



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

www.craigwhittakermp.co.uk

Response to Future NHS funding (CQC Report) (GMC report) (Fund our Local NHS) – January 2017

Thank you for contacting me about future NHS funding.

I believe fully in the NHS and its values, and I would like to assure you that the Government is committed to a tax-funded NHS, free at the point of use, wherever and whenever you need it. As Ministers plan a new relationship with the EU, the Government will continue to ensure that the NHS is given the priority and stability it deserves.

Despite tight public finances, the Government has actively supported the NHS' own plan for the future. That is why it is providing the additional £10 billion of investment per annum in real terms by 2020/21 - compared to 2014/15 – requested to fund a transformation in care. This will allow the NHS to offer 800,000 more operations and treatments and spend up to £2 billion more on new drugs. It will also ensure that by 2020, everyone will be able to access GP services at evenings and weekends.

The dedication and sheer hard work of our NHS doctors is absolutely crucial to delivering world-class care for patients. As the report makes clear, the standard of care provided by doctors working in the UK remains among the best in the world. We are seeing 1.6 million more NHS operations taking place each year compared to 2010 and nine out of ten people seen in A&E within four hours.

The Care Quality Commission report from the independent health and social care inspectorate shows that in the majority of the NHS, 72 per cent of adult social care services and 87 per cent of GP practices inspected are good or better — and that improvement is taking place all over the country.

The Government has committed to unprecedented levels of mental health funding, including £1.25 billion for perinatal and children and young people's mental health, helping professionals to intervene early. To support teenagers with eating disorders, the Government has also invested £150 million.

The NHS will earmark an extra £2.4 billion a year for GP services by 2020/21, a 14 per cent real terms increase. Overall investment in primary medical care includes a £500 million Sustainability and Transformation package to help GP practices add to the workforce and tackle workload.

On top of this, to secure the best value for taxpayers, the Government has introduced tough new financial controls to cut down on waste in the NHS, including introducing caps for agency staff and management consultants, and introducing central procurement rules. The Government has also introduced a £1.8 billion Sustainability and Transformation Fund in 2016/17 to support providers to move to a financially sustainable footing.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Whittaker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig Whittaker MP