

Councillor John Illingworth

Chair, Scrutiny Board
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Sent by e-mail only

Dear Andy,

NHS England – Call to Action

I am writing to seek further information regarding NHS England's 'Call to Action' programme of work.

On 11 July 2013, NHS England published 'The NHS belongs to the people: a call to action'. The stated aim of the publication was to stimulate a national debate about the future shape of the NHS. About a month later, on 14 August 2013, NHS England also launched its review of the current primary care system – specifically aimed at considering the future of primary care and how best to develop general practice services.

Both 'call to action' workstreams were launched with significant emphasis on the need to engage with the public, local communities and other key stakeholders. Indeed, details on the NHS England website include:

'NHS England along with other national partner organisations will be providing support to local GPs, charities and patient groups to hold meetings to discuss these issues. These meetings will provide the mechanism for patients and the public to have a genuine say in how the NHS of the future will look.'

'The main purpose of 'Improving general practice – a call to action' is to stimulate debate in local communities – amongst GP practices, area teams, CCGs, health and wellbeing boards and other community partners – as to how best to develop general practice services.'

Given the importance of discussions around the future shape of NHS services, I should be grateful if you could provide details of the work undertaken by the West Yorkshire Area Team to stimulate debate in local communities and with key stakeholders. I should also be grateful if you could provide details specifically related to the Leeds area, within the context of sub-regional activity – alongside a summary of the outcomes to date.

Please note, I intend to seek details from the Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board, local CCGs and other local stakeholders regarding their involvement and input into the 'Call to Action' debate.

In addition, information on the NHS England website also suggests that details are being drawn together to stimulate debate about NHS England's strategic approach for the commissioning of primary dental services, pharmacy services and eye care services. I should be grateful if you could provide an update on this work, including when such information is likely to be available.

Finally, I should also be grateful for your views on how NHS England's current and/or future 'Call to Action' activity relates to the specific duty to engage with local authority health scrutiny bodies around variations to/ developments of local health services – and specifically substantial variations / developments.

As some of the above information may be of equal interest to members across the sub-region, I have copied this letter to other West Yorkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs and, if helpful, I will also share any relevant information/ response. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Illingworth', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor John Illingworth
Chair, Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)

cc: Members of the Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)
Cllr Lisa Mulherin, Chair, Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board
Leeds Clinical Commissioning Groups
Leeds Local Medical Committee
Healthwatch Leeds
Health Scrutiny Chairs – West Yorkshire