**To: Cllr Luke Sorba and members of the Children and Young People Select Committee**

**From: the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign**

**Tuesday 19 January 2020**

**Dear Councillor Sorba and members of the Children and Young People Select Committee**

We understand the unacceptable pressures and financial cuts imposed by the Government on the Council.

We note close to £1.5m proposed cuts from the Council with a direct or indirect impact on children.

Above all else, we urge the Council to defend **the mental health and safety of children** at the current time of COVID.

* CAMHS services have historically been severely underfunded in Lewisham. Although measures to redress this have led to initial waiting times coming down.
* **However, WAITING TIMES FOR ACTUAL THERAPY input are from several months up to a year, as they were in in 2018 when we last addressed your Committee. A high proportion of referrals from GPs are turned down.**
* Please ensure that you get this information and understand the implications for children and young people before decisions are made.
* Please guarantee that the Council’s proposed cuts to CAMHS will not lead to even worse waiting times **for actual treatment.**

Other cuts are also damaging: what risks for children from legal cuts? What risks to teenage mothers if the hostel closes?

**We implore the Mayor and Cabinet to work with us, with the LGA and other Councils, and with the national Labour Party, to launch an awareness campaign on the dangers to life and health from the impact of Government cuts to Local Authorities.**

Thank you

**The Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign**

*(Please see attached Appendix for further detail)*