



**South Tees**  
Clinical Commissioning Group

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Lisa Bosomworth  
Development and Delivery Manager  
Healthwatch South Tees  
St Marys Centre  
82-90 Corporation Road  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 2RW

Sent by email

Dear Lisa

**Re: Healthwatch reports on NHS Long Term Plan Engagement and response to Autism Core Capabilities Framework.**

Thank you for sharing the recent reports with us on your engagement with local people as part of the NHS England and NHS Improvement Long Term Plan work. Although we have previously considered the Long Term Plan summary report across County Durham, Darlington, Teesside, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby, this summary of feedback from people living in the South Tees area is useful in supporting our local work. I will respond to the remaining reports shared in turn:

**NHS Long Term Plan Focus Group: Regional Refugee Forum (NE) Report**

We recognise the distinct needs of people living locally who are seeking asylum including general health and mental health services. The CCG is a member of local forums to ensure a continued focus on the needs of patients who are refugees, seeking asylum or are international overseas visitors and we will continue to work with partners to better understand and meet the needs of this group in the short and longer term. It is through this partnership approach and links with the North East Migration Partnership that along with Teesside University, South Tees CCG successfully bid for NHS research funding for the University to lead some qualitative

research with people seeking asylum focussing on mental health needs and current service provision. Dr Claire Hart, Principal Lecturer (Research and Innovation) is leading this work and I am sure she would be happy to share further details with you – her email address is [H.C.Hart@tees.ac.uk](mailto:H.C.Hart@tees.ac.uk).

Healthwatch reports shared with the CCG previously have suggested that increased understanding of cultural factors including in areas such as long term conditions would be beneficial and we will consider this as part of primary care education programmes.

### **NHS Long Term Plan Focus Group: Special Education Needs & Disabilities**

This is an area of work that has seen significant focus in South Tees and local work already underway touches on a number of the issues that feature in your report.

Working with Middlesbrough local authority, Redcar and Cleveland local authority and the South Tees Public Health Team a joint commissioning strategy has been collaboratively developed and agreed and a Children's Joint Commissioning Group has been established. In addition, we are one of only a small number of areas across the country to have achieved a substantial level of data sharing amongst partners in respect of education, health and care plans to support the needs of children and young people.

I will share the report with my colleagues Alex Sinclair as Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery (Children and Young People) so that this can be considered as part of the SEND work underway.

### **Core Capabilities Framework for Supporting Autistic People Consultation**

We note the feedback provided as part of the consultation and I will share this response with both our lead director for Children and Young People and my colleague Mike Brierley, Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery who his lead director for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities.

You may also be interested to know that the five CCGs in County Durham and the Tees Valley recently agreed to participate in the Health Education England *Project Choice* programme that helps young adults with a learning disability or autism gain work experience and improve employability and independence skills. We are currently in the process of identifying placement opportunities at our Sedgefield and North Ormesby sites.

Thank you again for sharing these reports with us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig Blair, Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery (Locality  
Commissioning Director South Tees CCG)

CC Mike Brierley, Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery (Mental  
Health and Learning Disabilities)

Karen Hawkins, Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery (Primary  
Care)

Alex Sinclair, Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery (Children and  
Young People)