

By email

29 August 2019

Dear Colleague,

Update on commissioning reform in NW London

I am writing as the Accountable Officer for the eight North West London CCGs, to update you on our plans for commissioning reform. As you know, the CCGs published the case for change for commissioning reform on 29 May 2019. This was in response to the recommendation in the NHS long term plan that the number of CCGs should be significantly reduced to align with the number of emerging integrated care systems (ICSs) across the country. This would imply a single CCG for NW London.

The launch of our case for change was followed by a period of engagement with CCG staff, local stakeholders and patient groups (this ended on the 24 August).

During this period of engagement we attended over 94 events, including eight governing bodies in public and 16 governing body events. In addition to this we have met with all local authorities, a large number of local GPs, most primary care networks, GP Federations, patient groups, the Local Medical Committee, Healthwatch and our staff.

I want to thank the many organisations and individuals who took part in the engagement exercise and provided their feedback. Following consideration of the responses received, I am writing to inform you of the recommendation that will be going to governing bodies in September.

The CCG Chairs have agreed to recommend the following to governing bodies:

- We will recommend that the merger takes place in April 2021 (not 2020)
- We are already aligned as a commissioning collaborative and will recommend that the merger should cover all eight CCGs, creating one NW London CCG
- That we use 2020-21 as a transitional year which will enable us to focus on:
 - system financial recovery
 - the development of integrated care and primary care networks at local level
 - building closer working relationships with our local authorities
 - the development of a single operating structure across the commissioning system
 - resolving questions that still require work, such as the status of historic CCG financial positions.

CCG governing bodies will discuss a paper setting out this position at their meetings in public in September.

I should stress that this recommendation relates solely to our specific position in north west London, and that other parts of London, which may be further advanced with merger proposals than us, will be taking to their governing bodies a different recommendation.

I hope that this update is helpful.



Yours sincerely,

Mark Easton
Chief Officer,
NHS North West London Collaboration of CCGs