**Template letter for MPs**

Children & TYA Cancer Consultation,
NHS England,
Floor 3B,
Skipton House,
80 London Road,
London,
SE1 6LH

CC: Seema Kennedy MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care, Department of Health and Social Care, 39 Victoria St, Westminster, London SW1H 0EU

**RE: Response to NHS England consultation on children and young people’s cancer services**

Dear NHS England,

I understand you are currently consulting on the future of children and young people’s cancer services. Please consider this letter as my response to the consultation.

Research by CLIC Sargent found that young cancer patients and their families are travelling twice as far and spending twice as much on travel costs as adults with cancer. They face a 60 mile round trip, on average, to get to treatment. When treatment is at its most intense, this adds up to £180 a month, if travelling five times a week.

Dealing with cancer is tough enough without money worries. But cancer costs young cancer patients and their families £600 more every month.

I believe financial assistance for travel costs for young cancer patients and their families would go a long way towards supporting my constituents and those children, young people and families affected by cancer.

In order for children, young people and their families to have equal access to the treatments they need, it is vital that the financial and practical impact of travelling for specialist cancer treatment is taken into consideration within the new Service Specifications and that these support the development of a Young Cancer Patient Travel Fund.

I support the proposal to create Networks for children and young people’s cancer services to make sure services meet the specific needs of children, teenagers and young adults with cancer and deliver excellent patient experience. I think that these Networks will be excellently placed to play a role in assessing families’ travel costs and in administering direct financial assistance to young cancer patients and their families.

The following statement should be inserted into the Service Specification documents:

*“Networks will assess the costs families spend on travelling to treatment and administer a Young Cancer patient Travel Fund to ensure all families can afford this travel. This financial assistance should be based on need, should be easy to access and cover the costs associated with travelling to treatment”.*

In responding to this consultation I am urging you to ensure that the Service Specifications commit to providing financial assistance for travelling to treatment for children and young people with cancer and their parents/ carers. No child or young person with cancer should be unable to access the treatment they need because of the cost of travelling to hospital.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

[Insert name]