

## Appendix 2

### Statement from Brighton & Hove CCG

Across the NHS there are more and more people who need to use health services and the funding available to pay for them cannot keep up with this increase in demand. This means we have to focus NHS funding on supporting services which have been proven to have the most impact on people's health and that are not already provided in the community.

Over 80% of contacts for this service are related to benefits help and Brighton and Hove has a wide range of other community and voluntary sector services that support people with these needs. There are also a number of both local and national services that offer benefits advice and help in accessible ways. We this in mind, we took the difficult decision to reinvest the money that would have been spent for this service into other services that will bring direct benefits to more people's health needs. This was not a decision we took lightly but we feel it is necessary to ensure we are able to continue to use public money in the most effective way and do not spend more money than we have available.

We recognise the valuable support provided by the Disability Advice Centre to disabled people in the city, particularly in relation to accessing benefits. Going forward, we will continue to work with our Local Authority colleagues and the Voluntary and Community Sector to maximise the support provided to our diverse local population and to ensure that our investment of NHS funding supports and complements, rather than duplicates, other statutory and voluntary sector services.

