

PCCC21/037

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIMARY CARE COMMISSIONING COMMITTEE

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| Title of paper | Contracts Merger Application – Bursledon Surgery and Blackthorn Health Centre | | |
| Agenda item | 5 | Date of meeting | 22 September 2021 |
| Director lead | Michael Ridgwell, Director of Delivery | | |
| Clinical lead (if applicable) | Liz Angier, Clinical Advisor Primary Care, South West | | |
| Author | Martyn Rogers - Head of Primary Care – South West Hampshire | | |

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| Purpose | For decision | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | To ratify | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | To discuss | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | To note/receive | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Link to strategic objective | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Service Delivery • Supporting people and teams • Transforming services • Strategic planning and engagement |
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| <p>The former NHS West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group (“West Hampshire CCG”) awarded an Alternative Provider Medical Service (“APMS”) contract to the GP partners of Blackthorn Health Centre based in Hamble from 1 January 2020. The APMS contract relates to the provision of NHS primary medical services, as defined by the NHS (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2015 (“GMS”), to the patients of Bursledon Surgery.</p> <p>In the absence of an identified market for small practices or other viable options, e.g. a practice merger, patient list dispersal options, partnerships with Dr Ding, to enable to provision of GMS to the Bursledon Surgery patients, West Hampshire CCG’s preferred option was a direct award of the contract for the provision of primary medical services to Blackthorn Health Centre.</p> <p>In a decision of 11 March 2020, the West Hampshire CCG Procurement Group approved the recommendation to direct award a GMS contract to the GP partners of Blackthorn Health Centre. Accordingly, a procurement information notice (PIN) was published confirming the intention of the CCG to proceed with the direct contract award. The closing date of the PIN passed on 30 April 2020 with no enquiries or challenges having been received. An updated PIN has not been issued since.</p> |
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The original term of the APMS contract was 6 months with the intention that a new GMS contract for Bursledon Surgery would be awarded to Blackthorn Health Centre from 1 July 2020 and merged on that date with the existing GMS contract held by the Health Centre practice. In view of a need to focus all efforts on managing the COVID-19 pandemic, the partners of Blackthorn Health Centre asked that the planned merger be deferred until 1 April 2021. The extension of the APMS contract was agreed by West Hampshire CCG.

In advance of the revised planned contract merger date, Blackthorn Health Centre informed the CCG that, whilst still willing to proceed with the merger, they no longer see a need to provide GMS to the merged patient list from two practice sites. They instead intend to provide all GMS to patients only from the Blackthorn Health Centre. West Hampshire CCG determined this change to service provision to be significant necessitating a process of patient and stakeholder engagement by the practice. The timescales for an effective engagement process meant that the planned date of the contracts merger was delayed to 1 October 2021. West Hampshire CCG extended the APMS contract to 30 September 2021.

The South West Hampshire Primary Care Operational Group (“PCOG”) considered the application and supporting papers at its meeting held on 1 September 2021. The PCOG noted that the decision to approve or reject the application was reserved to the PCCC in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation. The PCOG however agreed to support any decision by the PCCC to approve the application.

The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is asked to consider the contracts merger application received from Blackthorn Health Centre together with the patient and stakeholder engagement process outcomes and determine the response to the contracts merger application submitted by the Blackthorn Health Centre.

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| Recommendations | <p>The Primary Care Commissioning Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the application for an NHS contracts merger effective from 1 October 2021 on the basis of the proposals submitted by the Blackthorn Health Centre |
| Publication | <p>Include on public website <input type="checkbox"/></p> |

| Please provide details on the impact of following aspects | |
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| Equality and quality impact assessment | An Equality Impact Assessment is appended to the report. |
| Patient and stakeholder engagement | The report on the outcomes of a patient and stakeholder engagement process supported by the CCG is appended to the report. |
| Financial and resource implications / impact | The merged single GMS contract would have a financial schedule determined by the GMS Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE), i.e. the same as for any other GMS contract. |
| Legal implications | Challenge to the award of a GMS contract is possible but the risk is low/negligible since no responses to the original PIN were received. |

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| Principal risk(s) relating to this paper | The absence of an alternative provider of primary medical services to the patients of Bursledon Surgery from 1 October 2021 if the contracts merger application is refused. |
| Key committees / groups where evidence supporting this paper has been considered. | South West Hampshire Primary Care Operational Group |

| Governance and Reporting – other meetings where <u>this paper</u> been discussed | | |
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| Committee Name | Date discussed | Outcome |
| South West Hampshire Primary Care Operational Group | 1 September 2021 | <p>The South West Hampshire Primary Care Operating Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the proposal for a contract merger in advance of a determination of the merger proposal by the Primary Care Commissioning Committee. • Supported the proposed cessation of all 'essential' and 'additional' GMS contract(s) as part of the above determination. • Agreed the action outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the minutes of the meeting. |