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Frameworks for Continuing Healthcare consistent with Principles and Rules, say CCP

The Cooperation and Competition Panel (CCP) has found that the framework developed by commissioners in the North West and in the East Midlands for providers of Continuing Healthcare are consistent with the Principles and Rules.

The CCP's findings follow an investigation of the conduct and procurement complaints made by Lancashire Care Association into commissioning Continuing Healthcare in the North West and Nottinghamshire Care Association, Derbyshire Care Association and Lincolnshire Care Association into the commissioning of Continuing Healthcare services in the East Midlands.

In its report published today, the CCP has concluded that the introduction of new frameworks for the provision of Continuing Healthcare is consistent with Principles 1, 2, and 3 of the *Principles and Rules for Cooperation and Competition*.

In particular, the CCP found that procurement processes for putting in place the new framework agreements were transparent and non-discriminatory. Further, the CCP has found that the PCTs' payment regimes are transparent and fair. The CCP also considered that the framework agreements are flexible enough to ensure that individual PCTs will be able to commission sufficient Continuing Healthcare places for their local populations from the best placed providers.

CCP Director Catherine Davies said:

"The Panel considers that the aspects of conduct and procurement raised in this complaint do not impose costs on patients and taxpayers. We consider that the payment regimes we reviewed for Continuing Healthcare in the North West and East Midlands are transparent and non-discriminatory".

ENDS



CO-OPERATION & COMPETITION PANEL
FOR NHS-FUNDED SERVICES

NOTES

1. More information on this particular conduct complaint can be found on the CCP's website at http://ccpanel.org.uk/cases/North_Lancashire_Conduct_Complaint.html and http://ccpanel.org.uk/cases/East_Midlands_Conduct_Complaint.html.
2. The CCP's role is to ensure that the *Principles and Rules for Co-operation and Competition* for the provision of NHS-funded services successfully support the delivery of high quality care for patients and value for money for taxpayers.

The CCP investigates potential breaches of the *Principles and Rules*, and makes independent recommendations to the Department of Health and Monitor on how such breaches should be resolved. It also reviews proposed NHS mergers, and advises on the wider development of co-operation, patient choice and competition within the NHS. For more information: <http://www.ccpanel.org.uk/>

3. For inquiries about the Co-operation and Competition Panel contact Rory Taylor at media@ccpanel.gsi.gov.uk or 020 7270 5956.