

Eamonn Boylan
Chief Executive
Stockport Council
Town Hall
Edward Street
SK1 3XE

Friday, 29 October 2010

Dear Eamonn,

**RE: Stockport LINK response to Government Spending Review
Announcement October 2010**

The Stockport LINK were pleased to hear in the Government's Spending Review announcement last week that particular priority will be given to social care with a £2 billion per year of earmarked funding. We are encouraged that the Government listened to public opinion to protect social care funding.

We realise that whilst it was announced as 'additional' money, in truth it will replace the cuts which will have to be made. We are also aware that £1 billion of it will go directly to the NHS to help facilitate local joint health and social care commissioning, which is also pleasing as long as it is spent as it is intended.

It has come to our attention that the other £1 billion of it will come directly to local authorities as part of the Formula Grant which is not ring-fenced, which we at the LINK fear may be spent/absorbed elsewhere within the council and not be used for its designated purpose.

We take this issue very seriously and are therefore asking for your assurance that the funding (allocation of which we believe will be announced late November) designated for care is spent on maintaining current levels of provision (i.e. that eligibility criteria and charges are not increased), protecting preventative services and ensuring statutory obligations are met in full.

The Stockport LINK is fully committed to campaigning and lobbying officials on the behalf of Stockport residents to ensure their voice is heard and that health and social care services will meet the need of local people.

We look forward to hearing from you. The LINK extends an invitation to you to visit the LINK Core Group; this can be arranged through the LINK Development Manager Maria Kildunne at the above office.

Kind Regards

John Leach

LINK Chair on behalf of the Stockport LINK membership

cc: Dave Goddard, Leader, Stockport Council
Richard Popplewell, Chief Executive NHS Stockport/Head of Adult Social Care Stockport Council
Terry Dafter, Service Director, Adult Social Care, Stockport Council
Cllr. John Pantall, Executive Councillor, Adults and Health