

From: John Budd

Item 3.2

Sent: 09 December 2015 14:30

To: Veronica Macmillan

Subject: Deprivation Interest Group deputation request

Dear Ms McMillan

I am writing to you on behalf of the Deprivation Interest Group (DIG) requesting to make a deputation to the Finance and Resource committee on Monday 14th Dec with regard to the awarding of contracts for the 3rd sector adult substance misuse services.

DIG is a primary care based group comprising mainly local GPs working in deprived communities. Our aim is to address health inequalities through supporting local services to provide good quality primary care for disadvantaged groups and communities.

The decision take away the contracts from local community –based organisations was taken despite the fact that both NHS services – including GPs – and other local partners were more than satisfied with the vital work that these small community-orientated charities were performing.

We have serious concerns that there was no local consultation in this decision making process and no communication with GPs about what is a very significant decision effecting some of our most vulnerable and excluded patients. We are also concerned that this decision will have the potential for a very real detrimental impact on the health and service provision to our patients.

The decision seems to be contrary to the council's own total place approach to developing community services, building on local assets and relationships. The total place approach is something that GP practices have engaged with, with great enthusiasm and so to see it being undermined is of particular concern.

Therefore, we are keen to make a deputation to communicate our concerns directly to the Finance and Resource committee.

Yours sincerely

Dr John Budd

GP, Edinburgh Access Practice

Co-ordinator DIG

PS Some of our members will be making written statements which I would like to submit to the committee once I have collated them.