

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, 9 March 2012

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

1. Background

- (a) This topic has previously been discussed at the meetings of 22 July 2011 and 25 November 2011, at which time the Trusts undertook to return at an appropriate time in the future.
- (b) The specific questions which have been asked of both Trusts in advance of this meeting are appended to this report.

2. Recommendation

That the Committee consider and comment on the report.

Appendix – Questions submitted in advance.

1. Can you provide information on what progress has been made on the proposed merger since the HOSC meeting of 25 November, and what the next steps are, along with an updated timeline?
2. On public and stakeholder engagement, what findings can you share arising from Phase 1 of your engagement plan and what Phase 2 will involve?
3. What guarantees can you give about the continuity and improvement of services currently provided at both sites?
4. What commitment can you give about public and stakeholder engagement concerning any future services changes?
5. Can you provide a summary of the benefits and drawbacks of merger?
6. What are the major challenges to a successful merger that still need to be addressed?
7. What lessons have been learnt from mergers elsewhere and from reports such as last year's King's Fund report on reconfiguring services in South East London and the recent report on mergers from the Centre for Market and Public Organisation?
8. What are the implications of the merger on providing integrated care services working with other NHS providers, social services and others?
9. What work is underway to address concerns around transportation to/between the sites and car parking?
10. Is there a 'Plan B' should the merger not proceed?