

Friday 16th August 2019

To:

Terry Collins, chief executive, Durham County Council
Martin Swales, chief executive, South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
Patrick Melia, chief executive, Sunderland City Council

Dear Terry, Martin and Patrick,

Re: Path to Excellence programme - phase two of NHS hospital changes

As you know, our Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG, NHS North Durham CCG, NHS South Tyneside CCG and NHS Sunderland CCG are reviewing the health services provided to our communities through South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust.

You will be aware that we are currently in a pre-engagement phase of developing proposals for phase two of the programme, and we expect to bring proposals to patients and the public formally during spring/summer 2020 when we will publish a pre-consultation business case.

The Local Authority Regulations 2013 require NHS bodies to notify their local authority partners when they have such proposals under consideration. Currently our planning assumptions are that we expect to make that notification in the early part of 2020.

The services and population affected by these developing proposals covers North and East Durham, South Tyneside and Sunderland, and we would be grateful for your attention in making the appropriate arrangements under section 30 (5) of the regulations for the relevant scrutiny functions to be exercised.

We request that this is undertaken by a joint scrutiny panel to include the three local authorities Durham County Council, South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council and Sunderland City Council.

In terms of process, we would be grateful if you would formally acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Members of the Path to Excellence programme team are in touch with democratic services officers from each of your authorities, however, should your own officers wish to discuss these arrangements please do not hesitate to contact a member of the programme team.

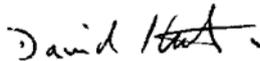
We look forward to working with elected members and scrutiny officers in order to progress future proposals to ensure the best possible health services are available for the communities we collectively serve.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Neil O'Brien

Accountable officer - NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS North Durham CCG



Dr David Hambleton

Accountable officer - NHS South Tyneside CCG



Mr Dave Gallagher

Accountable officer - NHS Sunderland CCG

Copy to: Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee chairs

Cllr Rob Dix, South Tyneside

Cllr John Robinson, Durham

Cllr Doris Macknight, Sunderland

Copy to:

Ken Bremner – chief executive, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Alison Slater – regional director, NHS England and NHS Improvement