



County Councillor Jim Clark (Chairman)
North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health Committee
c/o Overview and Scrutiny
North Yorkshire County Council
Room 11, Brierley Block
County Hall, Northallerton
North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD
2 July 2018

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

Re: NHS funding in North Yorkshire

I am writing to you on behalf of the North Yorkshire County Council Scrutiny of Health Committee. The Committee welcomes your pledge to increase investment substantially in NHS services in the country and we pay tribute to the dedication and hard work of NHS staff, who do so much to ensure that we have the highest quality of services available to us when we most need them.

In North Yorkshire, we are in the unfortunate position whereby four out of the five Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) that commission services for our communities have been unable to keep within their spending limits in recent years. Indeed, the total deficit across the CCGs is in excess of £46million for 2017/18 and the budget for 2018/19 is a £30million deficit.

The committee has been concerned that the independent, external auditors of the CCGs have sent letters to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care under Section 30 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 for the actual breach of financial regulations. We have heard anecdotally that the Secretary of State receives numerous such letters from the auditors of CCGs across the country.

Since the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, there is evidence that having five CCGs for North Yorkshire is not sustainable and that they are not able to operate at sufficient scale and within budget. You will be aware that there is a history of NHS commissioners in North Yorkshire being in deficit that goes back many years.

Unless robust financial controls are put in place by NHS England, the additional money that is being allocated will not be used effectively and efficiently and taxpayers will not get value for money. The Committee requests that you instruct NHS England to ensure that proper controls are put in place before additional money is granted and that robust audit procedures are developed.

On 3rd January 2018, the Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care regarding the local impact of shortages of NHS and social care staff. We have yet to receive a reply and so felt that we had no alternative but to write to you directly.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Clark', with a horizontal line underneath.

County Councillor Jim Clark
Chairman of the North Yorkshire Scrutiny of Health Committee

cc. Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England
Rt Hon Andrew Jones MP
Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Rt Hon Robert Goodwill MP
Rt Hon Nigel Adams MP
Rt Hon Julian Smith MP
Rt Hon Kevin Hollinrake MP

Contact:
Daniel Harry
Statutory Scrutiny Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
Room 11, Brierley Block
County Hall, Northallerton
North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD
T: 01609 533531
E: daniel.harry@northyorks.gov.uk