

SHA clustering arrangements announced

Clustering arrangements for strategic health authorities will see the country divided into the South, the Midlands, London and the North, it has been announced.

A briefing note from a meeting of the NHS Management Board sent to SHA chief executives today said the clusters would provide the “initial footprint” for the NHS Commissioning Board’s commissioning sector from April 2013 when SHAs are abolished.

In the meantime, clusters would continue “to work out of all current SHA offices” and although remote working would be encouraged under the NHS Commissioning Board there would be “offices in many different parts of the country both during the transition and beyond”.

The South cluster will be comprised of South Central, South West and South East Coast, while the Midlands cluster will see a merger of East and West Midlands and East of England.

As previously announced, London will remain independent, while the North West, North East and Yorkshire and the Humber will form the fourth cluster.

The clustering work is being led by Bill McCarthy, chief executive of NHS Yorkshire and the Humber.

Each cluster will have a single executive team, the exact make-up of which is to be consulted on.

The briefing note states: “Director posts will reflect operational needs and local priorities and will be agreed by the chief executive and board in discussion with the NHS chief executive.

“Where needed, we will retain senior capability in current SHA locations under the direct management of the SHA cluster CE and other directors.”