

8 March 2013

Mr Ahmed Lambat
LMCP Care Link

Dear Ahmed

I am writing to express my thanks for all the work that you and colleagues at LMCP Care Link have provided us within many research projects and I look forward to continuing our collaboration with you.

It has been a long while since your father, your brother and you yourself advised and assisted us with the work we were undertaking for the then NW Region of the NHS in establishing the North West Dementia Centre. Two pieces of work that we worked together on included the development of the training materials *Caring with Confidence* and in *Clear Voices*, the study of improving engagement of older people and carers in service planning and development. More recently we have been very grateful for the input of LMCP Care Link in our NIHR funded study of case management for long term conditions, where you provided us with the opportunity to properly capture the service user perspective. In our major NIHR Programme Grant examining mental health of older people, service integration and balance of care, LMCP and yourself have been an invaluable source of advice.

I am really glad that we have been able to further this relationship into a closer partnership in our recent NIHR RfPB funded study of South Asian people with dementia. In this work LMCP Care Link is not only an important collaborator but a full partner. This has involved developing the proposal; recruitment of the Research Associate; being a member of both the Steering Group and the smaller Management Group, with responsibility for reviewing and planning the day to day work of the study; and assisting with the fieldwork, data analysis, interpretation and publications.

These arrangements have been immensely valuable for us and offer the unique opportunity to work with a community organisation who are so knowledgeable in research, policy and practice issues, and can thereby contribute significantly to our work. It is a real pleasure to work with a group who can combine this awareness of the range of issues and can operate at these different levels. I can only offer my thanks for the help we are receiving from you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely



David Challis
Director PSSRU and Professor of Community Care Research
Associate Director NIHR School for Social Care Research