

**Councillor Keith Wakefield
Leader of Leeds City Council**

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Our ref KW/SJ/POLLARD
Date 22 October 2010

Dear Linda

Re: Leeds Community Health Services: Foundation Trust Status.

Over the last couple of months I have had a number of conversations with officers regarding the implications of the NHS white paper, the opportunities for both organisations to improve the efficiency and quality of services by closer working and the implications of the national programme to transform community health services. Our shared commitment to work more closely together across a wide ranging agenda is most welcome and fully supported by the City Council


As you may be aware, in September the Council meeting received a deputation by Unison regarding the future arrangements for Leeds community health services. A response to the deputation has been prepared for the Executive Board meeting on the 3rd November in which we state unequivocal support for the Foundation Trust option. Whilst the report notes the points made by the Unison delegation, our conclusions are based on consideration of how our respective services need to work together differently in the future.

We have well established and effective integrated services in some areas; joint care management, CAMHS and the joint equipment service are good examples. However, I am sure we would both acknowledge that much more can be achieved through integrating health, social care and other council services where it will produce better outcomes for people and deliver a more productive service.

It is our understanding that the Foundation Trust model has flexibility within it to develop a business case based on integration of service delivery across our organisations and a governance structure that reflects shared benefits and risks. The City Council is committed to pursuing this opportunity, as we know it is unlikely to arise again. We do understand the challenges, as a number of local authorities in this region have travelled this journey already, but believe this is the right direction for the city and the people who need our services.

I understand that the Department of Health has invited a team from NHS Leeds to meet with them on the 1st November and that you expect to hear whether or not the Foundation Trust option can proceed shortly after that meeting. I hope you will have the opportunity to draw the Minister's attention to the views of Leeds City Council on this matter, by copying this letter and assure him of our commitment to working with you on the Foundation Trust business case over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Wakefield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'W'.

Councillor Keith Wakefield
Leader of the Council

cc: John Lawlor, Chief Executive, NHS Leeds