



Department
of Health

From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

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Councillors Liz Smaje and Adam Wilkinson
Joint Chairs
Calderdale and Kirklees Joint Health Scrutiny Committee
Governance and Democratic Services
First Floor, Civic Centre 3
High Street
Huddersfield HD1 2TG

10 MAY 2018

Dear Cllrs Smaje and Wilkinson,

Referral of NHS Proposal – Right Care Right Time Right Place – Proposed future arrangements for hospital and community health services in Calderdale and Greater Huddersfield

As you know this case was referred to me for consideration and I asked the Independent Reconfiguration Panel for their advice. They have now reported to me and I have accepted their advice.

As you will know, the proposed changes have provoked huge anxiety among local people who have raised a variety of concerns, many of which have been made to me directly. Despite these concerns, I have felt it important to ensure local health leaders were able to develop their plans without interference from government, and that the expert and independent process of the IRP was given the proper chance to scrutinise these plans. In reaching its judgement, the IRP has observed a wide variety of failings which call into question the benefits of this scheme and the way in which the process has been managed so far.

The IRP points to failings ranging from a lack of consistency with the original proposals and scepticism about whether proposals of this scale and complexity are actually deliverable. In particular, there is concern about the delivery of out of hospital care and whether the reduction in hospital beds as a result of changing hospital services could be justified. It is also not clear that capital financing of this scale, for a project of this type, would be available. Further work focussing on out of hospital care, hospital capacity and availability of capital is required from the NHS before a conclusion is reached. In short, the proposals are not in the best interests of

the people of Calderdale and Greater Huddersfield and I would ask the NHS locally and nationally to reconsider.

After careful consideration, the IRP is of the view that further action is required before a final decision is made about the future arrangements for hospital and community health services in Calderdale and Greater Huddersfield.

I have therefore asked NHSE and NHSI to work with the relevant CCGs and the JHSC, and to report back to me on progress.

I enclose a copy of the IRP's advice and would be grateful if you would report back to me in three months on progress with implementing its recommendations.

I am copying this letter to The Lord Ribeiro, Chair of the IRP.

I have written in similar terms to NHSE, NHSI, Calderdale CCG, and Greater Huddersfield CCG.

Yours sincerely



JEREMY HUNT