



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
*Secretary of State for
Communities and Local Government*



Department
of Health

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health

10 October 2017

Dear Leader

As you will know, the NHS is making strenuous preparations for the challenges it expects to face this winter. We are writing to underline once again the importance we place on local authorities playing their part in preparing for winter pressures – specifically, by taking urgent action to reduce Delayed Transfers of Care.

We recognise the wider pressures on adult social care; and we understand that DTOC is only part of what you do, and only part of the patient flow story. Collaborative working between local authorities and the NHS is key to our success on improving patient flow.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are taking a range of measures to ensure that NHS Trusts and CCGs are taking the necessary action to reduce Delayed Transfers of Care attributable to the NHS. However, we do also need local authorities to play their part in this work to prepare for winter. That is why we set out expectations for DTOC reductions for each local authority - as well as each NHS organisation - on 3rd July.

While some local authorities are meeting and even exceeding the expectations we set out in the summer, others are struggling to meet them in time for winter. Today, we are writing to all local authorities to re-affirm that Government will consider, in November, reviewing 2018/19 allocations of the adult social care funding provided at Spring Budget 2017 for councils that are performing poorly. The funding will remain with local government, to be used for adult social care. But, for the worst performers, we reserve the right to direct how a proportion of the 2018/19 funding is used.

In particular, we are writing to 32 local authorities whose current DTOC rates per 100,000 of the adult population, and performance improvement since February 2017, currently identifies them as the poorest performers, to advise them that they would be highly likely to feature in the review and are at risk of possible financial sanctions if

their performance does not clearly improve. All iBCF funding will remain in local government to be used for adult social care. At this stage, we can confirm that we favour options that place conditions on these local authorities use a proportion of the additional 2018/19 iBCF funding to support DToC performance. None the less, we reserve the right to reduce the published allocation for a council should performance continue to fail to improve.

Your current performance does not place you in that group of 32 authorities. However, we will be writing to you and other authorities in six weeks (once we have further months' data on which to base our assessment – which will in part be based on the DToC rate per 100,000 of adult population; distance from the DToC expectation set in July; and performance improvement since February) to confirm which local authorities will be included in the review.

**RT HON SAJID JAVID MP**

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