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Sent by email

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Meeting to consider boundary changes with regard to West Birmingham

Thank you for meeting today, this was a constructive discussion. West Birmingham practices and therefore registered patients are within the Sandwell and West Birmingham (SWB) CCG, which in turn is formally part of the Black Country and West Birmingham STP.

West Birmingham is part of Birmingham City Council boundaries and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee wrote to NHS England setting out their desire for an alignment of CCG and Council boundaries in the future.

Partners confirmed that they were content with the current joint committee which has been established between Birmingham and Solihull (BSOL) CCG and SWB CCG which is dealing with operational issues in West Birmingham.

Partners also recognised it was important to consider any changes in the context of the new Midland Metropolitan Hospital which requires a joint approach on a sustainable clinical and financial strategy between the STPs, and secondly the national direction for Commissioners to operate at scale and aligned to a STP / system level to create greater capacity to manage and lead systems.

We presented a paper on the options that could be considered by the system in seeking greater alignment of boundaries. Setting aside legal intervention from NHS England, there were two main options discussed:

1. Variation of SWB CCG boundary to integrate West Birmingham practices with BSOL CCG, this would only be possible concurrently with a merger of Black Country CCGs (incorporating Sandwell practices)
2. Changing the boundaries of two STPs in order for SWB CCG to move to BSOL STP. This option would then lead to consideration of commissioning structure in the larger STP

BSOL CCG and SWB CCG confirmed that they wished to formally consider these options in partnership with the STPs and NHSE.

It was agreed that a timeline for the initial option appraisal would be agreed with a shared criteria to evaluate options.

I will work closely with partners to advise and support on this process going forward, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison Tonge', is positioned above the printed name.

Alison Tonge
Director of Commissioning Operations
NHS England (North & West Midlands)

CC: Helen Hibbs; STP Lead – Black Country and West Birmingham