

Cannock Chase Clinical Commissioning Group  
East Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group  
South East Staffordshire and Seisdon Clinical Commissioning Group  
Stafford and Surrounds Clinical Commissioning Group  
Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Group



**Johnny McMahon**

Chair – Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee  
County Councillor for Cannock Chase - Cannock Villages  
County Buildings  
Martin Street  
Stafford  
ST16 2LH

*Staffordshire CCGs' Headquarters*  
First Floor  
Staffordshire Place 2  
Stafford  
ST16 2LP

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019  
Our Ref: 19-085MW

Dear Johnny,

Thank you for your letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

The CCGs are committed to developing as strategic commissioning organisations within an integrated care system (ICS) and doing things once rather than six times where it makes sense to do so. Also, to ensure a consistent service offer to our population across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Whilst the needs of our populations will sometimes differ and we will on occasion need to make locally sensitive decisions, the CCGs are committed to eliminating any instances of unwarranted variation and 'postcode lottery'.

We will be consulting in the new year on a range of services where there are differences in terms of what the CCGs commission with the aim of eliminating unwarranted variations. This will include hearing aids and gluten free products.

In terms of out of county provision, over half of the CCGs' acute activity is with hospitals outside of Staffordshire and there are long established arrangements in place with both the lead commissioners and the trusts, enacted through the NHS contract for ensuring that our patients are treated in a safe and timely manner.

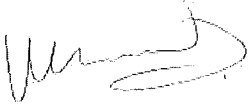
You may also be interested to know that in terms of mental health and learning disabilities out of area placements, the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CCGs have the sixth lowest numbers out of 44 STPs and ICS, a significant achievement. The October dashboard (July data) indicates 162 people in receipt of care outside of Staffordshire, and I understand that number has since reduced further.

The journey towards becoming an ICS will culminate in an application to become an ICS by April 2021. There have already been a number of workshops, which have included the primary care network (PCN) clinical directors, to shape our integrated care proposals and this process of engagement will continue into next year. The ICS and integrated care partnerships (ICP) cannot be successfully developed and

implemented without the involvement of general practice and the PCNs and I would expect there to be many opportunities for further engagement in the new year.

I hope this provides some assurance, but I would be very happy to attend a forthcoming scrutiny committee meeting to discuss these issues further, or any other issues of interest or concern the committee may have.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcus Warnes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Marcus Warnes**  
**Accountable Officer**