



Department of Health

Our ref: PMTO-1087767

Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

Tel: 020 7210 4850

Ms Judy Robinson
Healthwatch Sheffield
The Circle
33 Rockingham Lane
Sheffield S1 4FW

28 JUN 2017

Dear Ms Robinson,

Thank you for your letter of 9 June to the Prime Minister about mental health. As the matter you raise concerns health, your letter was passed to the Department of Health and I have been asked to reply.

I read your letter with interest.

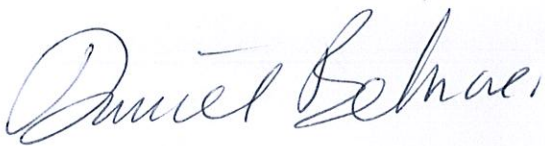
With regard to improving education and training about mental health for children and young people, in January, the Prime Minister committed to having Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training available to all secondary schools. The aim is to have trained at least one teacher in every secondary school by 2019, starting with at least 1,000 trained by the end of this year. The training will increase awareness of mental health conditions and will provide practical advice on how to deal with issues such as depression and anxiety, suicide and psychosis, self-harm, and eating disorders. Participants in the training programme will be invited to become a Youth MHFA Champion, and to share their knowledge and understanding of mental health across the school and wider community. The Department believes this will mean that more young people will get fast and appropriate support for emerging mental health problems, and that all children will receive the highest quality pastoral care through their adolescence.

Turning to ring-fencing of local funding for mental health, local commissioners such as clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are best placed to know the needs of their local population and to make decisions about spending. There is no legal power for the Department or NHS England to ring-fence funding allocated to CCGs. However, the Department has introduced other means to ensure CCGs spend the additional investment where it is intended.

Ministers are grateful that Healthwatch Sheffield acknowledges the leadership being taken by Government in raising awareness around mental health. The Government remains committed to improving mental health services, and is aiming for a net increase in the number of mental health staff by at least 10,000 during the life of the Parliament. The Department is currently developing a full workforce strategy to achieve this and to support implementation of the *Five Year Forward View for Mental Health*.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Belmore
Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries