

Rt Hon Mr Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2NS

Phone: (01772) 534191
Email: Azhar.ali@lancashire.gov.uk
Your ref:
Our ref: AA/jm
Date: 19 June 2015

Dear Mr Hunt

I am writing on behalf of the County Council and Lancashire's Health and Wellbeing Board to express our disappointment and dismay regarding the recent announcement of proposals to reduce the in-year local government public health grant allocation to Lancashire County Council.

At a time when the Government is committed to the NHS Five Year Forward View and keeping prevention and early help at the centre, to cut the public health budget demonstrates short-termism and risks derailing the ambition of supporting the most vulnerable in our communities.

May I also point out that a reduction in-year of 7.4% is likely to have an effect on the frontline NHS services like NHS Health Checks, Sexual Health and School Nursing services which are mandated by the Government and it is against your Party Manifesto to protect NHS services? It is also likely to further undermine our specialist public health capacity to support the NHS commissioners.

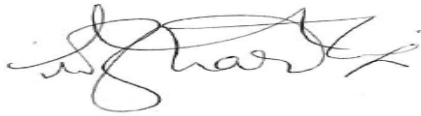
I understand the Government's need to reduce public sector spending and as Lancashire Health and Care system we are keen to discuss alternative proposals that will minimise the impact on frontline services and help build a more joined up public health system in Lancashire. We would advise you to adopt a more considered approach that includes full integration of public health services across NHS England, Public Health England and Local Authorities in Lancashire.

Please could I urge you to drop this proposal and consult with us in detail before rushing with implementing the in-year reduction of our budgets that puts improving the health outcomes for our residents at jeopardy?

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I would welcome the opportunity of meeting you to discuss how best we can deliver these cuts in Lancashire and look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Azhar Ali', written in a cursive style.

County Councillor Azhar Ali
Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

CC:

Jane Ellison MP, jane.ellison.mp@parliament.uk

Duncan Selbie Chief Executive, Public Health England Duncan.selbie@phe.gov.uk

Simon Stevens Chief Executive NHS England england.contactus@nhs.net

All Lancashire MP's (all political parties).