

Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Board  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016

## Update on proposed hospital merger

### **Purpose of the report:** Scrutiny of Services and Budgets

Request from the Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny Board on reasons for the pause in the proposed hospital merger planning.

### **Introduction**

Ashford & St Peter's Hospitals and Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trusts were proposing to merge. However, in March 2016 the merger was paused primarily to allow time to focus on the deteriorating financial situation at Royal Surrey County Hospital. NHS Improvement is now providing support to Royal Surrey in the form of an investigation.

### **Rationale for proposed merger and current situation**

The attached presentation gives details on the background and rationale for merger, the current situation and the reasons for that, and the wider strategic context moving forward.

### **Conclusions:**

While the proposed merger has been paused, the two Trusts continue to work together on a number of joint projects, and are both actively participating in the Sustainability and Transformation Planning footprint (Surrey Heartlands).

### **Public Health Impacts**

The rationale for merger was to ensure the Trusts were able to provide sustainable healthcare (clinically and financially) into the future. A wider strategic planning process is now starting with Surrey Heartlands, looking at how the whole system works together to provide sustainable healthcare into the future.

**Recommendations:**

To receive the report and invite a further presentation to update the Committee at the appropriate time.

**Next steps:**

Both Trusts will await the outcome of the investigation by NHS Improvement before deciding next steps.

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