

## **Background**

At their September 2019 Governing Body meeting the five mid and south Essex CCGs each 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 provides an update to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on this work.

## **Progress**

### **Engagement**

A discussion document and survey, co-designed with local stakeholders and people, explaining the merger proposal and the application process was issued on 12 February 2020 to a very wide range of partners including councillors, patient groups and voluntary organisations. The CCGs are seeking views from local people, healthcare professionals and partner organisations on how to keep a strong local focus on ensuring health and care services are working for people at a place level, while also benefiting from the opportunities that commissioning services over a wider area may bring. There is also emphasis on a desire to maintain strong clinical leadership.

A copy of the engagement document is attached as Appendix 1. Feedback can be given via an online survey. An easy read version of the document has also been prepared and shared with relevant stakeholders. The document is available in alternative formats and languages on request.

Stakeholders have been sent a copy of the document and public meetings are being held in each CCG to allow a different way for local people to provide their feedback and have specific questions answered. The meetings are being advertised on CCG websites, social media and via posters locally.

The key purpose of this engagement is to listen and respond to the views of key partners and the wider public population and to capture the views, ideas and concerns re. proposals to merge into one commissioning organisation in line with the future direction set out in the 2019 NHS Long Term Plan.

### **Update on appointment of Joint Accountable Officer**

As some of you may be aware, at the conclusion of our initial recruitment process in January we did not appoint to the single role of Joint Accountable Officer for the five Mid and South Essex Clinical Commissioning Groups and executive lead for the Health and Care Partnership. Subject to NHS England & Improvement's formal agreement, Anthony McKeever has since been appointed as interim Joint Accountable Officer for the five CCGs and STP Executive lead.

Anthony has considerable experience in a variety of very senior NHS and non-NHS roles including as Chief Executive of several hospitals and most recently as Director General of Health and Community Services in the States of Jersey.

The recruitment process for a permanent Joint Accountable Officer will re-commence in the near future.

### Timings and next steps

