Dear Colleague,

**Luton CCG’s Commissioning Intentions 2015/16**

The attached document (Appendix 1) sets out, in high level terms, how Luton CCG (LCCG) intends to commission services from Providers during 2015/16. In line with the NHS Standard Contract, which requires six months’ notification for any potential changes to services and counting and coding charging proposals, these intentions will support the 2015/16 contract negotiations.

As you will be aware, Luton CCG was formally identified as being in Financial Recovery during the early part of 2014/15 and for that reason the CCG’s Commissioning Intentions are very much focused on delivering financial recovery and a sustainable position for the future.

A turnaround strategy has been developed and immediate actions are being implemented, overseen by a robust PMO, to ensure that the CCG is back on track with its rolling financial plan agreed with NHS England in Quarter 1 2014/15. Our turnaround plans require the delivery of a range of short term measures; however it is important that recovery should be seen as a range of corrective actions which will yield benefits at different points of time over the next one to two years. We have therefore articulated in the attached document a full range of short, medium and longer term actions, some of which we anticipate to be delivered or partially delivered prior to the commencement of 2015/16.

Our Financial Recovery Strategy articulates four key programmes of work which must be delivered to drive a financially sustainable local system:

1. **Better Care Fund Plan / Whole System Transformation.** Our objective, working with system partners is to drive integrated working delivering out of hospital care and ensuring that our patients are only admitted to hospital when there is no other option.

2. **Proactive Primary Care.** We will enable primary care to proactively manage their patients in order that we might reduce A&E attendance, direct emergency referrals and related short stay admissions.

3. **Elective Care and GP Referrals.** Our focus here is to ensure standardisation of local practice to reduce avoidable referrals.
4. **Robust Contractual Processes.** Here our objective is to develop processes and the associated infrastructure to ensure that contracts are delivered to plan.

We ask that all providers strive to work with us on the delivery of our recovery plan. Our current financial situation is a system problem not specifically a CCG problem and in order for us all to succeed we need to work together to deliver the changes necessary to deliver the best possible outcomes within a constrained financial envelope.

I would like to re-emphasise that the goal of Luton CCG is to purchase high quality services that deliver care to patients in Luton in the most appropriate location and will require coding and pricing that is fair, reasonable and transparent in line with National Guidance.

All items listed within the attached commissioning intentions are of equal importance, and will be treated as priority by the CCG. The delivery of the NHS constitution is of paramount importance and where it is not achieved patients will be offered alternative services.

The CCG also stresses that the learning and principles from the Francis Inquiry will be applied to all of our contracts and to the performance management of these.

I hope you find our Commissioning Intentions document helpful in clearly setting out our direction for 2015-16. We are happy to discuss the contents further, either within a currently planned meeting, or via a separate discussion on specific issues if you feel this to be more appropriate. Please contact myself or Rod While, Head of Strategy and Governance, in the first instance at rod.while@lutonccg.nhs.uk

Yours sincerely

Carol Hill
Chief Officer

Enc. Appendix 1 Luton CCGs Commissioning Intentions 2015/16