

Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

30 July 2019

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) merger proposal



Report of Dr Stewart Findley, Chief Officer, Clinical Commissioning Groups

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to notify members of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the proposed Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) merger.

Executive summary

- 2 Dr Stewart Findley will outline the proposal to form new CCGs to replace the five CCGs in Teesside, Darlington and Durham.
- 3 It is anticipated that the new CCGs would come into effect from 1 April 2020.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 Members of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to receive the report and provide comment at the meeting.

Background

- 5 In 2018, NHS England and NHS Improvement advised CCGs that they would be reducing their administration costs by 20% by 31 March 2020.
- 6 In turn, they asked all CCGs to reduce their own running costs by 20% in the same timescale. Whilst the reduction does not apply to the health services commissioned by CCGs, and therefore will not affect frontline patient services, it does apply to CCG staffing arrangements.

- 7 If the CCGs remain as five separate groups, and reduce their budget it may not be possible to fulfil all of their responsibilities with significantly less staff.
- 8 Merging the CCGs is a logical next step following closer working over the last few years. CCGs will be able to take a more streamlined approach to commissioning and simplify governance arrangements. The new organisation/s will be more efficient, saving money from management to direct towards patient care, and will be able to support health and care partners in improving local people's health and the services they use, as well as implementing priorities in the NHS Long Term Plan.
- 9 The CCGs would keep current local arrangements for engaging with people and health professionals in the places where they live and work and look for opportunities to improve that engagement, so that they stay in touch with, and take account of their needs.
- 10 If supported by the CCG Governing Bodies and by NHS England, the new CCG/s would be created on 1 April 2020, following the dissolution of the existing CCGs.

Consultation

- 11 The CCGs are talking to local Healthwatch organisations to understand their views on the proposals and to make sure that a wide range of local people's views are taken into account. Through their ongoing outreach activity and events they will be helping communities to receive and understand information about this proposal and gathering people's views.

Conclusion

- 12 Members of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have an understanding of the proposals, and will be able to share their thoughts on the proposed merger.

Background papers

- Proposals for new clinical commissioning groups for Tees Valley and Durham CCGs (Attached as Appendix 2).
- Presentation (Attached as Appendix 3)

Other useful documents

- None

Contact: Sarah Burns

Tel: 0191 371 3217

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

CCGs are a statutory requirement under the Health and Social Care Act

Finance

CCGs must reduce their own running costs by 20% by 31 March 2020

Consultation

Consultation will be undertaken by Healthwatch.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

CCG staffing arrangements will be impacted by the financial requirements for CCGs to reduce their own running costs by 20% by 31 March 2020

Accommodation

None

Risk

Not merging will impact on the ability to make the financial reductions

Procurement

None