Supplementary Written evidence submitted the Terrence Higgins Trust (CSR0099)

The committee had asked for any examples of services not being advised of the status of their commissioned services from 1 April this year. As part of the Support people with HIV: Stop the Cuts campaign we are working with other charities to highlight the impact of cuts on HIV and sexual health services, one of which is Metro – a London based organisation and I include two examples below currently impacting them.

Metro in Bexley

On 15 March 2016 Bexley sent a letter saying no final decision had been made but that Metro should expect closure and move to shut the service down by 31 March. An official letter to confirm the final decision has still not been received to date.

Metro have been funded by Bexley since Harbour Trust, a small HIV charity, merged with them in 2010. Harbour Trust had been in existence since 1996, and had funding from Bexley prior to the merger. The current contract was worth £33,847. Metro were first told of the intention to decommission on 16.10.15, but still have not received an official final decision – only the letter described above on 15 March.

Metro in Bromley

On 22 March (just a day after our meeting at Salford Royal) Metro received a letter from Bromley saying the service would close on 31 March (the first official communication), and that Metro ought to plan an exit strategy working in partnership with the commissioner.

Bromley had commissioned Metro for 2 years for £39,727. The first official notification they received of closure was as described above - a letter this week on 22 March, asking to help with closing the service down.

Both services were busy and performing well.