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Councillor David Jenkins  
Chair of Health Committee  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Shire Hall,  
Castle Hill,  
Cambridge CB3 0AP

03 March 2017

Dear David,

### **CCG Consultation on moving the current GP Out of Hours base**

I understand that the Health Committee approved the process for public consultation on the proposed relocation of the Cambridge "Out of Hours" base. As I am sure you are aware this consultation, as it has been taken forward, has caused a great deal of concern amongst local people living within the vicinity who feel that they will struggle to access the service if it is relocated, leaving them worse off, and that many of the benefits stated in the consultation won't be realised.

At our last City Council Full Council meeting I responded to a question, in my role as the City Council's Executive Councillor for Communities, about the consultation. I said that I would bring the concerns of the resident, notably that the consultation had not given sufficient information in key areas to allow her to come to an informed view – thereby invalidating the consultation process – to your attention.

I would be grateful if you could take this concern into account, as part of the committee's continuing scrutiny of this service change, and investigate the points raised. The full question submitted to our public meeting is shown on the reverse of this letter.

If you can advise me of the view that you will be taking in regard to this concern, or any responses you receive from further scrutiny of this matter, this will be helpful – I can then convey them to the resident and others with an interest in the consultation.

As this matter is of significant interest to local residents I am making a copy of this letter available in the public domain.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Richard Johnson,  
Executive Councillor for Communities

## Question from resident

Dear Sir/Madam, I have a question for Richard Johnson as Executive Councillor for Communities, to ask at the Full Council meeting tomorrow.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group are consulting the public about moving the current Out of Hours GP base from Chesterton Medical Centre to the Integrated Clinic 9 at Addenbrooke's, ending on 6th March. However the data produced was criticised by the public and representatives of the government body Healthwatch at a recent public meeting. There are significant gaps in the evidence including;

- The Health Inequalities Equalities Impact Assessment (HIIA) doesn't follow a recognised methodology
- 19.8% of all users of the Chesterton Out of Hours Service are from CB4 area (Chesterton, Arbury, Kings Hedges) where there is the highest level of deprivation in the city. People from CB4 are also the most frequent users of the 111 service. They represent almost half of the users in the youngest age group (P.3 HIIA)
- There is no analysis of impacts on people outside the city. For example, 9.8 % of the total users of the Chesterton Out of Hours Service, are from CB24 postcode, Willingham etc.
- There is no examination of journey times, how people reach the centre, the difficulties of night-time travel, congestion, population growth in north Cambridge or the effect the new rail Station will have, despite an acknowledgement (Part 4) that 'The main issues derived from this review are associated with the impact on access and travel'.
- The HIIA conclusion that the proposal would have a 'negligible' impact is not quantified
- There is no evidence to support the mitigation statement that a GP visit would offset local need
- Other evidence about overcrowding in A & E departments says it is usually to do with a shortage of bed spaces and rarely due to people who could be dealt with by GP's. (Page 5 Crowding in Emergency Departments, The College of Emergency Medicine 2014)
- There is no evidence supporting the assumption that relocating the service would help recruitment of GP's for the out of hours service.
- There is an over-reliance on the concept of an A & E Hub recommended by Royal College of Medicine, which elsewhere states, 'People identify too easily with A & E and are attracted by the uncapped appointment system.'

Campaigners in north Cambridge, myself included, believe moving the OOH service to Addenbrookes will worsen this situation and leave north Cambridge, an area with significant deprivation and existing health inequalities, much worse off. The assumption by the CCG, in favour of moving the centre, needs to be much more closely examined.

In light of the many gaps identified in the consultation document, the lack of evidence, contradictions and inadequate Health Inequalities Impact Assessment, please would City Council formally contact Healthwatch and request the consultation procedure be halted.