

Instructions/Guidance

As set out in the policy statement, DHSC is asking local authorities to provide information by 28 September 2023, setting out how they plan to use this funding and how it aligns with with NHS Winter Plans that are to be completed by ICBs.

Please use the yellow boxes below to provide summary responses (maximum 500 words) to the following questions:

Please describe how you are using this additional funding, including how it will affect your existing capacity plans. (500 words maximum)

How do your capacity plans and planned use of the fund outlined in question 1 align with NHS winter plans? (500 words maximum)

Further details on the NHS winter plans can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/delivering-operational-resilience-across-the-nhs-this-winter/>

(1) Please describe how you are using this additional funding, including how it will affect your existing capacity plans (500 words maximum)

We are utilising this additional funding to increase capacity and reduce waiting times. Specifically we plan to:

1. Incentivise our existing domiciliary care providers with an additional payment of £1 per hour during the winter period. This is to enhance front line worker pay - to act as an incentive during winter, to aid retention and to recognise that care workers have incurred increased travel costs due to higher fuel prices.
2. Increase our OT assessment capacity and subsequent availability of equipment.
3. Invest in enhanced discharge services - including additional funding for our voluntary sector led home from hospital service (By Your Side) and for our health run Bridging Service (a hospital run service that bridges the gap between discharge and the commencement of long term community support). We are also exploring additional hospital discharge incentive payments to current domiciliary care providers. These activities are in line with our existing capacity plans.

(2) How do your capacity plans and planned use of the fund outlined in question 1 align with NHS winter plans? (500 words maximum)

The activity detailed above will add capacity across the whole system, and is consistent with Thurrock's Better Care Fund Plan 2023/24.

The funding for OT and equipment should prevent further demand on services. The additional funding to our voluntary sector led home from hospital service supports discharge for both health and social care service users. The contingency funding for the Bridging service will ensure flow in our community and acute hospital settings at periods of high demand. The additional payments to our domiciliary care market will assist with the retention of front line staff - decreasing staff turnover rates will add capacity to our system and allow timely discharge from hospital. Managing demand, timely discharge and admission avoidance are central to our winter plan.

Following the completion of our LGA sponsored Better Care Fund appraisal we will be reviewing each scheme using the High Impact Change Model to optimise performance and to ensure value for money.

Thurrock Council
Released under FOI