

To: Upper tier Local Authority Chief Executives
Cc: PCT Cluster Chief Executives

Gateway no: 17560

30 April 2012

Dear colleagues,

Authorisation process for Clinical Commissioning Groups

You will know that Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are due to come into statutory form from April 2013, and you will have been working with your local CCGs as they build towards that point.

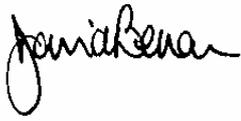
Now that the Health and Social Care Act has received Royal Assent, that process will gather pace. In order to become statutory bodies, CCGs will need to be formally authorised, and local government and their partners in health and wellbeing boards have an important role in that process. We are therefore writing to give you information on how that process will work.

We enclose a set of slides, which describe the process from the perspective of local government, and partners on health and wellbeing boards. The slides were tested with members of the Local Government Health Transition Group to ensure their relevance. Aspirant CCGs are of course members of Shadow health and wellbeing boards, and the process fully recognises this. For example, one of the six “domains” of the authorisation process is that CCGs work effectively in partnership, and documents such as the draft JSNA and draft Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy will form part of the submission for authorisation.

Successful partnerships are reciprocal, and we know you and other members of the health and wellbeing board will want to support your clinical colleagues to become successful CCGs. We would therefore be grateful if you could share these slides with shadow Board members, so they can build the process into their work over the next few months

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact John Wilderspin, National Director for Health and Wellbeing Board Implementation via e-mail at John.Wilderspin@dh.gsi.gov.uk, or telephone 0207 972 4038

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Behan'.

David Behan
Director General for Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dame Barbara Hakin'.

Dame Barbara Hakin
National Managing Director of Commissioning Development