

## South East London CCG Merger Update

1. On 1 April 2020 NHS South East London CCG was formally established as a statutory body for the commissioning of health services for local residents across our six London Boroughs.
2. In the context of pandemic our establishment as a new organisation was rightly marked as an important and formal milestone, but little more. Whilst clearly the right and proper response to a public health emergency, this was a significant achievement made through the hard work of our leaders, teams and partners throughout 2019/20. The new CCG Governing Body reiterates its thanks here and we are pleased to have been able to design and implement a CCG that will work in the best interests of our population and the boroughs across south east London. As a reminder this means that the CCGs working together with partners across the last financial year were able to:
  - Implement successfully, in one year of a formal programme, the merger of six CCGs to form the largest CCG in London and at one point England
  - Build on the strong alliance work we had undertaken collectively in the previous two years and ensure a borough focus for health and care integration
  - Join the first wave of mergers in the capital, joined by South West London and North Central London
3. The CCG have published an introduction document which provides more information on the new CCG which has been provided in **Appendix A**, that includes the appointments made to the Governing Body and Executive team. There is more information on our website: <http://www.selondonccg.nhs.uk/>
4. As a single CCG we are also coterminous with and provide leadership into Our Healthier South East London – the capital's first Integrated Care System (ICS). This places both the CCG and south east London's partners at the forefront of new, system based ways of working built on partnerships and collective responsibility for outcomes. As the effects of Pandemic and the systems response plays out, we will consider what that means for new ways of working and care delivery, in the full knowledge that partnership and collaboration will be the touchstone for this approach.
5. The CCG is the statutory body for the commissioning of most health services for the population of the six boroughs across south east London. The six predecessor organisations ceased to exist on 31 March 2020 and are now disestablished.
6. The new organisation builds on the work done both locally and through the former South East London CCG Alliance. The new structure is in place and all staff have transferred to the new organisation in terms of employment, but importantly, and in line with our commitment to local focus and operations, teams and bases have been maintained in each borough. In most cases these are co-located with the relevant Local Authority.
7. The CCG will continue to work with NHS England and Improvement to share best practice with other areas looking to merge and continue to maximise the benefits identified from the merger process.

### Phased implementation

8. Due to the COVID-19 situation and response in the first quarter of the year few staff were transitioned to their new roles, so that they were able to focus on that response, business critical activities, or to remain available to redeployment in support of our providers and partners.
9. A number of our staff worked in very different ways to support a robust response to the pandemic doing activities such as ensuring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) flow to trusts, providing rest and refreshment support to teams in hospitals, and organising testing demand and capacity. We are grateful and proud of our staff who have and continue to work in this way and have been highlighting some stories in regular health and wellbeing newsletters we have shared with staff throughout the pandemic.
10. As a CCG Governing Body and Executive team, we are carefully and in a phased way, moving to some more business as usual activities very recently. This is however kept under very frequent review. We have taken care to ensure the statutory responsibilities of the CCG are attended to and performed in full at all times.
11. We are pleased that we have still held 'in public' meetings of our Governing Body, Primary Care Commissioning Committee and Borough Based Boards through the use of technology – we were the first CCG in London to enable members of the public to 'watch live' and ask questions. Over 50 people joined our latest governing body, we held a question session at the beginning and end and provided responses to questions where possible at the time, as well as publishing a full response to all questions shortly after with the minutes.
12. Over the period of our pandemic response a number of business as usual activities and governance have however been put on hold. This has been a planned process, and directly in line with National guidance on what should be continued or not in that period.
13. The CCG's commitments to establish Borough Based Boards and enact a series of local delegations for funds and decision making have been maintained. Those Boards were unable to meet in the first months of this year due to Pandemic arrangements but began doing so across the Summer. It is also important to note that for the first four, and now extended to seven months of 2020/21, financial allocations have been subject to national direction and full enactment of our planned arrangements will commence when those arrangements come to an end.
14. All of the arrangements in response to COVID-19 generally and specifically as they impact upon the planned running of the CCG will be kept under review and further briefings can be made available.
15. More of the activities of the new organisation can be found in the Governing Body papers for those meetings held in May and July 2020, and related information can be found at the following [link](#).