

## Health and Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Note: CCG Merger Consultation: Working Together for Mid and South Essex

**Purpose of the briefing note:** The above discussion document has been issued by the five Mid and South Essex CCG's (Thurrock; Basildon & Brentwood; Southend; Mid Essex & Castlepoint and Rochford). It is proposing to create a single CCG by 1 April 2021.

1.1 The benefits summarised are:

- Breaking down the barriers to joint working;
- Less time and resources on management;
- Ability to make commissioning decisions quicker;
- Economies of scale and reducing duplication.

1.2 It is stated clearly that this is not driven by costs but is seen as a way to develop better and quicker decision making and will not negatively affect patient care, indeed it is hoped it will improve patient care.

1.3 The concerns previously raised by the local authority have included:

- It is a geographical footprint that matches nothing else and provides particular challenges to existing local authority boundaries;
- There is little evidence that this will reduce bureaucracy;
- Whilst the need to commission some services across a bigger footprint is obvious, it does not state clearly in the document what those will be or what will remain at a local level;
- There is a danger that we will develop a one size fits all mentality despite what it states in the document;
- There is a risk that all the existing local arrangements around the Better Care Fund; the developments of the IMC programme; the Stronger Together Programme etc. could be weakened;
- It is not clear how the three HOSCs will work together to scrutinise the work of the larger CCG nor the relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Boards.

1.4 Member's views are sought.

1.5 The closing date for comments are 5 April 2020.

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