



Notice of Acceptance

Merger of South-East Essex's provider services arm and Mid-Essex's provider services arm

The Cooperation and Competition Panel (CCP) has decided that the proposed merger between South- East Essex PCT's provider services arm (Community Health Care) and Mid-Essex PCT's provider services arm (Central Essex Community Services) meets the CCP's acceptance criteria for a merger reference. That is:

- i. the proposed arrangement falls within the scope of Principle 9 of the Principles and Rules of Cooperation and Competition;
- ii. the CCP is the most appropriate body to consider this matter;
- iii. the parties have made available the relevant and applicable information on the case to the CCP; and
- iv. the turnover threshold is satisfied as the combined entities will exceed the relevant threshold of £35 million.

As a result, the CCP is accepting this case with its investigation starting from the date of this notice, with Phase 1 to be completed by 11 February 2010 and Phase 2, if required, to be completed by 9 June 2010.

Andrew Taylor
Director, Cooperation and Competition Panel
14 December 2009