



Department  
of Health



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

15 January 2015

Dear colleagues,

We are writing today to inform you that your local authority will shortly be receiving a grant letter offering you additional funding from the Department of Health. The funding is to help you address the current pressures on acute hospitals that serve your area because of delayed discharges to social care for your residents.

The main objective of this additional funding is to provide extra reablement and intermediate social care packages (in the home or in a residential care setting) which both help people move out of hospital and support them in regaining their independence and be supported in their own home. This will mean they will be less likely to be re-admitted to hospital. The money can also be spent on interventions which support accelerated discharge from hospital, such as working with voluntary and community services, additional resources based in the hospital to manage discharges, seven day working or equipment services.

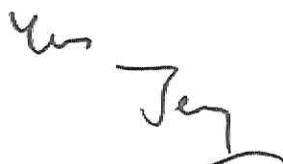
Your council has been chosen based on analysis conducted by the Department of Health which looked at Delayed Transfers of Care attributed to social care as a proportion of the number of acute and general beds in those hospitals which serve your authority. The money has then been distributed amongst all those authorities with delayed days as a proportion of available general and acute beds of over 0.5%, on the basis of the size of their local population of over 65s.

We are asking that you use the money to fund interventions which will lead to a clear reduction on the pressure on your local acute hospital. It is essential that this money is used quickly and makes an immediate impact on the ground, and it is a condition of the funding that there is robust monitoring of the impact of the funding. The funding should be used by the end of this financial year, and after that point, the Better Care Fund funding will commence and we will expect all local areas to be taking forward their plans.

In developing the plans to spend the additional funding, we would ask that you ask your Director of Adult Social Services make direct contact with your local Trust(s) and System Resilience Group. We ask that you also collaborate with neighbouring local authorities so as to make best use of resources when working with the same NHS Trust and ensure the most effective collective contribution to reducing hospital delays.

You will shortly receive a grant letter from Jon Rouse, Director General at the Department of Health outlining your allocation and the conditions on the funding. The grant is ring-fenced and is additional money for local government, funded through departmental underspend. The Department of Health is asking you to confirm that you are able to use the money for the purposes prescribed, so it would be helpful if you could confirm that you will be accepting the grant by **5pm on Monday 19th January**. If you do not confirm, the money will be reallocated.

We are very grateful for all the work your authority is doing with local NHS partners to deal with winter pressures on the health system. There has been some excellent work and, across the country, and the partnership between councils, the NHS and voluntary sector partners has never been stronger.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jer' with a flourish underneath.

Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP  
Secretary of State for Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Pickles'.

Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP  
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government