

West Kent Health & Wellbeing Board Meeting 17 October 2017

Update Workshop: *Towards a Whole Systems Approach to Falls Prevention*

From Current State to Ideal Status

Hip Fractures in people aged 65 and over are higher than national rates in districts in West Kent. Injuries due to falls in people aged 65 and over in all four districts is higher than the national level.

Falls prevention and management services should be seen as an important component of integrated services with specific outcomes for reducing the falls related burden of ill health across health and social care sector. Commissioners need to work with stakeholders (providers and the voluntary sector) to identify the 'at risk' population for timely intervention).

The CCG has a role in commissioning treatment and prevention measures which can influence prevention of falls; District and Borough councils have a role in managing the environment to reduce falls and home hazards, whilst the Public Health role is to strengthen the system (which includes mobilising the population group and others such as the community and voluntary sector).

West Kent Health & Wellbeing Board is seeking to stimulate discussion around development of a 'framework' for falls prevention and management for its population. The Board recently hosted a workshop involving a wide range of stakeholders including providers from across the local health economy; county, district and borough councils; the community, voluntary sector; advocacy groups and commissioners of services to explore the issues which might influence the development of a 'Whole Systems Approach to Falls Prevention'.

After the workshop the lead officers responsible for developing services and support were contacted and asked to look at opportunities for strengthening joint working and integrated commissioning. The Workshop Update offers an opportunity to hear from the main agencies with a lead responsibility and to take part in developing a commitment to support the delivery of a fresh approach to prevention of falls across West Kent.