

Dear Sarah Miller and Mary Langan,

Thank you for your email of 16th December. I do understand why you are anxious about the proposals and as well as responding now, we will also ensure they are taken into consideration as part of the overall consultation which ends on 18th January 2015. None of us would choose to be setting out proposals that mean £70 million of savings over the next three years on top of savings of £117 million we have had to make since 2010 but that is the reality of the situation that Haringey, along with the rest of local government, must face.

We did feel it important to put together a detailed three-year budget just so that people can be very clear about the future – what we can do, what we can't do and where the gaps are so that we can start to have a proper debate about what we should do with our every diminishing resources.

As well as the formal consultation process that is taking place now, we have held a series of briefings across day service and in-house provision to explain the background of our plans and the financial challenges. The Interim Director of Adult Social Services also made a presentation to the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board on 10th December 2014 giving context and background of the Council's financial position. Following the Council's decision on the budget in February 2015, there will be additional opportunities for people to respond to more detailed consultations on specific plans. The outcome of these additional consultations will ultimately be used to decide whether or not these plans are taken forward.

In relation to standards of provision, we are working very closely with CQC inspectorate to support the providers of care in Haringey. We hold regular quarterly meeting with CQC in order to facilitate a proactive approach to the monitoring of commissioned provision. We have a Quality Assurance (QA) division in commissioning, members of which work closely with CQC and contained within this is a specific post of a Commissioning Safeguarding officer whose role includes the monitoring of early area of concern and provision of support and advice where required. QA staff hold regular provider forums which enable us to share information and facilitate sharing of training and support for providers.

With regards to the specific requests to Cabinet within your email, I can confirm the Council remains fully committed to paying all its directly employed staff the London Living Wage. The Council is currently scoping the feasibility of implementing the London Living Wage for all commissioned providers. I can also confirm that any changes to support packages will only take place following a review or re-assessment of need.

On the issue of providing data to the LDPB, we would aim to do so wherever possible and where confidentiality is not compromised. On the specific point of publishing data on delays to assessments and care eligibility, the present national focus is on outcomes rather than timeliness of reviews. We are currently working with our system providers to ensure our information systems are Care Act compliant.

Finally, any proposals adopted by Cabinet will be accompanied by the development of further detailed equality impact assessments. All EQIA's will be published as part of the consultation document.

Cllr Peter Morton

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Labour councillor for St. Ann's Ward