



Department
of Health &
Social Care

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For the attention of the Director of Adult Social Services

Proposals invited for local authority grant for urgent and emergency care this winter

On 28 July, we [announced](#) £600 million of funding over two years to enable local authorities to go further in improving adult social care (ASC) capacity. We provided local authorities with their allocations for £570 million of this funding over a two-year period in response to requests for longer term funding.

In that announcement, we said that we intended to make £30 million of this funding available this year to local authorities in areas with the greatest health and care challenges. We are now increasing the available funding by £10 million to provide for a £40 million fund.

This letter sets out how the Department intends to deploy this funding. It invites selected local authorities to submit proposals for how they would use this funding to strengthen the resilience of urgent and emergency care services this winter. **Your local authority is invited to submit proposals for access to this fund.**

Aim

The government is making available £40 million to enable selected local authorities to support urgent and emergency care performance and resilience for residents over the winter period. The intention is to provide targeted funding for local authorities in areas with the greatest urgent and emergency care challenges, subject to the submission of robust proposals which will be assessed against criteria set out later in this letter.

This fund supports the [Delivery Plan for Recovering Urgent and Emergency Care Services](#), published on 30 January 2023.

The effectiveness of urgent and emergency care services relies significantly on how well health and care providers work together across the wider system, both to improve preventative, step-up and step-down services and to improve operational resilience. This will be particularly important as we approach the challenging winter period.

Scope

As part of the [Delivery Plan for the Recovery of Urgent and Emergency Care Services](#), NHS England committed to providing tiered interventions to support local areas to deliver the plan. NHS England has developed three tiers of intervention, which have been in place since April 2023:

Tier one: intensive support – for health and care systems at highest risk of delivering their targets within the plan, to support on-the-ground planning, analytical and delivery capacity, “buddying” with leading systems and executive leadership.

Tier two: light touch support – for health and care systems with risk to delivering their targets, to support regional reviews and deep-dives to diagnose challenges and drive improvement.

Tier three: core offer – a universal support offer for the remaining health and care systems, including speciality guidance, peer review and sharing of best practice.

Integrated care boards (ICBs) were mapped to these tiers according to needs and ICB chief executive officers received a letter advising them of their UEC Tier on 10 May 2023. A list of ICBs in UEC Tiers one and two is annexed to this letter.

To ensure that this funding is targeted at the most challenged systems, the government is inviting local authorities in Tier one and Tier two integrated care systems (ICSs)¹ to submit proposals for how they would deploy the funding. Where a local authority’s geography overlaps with multiple ICSs², the local authority has been mapped to the ICS with the greatest population overlap.

Grant Type

Grant funding will be awarded to local authorities in Tier one and Tier two ICSs which submit proposals which meet the assessment criteria referred to below under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Process

Local authorities should use the form attached to this letter to put forward their proposals for how they would deploy this grant funding. Forms must be sent to ascdischargelocalengagement@dhsc.gov.uk no later than **29 September 2023**.

¹ The list of tier one and two integrated care systems is published at [ICSs most ‘off target’ on recovery named by NHS England | News | Health Service Journal \(hsj.co.uk\)](#)

² We used the LA to ICB population mapping based on ONS resident population in 2020 published at [NHS England » Allocations](#).

Local authorities are invited to develop proposals which they are expected to agree with the relevant ICB and provide evidence of ICB views on the proposals on the application form. Proposals will be strengthened if they are linked to the ICB winter surge plan.

Local authorities may choose to develop joint proposals with another local authority within the ICB. Applicants wishing to do this must identify a lead local authority able to receive the grant on behalf of their partnership of local authorities. The lead local authority should ensure that the proposal reflects a consensus view across the collaborating partners.

The Department, supported by NHS England, will assess proposals against criteria set out in the next section of this letter, with the aim of making payments in early October. Memoranda of Understanding will be put in place for each local authority, setting out how funding will be used and what information the local authority will be expected to provide to demonstrate impact and value for money. Local authorities will be asked to report on any discharge capacity they buy with this funding within their monthly Discharge Fund capacity returns. Local authorities will also be expected to provide an interim report (in January 2024) to report on progress against planned spend and a final report in May 2024.

We will be holding local authority information sessions in September to support eligible local authorities interested in submitting proposals. Further information about these sessions is provided at the end of this letter.

Key timings

Action	Date
Request for proposals	8 September 2023
Local authority information sessions	14, 18 and 21 September 2023
Deadline for submission of proposals to access funding	29 September 2023
Payments approved	13 October 2023

Assessment criteria for proposals

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Impact on urgent and emergency care resilience and performance over the winter period, whether by helping prevent avoidable admissions or by reducing discharge delays
- Are deliverable over the winter 2023/24 period
- Are additional to existing LA expenditure and capacity plans and linked to NHS winter surge plans and Better Care Fund demand and capacity plans, for example by addressing gaps identified in those plans. Section 151 officers will be required to assure that funding has been used to purchase additional services and capacity in line with the MoU.

Indicative allocation

The indicative allocation for your local authority is **£2,892,188**.

This allocation has been calculated based on a share of the indicative £40 million funding that is proportional to your local authority's adult social care relative needs formula share³.

Final decisions on allocations will depend on the quality of proposals received so scalable proposals are encouraged. Local authorities are invited to submit proposals for how they would use this funding: a) using the indicative allocation; and b) using 150% of their indicative allocation.

Proposals should cover only the amount of funding that local authorities are confident of being able to spend by the end of the 2023/24 financial year (to end of March 2024). This could involve bringing forward interventions likely to be commissioned from 2024/25 discharge funding.

Proposals must include a spend profile of projected expenditure for each month of the funding term (October to March). Local authorities will be required to report against this spend profile in the interim and final reports to the Department.

Wider local authority adult social care spend

The government has made significant investment in adult social care in 2023/24. On 2 June, [the Department set out its intention](#) to monitor local authority budget data to ensure that the additional funding being made available to adult social care in 2023/24 is delivering a substantial increase in planned adult social care spending. The data published by DLUHC on 22 June showed that national adult social care net expenditure by councils is budgeted to be £2.3 billion higher in cash terms than the equivalent 2022/23 budget.

We are pleased to note that your local authority's planned expenditure on adult social care in 2023/24 has increased significantly this year. You do not need to complete Section 4 of the enclosed form.

If your end of year report for the 2022/23 discharge fund shows an underspend against your allocation, you should explain in your proposal how you are confident of spending additional money this year having not spent your full allocation from the discharge fund last year, and we will consider that as part of the assessment of your proposal.

Examples of the types of service or intervention we are expecting to be included in local authority proposals

We anticipate that most proposals will involve commissioning additional step-up or step-down services. However, the government will consider any proposals that would be expected to have an impact on urgent and emergency care resilience and performance over the winter period, whether by helping prevent avoidable admissions or by reducing discharge delays.

³ More information on the adult social care relative needs formula can be found in "Methodology Guide for the Adults' Personal Social Services Relative Needs Formulae 2013/14 ([Microsoft Word - methpssas.doc](#) ([nationalarchives.gov.uk](#)))

Interventions to prevent avoidable admissions and readmissions might include (but not be limited to):

- additional social care assessment services to reduce waiting times for an assessment and so reduce the likelihood of admission to hospital
- a grant to voluntary and community sector provider(s) to strengthen support (such as heating, feeding, befriending), either for those at home at risk of admission or for those discharged home
- additional home care services and interventions, including technologies or use of data to identify when a resident is unwell and at risk of admission

Interventions to reduce discharge delays might include (but not be limited to):

- additional home care packages, including to support discharge from bed-based intermediate care
- additional home-based or bed-based services to support reablement and recovery
- improvements to operation of care transfer hubs that will have a demonstrable benefit, for example increasing the number of patients being seen through a hub, or ensuring more patients are discharged onto the right pathway for them
- initiatives to support the discharge of those experiencing homelessness or housing issues, for example a dedicated housing officer in the care transfer hub or specialist step-down support services
- increasing specialist dementia support in the community, either in care homes or in people's own homes

Local authority information sessions

The Department will be holding information sessions on the grant and process for accessing the funding. Local authorities considering putting forward proposals for grant funding are encouraged to attend. You will shortly receive Outlook invitations from the Department inviting you to sessions being held on:

9:00-10:00 on Thursday 14 September
15:00-16:00 on Monday 18 September
16:00-17:00 on Thursday 21 September

To allow us to keep track of numbers, please respond to the Outlook invitation to confirm which session you will be attending.

Yours sincerely

Ben Dyson
Director, Hospital Discharge Programme

Annex: ICBs in NHS England Urgent and Emergency Care Tiers one and two

Tier one

Region	ICB
South West	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly ICB
South West	Devon ICB
London	North East London ICB
South East	Kent and Medway ICB
North West	Cheshire and Merseyside ICB
North West	Greater Manchester ICB
East of England	Norfolk and Waveney ICB

Tier two

Region	ICB
East of England	Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB
Midlands	Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB
Midlands	Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICB
Midlands	Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent ICB
South East	Frimley ICB
South East	Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB
North East & Yorkshire	Humber and North Yorkshire ICB