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To: Georgina Middleton, Director of Communications, Engagement and HR

Dear Georgina

I am writing to inform you that West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership leaders are backing The Truth Project's 'I will be heard' campaign which launches on the 17 January.

This important area of work was discussed at a meeting on Tuesday 8 January where leaders across our hospitals, clinical commissioning groups, councils, Healthwatch, community and third sector came together to discuss the work of the Partnership.

As a partnership the wellbeing of the 2.6million people we serve is our highest priority – your area of work is naturally very important to us.

We are acutely aware of the issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE) within our communities and are working tirelessly to stop the organised and deliberate exploitation of children through the work of our safeguarding boards and beyond.

We note that any young person can become a victim of child sexual exploitation and that the crime affects both girls and boys, from any background and of any ethnicity. We also note the devastating effects that CSE can have on an individual, their health outcomes and life chances.

We wholeheartedly support the work of The Truth Project which allows victims and survivors of CSE to share their experiences in a confidential and supportive environment in the hope that their personal stories will help others and most importantly influence change at the very highest level. It is therefore vital that victims and survivors are respectfully heard and acknowledged and we will support this.

We are pleased that nearly 2,000 victims and survivors so far have been able to share their experience with The Truth Project either through a private face-to-face session, by telephone or in writing. We hope that by supporting the project we can add even more value to this vital work by sharing social media messaging and electronic information, displaying posters/silent screens and inviting The Truth Project to share information at events or meetings.



The West Yorkshire and Harrogate communication and engagement network will be updated on your campaign and if you could send supporting information to Karen.coleman2@wakefieldccg.nhs.uk she will share resources with her colleagues working across the area.

There is a real commitment here to get involved and make a difference. We all have responsibility for safeguarding vulnerable adults, children and young people and we take this role very seriously. We also need to be ready to provide meaningful support and care. We have some experience of this in our organisations, with significant historical and current cases of CSE being an unfortunate reality in West Yorkshire and Harrogate. We would be happy to liaise with you on improving treatment and support as your work develops.

In West Yorkshire and Harrogate we share values of openness, honesty and transparency and please be assured that your work is important to us.

Thank you for updating the Partnership on your campaign.

Yours sincerely



Rob Webster

**West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership CEO Lead
CEO South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust**

Further reading

You can find out more about West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership at www.wyhpartnership.co.uk

Cc: West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership Executive Leadership Group

