

18 March 2020

Dear *Neil*

South Tyneside Healthwatch hosted the three Healthwatch which, cover the ICP, at its last public board meeting as NECS officers had been invited to up-date the members on the current status of Path to Excellence Phase I and the planned consultation for Phase II. Two topics came to the top of the post presentation debate:

1. How generic risk was evaluated, as an aid to decision making, with respect to the whole system change brought about by the proposed implementation of a Path to Excellence
2. Why there is no lay membership on the Clinical Services Review Group

It was agreed, at the meeting, that Sunderland Healthwatch would take forward risk and South Tyneside, the membership of the Clinical Services Review Group. On behalf of Healthwatch South Tyneside I have been asked formally to raise this with the three accountable officers of the CCG's across the ICP.

Firstly, on a point of clarity, the board is not familiar with the intricacies of the sub-structures which make up the "Clinical Services Review Group" so this letter is concerned with that part/those parts which would best benefit from the added value provided by the lay voice. It is also recognised in all major institutions that, research and report on best practice, in the area of systems change, especially where this involves personal welfare, that, credibility and public confidence is substantially raised if the lay voice is heard. Our statutory role as local health and social care champion, and, broader, as critical friend, would, we believe, help create a positive synergy between the public and the commissioners. I should be grateful, therefore, if you could consider on behalf of Healthwatch, our request for membership of the appropriate forum of the Clinical Services Review Group.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



Peter Bower, Chair  
Healthwatch South Tyneside

CC John Dean - Chair, Sunderland Healthwatch  
Chris Cunnington-Shore - Chair, Durham Healthwatch  
Patrick Garner - Programme Manager NECS