



Department
of Health

Your ref: CSI/14

Our ref: PO00000902063

Councillor Mary Aspinall
Chair, Caring Plymouth
c/o Ross Jago, Chief Executive's Department
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

*From the Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Minister of State for Care and Support*

*Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS
Tel: 020 7210 4850*

18 DEC 2014

Dear Councillor Aspinall,

Thank you for your letter of 18 November to Jeremy Hunt about the Better Care Fund (BCF).

I was sorry to read of Caring Plymouth's concerns about the BCF.

I would like to assure you that we agree that people living and working in an area are best placed to develop the best plans to join up local services.

The Department of Health is aware that some areas, such as Plymouth, already had local plans to integrate services. I am grateful to these councils for their ambitious approach.

However, the Department is also aware that there were areas that had no existing integration plans. We believe that every area, no matter how co-ordinated their care services already are, will benefit from learning from the experiences of others and the evidence of what works.

When local authorities submitted the first set of BCF plans, the Department judged that they required stronger evidence on how their aims would be achieved. That is why the new policy requirements were stricter.

I am grateful for the work of all councils in this area, and recognise that it has involved working to a challenging time scale.

I hope this reply is helpful.

PP C. McAinchey

NORMAN LAMB

Approved by the Minister and
signed by his Private Secretary
to avoid delay