



Monday 5th December, 2016

Dear Dr Simon Bowers
Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body member,

Re: Cheshire & Merseyside STP and contracts

We are writing following the unambiguous decision of the Liverpool Health and Wellbeing Board on 1st December to reject the Cheshire & Merseyside STP, which has been widely reported. This follows the rejection of the plan by Cheshire West and Chester Health and Wellbeing Board on 16th November, Sefton Council on 17th November, and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Wirral Council on 28th November.

As you will also know, there is growing public opposition to the plan, shown in the ongoing press coverage, and in recent unanimous decisions of Garston and Riverside Constituency Labour Parties, and by the lobby of the Health and Wellbeing Board at the Cunard Building.

To proceed with the final negotiation of contracts to comply with the budgets imposed for 2017/18 and 2018/19 as part of this STP, would be to ignore the clear decisions of local authority bodies and a gathering storm in the public arena.

We are sure that you do not wish Liverpool CCG to be fighting this battle with patients and their representatives. Yet so far, there has been no consultation with the public, Councillors, NHS staff and their trade unions. Engagement exercises do not constitute consultation, nor is it possible to consult without transparency, including the full financial details of your plans.

The contracts which you are negotiating with providers will enforce your share of the cuts inherent in the STP. You have yet to disclose the details, but it is not possible to take £188m out of the Cheshire & Merseyside NHS budgets in 2017/18 and £360m in 2018/19, dwarfing any contribution from the Sustainability and Transformation Fund, without severe consequences.

In the circumstances, we ask you to pause your contract negotiations, disclose the full detail of your plans, and begin a wide ranging full consultation to include the public, elected representatives, NHS staff and their trade unions.

As health professionals, you will want to act in the best interests of patients. We call on you to do so.

Thank You,

Dr. Alex Scott-Samuel, MB, ChB, MCommH, FFPH
Retired Senior Lecturer (Clinical) in Public Health
Founder Member, *Keep Our NHS Public*