



Withdrawal of Case

Merger of the Community Service Provider Arms of NHS Mid Essex and NHS South East Essex

The Cooperation and Competition Panel (CCP) has decided to take no further action in relation to the proposed merger of the Community Service Provider Arms of NHS Mid Essex and NHS South East Essex, following NHS South East Essex's request to withdraw its notification.

The CCP has been working with NHS Mid Essex and NHS South East Essex since its acceptance of the case on 14 December 2009. We considered that the provider arms would have been important competitors to one another, in the absence of the merger, and at the conclusion of the CCP's Phase I inquiries it was decided that further analysis of the transaction was required. On 11 February 2010 the CCP published its decision to proceed to Phase II. In line with the published timetable, the deadline for the completion of Phase II is 9 June 2010.

On 31 March 2010, NHS South East Essex informed the CCP that following a decision that a Social Enterprise was no longer intended for the merged organisation, there was no intention to proceed with the proposed merger. On this basis NHS South East Essex wished to withdraw its merger notification.

The CCP has decided to take no further action at this time as there is no longer any relevant arrangement falling within the scope of the Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition.

Andrew Taylor
Director, Cooperation and Competition Panel

1 April 2010