

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 March 2010

The CCP recommends that the proposed merger of Merger of Newham Community Health and Care Services with East London NHS Foundation Trust be allowed to proceed

The Cooperation and Competition Panel (CCP) has recommended to Monitor and the Department of Health that the proposed merger of Newham Community Health and Care Services with East London NHS Foundation Trust be allowed to proceed.

The recommendation follows the CCP's review of the proposed transaction under the Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition and its finding that the acquisition would not give rise to any adverse effect on patients or taxpayers as a result of a loss of choice or competition.

The terms of the proposed merger will see Newham Provider Services transfer to East London NHS Foundation Trust. NHS Newham will subsequently enter into an agreement with East London NHS Foundation Trust for the provision of community services by the merged entity. Newham PCT will retain full ownership and control over the buildings currently used by Newham Community Health and Care Services.

CCP Director Andrew Taylor commented:

“In assessing the possible costs to patients and taxpayers arising from this merger we examined the services to patients currently provided by Newham Provider Services and East London NHS Foundation Trust and considered whether the merger, in reducing the number of bidders for future contracts, would have a significant impact on patient choice or competition.”

Mr Taylor added:

“The Panel's advice is based on its evaluation that a significant number of potential credible bidders for community services exist in the Newham area. Consequently, our view is that the merger is unlikely to impose any material costs on patients or taxpayers by reducing the scope for patient choice or competition.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. The CCP's report and further information on its approach to mergers is available from its web site at: www.ccp-panel.org.uk.

2. Monitor, the Department of Health and London Strategic Health Authority will now consider the CCP's advice and recommendations.

3. The Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition form the basis of the Department of Health's policy of managing cooperation and competition in the NHS in a fair, consistent and transparent manner. The Principles and Rules aim to ensure the NHS comprises providers and commissioners who deliver the needs of their patients and population, and that both providers and commissioners co-operate to foster patient choice and offer patients an experience of a seamless health service, regardless of organisational boundaries, whilst maintaining service continuity and sustainability. The role of the CCP is to advise on the application of the Principles and Rules.

4. For inquiries about the Cooperation and Competition Panel contact Tom Frusher, Policy and Communications Director, on 0207 270 5442 / 07825 256 530 or visit www.ccp-panel.org.uk.