

Item 6 - Proposed integration between KCHFT and MCH

By: Gaetano Romagnuolo, Research Officer - Overview and Scrutiny

To: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 4 February 2026

Subject: Proposed integration between the Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) and Medway Community Healthcare (MCH)

Summary: This report invites the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the information provided by representatives of KCHFT and MCH about the proposed integration between the two organisations.

1) Introduction

- a) This paper provides an update on the proposal for Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) and Medway Community Healthcare CIC (MCH) to integrate as one organisation.
- b) In July 2025, the two organisations announced they were at an early stage of developing a strategic case to explore the potential benefits and implications of working more closely. The strategic outline case was submitted to NHS England - with the preferred option of coming together as one organisation and with MCH's staff and services transferring to KCHFT.
- c) After receiving feedback from NHS England in November 2025, KCHFT and MCH are now progressing with a full business case which they plan to submit in April 2026. If agreed, integration is expected to be completed on 1 October 2026. A summary of the strategic outline case is included in Appendix 1 and can be read at www.kentcht.nhs.uk/strongertogether

2) Recommendation

- a) RECOMMENDED that the Committee note and comment on the proposal.

Background Documents

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) and Medway Community Healthcare (MCH) *Stronger Together: Why we believe our two organisations should unite for stronger community care and what this means for you – our patients, staff and our communities.* www.kentcht.nhs.uk/strongertogether

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