Dr Ed Garratt

West Suffolk CCG

West Suffolk House

Western Way

Bury St Edmunds

Suffolk

IP33 3YU

Monday 25th July 2016

Diabetes is the fastest growing threat of our times. There are 4 million people currently living with the condition in the UK. If their condition is well managed they can live long, fulfilling lives. However, too many are not receiving the care and support they need to help them manage their condition and reduce their risk of developing devastating complications, like heart attack, stroke, kidney failure and amputation.

But we know what can make a difference. Diabetes self-management courses, as recommended by NICE, give people the knowledge and the skills they need to take control of their own health. Not only do many of those who have attended a course report dramatic improvements in their quality of life, evidence also shows that these courses:

* Reduce individuals’ risk of developing serious and costly complications
* Are cost effective and can save the NHS money.

Having recently attended the launch of Diabetes UK’s *State of the Nation 2016: Time to take control of diabetes* report where these issues were raised, I am writing to ask West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to commit to:

* Ensuring at least half of all people in West Suffolk CCG who are newly diagnosed with diabetes attend a structured education course within a year
* Reaching those who have missed out in the past so that at least half of people living with diabetes in West Suffolk CCG receive structured education over the next five years.

The importance of diabetes education is reflected in its prioritisation in the new NHS England CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could provide me with this commitment on structured education for our area.

I do recognise that improving local diabetes care is a shared task, and it would be useful to know if there is anything I can do to assist you with this commitment. I hope that by working together we can begin to make a tangible difference to the lives of those living with diabetes in our area.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Churchill MP