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2nd November 2015

The Right Honourable Jason McCartney  
MP for Colne Valley  
24 Huddersfield Rd  
Holmfirth  
HD9 2JS

Dear Mr McCartney

You will recall our discussions in respect of proposed Personal Medical Services budget cuts imposed by NHS England on approximately 40% of GP practices nationally.

The imposed funding reductions are particularly acute (around 43%) for our practice at Slaithwaite Health Centre. At the time you brokered a meeting with Greater Huddersfield CCG in an attempt to secure an assurance that all retained funding would be invested in local primary care and used to support practices most acutely affected such as Slaithwaite Health Centre. I regret to inform you that any re-investment of these monies will still leave a several hundred thousand pound deficit in Slaithwaite Health Centre's budget thus seriously threatening the viability of the practice and the health of 4800 patients

In the mean time we have written several letters to NHS England that have remained unacknowledged and unanswered. They have also declined to have a further meeting with us.

We have been advised that NHS England is acting unlawfully. The NHS Act 2006 states:

*"Each relevant English body must make arrangements, as respects health service for which it is responsible, which secure that users of those services, whether directly or through representatives, are involved (whether by being consulted or provided with information or in other ways) in – (a) The planning of the provision of those services, (b) The development and consideration of proposals for change in the way those services are provided and (c) Decisions would be made by that body affecting the operation of those services".*

In our meetings with NHS England and our CCG we have repeatedly stated the urgent need for our patients to be consulted in respect of the impact of these funding cuts at Slaithwaite Health Centre particularly in terms of their impact on patients with protective characteristics as we are the only surgery at this end of the valley which is physically accessible by folk with physical disability.

Rather than to engage and consult with the people of Slaithwaite, NHS England instructed us to focus instead on making "business decisions" i.e. sacking GPs and Practice Nurses.

Under these proposals we now need to plan to lose over 40% of our GP and practice nurse establishment in order to balance our budget

As such we feel compelled to inform our patients as the commissioning body has made no attempt to do so.

We will be holding an extraordinary meeting of our "Patient Participation Group" on the evening of Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 during which we will announce these cuts and seek for the first time input from our patients.

We are writing to you as a courtesy as significant public outrage appears inevitable when this enters the public domain.

We assure you of our best intentions at all times.

Yours sincerely

*Drs Shamsee, Ward & Wilding*