

The Coach House
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Dear Mrs Baldwin MP

You will be aware of the changes that are taking place across the NHS, and the new role that GPs and other clinicians will have in designing local health services. From 1 April 2013 NHS South Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be responsible for commissioning local health services in south Worcestershire (that includes the Worcester City, Malvern Hills and Wychavon Council areas).

Since we last met we have been authorised by the NHS Commissioning Board without any conditions placed upon us as part of the 'second wave' of CCG authorisations across the country. This formal approval marked a significant landmark for us and represented us passing the final hurdle on our way to becoming a statutory NHS organisation. I am particularly proud of this achievement as only between 10 and 15% of CCGs nationally are going to be authorised with no conditions, meaning that we have successfully met all 119 authorisation criteria set out during a rigorous assessment process.

It is pleasing to already see the positive results of greater clinical involvement in commissioning decisions, but at the same time I do recognise that there is a lot more for us to do and authorisation is merely the starting point of our journey. In south Worcestershire we have a strong team of clinicians behind us, and I'm confident that we will be able to tackle the challenges ahead and improve local healthcare services.

If you think it would be helpful to meet again at any point to clarify anything around our ambitions and local arrangements please do not hesitate to get in touch. On a practical note I would just like to let you know that as of today we have moved to new office headquarters in Perdiswell, the address for which can be found at the top of this correspondence.

I look forward to working with you over the coming months.

Kind regards



Dr Carl Ellson
Chief Clinical Officer