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Date: 28th September 2015



The Right Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State
Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Cuts to Public Health Grants

The Leicester City Council Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Commission is writing to express concerns about the announcement of £200m funding cuts in public health grants and the impact this will have locally.

The scrutiny commission monitors the work of the Council's Public Health Team and the projects that they work on. Whilst public health now sits in the council, much of the work is still supporting and working with the NHS. To say that the Government is protecting NHS spending and then cutting the public health grants seems very poorly thought out.

Many Public Health services are frontline. There will inevitably be a direct impact on the public that use these services. These are the same users, who without these services, will go on to access health and social care services later, with greater cost implications. This could be prevented by ensuring access to the services we offer through public health.

The reduction in the inequality of life expectancy in Leicester compared to the national average has reduced this year for the first time in 10 years and this was attributable to public health reduction and cessation programmes associated with alcohol, weight, smoking and substance misuse.

We hope that our concerns are given serious consideration and acted upon as we are referring to preventative measures on the frontline, where investment now will prevent the need for greater investment in the future.

Yours sincerely


Councillor Lucy Chaplin
Chair, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Commission


Councillor Luis Fonseca
Vice Chair, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Commission