

Scrutiny review proposal

1 What is the review?

King's Health Partner proposed merger.

The management boards of Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS foundation trusts are exploring plans for an organisational merger and a strengthened partnership with King's College London, their joint academic partner.

The four organisations have collaborated for many years and were accredited by the Department of Health as an academic health sciences centre, King's Health Partners (KHP), in 2009.

2 What outcomes could realistically be achieved? Which agency does the review seek to influence?

This review seeks to ensure that the costs and risks of the proposed merger are fully understood by KHP. Firstly, to ensure all risks are identified, understood and mitigated against in the proposals so that as full a picture can be achieved before any final decisions are made about the merger.

Secondly, for the committee to act as an additional forum to gather views from all interested parties. This will assist in the first objective named above.

Thirdly, to make sure that the trust is not over-optimistic of the benefits of the proposed merger and that 'optimism bias' is fully understood and accounted for in the development of the Full Business Case.

3 When should the review be carried out/completed? i.e. does the review need to take place before/after a certain time?

Completion by January 2013. If the trust proceeds with the proposed merger they would need to gain regulatory approval by April 2014, with pre-notification discussions with Monitor in April 2013. Therefore we need to complete our report in time to be considered before the KHP discussions with Monitor.

4 What format would suit this review? (e.g. full investigation, Q&A with cabinet member/partners, public meeting, one-off session)

Full investigation.

5 What are some of the key issues that you would like the review to look at?

Risk management, ensuring all risks are identified, treatment of optimism bias and the equalities impact of the proposed merger.

6 Who would you like to receive evidence and advice from during the review?

The three foundation trusts: Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and South London and Maudsley NHS; King's College London; Kings Health Partners; Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group; Department of Health; Unions; patient groups; LINK; Southwark Pensioners Action Group; Southwark Council; local Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICAS) services, local representatives (drawing on their casework experience).

7 Any suggestions for background information? Are you aware of any best practice on this topic?

Any and all information about previous hospital mergers (including South London Healthcare Trust).

8 What approaches could be useful for gathering evidence? What can be done outside committee meetings?

e.g. verbal or written submissions, site visits, mystery-shopping, service observation, meeting with stakeholders, survey, consultation event

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