The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt, MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
Department of Health  
Richmond House, 79 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2NS

Dear Secretary of State,

INTERMEDIATE CARE PROPOSALS AFFECTING REDBRIDGE RESIDENTS  
REFERRAL TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

On 26th January 2015, the Health Scrutiny Committee for Redbridge resolved to refer a decision, made by Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups on 11th December 2014 regarding the future of local intermediate care services, to the Secretary of State. This referral is made pursuant to Regulation 23(9) of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.

The referral is made following the Committee’s initial response to the consultation, which outlined the following concerns:

1. Inadequate time for the consultation – the Committee recommended that the consultation be extended by a month but it was only extended by 2 weeks following the intervention of Jane Ellison, MP, and not as a direct result of the Committee’s request.

2. Dissatisfaction with the adequacy of the content of the consultation – in particular, that consultation questions were leading.

3. Concern that the proposals would not be in the best interests of the health service in the area or to Redbridge residents – the Committee highlighted that bed modelling was not robust and the ‘National Audit of Intermediate Care Report 2013’, albeit an audit, suggested the mean number of commissioned intermediate care beds per 100,000 of the population was 26.3 beds and this would suggest that the number of beds required by Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham and Havering would be 184, not 40-61 as proposed by the CCGs.

Roger Hampson – Chief Executive

Web: www.redbridge.gov.uk  
Twitter: @RedbridgeLive  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/redbridgelive
At its meetings on 24th July 2014, 23rd September 2014 and 26th January 2015, the Committee heard from a number of local public speakers and representatives from third sector groups, such as Age UK Redbridge; Redbridge Carers Support Service; Wanstead and Snaresbrook Residents’ Alliance and Redbridge Healthwatch, and the Committee was also informed about a petition by Save the Wanstead Hospital, which has in excess of 3000 signatories.

Whilst some support was expressed at these meetings about the benefits of the proposed enhanced intermediate care services, there are continuing concerns, including whether nine months was a sufficient enough period for the CCGs to undertake the pilot on which the proposals are based; and also that the proposed new service should not be introduced at the cost of losing the existing service, i.e. the beds based at the Heronwood and Galleon Unit in Wanstead.

A summary of the key concerns outlined at the Committee’s recent meeting on 26th January, attended by representatives from Redbridge CCG and the provider organisation, North East London Foundation Trust, is set out below:

- Inadequate consultation process – that there was a lack of awareness about the consultation due to an initially insufficient consultation period and insufficient circulation of consultation documents and that the consultation questions were leading; in addition, it was noted by the Committee that a public speaker commented that GPs were not consulted during the formal consultation.

- Insufficient bed modelling regarding the proposed number of intermediate care beds for the Redbridge population – a public speaker suggested to the Committee that the Business Case that supported the decision by the CCGs made no reference to the bed base need.

- A lack of consideration for the views of the Redbridge public regarding the impact on carers, and in particular the views expressed via Redbridge Healthwatch.

The Committee’s referral is based on a majority cross-party decision.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

John Powell
Director of Adult Social Services and Housing

Councillor Stuart Bellwood
Vice Chair, Health Scrutiny Committee
(in the chair on 26th January 2015)

Roger Hampson – Chief Executive