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16 April 2013

Professor Alan Walker
Chair
Sheffield Fairness Commission
Fairness Commission Secretariat
Policy, Partnership & Research, Room 302,
Town Hall
Pinstone Street
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Dear Alan

Recommendations of the Fairness Commission

Thank you for your letter of 15 February. The CCG's Governing Body has considered the report of the commission and your letter to me, and agreed this response.

The CCG fully supports the work of the Commission and its recommendations. Contributing to reducing health inequalities is one of our four priorities as a new commissioning body, and the link between health inequalities and the other forms of inequality in the city are clear. I know that CCG Governing Body members have a strong personal commitment to addressing health inequalities, and we are very happy to support the Commission's work.

This commitment is expressed in our prospectus and will, we hope, be evident in our commissioning intentions for 2013/14, which we will publish in April. Although your letter was received towards the end of this year's planning process, we hope you will agree that we have identified actions in the commissioning intentions for 2013/14 that at least start to meet your recommendations. (I have included a copy with this letter).

For future years, we will start our planning process with the recommendations of the Fairness Commission clearly in mind – they will help us identify how we can contribute to reducing health inequalities. In addition, I expect that the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy will ensure that it incorporates the relevant recommendations of the Commission, and that in turn will guide our planning.

With regard to your questions about the recommendations, I have addressed those in the attached table. This sets out each recommendation we feel is relevant (including all those under the Health and Wellbeing for All heading), with a response to each one.

We would be happy to receive your thoughts on our response and to discuss those with you, if that would be helpful. I note that the Commission's report clearly states that you will not be setting up performance management arrangements, but assume that you will be asking us to provide a progress report to the Commission, and will be happy to do that.

Yours sincerely

Tim Moorhead
Chair
NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS Sheffield CCG Response to Fairness Commission Recommendations

March 2013

Health and Wellbeing for All	
Tackling the determinants of poor health	
1. Commit to tackling wider determinants and use services to deliver better health and wellbeing outcomes	Section 4.7 of our commissioning intentions (CIs) describes our actions to contribute to reducing health inequalities. We recognise this is work which needs to be done in partnership with others, and that many of the wider determinants are outside NHS influence, and will discuss this with partners.
2. Prevent health and wellbeing problems from occurring	Many of our plans for 2013/14 seek to achieve this, including investment in health trainers, improvements in primary and community care and focus on long term conditions
3. Initiatives addressing the wider determinants of health	As above – largely outside NHS control
4. HWB members utilise position, influence and resources	Tackling health inequalities is one of the priorities for the HWB. HWB members recognise that position, influence over others and control of resources all have a part to play in bringing about change.
5. Health inequalities assessment	A key feature of the JSNA that is being currently developed, as it will be themed around the HWB's priority areas.
6. Promote women's health in general, pre-pregnancy, in pregnancy and after giving birth	Section 4.4 of our CIs sets out our actions to improve maternity and children's care. (Note - the Health Visiting service will be commissioned directly by the NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB), not the CCG.)
Inequalities in the health system	
7. Use the JSNA to better understand the equity of health spend in Sheffield	The distribution of CCG health spend is largely a consequence of patterns of use of secondary care services. Our actions to improve access to care and reduce health inequalities should, as a consequence, improve equity of health spend. We aim to target resources to areas and populations with the greatest need (CIs section 4.7) Spend on primary care is outside the CCG's influence as primary care contracts will be held by the NHSCB.
8. Ensure that health spending in the city is more fairly utilised	
9. Increase in primary and community care	A key part of our plans for 2013/14

10. Consistent, high quality services across all areas of the city	A key aim for the CCG - demonstrated in our focus on the quality of care, and on reducing health inequalities. Tackling unwarranted variations in quality of primary care is an explicit action for 2013/14 (CIs section 4.6).
11. Removing barriers to service	Our Equalities Action Plan (endorsed by the Governing Body in March 2013) is intended to tackle discrimination in provision in healthcare. It includes our intent to understand people's experiences of problems in accessing care, so that we can address those problems, and highlights how developments like Health Trainers will improve access to care. Initiatives already in place, like those to encourage people to take up cancer screening and report symptoms earlier, also contribute to this aim.
Mental Health and Wellbeing	
12. Supporting people to receive early diagnosis	The redesign of community mental health services, which the CCG was consulted upon and supports, includes a new function in MH teams to improve liaison with primary care and provide faster assessment of patients.
13. Improve the diagnosis and treatment of mental wellbeing problems in children	Improvement in CAMHS is included in section 4.4 of our CIs
14. Increase the prominence given to mental health and wellbeing in commissioning plans	The area of mental health and learning disabilities is one of our four clinical portfolios and features clearly in our CIs (section 4.5). Our GPs are clear about the relative importance of mental health and we expect clinical commissioning to have a stronger focus on mental health than previous arrangements.
15. Commissioning services for the physical health care of people with mental health problems	Identified in section 4.5 of our CIs as an action for 2013/14, we need to work with partners to understand how best to achieve this. In our work on health inequalities, we are clear about the need to address the inequalities in health outcomes for people with mental health problems (and people with learning disabilities).
Carers	
16. Making sure the right level of respite care is available in the city	Care for children with complex needs is a priority for 2013/14 (CIs section 4.4), as is care for people with complex LD needs (CIs section 4.5). Access to respite care is a key part of that and we are working to improve this with Sheffield City Council.
17. Identify hidden carers	This is a strand in the Carers strategy which we are working with SCC to implement. In relation to healthcare, general practice has an important role in recognising people's caring responsibilities and the potential impact of those.

18. The special needs of older lifelong carers are recognised	We have no explicit action currently planned with regard to this recommendation and would be happy to be advised on the part we might play.
Fair Access to High Quality Jobs and Pay	
19. Prevent discrimination in employment practice	One of the themes of our Equality Action Plan is to prevent discrimination in our employment practice.
20. Expedite health and wellbeing actions in the Employment Strategy	Health and Employment is one of the work programmes in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which the CCG has formally endorsed. CCG members recently took part in a review of employment and health issues, which focussed on this element of the Employment strategy. The review confirmed support for the strategy and the HWB will be asked to confirm that support. CCG officers have agreed to support implementation of the plan.
21. HWB play a leading role in addressing wellbeing issues associated with work	
22. Expedite development of a Health and Work plan for Sheffield	
Aspiration and Opportunities for All	
23. Increase focus on communication and personal, social and emotional development skills of children and families	Section 4.4 of our CIs includes a commitment to improving children's Speech and Language Therapy
A Safe City	
24. Adapt and improve services in relation to domestic abuse	Our predecessor, Sheffield PCT, has worked with STH to support improvements in the healthcare response to victims of domestic abuse.
What Citizens and Communities Can Do	
25. Join up existing activity to develop a single programme of community development	We would be happy to work with partners to join up the work we commission (e.g. health trainers, mental health development workers, some of the VCF services we commission) where there would be a clear benefit in doing so.