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Local Authority Chief Executives
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Chairs, NHS Territorial Boards
Chief Executives, NHS Territorial Boards
Directors of Finance, NHS Territorial Boards
Nurse Directors, NHS
HSCP Chief Finance Officers
Local Government Directors of Finance

via email

4th November, 2021

Colleagues

Further to John Burns' letter of 5 October, and following discussion at the Settlement and Distribution Group meeting on 18 October, this letter provides further detail on key components of the additional winter 2021-22 funding announced. Specifically it covers:

- £40 million for interim care arrangements,
- £62 million for enhancing care at home capacity,
- Up to £48 million for social care staff hourly rate of pay increases, and
- £20 million for enhancing Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs).

Purpose of Funding

The funding is part of measures being put in place to support current system pressures. It is expected that NHS Boards, Integration Authorities and Local Authorities will work collaboratively to ensure a whole system response. In particular, this funding is available for the following purposes:

i. standing up interim care provision to support significant reductions in the number of people delayed in their discharge from hospital;
ii. enhancing multi-disciplinary working, including strengthening Multi-Disciplinary Teams and recruiting 1,000 band 3s and 4s; and,
iii. expanding Care at Home capacity.

The spend will be monitored against the above measures in the form of expected quarterly reports using outcomes and Key Performance Indicators contained in the **Schedule 1-3** attached to this letter. A template will be provided to enable this to be done consistently and as easily as possible.

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Ministers are seeking significant reductions in delayed discharge, with an early return to the levels that were sustained in the nine-month period up to August this year.

Distribution of Funding 2021-22

Annex A to this letter sets out the distribution of £40 million for interim care, £62 million for expansion of care at home capacity and £20 million to enhance multi-disciplinary teams to cover the period from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. This additional funding will be distributed to local authorities on a GAE basis and will require to be passed in full to Integration Authorities. Distributions will be made as redeterminations of the General Revenue Grant in March 2022.

In addition, we plan to make up to £20 million available for providing interim care in 2022-23, while support for expansion of care at home capacity will be made available on a recurring basis to support permanent recruitment and longer term planning. Further detail will be set out as part the Scottish Budget for 2022-23 to be published on 9 December.

Funding for pay uplifts for staff will be discussed further with HSCP CFOs to agree the most appropriate distribution method, with the final distribution methodology and guidance to be covered in a separate note.

It will be up to Chief Officers, working with colleagues, to ensure this additional funding meets the immediate priorities to maximise the outcomes for their local populations according to the most pressing needs. The overarching aim must be managing a reduction in risks in community settings and supporting flow through acute hospitals. Advice provided in **Schedule 2** is intended to provide further detail on how that funding should be utilised.

Yours sincerely

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Director of Health Finance and Governance

Donna Bell
Director of Mental Wellbeing, Social Care and NCS

Annex A – Winter 2021-22: System Pressures – additional funding

Local Authority	All Adult Social Work GAE %	Interim care (£)	Care at home capacity (£)	Multi-Disciplinary Teams (£)	Total (£)
Aberdeen City	3.77%	1,507,000	2,337,000	754,000	4,598,000
Aberdeenshire	4.24%	1,698,000	2,632,000	848,000	5,178,000
Angus	2.39%	954,000	1,479,000	477,000	2,910,000
Argyll & Bute	1.82%	728,000	1,129,000	364,000	2,221,000
Clackmannanshire	0.90%	359,000	556,000	179,000	1,094,000
Dumfries & Galloway	3.27%	1,306,000	2,025,000	653,000	3,984,000
Dundee City	2.88%	1,153,000	1,787,000	577,000	3,517,000
East Ayrshire	2.32%	929,000	1,439,000	464,000	2,832,000
East Dunbartonshire	2.04%	816,000	1,265,000	408,000	2,489,000
East Lothian	1.92%	767,000	1,188,000	383,000	2,338,000
East Renfrewshire	1.76%	703,000	1,089,000	351,000	2,143,000
City of Edinburgh	8.92%	3,567,000	5,530,000	1,784,000	10,881,000
Na h-Eileanan Siar	0.62%	248,000	384,000	124,000	756,000
Falkirk	2.84%	1,134,000	1,758,000	567,000	3,459,000
Fife	6.92%	2,768,000	4,291,000	1,384,000	8,443,000
Glasgow City	11.16%	4,464,000	6,919,000	2,232,000	13,615,000
Highland	4.40%	1,761,000	2,730,000	881,000	5,372,000
Inverclyde	1.68%	670,000	1,039,000	335,000	2,044,000
Midlothian	1.51%	603,000	934,000	302,000	1,839,000
Moray	1.83%	734,000	1,137,000	367,000	2,238,000
North Ayrshire	2.77%	1,109,000	1,719,000	555,000	3,383,000
North Lanarkshire	5.80%	2,321,000	3,597,000	1,160,000	7,078,000
Orkney Islands	0.44%	175,000	271,000	88,000	534,000
Perth & Kinross	3.18%	1,271,000	1,969,000	635,000	3,875,000
Renfrewshire	3.31%	1,323,000	2,051,000	662,000	4,036,000
Scottish Borders	2.35%	938,000	1,454,000	469,000	2,861,000
Shetland Islands	0.38%	151,000	234,000	76,000	461,000
South Ayrshire	2.51%	1,002,000	1,554,000	501,000	3,057,000
South Lanarkshire	5.91%	2,362,000	3,661,000	1,181,000	7,204,000
Stirling	1.66%	666,000	1,032,000	333,000	2,031,000
West Dunbartonshire	1.68%	673,000	1,043,000	336,000	2,052,000
West Lothian	2.85%	1,140,000	1,767,000	570,000	3,477,000
Totals	**100.00%**	**40,000,000**	**62,000,000**	**20,000,000**	**102,000,000**

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Schedule 1

Interim Care

Overview: Delayed discharges are rising to unacceptable levels due to care, primarily care at home, being unavailable. Remaining unnecessarily in hospital after treatment is complete can lead to rapid deterioration in physical and mental well-being among older people, particularly people with dementia. In addition, the occupancy of acute hospital beds by those who no longer need clinical care means these beds will not be available to those who do need them.

Funding allocation: £40 million for 2021-22

Outcome: More appropriate care and support for people who are unnecessarily delayed in hospital. An interim solution should be provided until the optimum care and support is available (noting that remaining in hospital cannot be one of the options). Short-term capacity issues are affecting care at home services and long-term care home placements, (meaning an individual's choice of care home might not readily be available).
People should not remain inappropriately in hospital after treatment is complete. This is detrimental to their own health and well-being as well as unnecessarily occupying a hospital bed. Partnerships must come up with alternative short-term solutions that provide an appropriate level of care and support for people until their long-term assessed needs can be fully met. These should include alternative care and support at home (alternative to formal care at home services), including extended use of self-directed support options or short-term interim placements in a care home. Either scenario should provide a reabling element with a professionally led rehabilitation programme.

In achieving this outcome:

- There will be no financial liability for the cost of care to the individual, with interim care services provided free of charge to the service recipient.
- Each individual should have a care plan that takes account of the interim arrangements, with expected timescales for moving on.
- Interim care should have a clear focus on rehabilitation, recovery and recuperation.
- Where appropriate, each individual should have a professionally led rehabilitation plan. Professional input will be required from Allied Health Professionals so that care home staff are able to follow a programme of rehabilitation aimed at improving physical and cognitive abilities, particularly focussed on activities for daily living (ADLs).
- Individuals should not be forced to move to an interim placement and must consent to a move. Where individuals do not have capacity to give consent but have someone who can do that for them such as Powers of Attorney or court-appointed guardians the consent of that person should be sought.
- Existing guidance on choice of accommodation should be followed for those assessed as needing a care home placement. https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2013_32.pdf
- Under this guidance, individuals are expected to make three choices of care homes, which must be suitable, available and willing to accept the person. Under normal circumstances, they must also be at the usual weekly rate, but partnerships may choose to pay a supplement for a short period.
- No one should be moved from hospital to a care home on an interim basis against their explicit wishes. Where someone lacks capacity to consent, the views of those with lawful authority to make decisions on their behalf should be consulted.

- Choosing to remain in hospital is not an option.
- Leaving hospital and not going home can be a very emotive issue and should be carefully and sensitively managed in discussion with families. Staff should be supported to carry out these discussions.
- Ideally, interim beds will be in dedicated sections of care homes and block booked for this purpose, although it is acknowledged that some partnerships will need to spot purchase individual beds where available.
- Interim placements should be accessible, flexible and responsive to the needs of families to visit and remain in close contact with their relative.
- Multi-Disciplinary Teams should conduct regular reviews of each individual in interim care to ensure that individuals are able to be discharged home or to their care home of choice as quickly as possible
- If a patient is assessed as requiring a permanent placement in a care home after the initial 6 week period, then the normal financial assessment should be undertaken and the Local Authority and/or individual will become liable for payment of care home fees in the usual manner, with the initial 6 week period wholly disregarded from the usual procedures set out in CCD 1/2021 - Revised guidance on charging for residential accommodation (scot.nhs.uk)
- If the interim care home placement goes beyond 6 weeks and the person is ready to go home but cannot safely be discharged home due to a lack of a care package, then the Integration Authority will remain liable for all care home fees.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Number of people delayed in their discharge from hospital.
- Hospital bed days associated with delays and overall length of stay in hospital.
- Number of people who have been discharged to an interim care home.
- Number of people who have moved on from the interim placement by the agreed date for the placement to end.
- Average length of interim care placements.

Schedule 2

Multi-Disciplinary Working

Overview: The development of Multi-Disciplinary Team has been a key factor of integration, bringing together members of different professional groups to improve person centred planning and increase efficiency in assessment, review and resource allocation. Members generally include Social Workers, Healthcare Professionals, Occupational Therapists, as well as voluntary sector organisations who bring an additional level of local expertise, particularly in the art of the possible. Good MDTs will also have effective links with other relevant teams such as housing and telecare colleagues.

Territorial health boards are being asked to recruit 1,000 staff at AfC bands 3 - 4 over the next 3-4 months, to provide additional capacity across a variety of health and care services.

Boards are being asked to recruit staff, to assist with the national programme of significantly reducing the number of delayed discharges. New recruits, principally at bands 3 and 4, can be allocated to roles across acute and community services, working as part of multi-disciplinary teams providing hospital-to-home, support with care assessment and bridging care services. Where required, Boards can take forward some Band 2 roles to support acute health care services.

Recurrent funding is being provided to support and strengthen multi-disciplinary working across the health and social care system, to support timely discharge from hospital and prevent avoidable admissions to hospital, ensuring people can be cared for at home or as close to home as possible.

Funding allocation: £20 million for MDTs, and £15m for Band 3&4 recruitment for 2021-22

Outcome: Expanding a fully integrated MDT approach to reduce delayed discharges from hospital and to meet the current high levels of demand in the community and alleviate the pressure on unpaid carers.

In achieving this outcome:

- MDTs should support social care assessments and augment hospital-to-home, transition and rapid response teams in the community.
- Integrated Discharge Teams and Hubs should be established to support hospital discharge.
- Dedicated hospital-to-home teams, involving third sector organisations where appropriate, to support older people home to be assessed in familiar surroundings, avoiding assessing people's long-term needs in an acute hospital.
- Integrated assessment teams to discharge people from hospital with care and support in place, working in partnership with unpaid carers
- Enable additional resources for social work to support complex care assessments and reviews.
- Additional support to speed up the process associated adults with incapacity legislation.
- Creating or expanding a rapid community response to prevent avoidable presentation to hospital.
- Provide support to care homes and care at home services so that they are responsive to changing needs.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Significant reductions in delayed discharge and occupied bed days
- Number of NHS staff recruited at bands 3 and 4, to roles across community services and acute.
- Increase in assessments carried out at home rather than hospital.
- Evidence of a reduction in the number of people waiting for an assessment.
- Evidence of a reduction in the length of time people are waiting for an assessment.

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Schedule 3

Expanding Care at Home Capacity

Overview: The current pressures on social care support are caused in part by increased need and acuity. It is important that this funding also supports services and interventions to prevent this trend from continuing, supporting people to maintain or even reduce their current levels of need. This will also help to ease the pressure on unpaid carers and prevent their caring roles intensifying.

Funding allocation: £62 million for 2021-22

Outcome: To decrease the number of people who are waiting for a care at home service, ensuring people have the correct level and types of provision to meet their need in a safe and person centred way.

In achieving this outcome:

- Existing services should be expanded by measures including, recruiting internal staff; providing long-term security to existing staff; enabling additional resources for social work to support complex assessments, reviews and rehabilitation; enabling unpaid carers to have breaks.
- Resource should be put into a range of preventative and proactive approaches as rehabilitation, re-enablement and community based support.
- Increasing the use of community equipment and Technology-Enabled Care (TEC) where appropriate supporting prevention and early intervention.

Key Performance Indicators:
Reductions in:

- Those waiting for an assessment for care.
- Those waiting for a care at home service.
- Unmet hours of care
- Evidence of the types of services and activity funded, and the number of people supported by these.
- % increase in the use of community equipment and technology to enable care, or other digital resources to support care provision.
- Evidence of resource to support the use of technology and digital resources.

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