

Adrian Snarr
Director of Finance and Contracting
NHS NYY
The Hamlet
Hornbeam Park
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG2 8RE

21 October 2010

Dear Adrian,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 19th October addressed to Helen Black (who left in January), regarding notice of termination of our 2010/11 funding.

Please could you provide us with the following information:

- Details of when this decision was taken, at what meeting, and by whom. Please can you supply us with the minutes of this meeting.
- Whether you have carried out an assessment of the impact of this decision on groups with protected characteristics?
- Whether you have carried out any consultation to inform this decision?
- What statutory sector counselling services have also had their funding reduced?

The Compacts for York and North Yorkshire, which North Yorkshire and York NHS is a signatory of, include undertakings regarding:

- Prompt payment, consulting on changes to the funding position and letting voluntary and community organisations know about future funding as early as possible before the end of any grant periods or contract end dates;
- To examine the effect on the voluntary and community sector of new policies and strategies whilst still in development.

Further, in the Funding Code of Practice, there are undertakings to:

- Give as much notice as possible (not less than six months) of changes to levels or terms of funding in contractual agreements; and
- To provide service level agreements and contracts that include:
 - i. Clear information on the purpose of funding
 - ii. Information on accountability



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- iii. Payment timetables
- iv. Appropriate performance monitoring and evaluation requirements
- v. Negotiation arrangements for each party should changes occur or become necessary

We are concerned that North Yorkshire and York NHS has not acted in accordance with these undertakings that it has signed up to. We have no evidence of North Yorkshire and York NHS assessing the impact of this funding on voluntary organisations or service users prior to the decision being made.

The Compact is clear that in no cases less than 6 months notice would be given to us as voluntary sector organisations, a commitment that we have relied upon in our planning for the year and management of the organisations. Further, letters received from yourselves by local infrastructure organisations regarding the renewal of this year's funding provide for three month's notice in the event of early termination. Taken altogether, only providing for one months notice before the end of this funding is unreasonable and would have severe repercussions for our organisations and service users.

I would be grateful if you could respond to these points and questions raised at your earliest opportunity, and in any case within 5 working days.

Please would you also provide us with details of your complaints process.

Yours sincerely

Kate Tayler
Chief Executive, NYFVO

On behalf of York and North Yorkshire infrastructure organisations:

North Yorkshire Forum for Voluntary Organisations
York Council for Voluntary Service
Coast and Moors Voluntary Action
Ryedale Voluntary Action
South Craven Voluntary Action
Selby District Association for Voluntary Service
Richmondshire Council for Voluntary Service
Ripon Council for Voluntary Service
Harrogate Council for Voluntary Service
Stokesley Community Care Association
Northallerton Voluntary Service Association