

Cllr Joan Bell Chair
Stoke-on-Trent City Council Adults &
Neighbourhoods Overview & Scrutiny Committee
c/o Ellen Washington, Scrutiny Officer
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Cllr Johnny McMahon Chairman
Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee
c/o Tina Gould, Scrutiny and Support Manager
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Date: 20th December 2017
Our Ref: 17-056 MW

Dear Chairs,

As you will be aware, North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent CCGs are currently developing a Pre-Consultation Business Case concerning the Future of Local Health Services. This has been a long journey since we embarked on the process of discussing My Care, My Way – Home First in 2014. We plan to undertake formal consultation on our proposals during summer 2018. I very much hope that you will be an intrinsic part of the process as we work together to make the best possible decisions for the provision of health care for local people.

As you know, these proposals affect five community hospitals in more than one local authority area. In addition, you have made two separate referrals to the Secretary of State for Health relating to the process we have been through to date. I am keen to ensure that you are able to exercise your scrutiny function in ensuring that we get the process right going forwards. I am therefore, writing to advise you that in accordance with the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013, which are aimed at supporting local authorities to discharge their scrutiny functions effectively, the CCGs' governing body in common on 5th December 2017 agreed that I would inform you that under Part 4 Health Scrutiny by Local Authorities, regulation 30 (5), local authorities should appoint a joint health scrutiny committee where a 'responsible person' (in our case the CCG) informs affected local authorities that it has under consideration a proposal which would affect more than one local authority area. The regulations require the relevant local authorities (yourselves) to form a joint scrutiny panel known as a mandatory joint scrutiny panel.

The CCG considers that requesting Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council to establish a mandatory joint scrutiny panel is the best way of obtaining a view on the set of proposals on which we intend to formally consult.

I would be grateful if you would formally acknowledge receipt of this letter for our files and advise me of the timescales for the establishment of the joint scrutiny panel.

Yours sincerely,



Marcus Warnes
Accountable Officer

CC: Cllr Ann James, Stoke-on-Trent City Council Cabinet member for health and social care
Cllr Alan White, Staffordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing
Ellen Washington, Stoke-on-Trent City Council Scrutiny Officer
Jonathon Lindop, Staffordshire County Council Support Officer – Partnerships