Dear Yorkshire and the Humber Neuromuscular Forum Member

I am writing to share with you the latest news from Muscular Dystrophy UK’s Bridging the Gap project and the impact we are having on neuromuscular services in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Since the project’s launch in 2013 we have helped secure over £3 million of new NHS investment in neuromuscular multidisciplinary teams with 45 new neuromuscular roles funded in England

**Headline updates in the Yorkshire and Humber region in the past quarter include:**

- A new journal paper written by the Leeds neuromuscular team titled “The prevalence of neuromuscular disease in the paediatric population in Yorkshire, UK; variation by ethnicity and deprivation status” has been published online. The paper finds that non-dystrophin related neuromuscular conditions are more prevalent in children from South Asian backgrounds.

- The Bridging the Gap team have been working with the teams at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals to ensure both the paediatric and adult neuromuscular physiotherapist roles receive permanent funding from the regions CCGs.

- The Bridging the Gap team are supporting the Bradford neuromuscular service with a business case for increased care advisors support in West Yorkshire to support adults with muscle-wasting conditions in the region.

- We are working with the neuromuscular teams in Leeds and Hull to provide a better transition pathway in the region.

- The Sheffield neuromuscular team and Muscular Dystrophy UK are planning to hold a transition event in Wakefield on the 30th of June

- The Yorkshire and Humber Awaaz group continues to grow with new families attending meetings. The group’s model is now being followed in other regions of the UK to ensure that people affected from muscle-wasting conditions who are from ethnic backgrounds are supported.

- As part of our ongoing work following the release of the **Right to Breathe report**, we have written to every CCG in Yorkshire and Humber encouraging them to adopt a new best practice commissioning policy on Cough Assist machines that we have worked
with Walsall CCG to create. We are also working with NHS England to further publicise this policy to CCGs in the region.

- Additionally the GP training module is going from strength to strength with over 500 GPs nationwide having taken the course already – this includes GPs in Hull, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield.