

Social Care and National Care Service Development
Directorate
Angie Wood, Co-Director



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Via email

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Dear Colleagues

Following the recent discussion with the Cabinet Secretary and Scottish Government officials, it has been agreed that funding of up to £3.4 million will be made available to NHS Lothian in 2024-25. This will allow the Board and partnerships to implement the tests of change and progress immediate work to make system improvements ahead and over the winter to March 2025.

Moving into 2025-26 funding will be made available to cover the costs of this change up to the total of £14.5 million. This will be made recurrent moving into 2026-27 based on actual spend incurred and evidence of delivery of outcomes required.

It supports the First Minister's mission to address delayed discharge levels and improve unscheduled care performance across Scotland through a targeted whole-system improvement initiative, improving the admitted inpatient flow in NHS Lothian.

This funding will be allocated to the set out in the table at Annex A. We understand that the £406,000 for acute beds is to be used to support a model that will transition into a community pathway. On that basis we are content this is included, with the clear expectation that this be achieved from March 2025 onwards.

The expected outcomes of this spend are to:

- Support immediate decompression of the system by discharging patients from the acute system by end of December 2024.



- Accelerate plans to improve unscheduled care performance in NHS Lothian, particularly RIE, with a particular focus on actions to deliver tangible improved performance and patient safety during winter.
- Address the deficits in demand and capacity across the Lothian Health and Care System, ensuring models of care are sustainable in the longer term.

It is proposed that the additional funding is conditional on the delivery of these outcomes. Robust reporting and monitoring processes will also be put in place to track progress and identify slippage. Lothian have projected that this work will achieve:

- Significant reduction in admissions and occupancy creating additional capacity to support flow - reducing long waits and improved performance against the four-hour target by end of March 2025.

Ministers have been clear that this investment must lead to demonstrable improvements in performance and outcomes for patients and for this improvement to be sustained beyond April 2025.

A meeting will be held with the Board and partners in the next few days to discuss and agree the reporting cycle based on the timeline set out the Action Plan.

The trajectories you have provided will be delivered through increasing capacity by delivering care in the right place. The pan Lothian whole system plan shows this will be delivered by increasing Mental Health Capacity, Care at Home, End of Life and Enhanced Community Capacity across Edinburgh, Mid and East Lothian partnerships. The Board will also enhance its frail elderly and Flow Navigation services, which will release around 184 beds by March 2025 and a further 78 beds released by December 2025.

Yours sincerely



John Burns
Chief Operating Officer NHS Scotland



Angie Wood
**Co-Director of Social Care and National Care Service Development
Scottish Government**



Annex A

RIE - Open all limited unfunded bed capacity	£406,000	March 2025
RIE - Enhanced ED Frailty Model	£420,000	January 2025
Edin HSCP - Care @ Home	£4,100,000	February 2025
Edin HSCP - End of Life Beds	£151,200	January 2025
East HSCP - Care @ Home	£1,700,000	March 2025
East HSCP - Enhanced HSCP capacity	£914,000	February 2025
Mid HSCP - Care @ Home	£1,650,000	February 2025
Mid HSCP - Enhanced HSCP capacity	£734,000	February 2025
REH – Open 12 unfunded beds	£576,420	February 2025
REACH Model within Flow Nav Centre	£240,000	March 2025
Edin HSCP- Enhanced community rehabilitation	£2,400,000	Q4 24/25
Primary Care - Frailty LES with GPs	£1,190,000	Q4 24/25