



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

5 December 2017

Dear Leader,

On 10 October we wrote to every council expressing the urgency and criticality of our combined work to reduce delayed transfers of care before winter. Whilst we are still a long way off from delivering the 3.5% target needed to ensure we go into winter as prepared as we can be, it is encouraging that across the country around 1050 beds have been freed up since February 2017, with delays back down to levels last seen in summer 2016. It is vital that the focus and attention that has driven this improvement continues.

In our letter we confirmed our commitment to challenge entrenched poor performance. This included confirmation that your council would be included in any November review of 2018/19 iBCF allocations announced at Spring Budget.

We have reviewed the September data (published in November) looking for signs of performance improvement to decide which councils will be formally reviewed. In reviewing the data we have looked at the following factors:

- Is the council in the bottom quartile for social care DToC rate for 18+ population?
- Has the council hit their published social care DToC expectation in Sept?
- Has the council's social care DToC performance improved since September 2016?
- Has the council's social care DToC performance improved since February 2017?
- Is the council's social care at or below the DToC rate of 2.6%? The threshold for best performers when the DTOC expectations were published in July.

In reviewing the data we note that your council is either not in the bottom quartile and/or has shown improvement against at least one of the factors above. As a result we can confirm that there will be no impact on your additional iBCF allocation in 2018/19. However, you will appreciate that it remains crucial we are as well prepared as we can

be going into winter and your continued efforts to reduce social care DToC in line with your trajectory are essential.

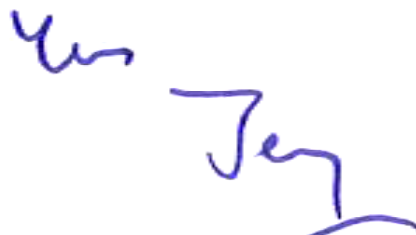
We are fully committed to working with councils to ensure that rapid progress and focus is maintained to ensure everyone who is medically fit can leave hospital for a more appropriate place of care as quickly and safely as possible. We are taking steps to ensure that councils and the NHS received appropriate support to help tackle local challenges and barriers to performance and will continue to monitor performance nationally and locally to support you in this. Please do get in touch with Hulya Mustafa (Hulya.mustafa@dh.gsi.gov.uk) to discuss the DToC support offer for your council.

In addition to this letter you will be hearing shortly jointly from NHSE and NHS Improvement on the support available, including through the Better Care Fund to support continued reductions on delayed transfers of care.



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