

**NHS**  
**South Tees**  
**Clinical Commissioning Group**

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26 November 2014

Ms Toni McHale  
Healthwatch Participation Co-ordinator  
Catalyst House  
27 Yarm Road  
Stockton on Tees  
TS18 3NJ

Dear Toni,

South Tees CCG welcomes Healthwatch's report and we will look to implement all its recommendations.

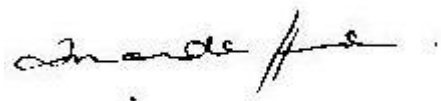
We have recently taken some actions that we feel partly address the issues brought up in the report:

- We have recently distributed leaflets in public areas as well as GP practices in order to raise the services' profile. We will continue to promote the service, while bearing in mind that procurement timelines mean that there may be changes in the providers between now and the new financial year.
- Our leaflets list all the current providers and details of the CCG website, which has information about waiting times
- Our Clinical Lead for Mental Health, Dr Carrasco, recently wrote to all GP practices to encourage them to use the CCG website to provide choice to patients in terms of IAPT provider.

However, we know these initiatives have not gone far enough. Our commissioning support colleagues are currently in the process of developing both the service specification and the tariff for the future of primary care psychological therapies services for the CCG, and will of course address the points raised in this report in the design of these services.



Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Hume', with a small dot at the end.

**Amanda Hume**

Chief Officer  
NHS South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group