

Durham, Darlington and Tees Area Team  
The Old Exchange  
Barnard Street  
Darlington  
DL3 7DR

Email address: [carolinethurlbeck@nhs.net](mailto:carolinethurlbeck@nhs.net)  
Telephone Number: 0113 2851605

31 October 2014

Dear Angela and Martin

### **QUARTER 1 2014/15 ASSURANCE MEETING**

Thank you once again to you and your team for the approach taken to preparing for and participating in the quarter 1 assurance meeting. As with the previous quarters, albeit working with the new Assurance Framework for 2014./15, the opportunity to have an open and honest dialogue with your team proved to be a valuable part of the assurance process.

The timing, and emphasis, of the meeting enabled us to hear about your key risks, challenges and performance issues during the early part of 2014/15 and what you are doing to deliver better outcomes for patients.

Please find attached a list of the key issues and actions as a result of the meeting, along with a summary of the key issues and assurance judgments for each of the assurance Domains. This highlights that you are assured overall, with each of the 6 Domains all Domains assured except Domain 3. This is primarily due to the ongoing unresolved contractual situation with CDDFT and the knock on implications on patients, yourselves and the wider health economy, as well as your ongoing financial challenges.

If you have any questions please get in touch. We look forward to an ongoing, collaborative dialogue with you between now and the quarter 2 assurance process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Caroline Thurlbeck'.

Caroline Thurlbeck  
Director of Operations and Delivery