



Imelda Redmond
National Director
Healthwatch England
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SZ

Reply to Alison Comley
Telephone 0117 9037860
Fax 0117 3521927
E-mail alison.comley@bristol.gov.uk
Date 17th May 2018

Dear Imelda,

Many thanks for your time last week, it was very helpful to have a discussion of the issues and as agreed I am now responding formally.

Healthwatch is very important for the city as one way for people to feedback their views on health and social care services. It has also been a very active member of our Health and Wellbeing Board. In Bristol it is not the only way and we value diversity of approach whilst maintaining our legal responsibilities and avoiding duplication, to ensure best use of resources.

As discussed, our aspiration from 2019 is to commission the service across a bigger footprint, aligned with our STP. We think this will make sense for the public and also give us some efficiencies by commissioning jointly. We really welcome your offer of support to assist us in delivering this effectively.

In terms of the current financial year I have discussed this with Jaqui Jenson, our Executive Director for Adults, Children and Education as we recognise that the percentage cut has been high, reflecting the social care financial challenges that we face. However we have identified some additional one off funding within social care to support this transitional year, whilst we plan and implement our joint commissioning approach. This will take the funding to £160k for 18/19 and as discussed we also fund an additional information, advice and guidance database which is also with our Health watch provider, The Care Forum.

In terms of budget setting we also discussed the timing of our notification of the Local Reform and Community Voices Grant allocation. If you are in a position to influence this notification being released at an earlier date, this would be very helpful to local authorities across the country in their budget setting.

Communities
Executive Office
2nd Floor, Park Side,
City Hall,
College Green,
Bristol, BS1 5TR.

Executive Director's Name
Alison Comley MBE
Executive Director
Communities

Website
www.bristol.gov.uk

I hope this revised approach, following our discussion goes some way to allay your concerns around the current service. I appreciate this was the first phase in a formal process and I would be grateful if you could confirm that this constitutes a satisfactory conclusion. Once again thank you for making the time to speak to me.

With regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Comley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alison Comley
Executive Director Communities

cc Jacqui Jensen
Terry Dafter
Simon Dicker