



ENC. H1

<b>Meeting:</b>	ICS Board
<b>Report Title:</b>	Proposed merger of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCGs
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	Thursday 13 June 2019
<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	11
<b>Work-stream SRO:</b>	Amanda Sullivan, Accountable Officer, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCGs
<b>Report Author:</b>	Alex Ball, Director of Communications and Engagement, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS and CCGs
<b>Attachments/Appendices:</b>	Enc. H2. Future arrangements for NHS commissioning across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

**Report Summary:**

The NHS Long Term Plan as published on 7 January 2019 contains a confirmation of the direction of travel for CCG configurations into a single Strategic Commissioner CCG for each ICS area.

The six CCGs in the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS have commenced the process to apply to merge by April 2020 and are currently consulting with stakeholders on this proposal.

In order to support the formal application to merge, the leadership of the ICS are invited to write a letter of support for the merger.

This paper outlines the work undertaken to date and the further work due to come over the subsequent weeks and invites that ICS Board to offer its support to this proposed merger.

**Action:**

- To receive
- To approve the recommendations

**Recommendations:**

1.	To note the application in May 2019 from the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCGs to NHS England to commence the process to merge by April 2020
2.	To note the commencement of the stakeholder consultation on this proposed merger on 21 May 2019
3.	To agree to write collectively as ICS leaders to the Accountable Officer of the CCGs confirming the ICS's support for this proposed merger.

**Key implications considered in the report:**

Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Value for Money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Citizen engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clinical engagement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equality impact assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Engagement to date:</b>		
Board	Partnership Forum	Finance Directors Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performance Oversight Group	Clinical Reference Group	Mid Nottinghamshire ICP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning Group	Workstream Network	Nottingham City ICP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Nottinghamshire ICP		
<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Contribution to delivering the ICS high level ambitions of:</b>		
Health and Wellbeing		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Care and Quality		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Finance and Efficiency		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Culture		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the paper confidential?</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
<p>Note: Upon request for the release of a paper deemed confidential, under Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, parts or all of the paper will be considered for release.</p>		

## **PROPOSED MERGER OF THE NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CCGS**

**13 JUNE 2019**

### **Introduction**

1. The NHS Long Term Plan as published on 7 January 2019 contains a confirmation of the direction of travel for CCG configurations: “Every ICS will need streamlined commissioning arrangements to enable a single set of commissioning decisions at system level. This will typically involve a single CCG for each ICS area. CCGs will become leaner, more strategic organisations that support providers to partner with local government and other community organisations on population health, service redesign and Long Term Plan implementation”.
2. The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCGs (Mansfield and Ashfield; Newark and Sherwood; Nottingham North and East; Nottingham West; Rushcliffe; Nottingham City) have been working closely together for a considerable period of time: Over the past five years, the CCGs have worked more collaboratively, culminating in two geographical areas: Mid Nottinghamshire – two CCGs (worked jointly from March 2016) and Greater Nottingham Clinical Commissioning Partnership (formed April 2018) – four CCGs.
3. Over the past year, and well before the publication of the NHS Long Term Plan in January 2019, CCGs across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire had already started to consider the potential for a more formal joining up of commissioning arrangements.
4. In recent months, the CCGs have introduced a number of joint arrangements to serve all six CCGs. The CCGs now have a single Accountable Officer supported by a single leadership team. Joint committees will soon meet ‘in common’ and the first joint Governing Body meeting will take place in July 2019. Transitional work is underway both to align wider CCG governance and to bring together staffing structures.

### **Current Status**

5. The CCGs have discussed the possibilities for future commissioning arrangements openly with many organisations, groups and individuals over the past year, including member GPs, local authorities, voluntary services, hospitals and other healthcare partners.
6. These conversations have directly helped to shape the thinking, including the preferred proposal to merge. The CCGs understand from these conversations that stakeholders are supportive of a solution which paves the way for closer integration and better partnership working, enables more strategic commissioning, reduces administration costs, and releases valuable resources to focus on services and initiatives closer to the front-line.



7. All six CCG Governing Bodies agreed in April 2019 that the preferred way forward would be to fully merge and an application to NHS England to commence this process to merger has been submitted.
8. To support this application, a stakeholder consultation launched on 21 May 2019 and will run through to 17 June 2019.

### **Future Activities**

9. A formal CCG membership vote in each of the 6 CCGs considering the merger proposal will follow from 24 June 2019 to 28 June 2019.
10. Following the conclusion of this consultation and the membership vote, the joint Governing Body of the six CCGs will meet on 4 July 2019 to review the results of the consultation and vote and make a decision to make a final formal application to merge.
11. A final formal application to NHS England will be due by 26 July 2019.

### **Reasons to Merge**

12. There are many advantages to merging the six CCGs. These will benefit – either directly or indirectly – patients and local people, GPs and other clinicians, health and care partners and many others. These are the top five reasons why the CCGs believe that a merger into one single, statutory commissioning organisation is the right way forward.
  - a. Better healthcare and health outcomes: Align with health and care partners across the system in order to address health inequalities and ensure consistency of services where appropriate
  - b. Better use of clinical and other resource: Save precious clinical time and resources that can be invested into tackling community health priorities via the new Primary Care Networks.
  - c. Stronger, consistent commissioning voice and leadership: Provide a stronger clinical voice in strategic decisions about health and care services, as well as at neighbourhood level via Primary Care Networks.
  - d. Greater support for transformation and local innovation: Scale-up the most successful local clinical innovations to rapidly share best practice across a wider area.
  - e. Significant administrative savings: Reduce duplication in back office functions in order to redirect clinical and other essential resources closer to the front-line where they are needed most.
13. Further details on the reasons to merge can be found in the appended copy of the stakeholder consultation document.
14. Details of the NHS England process for CCG mergers can be found online here - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/procedures-for-clinical-commissioning-groups-to-apply-for-constitution-change-merger-or-dissolution/>

## Recommendations

15. The Board are asked to:

- i. Note the application in May 2019 from the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire CCGs to NHS England to commence the process to merge by April 2020.
- ii. Note the commencement of the stakeholder consultation on this proposed merger on 21 May 2019.
- iii. Agree to write collectively as ICS leaders to the Accountable Officer of the CCGs confirming the ICS's support for this proposed merger.