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Dear Richard

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Sustainability & Transformation Plan

Thank you for sharing with me the submission draft of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sustainability & Transformation Plan. I have now had a chance to study it and the accompanying appendices and to reflect on the discussions I've been involved in with you at the recent LGA conference, last Friday's stakeholder event at the AGEAS Bowl Hotel and through briefings at both the Southampton Health & Wellbeing Board and CCG Board.

Can I first say how impressed I am with the level of detail – expressed so succinctly – covered by the plan which I know reflects a considerable amount of hard work by your team and the many system leaders from right across the footprint area? I think that you have captured the right challenges that we currently face and I agree with the seven long term priorities for action underpinned by the four enabling whole system solutions.

I have some minor suggestions to make to the proposed priorities and transformation schemes:

1. Closing the Health & Wellbeing Gap – I welcome the focus on lifestyle behaviour issues affecting health (alcohol, smoking and diet), outcomes for people with mental health conditions (although I wonder if we couldn't set a more ambitious suicide reduction target in line with emerging good practice in other areas like the West Midlands and Merseyside), early years and people with priority conditions (cancer and diabetes) and I would expect these to complement and add value to our own local Health & Wellbeing strategic priorities around prevention and early intervention which address health inequalities and community resilience.
2. Closing the Care and Quality Gap – I welcome the focus here on taking forward new models of care (including much-needed transformation of primary care and a greater focus on personalisation) and addressing the sustainability challenges in acute services, mental health services and services for people with learning disabilities; I

especially welcome the proposed alliance model for acute services in the Solent area and for mental health across the whole piece.

3. Closing the Financial Gap – I would welcome further discussion on how additional STP funding will be able to support local ambitions for addressing some of our prevention priorities (in addition to tackling childhood obesity) like, for example, by addressing the physical health needs of people with mental health issues or with a learning disability; it is important that the whole system funding gap covering both health and social care is articulated clearly and consistently throughout the document (that gap being over £1 billion) and that the STP will need to deal with the whole change of the system.

I want to re-emphasize our strongly-held view that 'subsidiarity' should be the overriding principle for ensuring local delivery wherever possible by making full use of the Health & Wellbeing Board infrastructure and maximising opportunities presented to us through the Better Care Fund, pooled budgets and ring-fenced Public Health grant.

My final comment is that I would really relish an opportunity for greater political input to and ownership of the STP governance and delivery system. For example, might it be possible for the lead elected members for health and social care across Hampshire & the Isle of Wight and/or the chairs of Health & Wellbeing Boards to provide some political sponsorship/ assurance for each of the identified workstreams? I'm very confident that I and my fellow cabinet members from Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and the Isle of Wight Council – notwithstanding any political ideological differences – are able to work well with you here in identifying key points of elected member contact.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is any further assistance I can provide in helping to deliver the STP.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Shields
Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Social Care
Councillor for Freemantle Ward

cc: Simon Letts, Leader of Southampton City Council
Alan Whitehead, MP for Southampton Test
Royston Smith, MP for Southampton Itchen
Caroline Nokes, MP for Romsey & Southampton North

Members of Southampton Health & Wellbeing Board
Members of Southampton Commissioning Partnership Board