



Thurrock Council, Civic Offices, New Road,
Grays Thurrock, Essex RM17 6SL

Ms Ann Radmore
East of England Regional Director
NHS England
East Wing
Victoria House
Capital Park
Fulbourn
Cambridge
CB21 5XB
Letter sent by email to: Annradmore@nhs.net

Thursday 20 June 2019

Dear Ms Radmore

RE: Meeting request - reduction of Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group budget 2019/20.

I am writing to you as Chair of Thurrock Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) to request your attendance at the next meeting of Thurrock Council's Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny following concerns raised by the committee regarding the proposed reduction of funds from Thurrock's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

Members of HOSC were concerned to learn about the proposed reduction of over £480,000 in Thurrock CCG's available budget for 2019/20 as part of plans to assist Cambridge and Peterborough CCG's budget deficit. We would appreciate your attendance to speak to Councillors so that we can fully understand the circumstances of this decision.

You will be aware that Thurrock CCG has effectively managed their control totals and budgets each year, enabling them to commit resources to planned projects with local partners.

We are extremely concerned that a reduction of £480,000 will have an adverse impact on Thurrock CCG's ability to honour commitments that they have made and has resulted in delays to:

- The implementation of a new pathway that supports the therapeutic needs of people presenting with personality disorders across the primary care and secondary care interface
- The implementation of the 24-hour crisis team which will delay the improvement of care for an extremely vulnerable group of patients and a key scheme to address health inequalities within our CCG.

- Other key areas, including 52 weeks wait time targets, RTT 18 weeks and cancer waiting times.

While I appreciate NHS England's commitment to a joined-up NHS across the East of England region and that high-quality care for patients is provided within its financial allocation, I do not believe it is fair or reasonable to effectively penalise CCGs that have managed their budgets, including Thurrock CCG, by reducing their budgets to support other areas.

I suggest that a balance needs to be struck between ensuring areas meet financial targets and areas being able to meet constitutional standards. While Cambridge and Peterborough STP has not achieved its financial targets it is important to recognise that it is achieving constitutional standards that Thurrock is not. For example, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough system is currently meeting all constitutional standards, is rated outstanding for cancer and has implemented a 24 hour crisis team.

It appears that little consideration has been provided by NHS England on the impact that a reduction of funding might have on Thurrock's ability to achieve constitutional standards or honour commitments made to partners as part of improving health and wellbeing outcomes for the population of Thurrock. As such, I strongly urge you consider the implications and not to withdraw these funds.

I hope you agree that the seriousness of this matter requires further discussion and that you will attend the next meeting of HOSC on Thursday 5 September 2019 from 7:00-9:00pm, held at Thurrock Council. I would be grateful if you could contact HOSC Secretariat to confirm whether you can attend as soon as possible by email at JShade@thurrock.gov.uk or on 01375 652031.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Victoria Holloway
Chair Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny