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<i>Date</i>	25 May 2017	<i>E-mail</i>	carolyn.williamson@hants.gov.uk

Dear Mr Duncan

In reply to your latest letter of 5 April 2017 I am writing to confirm that Hampshire County Council has increased its council tax to fund adult social care services in 2017/18.

Hampshire County Council's council tax has increased by 4.99% in 2017/18 of which 3% relates to the adult social care precept.

I am also writing to certify that Hampshire County Council will use the additional 2017/18 funding for adult social care (as announced in the Spring Budget 2017) to fund adult social care services.

I have completed the table in the spreadsheet (S151 Return) which was returned by the earlier deadline of 19 May 2017 as required and which is attached for completeness. The table, comparing changes in adult social care budgets (including overhead and running costs) with those of other non-ringfenced / non-statutory services, including and excluding precept and the additional Budget funding for adult social care, demonstrates that the spending on adult social care has reduced by less than that of other non-ringfenced / non-statutory services.

Hampshire County Council is planning to use the additional funding announced in the spring budget specifically to:

- Work with health partners to pump prime activity to improve systems that reduce volumes of delayed discharges.
- Drive long term efficiencies in the delivery of care and support for clients including ways of commissioning with providers and partners.

- Meet existing demand pressures arising from increased complexity and numbers of clients.
- Support providers to meet their legal obligations from increases in the living wage and in particular the application of this in respect to sleep in care.

I certify that the authority will use the funding above 2% to improve the way social care services are delivered in my area and have set out below how we propose to do so.

As a starting point, it is important to note that without this upfront investment the reductions in available spend would have necessitated a deeper and quicker reduction in our services and support provided. Principally, this funding will support a transformation programme within Adults' Services which extends one year longer than across the rest of Hampshire County Council.

In so doing we will be able to plan capital investment and service changes to provide alternative responses to individuals and communities. This will support robust and sustainable changes to the ways in which services and alternatives to traditional services, are being delivered into the future.

Therefore, the term improvement is subjective in that had this additional funding not been available, short-term investment would not have been possible without other savings. This would have required the removal of discretionary spending and wholesale service changes to deliver the required savings, rather than a planned and well managed change programme. Removal of spending, other than in the way we are undertaking it, would have had far-reaching negative impacts on partners across the wider health and social care system.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Williamson
Director of Corporate Resources