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Cllr Eamonn Higgins  
Chair of the Communities and  
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28<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Cllr Eamonn Higgins

Thank you for your letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

A national implementation plan, 'Building the Right Support' was published on Friday 30 October 2015 by NHS England, the Local Government Association (LGA), and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS). The plan sets out the key objective to develop community services and have inpatient facilities for those people with a Learning Disability and /or Autism, only when absolutely necessary and for short periods of time. The plans have been developed with significant contribution and constructive challenge from people with learning disabilities and/or autism, their families and carers, and a range of commissioners, providers, voluntary sector and representative groups.

In the Northwest, over the last six months this has been considered by the two transforming Care Partnerships in Greater Manchester and Lancashire, the Specialised Disability Division of Mersey Care (formerly Calderstones) and NHS England Specialised Commissioning. A range of communication and engagement has been carried out in order to support the development of a new model of care for people with a Learning Disability and or Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), which enables greater choice, community based services and enables equity of opportunity. Feedback tells us that people want to stay well and receive care and treatment in a different way only accessing hospital services when this is absolutely necessary.

From this feedback a clinical model has been developed for consultation which offers a range of flexibility to meet all of the differing needs of the current and future population, with a Learning Disability and /or ASD. The consultation will be carried out jointly by all commissioners of these services in Lancashire and Greater Manchester and NHS England.

We have visited a range of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees to discuss our proposals prior to the commencement of a full consultation regarding the redesign of these services. The pre consultation visits have outlined the option being considered and views are being sought relating to the option and the methodology of the consultation and how we can ensure we maximise this opportunity. We are hoping to open this consultation period in August, with an online document available from each partner, an easy read version for service users / public members with a learning Disability and a number of events where interested parties can attend ask questions and leave their views.

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We would welcome your view point, when the consultation period opens, and will ensure the document is made available to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lesley Patel." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

**Lesley Patel**  
**Director of Nursing Specialised Commissioning (North)**