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15 December 2016

Draft Budget 2017/18

Dear Colleagues

We are writing to you regarding the Scottish Government's draft budget for 2017/18, as set out by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution in Parliament today. Letters have also been sent today to Local Authorities and the NHS regarding the budget. This letter lays out how these financial arrangements relate to Integration Authorities. Please take account of all three letters to ensure a full understanding of the financial position and its implications for your responsibilities for the coming year.

This letter also sets out our plans to ensure the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care, which is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, is well-briefed to fulfil its remit to provide joint political oversight between COSLA and the Scottish Government on progress with implementation of integration.

Priorities

Integration Authorities are responsible for planning and provision of social care, primary and community healthcare, and unscheduled hospital care, for, at least, adults. Integration priorities are to:

1. Reduce occupied hospital bed days associated with avoidable admissions and delayed discharges, focussing investment in care alternatives that can help people to continue living independently in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.
2. Increase provision of good quality, appropriate palliative and end of life care, particularly in people's own homes and communities and also, where appropriate, in hospices, so that people who would benefit from such care access it.
3. Enhance primary care provision, with particular focus on developing and expanding multi-disciplinary teams; sustainability of provision; development of GP clusters; and responsiveness to a new GP contract.



4. Reflect delivery of the new Mental Health Strategy, with particular focus on developing new models of care and support for mental health in primary care settings; improving the physical health of people with mental health problems, and improving mental health outcomes for people with physical health conditions; reducing unwarranted variation in access and assuring timely access; and developing services that focus on the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and families, including improved access to perinatal mental health services.
5. Where children's services are integrated, continue to invest in prevention and early intervention, particularly in the early years, with the expectation that work will continue to deliver 500 more health visitors by 2018.
6. Support delivery of agreed service levels for Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships' work, in support of which £53.8m is transferring to NHS Board baselines for delegation to Integration Authorities.
7. Ensure provision of the living wage to adult care workers workers and plan for sustainability of social care provision.
8. Continue implementation of Self Directed Support.
9. Prepare for commencement of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 on 1 April 2018.

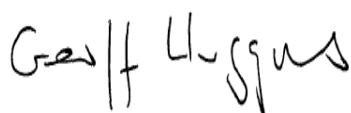
Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care

As you know, the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care provides the forum for joint political oversight of progress with integration by Scottish Ministers and COSLA. The Group has recently considered its requirements in terms of understanding progress on integration. We will take forward work involving Scottish Government officials, COSLA, Chief Officers, and colleagues at NHS NSS leading on the Source and LIST data projects, to establish a suite of appropriate metrics for the Group's routine consideration. This will include agreeing data definitions and an appropriate methodology via which Integration Authorities can share their objectives for progress in 17/18 and beyond; we will also ensure the work is tied in with Sir Harry Burns' review of health and social care targets and indicators.

You will see from Christine McLaughlin's letter to Health Boards on the budget that we also intend to give some consideration to the efficacy of current arrangements for delegating appropriate hospital budgets, including set aside budgets, to Integration Authorities. We will report on that to the Ministerial Strategic Group in due course as well.

I trust this letter is helpful to you, and look forward to continuing to work with you as we embed integration across health and social care in Scotland.

Yours faithfully



GEOFF HUGGINS
Scottish Government



PAULA McLEAY
COSLA