



To: Cheryl Davenport, Director of Health and Care Integration/DToC Lead

Cc: Paul Watson, Regional Director (Midlands and East)  
Elliot Howard Jones, Director of Commissioning Operations  
Nigel Littlewood, Regional Head of Strategy and Planning  
Wendy Hoult, Better Care Manager

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Wednesday 20 September 2017

**Re: BETTER CARE FUND ASSURANCE 2017-19**

Dear Colleagues

1. As set out in The Better Care Fund 2017-19: A Guide to Assurance of Plans (Key Line of Enquiry 33) all partners (the local authority, clinical commissioning groups and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB)) need to have agreed a metric for their planned reductions in delayed transfers of care (DToC) that is **at least as ambitious** as the overall HWB target for the reductions of DToC by November 2017.
2. The DToC trajectories that have been submitted by your Health and Wellbeing Board are not compliant with the expectations issued for the reductions of DToC by November 2017. Therefore your Better Care Fund plan is currently at risk of being categorised as “not approved” in relation to DToC. Meanwhile, regional assurance to ensure compliance with other requirements and national conditions is on-going.
3. In order to address this quickly and ensure that you submit a BCF plan which is compliant with the issued DToC expectations, I ask that you work with your partners and Better Care Manager to revisit this position and rectify the

trajectories, as a priority. If you have previously declined support and advice, I ask that you reconsider whether additional assistance through Better Care Adviser or multi-disciplinary consultancy support would be helpful at this point – particularly if a specific issue is causing a concern. Please let your Better Care Manager know if you think this would be beneficial in planning services and schemes to support in the management of transfers of care and securing local agreement to the required DToC target.

4. Regional assurance of your plan will continue in parallel to your further consideration of your DToC trajectory. Revised and compliant DToC trajectories must be resubmitted to your Better Care Manager and the Better Care Support team via [England.bettercaresupport@nhs.net](mailto:England.bettercaresupport@nhs.net) by Monday 25 September at the very latest.
5. If, after this date, your overall health and wellbeing board's DToC trajectories remain non-compliant with the expectations issued, your plan will be at risk of being categorised not approved.
6. Thank you for your ongoing work on this matter which I appreciate has been complex, and a core element of the national and local focus on improving the management of transfers of care.

Yours Sincerely



Simon Weldon

**Director of NHS Operations and Delivery and SRO for the Better Care Fund**