

Formal Response from the Cabinet: *Public Health White Paper (Cabinet – 17 March 2011)*

Following the launch of the overarching White Paper, Liberating the NHS: Equality and Excellence, in July 2010 which set out the Government's ambitions for the future of public health a number of White Papers and consultations had been issued. The new White Paper, Healthy Lives, Healthy People set out the future national and local structure for public health provision including the establishment of a new body, Public Health England, as part of the Department of Health and the return of public health leadership and responsibility to local government. This included provision for Directors of Public Health to be employed by the Counties and for statutory Health and Well Being Boards to be set up at County level and for the majority of public health services being commissioned by County Councils through ring-fenced budgets as part of the function of Health and Wellbeing Boards. Local authorities at county and district level would have a new role in improving the health and wellbeing of their population. Since the publication of the Public Health White Paper two consultation documents had been issued, "Funding and Commissioning Routes for Public Health" and "Transparency in Outcomes". Responses were invited by the end of March 2011 and the Council's suggested submissions were appended to the report. The Head of Community Development advised Members that the submissions did not address every question contained in the consultation papers but focussed upon key areas and the importance of the District Council being involved at community level and in the shaping of policy. This had been supported by the Social Affairs Select Committee on 8 March 2011. Cabinet noted and supported the comments from the Social Affairs Select Committee and asked that this should be fed back. The Head of Community Development also reported that in Kent three PCTs were joining together as a cluster with a joint board and that GP clusters were also beginning to emerge.

The Cabinet noted the emerging shape of the structure of public health across the county and that Kent County Council was focussing on two key priorities, the prevention & treatment of dementia and CAMHS. Members recognised the importance of District Council's continuing to shape local policy and also stressed the need to ensure that any responsibilities handed down by the County Council would be accompanied by suitable funding which had also been raised by the Social Affairs Select Committee.

Resolved: That

- (a) the report on the Public Health White Paper – Healthy Lives, Healthy People – Funding, Commissioning and Outcomes be noted; and
- (b) that the responses to the consultations set out in the Appendix to the report be approved.