyond the provisions of the PCN DES can be expected of Primary Care without adequately resourced additional contracts.
- 3) The Integrated Care Partnership contract will describe outcomes which will strengthen collaborative working to replace the competitive relationships between sovereign organisations which currently exist.
- 4) Recognising that the extent of representation will need clarification, GP contract (GMS/PMS and APMS) holders will be represented by the LMC, separately and in addition to PCNs within:
 - a. the ICS system Partnership Board
 - b. the CCG Primary Care Committee
 - c. the four Integrated Care Partnerships
 - d. the K&M Clinical and Professional Board
 - e. and the K&M Primary Care Programme Board.
- 5) Strong General Practice is essential to the success of the NHS, especially as more care is delivered locally, and no additional work will be expected without additional funding and resources.
- 6) The Constitution of the Kent and Medway CCG will be drafted in consultation with the LMC.
- 7) GMS, PMS and APMS contracts will be managed at Kent and Medway level (not within ICPs) and the primary care budgets will not be reduced, if anything they will be increased.
- 8) The interface between practices and the CCG will continue to have local links, i.e. the same people and the same contact numbers.


Kent and Medway CCG will function in a similar way to the current CCGs with a Governing Body that will have a clinical majority and will include GP representatives from all the areas.

It is essential that the practices make an informed choice. We would encourage practices to actively engage with this process and exercise your right to vote.

Yours sincerely



Dr Gaurav Gupta
Chair Kent LMC



Dr Bob Bowes
Chair K&M CCG's System Commissioner Steering
Group