

CCG Merger – briefing

Aylesbury Vale CCG and Chiltern CCG are anticipating a formal merger to come into effect as of 1 April 2018. There has always been a strong history of collaboration between the two organisations. In July 2016 the CCGs “merged in all but name” and formally federated to bring existing teams together, along with a collective group of directors and clinicians.

This is better for working at scale across the whole county and already has the support of the county council and HASC (letter provided and attached). A single CCG that is co-terminous with the county council will enable more integrated planning, commissioning and shared back office services capacity.

At the time of federation, there was no formal NHS England procedure that enabled merger. This has since been published (November 2016) and is now guiding the CCGs through a process of application to NHS England. A final decision should be known by the end of September.

All organisational re-design that was required has already been completed through Federation. This also includes one Clinical Executive Committee, one single management team and Governing Bodies which meet in common and are accountable to the membership (i.e. general practices). Clinical decision making by local GPs remains at the heart of our organisation.

However, because the CCGs remain as two separate statutory bodies, there has to be separate reporting on finance and performance, duplicating management effort and creating higher costs in supporting services such as Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) finance services and Audit fees. Merger as one will allow these process to be further streamlined.