

Item 6: Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust and Medway Foundation Trust: Developing Partnership.

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 25 November 2011

Subject: Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust and Medway Foundation Trust: Developing Partnership.

1. Background

- (a) The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee heard from both Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust and Medway Foundation Trust during the meeting of 19 April as part of its inquiry into NHS Financial Sustainability. Information of the proposed merger between the two organisations was provided as part of this and Members requested that an opportunity be found at a later date to return to this specific topic.
- (b) This topic was further pursued at the meeting of 22 July 2011 with the understanding that the Trusts would return at an appropriate time in the future.
- (c) The specific questions which have been asked of both Trusts in advance of this meeting are as follows:
 - 1. What decisions have been made since July regarding the proposed integration of Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust and Medway NHS Foundation Trust?
 - 2. What are the implications for the range and location of health care services delivered at both sites?
 - 3. Can you set out the timescale for your developing partnership and explain the stages it is required to go through?
 - 4. What are the biggest challenges to achieving a successful outcome?
 - 5. Does the existence of a Private Finance Initiative scheme at Darent Valley pose any particular challenges?

2. Recommendation

That the Committee note the report.