

Special People Scrutiny Committee

20th January 2020

CCG Merger Briefing Paper

Presented by: Terry Huff Accountable Officer

Status: For Noting

Background

At the September 2019 Governing Body meeting Southend CCG noted the requirements of the NHS national Long Term Plan and approved a recommendation to: *commence work on an application for merger of the 5 mid and south Essex CCGs to be submitted following engagement with stakeholders and final Governing Body approval prior to submission.*

This briefing note provides an update to the Scrutiny Committee on the progress to date in considering a merger application and the formal process with which stakeholders, including Southend BC, will be engaged in the process.

Progress

The CCGs have commenced a merger project with the aim of having a completed merger application ready for submission to NHS England for consideration at July 2020 Governing Body meetings. This will only happen if CCG Member Practices have formally voted in favour of a merger which is scheduled for June. The member practice vote will be informed by the engagement with stakeholders which will run from late January/early February to late March/early April.

Engagement with stakeholders, public and patients was delayed due to the General Election period in November and December. Documents explaining the merger proposal and the application process for a general public engagement exercise are being drafted and will be available on CCG websites from early February. The key thrust of this engagement is to seek the views of the wider patient and public population and to understand any concerns they have over the merger proposals.

A further programme of formal engagement is planned with stakeholder organisations later in February. In addition to formal engagement processes the Accountable Officer of Southend CCG meets regularly with key individuals within the Council to keep them abreast of developments and to ensure the council's views are reflected in any joint discussions regarding a single CCG management team and proposed merger application.

The aim of the engagement exercise is to inform the merger proposals. The application proposal should form the core of the information provided to CCG member practices and needs to reflect how the CCGs have considered what stakeholders, patients and public have told them about the merger. The final application must explain what local authority views are on the merger proposal, and what the CCGs' observations on those views are. They should also show how the CCGs have/will put in place suitable arrangements with local authorities to support integration at 'place' level (population of between 250,000 and 500,000).

The final application must also demonstrate that a new merged CCG has the ability to engage with local communities: assurance is required by NHS England that the move to a larger geographical footprint will not be at the expense of the proposed new CCG's ability to engage with - and consider the needs of - local communities. The CCGs will need to complete a Public Sector Equality Duty assessment as part of the application.

Southend Council and Southend CCG have integrated commissioning teams and the Director of Integrated Commissioning, a shared post across both organisations, is a member of the project team helping to draft the merger application. The project team will work on both the merger application and, if approved, on the organisational changes required to deliver a merger as well. All CCG Boards will have updates on the merger application process at their public meetings throughout the year starting in January 2020.

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