

Our Ref: CM01 04 11 15

Direct Line: 01992 566141

Fax: 01992 566148

Building 4
Spencer Close
St Margaret's Hospital
The Plain
EPPING
Essex CM16 6TN

4th November 2015

Sent via e-mail

Dr Paul Watson
Regional Director
NHS England (Midlands and East)

Dear Paul

We are writing to you on behalf of the West Essex CCG Board following the local briefing on the proposed way ahead for the Essex Success Regime in Chelmsford yesterday, and in advance of the regional tripartite meeting we understand is taking place today.

We are duty bound to convey to you the huge disappointment and frustration we feel at being cut adrift from the Essex Success Regime today, with no alternative package of support identified to take our work forward. We cannot state strongly enough to you the damage that this announcement will do to the work we are undertaking locally, both in practical terms but also reputationally; it will reconfirm the very cynical view that local GP practice members have of the NHS national bodies. We had made significant progress with hearts and minds in primary care in recent weeks; we fear that our inability to capitalise on this through a lack of resources could be fatal to our progress. In addition you have made local CCG leaders, who have welcomed the Success Regime publicly and privately, look very foolish to our members. Exclusion from the regime we are sure will play very badly with our MPs, local authority partners, and perhaps most importantly with the many staff who work for the NHS in west Essex. The recommendations today have entirely played to the historic perception that west Essex is the forgotten part of the county and the socio-political isolation we always feel.

There are some specific points that contribute to our frustration that we would like to underline:

- We are the only system in the county that has any coherent system plan in place that demonstrates both the financial benefit of taking this work forward (c£65m recurrent benefit) v the known impact of the momentum case (£314m recurrent deficit by 2019/20). We have strong support from all system partners to progress at pace and to make significant changes and impact in 2016/17, but as the position currently stands this work is now at risk.
- We have been repeatedly told that our work is at the forefront of current thinking, and a model that could pave the way for others in the county, yet we have been given no support in year to take this work forward. In the last 3 years we have applied to be an integration pioneer, we have submitted 3 vanguard applications, we missed the cut-off for the first wave of challenged economy work, we have applied and been rejected for regional transformation funds, and we have been excluded from national urgent care support programmes despite our on-going challenges. Essentially neither PAH nor the system has received any external support despite our very clear challenges.
- We have been clear, particularly in recent weeks, that without significant external financial support as well as advice and expertise from regulatory bodies, our work in west Essex will not be able to continue. We have been patiently waiting for the Success

Dr Rob Gerlis, Chair
Clare Morris, Chief Officer

Regime to get underway as we were very strongly led to believe that this was the route through which this support would be forthcoming. This position was reiterated to us as recently as 23rd October when we were asked to submit an overview of our programme and to outline the resources needed to continue in-year and for 2016/17.

- Having seen a little more detail about the plans for the central / south programme today our concerns about being excluded are now heightened. We can see that exclusion from some of the proposed work streams will increase the risk of failure for west Essex and for North East Essex. In our view exclusion is now more than just a missed opportunity, but could actively undermine our plans.

We would therefore request reconsideration of the decision not to include the West Essex Accountable Care work as part of the overall programme for the Success Regime. To exclude it we believe will be damaging for our progress and will send out a difficult and damaging message in the local economy about how our concerns are shared and supported by national bodies. We would appreciate a response to this letter that we can share with local partners and at the CCG Board.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Rob Gerlis, Chair, West Essex CCG



Clare Morris, Chief Officer, West Essex CCG