

Leader and Cabinet Office

Councillor Peter Morton Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Date: 14 December 2015

Your ref:

Our ref: SASH

Dear Ms Langan and colleagues,

Re: new sources of funding for people with autism and complex needs

Thank you and your cosignatories for the letter dated 2nd December 2015 regarding possible new sources of funding becoming available for services for adults with autism and complex needs in Haringey.

Whilst we recognise that you do not support the Council's plans to transform adult social care, particularly as they affect adults with learning disabilities, autism and other complex needs, we have listened carefully to your responses to the consultation processes we have undertaken over the last twelve months.

As set out in the Cabinet paper of 10th November 2015, the Council will ensure that the new and expanded provision at Ermine Road includes specialist provision for people with learning disabilities, autism and complex needs and that is compliant with the "Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities and NHS organisations to support the implementation of the Adult Autism Strategy" March 2015. The new Centre will act as a physical hub for both the organisation and direct provision of day opportunities.

As you note, Building the Right Support offers a new financial framework to underpin delivery of a new care model and refers to Transforming Care Partnerships being asked to use funding specifically to "deliver care in a different way that achieves better results" with encouragement for pooling of budgets between CCGs and local authorities. We believe that the new model for day opportunities for people with learning disabilities and with complex needs set out in the Cabinet paper and above aligns with the aspirations set out in Building the Right Support.

The Council in its Medium Term Financial Plan (2015-2018) is expecting a significant decrease in its overall funding from £277m to £262m i.e. a drop of £15m or 5.5%. The Council will be updating the plan to take into account the impact of the Summer budget and the Spending Review once full details are published but the budgetary provision is unlikely to improve. The proposals concerning Council tax must be seen in the context of the larger cuts. Haringey raises a relatively low proportion of its funding from Council tax – less than a third. A 2% increase would raise just under £1.7m which is less than 1% of the whole council budget and less than the £5.5m savings that Adults Services will be expected to make in 2016-17.

To put this in the national context, last week the Chief Executives of the Kings Fund and the Nuffield Trust wrote in a joint letter on the Spending Review and council tax:

As the dust begins to settle on last month's spending review, it is now clear that it represents another setback for people who need social care.

New powers to raise council tax will provide local authorities with some financial flexibility, but will not raise as much as the government suggests and, given wide variations in how much councils can raise through their tax base, will disadvantage deprived areas with high needs for publicly funded care.

www.theguardian.com/society/2015/dec/06/social-care-left-in-crisis-by-spending-review

Finally, the Better Care Fund, as you highlighted, is an enabler to better coordination of NHS and social care through closer collaboration. The focus of the Better Care Fund is currently on older people with a particular focus on reducing admissions to hospital and to nursing and residential care. The additional funding announced, which is yet to be worked through in any detail, will be focused on this care group. The wider changes proposed to funding across the NHS and social care will need to be considered in detail before any commitment to inclusion of adults with autism, learning disabilities and other complex needs in the Better Care Fund locally is made. The broader requirement to have in place joint strategic planning between local authorities and CCGs by 2020 is one which we welcome.

I have carefully considered your letter but do not believe that the new funding sources identified are sufficient to address the significant funding gap the Council is facing with regard to adult social care.

I appreciate the comments and points that you and others have shared in the consultation and decision making process to date. If you wish, I would be happy to continue to engage with the group as the transition to new service provision arrangements takes place.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Peter Morton
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

CC: Catherine West, MP, Hornsey and Wood Green; David Lammy, MP, Tottenham
Sharon Grant, Chair, Health Watch Haringey.
Beverley Tarka, Director Adult Social Services, Haringey.
Nick Walkley, Chief Executive, Haringey.
Jill Shattock, Director of Commissioning, Haringey CCG