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Dear Chief Executive,

We would like to thank you for all the work you do to support older and disabled people and for your particular efforts to work with the NHS to tackle the challenge of rising demand. I am sure you will have welcomed the Chancellor's announcement in the Spring Budget 2017 on Wednesday 8 March that councils will receive an additional £2 billion over the next three years for social care. £1 billion of this will be provided in 2017-18, ensuring that you can start to fund more care packages immediately. This additional funding is to be spent on adult social care and used for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs, reducing pressures on the NHS - including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready - and stabilising the social care provider market.

The new funding will be paid as a DCLG grant to councils. You are best placed to determine what is needed to maintain a diverse and sustainable market locally and ensure the funding reaches the social care frontline swiftly. We believe that distributing the funding based on a 90% (improved Better Care Fund) and 10% social care relative needs formula (RNF) split ensures that the funding is distributed according to social care need.

We are attaching a small number of conditions to the grant, to ensure that the money is spent on adult social care services and supports improved performance at the health and social care interface. The grant will be pooled into the Better Care Fund, to support a continuing agreement with your local NHS. The Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework for 2017-19 is due to be published later this week. We encourage you to have early discussions with your Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) to ensure swift agreement of your spending plans, and councils should feel free to spend the grant, including to commission care, subject to the conditions set out in the grant determination, as soon as plans have been locally agreed.

Local authorities and CCGs have a joint responsibility to implement each of the best practices set out in the High Impact Change Model for reducing delayed transfers of care, developed by the Local Government Association (LGA), NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSI). Every council and NHS Trust in England should agree arrangements for a Trusted Assessor model to be used, as appropriate. The agreed arrangements should be in line with the guidance on the use of Trusted Assessors, which

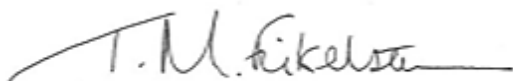
will be published shortly. A copy of the High Impact Change Model is attached. The formal Grant Determination will follow in due course, but we thought it helpful for you to see a draft of the conditions it will contain. DCLG will also be writing to s151 officers, asking them to certify that the additional funding provided in the Budget will be additional to existing plans for spending on adult social care in 2017-18.

We will be expecting to see improvement in how many people are waiting for discharge from hospital and how long they are waiting. The Government has published the NHS England Mandate which sets out the clear expectation that the total level of delayed transfers of care will be reduced to no more than 3.5% of occupied hospital beds and we expect local authorities will want to work with NHS partners to jointly deliver this requirement. NHS has provided information around the current delayed transfers of care levels which will be helpful in informing your local BCF discussions. You will find also find it helpful to see the latest trust level data showing delays attributable to the NHS and social care <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/delayed-transfers-of-care/2016-17-data/>

DH and DCLG are developing, in consultation with the ADASS, LGA, NHS E and NHSI, a set of metrics – including, but broader than, DTOCs – to assess patient flow across the NHS and social care interface. Following the development of the metrics we will ask the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to carry out targeted reviews in a small number of areas, starting as soon as is practical from May 2017. These reviews will be focused on the interface of health and social care and not cover wider council social care commissioning. This should lead to a tailored response to ensure those areas facing the greatest challenges can improve rapidly.

In the longer term, the Government is committed to establishing a fair and more sustainable basis for funding adult social care, in the face of the future demographic challenges the country faces. We will bring forward proposals to put the state funded system for meeting the care and support needs of older people on a more secure and sustainable long-term footing in a Green Paper later this year.

This is a significant investment in the vital social care services you provide for your community. The Department of Health and Department for Communities and Local Government are committed to continuing to work with Local Authorities.



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(copied to Chairs of A&E Boards and NHS Regional Directors)