7h January 2015

Dear (insert name of your MP)

I am a sufferer of Birdshot Uveitis, a rare and potentially blinding eye condition which is difficult treat and if not treated promptly and effectively results in blindness. It is a rare condition and the services across the UK are very variable. The current proposals seem likely to make it much worse. This is worrying because more people will lose their vision needlessly because they cannot get access to the right treatments.

I am writing to ask for your help by attending a debate in **Westminster Hall on Thursday 15th January, 1.30pm** on national commissioning of NHS specialised services led by Stephen Gilbert MP.

I attach a full briefing note, which gives details about specialised services and why their commissioning is so important but in summary:

* *Funding of specialised services from local budgets previously led to unacceptable local variation in access to treatments, and fragmentation of expertise in commissioning these services.*
* *The most complex services benefit from* ***centralisation and specialisation*** *of care, with higher numbers of procedures offered in a smaller number of centres, so that* ***clinical expertise can be developed to increase patient outcomes****.*
* *National commissioning, with a consolidated budget, can enable sensible planning of these services for the benefit of people in all localities****. This attracted cross-party support during the passage of the 2012 Act.***

 NHS England’s ‘co-commissioning’ proposals present real concerns for patients requiring specialised care.

NHS England has itself applauded the work carried out to date on the development of national specifications and policies, for our services, saying it is a significant achievement given that there was limited national consistency prior to the establishment of NHS England.

Please would you confirm that you are able to attend on our behalf?

Your sincerely,