

38 Degrees Bolton

20th September 2016

Dear Doctor Bhatiani,

There is anxiety and concern in the community of Bolton about the Locality Plan; in particular:

* The radical nature of the changes to healthcare and the rapid pace of implementation to close a shortfall in funding of £162 million by 2020. We already compare unfavourably with our European neighbours on healthcare spend- 11% of GDP is spent in Germany and the same amount in France whereas the spend in the UK is 8.8% (OECD)

* The shrinking of the hospital sector with 5 wards to be closed at Royal Bolton Hospital. Our hospital bed base is already extremely low: OECD figures show Germany has 8.27 beds per 1000 population, France 6.37 and the UK 2.95. We are now proposing to cut more hospital beds.

* It is not clear in the new model of healthcare which is centred on General Practice how the skills, expertise knowledge and experience of hospital doctors are brought to bear on healthcare/diagnosis of illness purely in a community setting. In the past Bolton Foundation Trust in its formal response to Healthier Together expressed reservations about clinical effectiveness if healthcare is moved out of the hospital into the community (p 4 Board minutes 25.9.14 `Proposed responses to ...Healthier Together consultation`). In Wigan they are `encouraging` collaboration with hospital professionals (para 2.57 Wigan Locality Plan). Is this what you as commissioners are doing in Bolton?

* Dr David Oliver President of the British Geriatric Society has said that it is discriminatory to try to keep elderly people out of hospitals and to expect that all their healthcare is provided in the community. (October 2014 Guardian Newspaper – Old people are not a burden`..) His examples of best practice involve integration of hospitals with primary care and not primary care and social care. This presumably allows for the flow of skills knowledge and experience through

both sectors? Why as commissioners have you not integrated health in this way?

Our concerns have led us to oppose the locality plan.

We are presenting you with a petition on behalf of the signatories of Bolton, expressing opposition to the plan which delivers essentially in our view £162 million in cuts to Bolton healthcare, being Bolton`s share of the £22 billion cuts required by the government when the £30 billion requested by Simon Steven of NHS England was refused.

Whilst the plan is led by commissioners it has been supported by both the Council and the Foundation Trust and so copies of this petition will be presented to both the Council and the Foundation Trust.

On behalf of the signatories

CHRISTINE A HOWARTH- 38 DEGREES BOLTON

and on behalf of:

Unison Bolton, Unite Bolton, Bolton Trades Council and Save Bolton Health Services.