

19 December 2011

To: SHA cluster Chief Executives

cc: PCT clusters Chief Executives
Monitor

Gateway reference number: 17042

Dear Colleagues,

Planning and assurance in 2012/13

2012/13, the second year of the quality and productivity challenge and the final year of transition to the new commissioning and management system for the NHS, provides considerable challenge and opportunity. We have to build on the work undertaken in 2011/12 remaining focused to maintain a healthy financial position and continue to drive up service quality, to deliver QIPP efficiency savings, progress transition to the new delivery system and to ensure that, in all parts of the NHS, elderly and vulnerable patients receive dignified and compassionate care.

As part of this, the Department recognises the need to integrate fully our approach to NHS planning and assurance with SHA clusters within a single, shared process, working towards a clear and consistent definition of success.

I enclose guidance on the single planning process for 2012/13, which has been developed across the Department and with SHA clusters. This guidance supports the delivery of the NHS Operating Framework 2012/13 and provides more detail on the accountability arrangements set out in section 5. A draft of the technical guidance on the performance measures has been placed on UNIFY with a view to it being finalised shortly.

As the guidance makes clear, SHA cluster submissions on plans for 2012/13 are due in two stages: the first submission due on 27 January 2012, with the final submission due on 5 April 2012. Both should be sent to me at david.flory@dh.gsi.gov.uk and copied to your usual Performance and Delivery Team (PDT) contact, as set out overleaf. Any queries should be directed to your usual PDT contact.

Yours sincerely,



David Flory
Deputy NHS Chief Executive

Table of SHA clusters and PDT contacts

SHA	Lead PDT contact	Email address
North of England	Rachel Swallow	rachel.swallow@dh.gsi.gov.uk
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