


Lewisham
Clinical Commissioning Group

By email to: danny.ruta@lewisham.gov.uk

2nd Floor, Cantilever House
Eltham Road
London
SE12 8RN

Email: martinwilkinson@nhs.net
Website: www.lewishamccg.nhs.uk
Telephone: 0207 206 3200
Fax: 0207 206 3226

14 September 2016

Dear Danny

Re: Public Health Savings and Consultation for 2017/18

Thank you for seeking our views on the two Public Health consultations:

- Preventative and Sexual Health services
- Children's and Young people's services – including health visiting and school nursing

We do understand the significant financial pressures the Council is facing, including the reductions in the Public Health grant and consequently very difficult decisions have to be made to achieve the necessary level of savings of £4.7million by 1st April 2017. However this does not diminish our disappointment in the range and depth of Public health savings proposed for 2017/18. We would request that the Mayor and Cabinet reflect on their previous decision requiring a £2 million reduction to the public health budget in 2017/18 in the light of the subsequent, and further £2.7 million reduction in the Public Health grant. The combined impact, we suggest, has resulted in a disproportionate reduction for Public Health and, in particular, for Public Health's preventative service (a 40% cut).

As one of your key stakeholders, we would ask also for the CCG to have greater involvement at an earlier stage in determining disinvestment decisions and budget reductions in services across the Council, in order to better understand the level of public health budgets set in future years and the rationale of the Corporate Reallocation against the Public Health grants. We understand that a further saving of about £15m is required across the Council in the next three years 2017/18 to 2019/20, with an indicative reduction of £1.2 million against Public Health. A more inclusive approach would provide us with greater confidence that these budget reduction decisions are not compromising a fundamental aim of both the Council and the CCG to reduce inequalities in Lewisham, as set out in Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020.

Chair: Dr Marc Rowland

Chief Officer: Martin Wilkinson

We acknowledge that we have been engaged in these two Public Health consultations, which included the engagement of our Membership and joint work with our primary care commissioners to take this forward. Also we appreciate the additional information we have received summarising the findings from the public engagement exercise and the Equality Analysis Assessments. The opportunity to participate in the stakeholders' event on the on 'Staying Healthy' services on the 1st of September 2016 and the further conversations with the Public Health team and our Governing Body members on September 8th have been most helpful to inform this response.

Preventative Health Services

Preventative work is a key aspect of our joint approach to achieving a viable and sustainable 'One Lewisham Health and Social Care System'. In this context we find it difficult to support the disproportionate reduction to Staying Healthy/preventative health services (£800,000 from an expenditure of £2,300,000 – a 40% reduction). Whilst we understand this came about because many of the other services are mandatory, for example sexual health and drugs and alcohol, we believe that many preventative interventions have a very strong evidence basis proving their positive impact on health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities for Lewisham people.

It is for this reason we believe that, in particular, we should be working together to protect and enhance the work to reduce smoking prevalence in Lewisham as a whole health and care system. The information provided within your Public Health Consultation documents is stark in identifying the significant role reducing smoking could have in Lewisham:

"Smoking is a contributory factor to the main causes of death in Lewisham and it is the single largest factor associated with health inequalities. Smoking is responsible for half the difference in life expectancy between Lewisham's richest and poorest residents"
(Para 4.6 Public Health Savings - Mayor and Cabinet paper 28th September 2016)

We believe that the way forward is for a different approach to prevention which is financially sustainable. We would wish to explore with you, the public and other partners how preventative work could be done in more innovative ways in the future, building on some of the suggestions made at the 'Staying Healthy' Stakeholder Event (1st September), including:

- Making prevention 'everyone's business' – prevention and early action should be considered the responsibility of all statutory and non-statutory providers, our community groups and the public. This could require a Lewisham wide campaign, developing the skills of our workforce, securing preventative approaches within our contract and grants;
- Taking a more holistic approach to prevention – commission services to bring together physical and mental health which are person centred – 'every contact counts'
- Investing in small health focused grants for community groups to develop the capacity and

capability to embed preventative work in neighbourhoods - e.g. building on the successes in North Lewisham and in Bellingham - to encourage communities to look after themselves by supporting self-care and connecting people to community assets and resources.

We would hope that by taking a more innovative approach, the potential negative impact on groups of people with protected characteristics in Lewisham could be reduced by increasing the reach of preventative advice and support for early action, as highlighted in the Equality Analysis Assessment summarised below:

Staying Healthy	Equality Analysis Assessment - July 2016	
	Positive Impact	Negative Impact
Stop Smoking	Disability	Ethnicity/Race – Black African
Breastfeeding support service	Age – young mothers Ethnicity/Race – BME Group	NB negative effect on breast feeding education and awareness
NHS Health Check	Ethnicity/Race	None
Community Health Improvement Service	None	Age – those in the range of 40-74 Sex - females Ethnicity/Race – BME particularly Black African and Caribbean groups
Childrens Weight Management	None	Disability Ethnicity/Race – BME Sex – Females Age- young people

Sexual Health Services

In overall terms the CCG supports the proposals of the London's Health Transformation Programme and specifically the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham proposed re-design of local sexual health services, which has been informed by the feedback from the public engagement exercises already undertaken.

Although we are aware that discussions are taking place already with our local GP Federations and the LMC about increasing GP sexual health service provision, the CCG continues to have concerns that the implementation of this model of care may result in additional, unfunded workload for general practices and other local providers. The CCG would wish to seek further assurances that NHS providers will continue to be closely involved in the local implementation plan and their views considered.

In 2017/18, proportionately the Sexual Health budget is planned to be reduced less than the Preventative Health service budget. As I have mentioned already, we understand this is due to the statutory elements of Genitourinary Medicine Services (GUM) and Contraception and Sexual Health services. The CCG would wish to see the level of ambition, to undertake more radical transformational change in the way mandatory sexual health functions are provided across London, realised in 2018/19 and 2019/20, to enable a higher proportion of savings to be delivered, whilst still achieving good outcomes for Lewisham people.

Children and Young People's services

We commend the approach undertaken by the Children's and Young People's commissioning team to engage young people, parents and partners in shaping the new care model at an early stage. The general direction of travel to redesign and integrate the advice, support and care provided by Health Visiting, School Nursing and Children's Centres, as part of local Neighbourhood Care Networks, is supported by the CCG.

The CCG has highlighted previously some concerns about the potential negative impact on the rest of the population of the reduction in universal Health Visitors' home visits and the shift of this work to Children's Centres. It is welcomed, therefore, that the Equality Analysis Assessment acknowledges this concern and further work will be undertaken to explore options to mitigate these risks. Also we welcome the opportunity to contribute further to the re-specification of the frameworks for the recommissioning of a more integrated Health Visiting and Children's Centre service and the refocus of core and specialist School Nursing, working with Dr. Angelika Razzaque, the CCG Clinical Director lead in this area.

In conclusion thank you for seeking the CCG's views on the Public Health consultations.

Overall we support the proposals for Sexual Health Services and Children's and Young Peoples services, with a few reservations as highlighted above. We continue, however, to have significant concerns about the disproportionate reduction to the Public Health budget and the potential negative impact on our whole system focus on preventative advice and support and on inequalities and equalities in Lewisham. In particular regarding the Stop Smoking, which has a very strong evidence base, proven popularity with the public (the highest ranking on the online survey) and a demonstrated positive impact on high risk groups (EAA). We would want to continue to work closely with you and the public to develop innovative, whole system approaches to prevention, building on suggestions made at the 'Staying Healthy' Stakeholder Event (1st September 2016).

Finally the CCG would ask for a more inclusive approach in determining disinvestment and investment decisions across the Council services in the future. The CCG being involved at an earlier stage would give us greater confidence that budget reduction decisions in future years are not compromising a fundamental aim of both the Council and the CCG in addressing equality and inequalities in Lewisham.

Yours sincerely



Martin Wilkinson
Chief Officer, Lewisham CCG

CC: Governing Body Members
Senior Management Team
James Lee
Jane Miller
Ruth Hutt
Warwick Tomsett



Dr Danny Ruta
Director of Public Health

Martin Wilkinson
Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group
Cantilever House
Eltham Road
London
SE12 8RN

Community Services Directorate
Fifth Floor
Laurence House
Catford
London SE6 4RU

Direct line 020 8314 9094

danny.ruta@lewisham.gov.uk

20 September 2016

Dear Martin,

I am writing in response to your letter of the 14th of September.

Thank you again for your thoughts on the Council's proposed savings to Public Health services in response to funding reductions, and your recognition of the financial challenge we face. Your letter will be presented to Mayor & Cabinet alongside the proposals on the 28th of September 2016 which will afford them the opportunity to reflect on the previously agreed £2 million reduction as requested.

We valued the opportunity to discuss our proposals with your Governing Body on the 13th of September, and the contributions of your members and officers throughout the consultation. I understand colleagues have arranged a date following this to involve CCG colleagues in early discussions around potential future investments and disinvestments as you request.

I appreciate your concerns about the impact of the level of savings proposed, and particularly those from preventative 'Staying Healthy' services. I recognise your emphasis on the value of smoking cessation services, which is why we are proposing a relatively small reduction in this area. Officers plan to deliver 30% of this proposed saving through a reduction in management costs, meaning we will be reducing service expenditure by 11.4% in the context of the overall reduction of 35% in Staying Healthy services.

I welcome your suggestion to build on our 'Staying Healthy' consultation event, and we look forward to working with CCG colleagues and other partners to develop your suggestions around 'making prevention everyone's business' and 'taking a more holistic approach to prevention' in the future years. One example is our current joint approach to redesigning the NHS Healthchecks pathway. I would note that proposals for Mayor & Cabinet incorporate your third suggestion in this area to 'invest in small health-focussed grants', and share your confidence that these are the correct approaches to mitigate the equalities impacts of proposed savings.

I also welcome the CCG's support for the proposals of the London Sexual Health Transformation Programme. I share your aspiration that more radical transformation might deliver further savings in future years, and welcome CCG engagement in new initiatives to

tackle unplanned pregnancy and repeat abortions for example through commissioning post-natal contraception pathways. I note your concerns around potential impacts elsewhere, and particularly in primary care. However, I hope through the co-commissioning plans we can address some of the fragmentation that has occurred in the commissioning of sexual health services in primary and secondary care. We will continue to work with the LMC and CCG to achieve this.

Your commendation of the approach taken to the redesign of Health Visiting, School Nursing and Children's Centres is welcomed, as is your recognition of the work undertaken within the Council's Equality Analysis Assessment and options to mitigate risks. We look forward to working closely on the re-specification of these new service offers with your Clinical Director lead in this area, Dr. Angelika Razzaque.

As you point out, I felt a foundation was provided at our 'Staying Healthy' consultation for collaboration between the Council, CCG and partners, and I look forward to working together to address the challenges we face and to develop the innovative, whole system approaches you mention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DR', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Danny Ruta MBBS, MSc, MFPH
Director of Public Health

cc Aileen Buckton - London Borough of Lewisham