

Dr Jack Czauderna, Chair Darnall Wellbeing

Darnall Primary Care Centre, 290, Main Road, Sheffield S9 4Q

Primary Care Manager

NHS England

6th October 2015

Dear

Re. Clover Group Practice Commissioning

I am writing on behalf of a wide range of community organisations who are concerned about the proposed re-procurement of the Primary Care services currently provided by The Clover Group Practice in Sheffield. Clover group provide primary care services on four sites, Darnall Primary Care Centre, Highgate Surgery in Tinsley, Jordanthorpe Health Centre and The Mulberry Practice at Central Health Clinic. As well as core GP services these practices provide much more. We have four main areas of concern.

The first is the service provided at The Mulberry Practice which has experience and expertise in providing a city wide range of health services for asylum seekers, migrants and refugees. The practice provides much more than core GP services including screening and public health. We are concerned that this service will be destabilised at a time when provision of such services is essential to Sheffield as a City of Sanctuary and with the prospect of increasing numbers of refugees.

Darnall Wellbeing (DWB) is a VCF sector organisation working in Darnall and Tinsley. It offers opportunities for activities to promote health for local communities which are disadvantaged and suffer from health inequalities. It is based in the Darnall Primary Care Centre alongside the primary care practice. DWB, in partnership with Clover are developing an 'Enhanced Primary Care' model focusing on patients of the practice who are at risk of inappropriate use of A&E or admission to hospital. The DWB Health Trainers work in an integrated way with the Clover practice clinicians. This work is being evaluated. We think this is a model which NHS England should be looking at, as a way of developing Primary Care as outlined in the Simon Stevens Five Year Forward View. This work is closely linked with the City Council and CCG work 'Keeping People Well in Their Communities' and the 'Right First Time' strategies and DWB and Clover are pioneering an approach to these strategies.

In order to deliver this work with the Clover Group DWB also work very closely with other local community groups including Darnall Forum, The Darnall Family Development Project, Darnall Dementia Group, Darnall Allotment Project, Tinsley Forum, East End Quality of Life Initiative and 'The Best Start Communities Count' Initiative. The concern is that the community links that Clover practice has made over years will be destabilised and that our crucial work in developing the above strategies will be compromised.

Our third concern is that the amount of funding which is likely to be available to run the Clover Group will be significantly reduced. The Clover group provide many services in addition to core GP services and the specification for the tendering process may not take into account all the other services that have been mentioned. We would like the specification to include all the services currently being delivered.

Lastly we are minded about the degree of consultation which NHS England are required to carry out when making commissioning decisions in Primary Care. This particularly applies to the involvement of patients in these decisions. The community organisations, particularly related to Darnall include many Clover patients among their staff and users. DWB has at least 40 Practice Champions who volunteer around health issues but remain patients of the Clover Practice. We have less experience of the views of patients at Highgate, Jordanthorpe and The Mulberry Practice but expect there to be interest among all patients in the Clover Group about the future of their health service.

We are formally asking you:

- What consultation have you undertaken so far with the communities who rely on these services?
- What level of funding is allocated to this contract and how does this compare to current funding levels?
- If asked would you be prepared to come to a public meeting to explain your tender specification and how this will improve the services, assets and health needs of these communities?

We look forward in anticipation to your reply.

Yours truly

Dr Jack Czauderna, Chair, Darnall Wellbeing

Jim Steinke, CEO, Northern Refugee Centre

Richard Chessum, Acting Chair of Assist

Neil Bishop, Manager, Darnall Forum

Steve Millwood, Chair, Family Development Project

Sheila Manclark, Manager, Darnall Dementia Group

Neil Parry, East End Quality of Life

Emma Wynter, Darnall Allotment Project

Jack Czauderna, Chair, 'Darnall and Tinsley Best Start Communities Count'