

From Sir David Nicholson and Sir Bob Kerlake



To PCT Chief Executives  
SHA Chief Executives  
LA Chief Executives  
SHA Directors of Finance  
PCT Directors of Finance

Gateway reference number: 15386

Dear Colleague

### **£162m Additional Winter Pressures to Primary Care Trusts**

We are writing to you to follow up the announcement made by our Secretaries of State earlier today that the Government is today allocating a one-off additional £162m to Primary Care Trusts in England to invest immediately in vital social care services which also benefit the NHS. This recognises that during the winter period, health services, particularly hospitals are experiencing significant pressure and the new money will enable local services to discharge patients from hospital more quickly and provide effective ongoing support for people in their own homes, for the remainder of this financial year.

The £162m announced today will bring forward the plans being put in place by health and local authorities to work together using NHS funding to support social care, as announced in the Spending Review. The money will be allocated to PCTs on the basis of the social care relative needs formula and is in addition to the funding for reablement services that is incorporated within recurrent PCT allocations. The Operating Framework for the NHS in England, 2011 sets out how this funding should be managed:

“PCTs will need to transfer this funding to local authorities to invest in social care services to benefit health, and to improve overall health gain. Transfers will need to be made via an agreement under Section 256 of the 2006 NHS Act.

PCTs need to work together with local authorities to agree jointly on appropriate areas for social care investment, and the outcomes expected from this investment. This could include current services such as telecare, community directed prevention (including falls prevention), community equipment and adaptations, and crisis response services. The Department would expect these decisions to

take into account the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for their local population, and the existing commissioning plans for both health and social care. PCTs should work with local authorities to achieve these outcomes in a transparent and efficient manner, with local authorities keeping PCTs informed of progress using appropriate local mechanisms.“

Examples of the kinds of services that could be invested in are:

- additional short-term residential care places, or respite and intermediate care;
- more capacity for home care support, investment in equipment, adaptations and telecare;
- investment in crisis response teams and other preventative services to avoid unnecessary admission to hospital; and
- further investment in reablement and rehabilitation services, to help people regain their independence and reduce the need for ongoing care. PCTs and councils have already received additional funding this year to expand reablement services

The extra £162 million funding is in addition to the previously announced £70 million that the NHS will spend this year on reablement services. There will be a further provision of £300m by 2014-15 for continued investment in these vital front line reablement services.

This is part of our commitment to long-term investment in reablement and occupational therapists, who are vital to rehabilitation services, and homecare equipment services which support people to live at home independently.

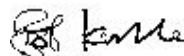
Effective and efficient joined up working between the NHS and Local Government is an essential part of how the care system works to meet patients' needs and public expectations at all times and particularly when increased demands are made of the services.

It is vitally important that you use the opportunity afforded by this new money to reinforce the good partnership working that we observe in many parts of the country and ensure it becomes the standard for every PCT and Local Authority.

Yours sincerely



**Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE**  
**NHS Chief Executive**



**Sir Bob Kerslake**  
**Permanent Secretary**  
**Department for Communities**  
**and**  
**Local Government**