

Cllr Kieron Williams
Chair of Southwark's Health & Wellbeing
Board
Leader of Southwark Council

kieron.williams@southwark.gov.uk

Tel: 0752 691 5287

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Ref: ICB Joint Forward Plan 2023

Dear Mr Bland

ICB Joint Forward Plan

I am writing to you in my capacity as chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board. I understand the ICB seeks our view on whether the South East London Joint Forward Plan takes proper account of the Southwark Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Our [Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy](#) was published earlier this year and sets out our local commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of all residents in Southwark, with a focus on reducing inequalities that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and more recently the rising Cost of Living Crisis.

The strategy was developed in close collaboration with the South East London Integrated Care Board, as well as through our local care partnership, Partnership Southwark which is our key delivery vehicle for many aspects of the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy. Our five drive areas set out the key areas of focus for our board, including:

- A whole-family approach to giving children the best start in life
- Healthy employment across the health and wellbeing economy and good health for working age adults
- Early identification and support to stay well
- Strong and connected communities
- Integration of Health and Social Care

Within the draft Joint Forward Plan we welcome the recognition of historic under-resourcing of mental health services, and the commitment to expanding the provision of support to both children and young people and adults.

In addition, we share the commitment to prevention and tackling inequalities in access, experience and outcomes and support the increased investment in this area. However,

as the Joint Forward Plan is implemented we would like to see greater emphasis within the NHS on primary prevention.

We also acknowledge the ICB commitment to co-production with local communities, however we believe this is an area that requires strengthening within the plan. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the importance of working with residents to design services and programmes together in order to best reflect their needs. Only in doing so will we be able to make a meaningful and lasting impact on health inequalities.

Overall, the draft Joint Forward Plan for South East London takes 'proper account' of the priorities and actions outlined within the Southwark Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy. We look forward to working with the ICB on the implementation of the plan and welcome on-going involvement of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kieron Williams', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Kieron Williams
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