



Erewash Clinical Commissioning Group
Hardwick Clinical Commissioning Group
North Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Frequently asked questions

What is this all about?

The Derbyshire Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) sets a clear direction for planning, and partnership working, for the next five years. To maximise the benefits of planning and partnership working at this scale, we need a strong, consistent and credible commissioning vision and voice. This is required to deliver the best possible outcomes for local people; tackling health inequalities and meeting the needs of a diverse population, as well as improved CCG and provider performance.

This vision of working towards the creation of a single commissioning organisation, subject to consultation, is the next logical progression to the steps we have taken over the past 12 months. It will enable us to work more consistently, maximise the Way in which we spend NHS money and will fully realise the potential benefits of this for our patients.

Why are you consulting about this and why can't you just do it?

There is a clear expectation for public consultation; this is not debatable and a transparent process is required. Involving people, communities and stakeholders meaningfully, is essential to effective service improvement and system transformation.

Section 14Z2 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, places a requirement on CCGs to ensure stakeholder involvement in commissioning processes and decisions. Independent legal advice has confirmed the requirement to formally consult.

Has this happened anywhere else?

NHS England has confirmed the conditions have now been met to enable 18 existing CCGs to merge from 1 April 2018. The existing CCGs will be dissolved and six new CCGs will be formed: Birmingham and Solihull, Leeds, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, Buckinghamshire, East Berkshire and Berkshire West. Each of the mergers builds on a history of joint working between the existing CCGs. Following the mergers, there will be a total of 195 CCGs in England. For further information please contact: england.ccgiaf@nhs.net

Why is option two your preference?

Option two is the best way to deliver future commissioning across the Derbyshire STP area. As a merged organisation we can benefit from efficiencies and the ability



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to move at pace to further enhance services that are consistent, fair and high quality whilst also reducing health inequalities.

Will this change the CCGs' commissioning intentions?

No. We are already working to a system wide plan; having a single commissioning voice will make it easier for us to achieve our objectives and commission consistently for patients. Hospital and Primary Care services will not be affected, as they are already jointly commissioned by the CCGs.

Can you explain the financial impact across Derbyshire?

CCGs are required to comply with NHS England's rules on financial performance. In particular, NHS England requires CCGs to:

- Achieve a break even position each year (their allocated funding minus what they plan to spend); and
- To retain a cumulative surplus of at least 1% of their funding allocation (the in-year surplus added to previous years' surplus, or deficit).

In common with most public sector areas, the financial situation across Derbyshire is very challenging, and requires significant savings to be made to achieve the financial plans set out. The CCGs have a plan to address the savings needed in year. The merging of CCGs would support us to be most effective in the way that money is spent.

Can you provide assurance that one area doesn't lose out to the other?

A single commissioning organisation will ensure that we are able to work more consistently and make our resources go further; delivering fair and equitable outcomes for patients.

We understand that there may be some concerns that local 'grass roots' engagement and relationships would be sacrificed. We would need to ensure that a consistent approach, based on best practice, was quickly implemented to ensure that this didn't happen.

We would want to capitalise, support and develop the joint working initiatives already established across Derbyshire.

What does Strategic Commissioning deliver?

A strategic commissioner will:

- Set cross Derbyshire outcomes
- Commission acute care and specialist mental health care at scale
- Work with our eight Place Alliances to deliver local commissioning



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How will the new governance arrangements work for a single CCG?

A single commissioning organisation would have one Chief Executive and one Governing Body supported by a single management structure. All statutory duties would be fulfilled via a single governance structure

Have you made your minds up already?

No, it is very important that we listen to and take into account your views. Whilst we have a preferred option, we have been working with our membership and are now engaging with a wide range of people to get their views on our proposal. . We need this feedback to ensure that we're making the right choices; it's important that people tell us what they think about our plans.

What if the public and other stakeholders don't support your preferred option?

We would need to fully understand the reasons for people not supporting the preferred option. All feedback will be reviewed and a decision will be made if the proposal should go ahead as it is, if there need to be any mitigations or if there needs to be a complete rethink on the options.

How will this all be scrutinised and agreed?

There will be several layers of scrutiny and sign-off before a decision is made: internally by the CCGs' memberships (GPs) and by the local democratic health scrutiny processes; by NHS England, both locally and nationally; and independently via due diligence and external scrutiny.

NHS England will make the final decision on whether the CCGs can proceed in October.

If the preferred option goes ahead, what will happen to staff?

This would mean that the four Clinical Commissioning Groups would become one. All CCG staff are already part of a restructure process which is looking at Derbyshire wide working regardless of the decision about one Derbyshire CCG. The CCGs are committed to engaging with staff thoroughly, throughout the process.