

Alex Cunningham
MP
Stockton North



Mike Batty
Head of Community Protection
Development & Neighbourhood Services
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16 Church Road
Stockton on Tees
TS18 1XD

Thursday, 17 November 2011

Dear Mike,

Thank you for the letter you sent on behalf of Geoff Lee, Chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership, regarding Payment by Results in Drug Treatment.

Please see attached a reply from Anne Milton MP, the Minister responsible for drug treatment at the Department of Health.

If you would like me to help any further, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Cunningham".

Alex Cunningham MP

From Anne Milton MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health



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79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS
Tel: 020 7210 4850

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Alex Cunningham MP
House of Commons
Westminster
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15 NOV 2011

Dear Alex

Thank you for your letter of 21 October to Andrew Lansley enclosing correspondence from Mr Geoff Lee, Chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership, PO Box 232, 16 Church Road, Stockton on Tees TS16 1XD about payments for drug treatment. I am replying as the Minister responsible for drug treatment policy.

As Mr Lee will be aware, the Government's drug strategy, *Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery: Supporting people to live a drug free life*, which was published in 2010 and is available at www.homeoffice.gov.uk (enter the document title in the search bar and follow the links), set out an ambition to promote recovery from drug dependence to enable people to play a full role in society. The strategy also announced that we would be piloting a Payment by Results (PbR) approach to explore whether this will help incentivise recovery.

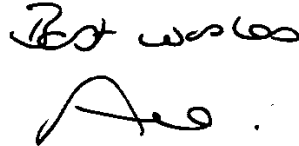
Following an open invitation to local drug partnerships to apply to participate in the pilot, eight sites were selected. We are working with those eight areas to co-design the pilots. We are also drawing on the expertise of bodies such as Drugscope and the European Association for the Treatment of Addiction.

We are concerned to develop the model that works best for each area. To inform the process of co-design, we invited comments on the proposals for outcome monitoring. We received the comments from the Safer Stockton Partnership and these were noted. In the light of the comments received and the views of the Drugs PbR expert group, the detailed outcomes were agreed with the pilot areas and are available at www.dh.gov.uk (enter 'Outcome definitions agreed for drugs recovery pilot bids' in the search bar and follow the links).

This is a challenging area in which to deliver payments by outcomes, and it is for that reason that we are piloting the approach. I note the concerns of Safer Stockton and I can reassure it that when we issued the call for comments we were seeking views about how the pilots should be conducted. We were not designing a national roll out. We have commissioned a thorough evaluation of the PbR pilots in order to gain the maximum knowledge from the experience. We will be looking at the most effective ways to share the lessons learned from the evaluation so that the results can inform best practice by commissioners of services.

We will be publishing a wide range of information about the pilots and their experiences. Further information is available on the Department's website (enter 'Drug and alcohol recovery pilots supporting material published' in the search bar and follow the links).

Please do contact me again if there are any further concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Milton', written in a cursive style.

ANNE MILTON