

Question 1: To what extent do you support our proposal to merge the six CCGs and create a single commissioning organisation?

The Health Scrutiny Committee for Nottinghamshire supports the merger of the six Clinical Commissioning Groups into a single body, particularly on the grounds of significant administrative savings and reduction of duplication. The committee is keenly aware of the financial challenges faced by the CCGs, and any reasonable methods of reducing costs are to be welcomed.

The streamlining of management and decision making processes expected to flow from the merger is also to be welcomed. The Committee anticipates greater coherence of purpose and leadership from the merger. It will undoubtedly be easier for the Health Scrutiny Committee to engage with a single organisation rather than six, and that is equally true for other organisations and stakeholders.

The nature of the proposed relationship between Primary Care Networks and CCGs (as well as the expectations of NHS England) is something that the Committee would like to hear about in more detail at some point in the future. NHS England's expectation is that the networks will be geographically based and provide coverage across a whole CCG boundary. It would be informative to hear about networks which cross CCG boundaries or where there are instances of practices belong to more than one Primary Care Network.

Question 2: To what extent do you support keeping the CCGs as they are?

The Health Scrutiny Committee supports the proposal to merge the CCGs.

Question 3: Is there anything else you think the CCGs should consider when discussing the future arrangements for commissioning?

Commissioners should consider more closely involving members of the public (patients and carers) in service design. When commissioners are consulting on substantial variations of service they should always consult fully on the options they are seriously considering. Where 'hybrid-options' emerge as the CCGs preferred way forward during the process of consultation these should trigger further consultation.