

Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA



SICKLE CELL SOCIETY

54 Station Road
London NW10 4UA

T 020 8961 7795/4006

F 020 8961 8346

E info@sicklecellsociety.org

W www.sicklecellsociety.org

Social Media @SickleCellUK

17 September 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

There has been much comment about the abolition of Public Health England in the last few weeks.

Over 70 Health organisations have written to you including the Richmond Group of Health and Care Charities.

We are not part of the Richmond Group but we do have another perspective to that expressed by those august Health and Care Charities. It is a perspective that is missing from the debate but one that is very important for diverse communities particularly those at risk of sickle cell disease (SCD) and smaller charities.

The UK is a global leader with regard to a national screening programme for sickle cell disease (SCD), something that should be celebrated and built on. A strength of SCD screening as run by Public Health England is the close and effective collaboration with patients and the Sickle Cell Society to ensure that the screening programme is meeting the needs of those at particular risk of sickle cell disease. This collaboration has contributed to PHE being recognised as a world leader in screening programmes. Although many organisations support working with service users, PHE are rare in making this a meaningful and dynamic collaboration that is well received by patients and clinicians alike.

SCD is the most common genetic blood disease in the UK /globally but always has to fight to be included in NHS priorities. The narrative around the abolition of PHE misses a lot of the value of the organisation working with small charities on rare conditions as well as the impact for diverse communities. We do not

THE VOICE OF THE SICKLE CELL COMMUNITY

Chair: Mr Kye Gbangbola MBA; **Treasurer:** Ms Michele Salter CPFA; **President:** Mr Michael Parker CBE FCCA

Chief Executive: Mr John James OBE

Company No. 284 0865 **Charity No.** 1046631

want the good work that the collaboration between PHE and our organisation has achieved in tackling health inequalities, over many decades to be compromised or risked because of the PHE restructure or missed in favour of obesity, smoking and other high profile public health priorities. Small charities like ourselves are incredibly vulnerable, particularly in this economic and political turmoil. The restructure of Public Health England must consider our contribution to the public health agenda and the diverse communities we serve. I therefore seek your assurance that this will be the case

Yours Sincerely



John James OBE
Chief Executive
Sickle Cell Society

THE VOICE OF THE SICKLE CELL COMMUNITY

Chair: Mr Kye Gbangbola MBA; Treasurer: Ms Michele Salter CPFA; President: Mr Michael Parker CBE FCCA
Chief Executive: Mr John James OBE
Company No. 284 0865 Charity No. 1046631

