Moira Robertson

Response re Integration Authorities Consultation

I sit on a Locality Improvement Group as a public participant, representing a community group of interested patients.

Influence and Involvement
I understood that as member of a Locality group I would be able, and encouraged, to feed into the IJB thereby influencing decision making. This has not been the case as I am aware of no process where concerns of the group are discussed and developed into submissions to the IJB. In fact, the recent development of a Locality Improvement plan appears to be driven by the Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan already published. Much is made of a bottom-up approach and needs-led services; however it appears that only lip-service is paid to this approach.

Communication and Collaboration
Our community group had two visits from a member of the IJB prior to 1 April 2016 where we stressed that local views were very important. However this does not appear to have been understood. Communication is so important in the current climate where services are provided by so many agencies and can become fragmented. As a member of a Locality group I would like to see more two-way communication with the IJB, with regular updates as to progress. I understand that the IJB have a communications officer who is in fact the public representative on the IJB. I would like to see him attend Locality groups and become more involved with those representing the community.