

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 5686

**Please reply to:**  
FOI Administrator  
Trust Management  
Maidstone Hospital  
Hermitage Lane  
Maidstone, Kent  
ME16 9QQ  
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

17 October 2019

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to Kent & Medway STP forwarded to us by the STP for our administration service.

*You asked:*

*1. Is it correct that there are plans to merge Kent and Medway's eight CCGs into one body?*

*2. We understand that there is a committee that has already taken on some responsibilities, led by Glenn Douglas that is effectively acting as a merged CCG - can you confirm this?*

*3. We (SONIK) are concerned that there ought to have been a public consultation\* before embarking on this merger. Can you explain if a consultation will take place, and if not, why not?*

STP response:

Many thanks for your email. Please accept our apologies for the delaying in responding. Answers to your questions are provided below.

1. Yes. The plan to merge the CCGs is part of the wider plan to establish an integrated care system across Kent and Medway. This will see the establishment of four local integrated care partnerships, including one for east Kent; 42 primary care networks including three in Thanet; and the single CCG. This is in line with national policy set out in the NHS Long Term Plan and reflects what many parts of the country are currently doing. Indeed, it is expected that the majority of CCGs will merge in line with the NHS Long Term Plan by April 2021. The Kent and Medway CCGs have now submitted their merge application to NHS England. If approved we expect to establish a single CCG for Kent and Medway in April 2020. Further information and

updates can be found at the following link:

<https://kentandmedway.nhs.uk/?s=ICS>

2. That is not the case. In Kent and Medway, our CCGs have been working more closely together for some time now, with a single accountable officer and combined management teams in place in east Kent and for Medway and North and West Kent.

There are areas where closer cooperation has been initiated in the form of Joint Committees. For example, the eight CCGs have established a Joint Committee for Children's Services and for Cancer Services. This is separate to the Joint Committee for Stroke Services. The Joint Committee for Children's and Cancer Services is chaired by Dr Navin Kumta, Clinical Chair of Ashford CCG. It has clinical representation from each of the CCG Governing Bodies, plus the Accountable Officer and two Managing Directors. Other members include clinicians with knowledge of the two service areas, representative from public health and Healthwatch. The establishment of the Joint Committee was agreed by Governing Bodies and the first meeting of the Committee was held in public in February 2019. The meetings are held in public on a monthly basis.

3. No, there is no legal requirement to run a formal public consultation on the proposals. We are required to evidence how we have been engaging and discussing our proposals with a wide range of stakeholders, including Healthwatch. The merger documentation presented to the Kent and Medway CCG Governing Bodies in September included evidence of this.

We hope this information is helpful to you.