

## **Common types of conflicts of interest**

### **Direct financial interest**

The most easily recognisable form of conflict of interest arises when a governing body member, committee member or CCG staff member directly benefits financially, or appears to directly benefit financially, over and above any agreed pay and terms of service contract, as a result of a decision they have made or influenced regarding clinical commissioning. Examples include:

- The award of a contract to a company/other business with which a member is involved or connected
- The sale of assets at below market value to a member or someone connected to the member.

### **Indirect financial interest**

This arises when a close relative of a governing body member, committee member or GP member practice benefits or appears to benefit from the decisions of the CCG. Such individuals will benefit indirectly if their financial affairs are tied to those of the relative in question through the legal concept of a 'joint purse', as would be the case if the relative were the husband or wife, partner, dependent child of the individual, or directly connected in some other way. For example, the individual being involved in a decision to award a contract to an organisation where the member's spouse is a director.

### **Non-financial or personal conflicts**

These happen where members receive no financial benefit, but are influenced by external factors. For instance:

- To gain some other benefit, such as reputational advantage or influence in their personal or professional relationships
- Awarding contracts to friends or personal business contacts.

### **Conflict of loyalties**

Governing body members, committee members and GP member practices may have competing loyalties between the CCG, to which they owe a duty, and some other person or organisation, including their GP practice, professional bodies and patients. Individuals should avoid using any knowledge gained in other roles to influence decisions so as to acquire a competitive advantage over other service providers.