

By: NHS Ashford and NHS Canterbury and Coastal CCGs

To: Kent Health and Wellbeing Board – 16 July 2014

Subject: Potential merger of Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group and Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Ashford Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Canterbury and Coastal CCG are exploring the benefits of a potential merger. The CCGs' memberships will vote on whether they should merge in July 2014. Should the votes give approval for a merger to progress, evidence will need to be submitted to NHS England Local Area Team, Regional Team and central office. Without a supportive majority vote from the membership a merger will not progress. The attached slide pack contains further information on the rationale for merging.

Recommendations: The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of the attached slide pack and the intention to take a vote on merging the CCGs' membership in July 2014. Should the outcome of the vote be in favour of merging, further information will be circulated to the Health and Wellbeing Board members for comment during the summer. Additionally a view is now being sought from the HWB on the structure of local HWBs in the event of a vote to proceed with the merger.

Background

Ashford and Canterbury and Coastal CCGs share a joint leadership team and over the past 17 months have developed close working relationships and resources on shared projects. Their emerging business strategies, governance and ways of working are very similar.

Over the last year the Operational Leadership Team have begun to make assumptions about the benefits of a possible merger and wanted to explore this further.

Following positive discussions at Governing Body level, the member practices agreed to explore a merger between the two CCGs ahead of a formal vote on this in July 2014.

This document is intended to update the Health and Wellbeing board on the status of the project and request a view on the future structure of local HWBs in the event of a vote to proceed with a merger by the CCG membership.

Four elements of this are explored in this pack:

1. Benefits of merging
2. Financial case for merging
3. Proposed merged organisational design
4. Frequently asked questions