

Dawn Butler MP

Labour MP for Brent Central

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Dr Ethie Kong

Brent CCG

Wembley Centre for Health & Care

116 Chaplin Road

Wembley

HA0 4UZ

01/12/16

Dear Dr Kong,

I write to express my serious concern in regards to the research conducted by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, which has estimated that spending in Brent on the mental health of children and young people aged under 18 will be among the lowest in England, over the 2016/17 financial year.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has reported that NHS Brent Clinical Commissioning Group has allocated £33.43 per child on child and adolescent mental health services, excluding spending on eating disorders. Meanwhile, they report that CCGs in other areas of the country have allocated more than £100 per child per year.

As you will be aware, Brent is the most diverse constituency in the UK. One in ten children and young people aged between 5 and 16 have suffered from a clinically diagnosed mental health disorder. Also, a recent report by the British Medical Association found that the number of young people aged under 18 who were attending A&E because of a psychiatric condition more than doubled between 2010 and 2015.

The demand for mental health services – in Brent and elsewhere - has never been greater. Yet, the President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Professor Sir Simon Wessely, has said that:

Our community is our strength

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I am committed to keeping my constituents informed on issues which may be of interest to them and my local Labour Party. I may write to you from time to time. If you do not wish to receive any correspondence from me please write to me at the above address.

“the proportion of money that NHS clinical commissioning groups are planning to spend on the mental health of our children and young people is negligible. It is a national scandal that opportunities to prevent mental illness from occurring in childhood are being missed because of unacceptably low investment.”

I feel that we need to ensure that the mental health of young people in Brent is given the priority it deserves. What steps will you take both to review your planned spending commitments in this area and to ensure that extra investment is passed onto this vital frontline service?

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest opportunity. I believe it is also of the utmost importance that we find a time to meet in person to discuss the very specific health needs local to Brent.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dawn Butler MP

Member of Parliament for Brent Central

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