



Chief Executive's Unit

Sir Simon Stevens
NHS England
Via Email

Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

T 01752 304469
E ross.jago@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk

Please ask for: Ross Jago

Date 20 August 2015

My Ref SR01/07/15

Your Ref

RE: Attendance at Health Scrutiny and the NHS Success Regime

Dear Sir Simon

I am writing to express disappointment at the failure of NHS England to attend a meeting of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee of Plymouth City Council.

The invitation was made under The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 (section 26), which requires persons responsible for health services in the local authority area to provide the Committee with information about the planning, provision and operation of health services.

This second failure to attend is particularly disappointing given the precarious position the Devon Health Economy finds itself in. This meeting of the committee took place on the 2nd July 2015 where the committee sought to understand the impact of the Success Regime.

Given the lack of information available, the committee remains concerned that the success regime is not a whole system approach and that clinical commissioning group and local authorities have not been central to the discussions in the development of this intervention.

The committee, whilst welcoming the additional support to the Devon health and social care system, remains concerned the regime will be overseen by regional directors of National Bodies involving partner organisations only "as required". Specific interventions support and day-to-day oversight of the regime will sit at a regional level and as a result the committee is alarmed that this could be a further top down intervention into the healthcare system.

Given the requirement under legislation, we hope that in future NHS England representatives will be made available to attend the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee to allay such fears. As highlighted by Robert Francis QC, scrutiny by local councillors is an important part of the framework

of health service accountability and we look forward to working closely with NHS England in the future.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Mrs Lynda Bowyer
Chair, Caring Plymouth (Health Scrutiny Committee)

Yours Sincerely

CC

Tracey Lee
Carole Burgoyne (PCC Social Care)
Kelechi Nnoaham (PCC Public Health)
Ann James (Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust)
Steve Waite (Plymouth Community Healthcare)
Jerry Clough (NEW Devon CCG (Western))
Anthony Farnsworth (NHS England)