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14 10 2021

To: Councillors Mans and Fairhurst,
Hampshire County Council
The Castle
Winchester
Hampshire
SO23 8UJ

By Email: keith.mans@hants.gov.uk
Liz.fairhurst@hants.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Mans and Councillor Fairhurst,

Savings to Hampshire County Council's Public Health budget – final recommendations published

The pandemic has provided a stark reminder of the importance of public health and the national imperative to reduce inequalities which have their roots in childhood. We were therefore delighted to read your announcement this week that Hampshire County Council has reconsidered its position to cut £2.09 million from its public health budget, and in particular, not to make any of the proposed cuts to its health visiting and school nursing services. This is excellent news for Hampshire's babies, children, young people and families as these services provide a vital infrastructure of support for them at a time when vulnerability is increasing, and inequalities are widening.

On behalf of the thousands of organisations, parents and supporters who responded to your open consultation, we want to thank you for your leadership and your willingness to seek and consider the views of so many to support your decisions. With some 3,000 responses, the strength of feeling against these cuts was plain to see.

We do not underestimate the difficult decisions facing councils across the country and want to thank Hampshire County Council for their openness about these challenges which really struck a chord nationally – this was never just a ‘Hampshire issue’ or a criticism of your proposals as an isolated case. The transparency of your consultation process has helpfully started a dialogue nationally about the root causes of the challenges that you face which are shared by others. We hope that this will drive the change that is needed to address these issues ‘once and for all services’ facing similar challenges across the country.

As passionate advocates for the health needs of babies, children, young people and their families, we are keen to emphasise that we are available to support the Council by sharing our expertise to support you to achieve in this important area.

With thanks and very best wishes,



Sharon White OBE
Chief Executive
School and Public Health Nurses
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Alison Morton
Executive Director
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