

Health and wellbeing policy and budget updates to July 2013

Strategic
<p>Funding for NHS and Adult Social Care Integrated Services</p> <p>The budget settlement for 2015/16 includes £3.8 billion of pooled health and social care funding for integration. Access to the pooled budgets will be conditional on agreeing plans with local health and wellbeing boards to protect access and drive integration of services, to improve quality and prevent people staying in hospital unnecessarily. Further work with local government and the NHS on the planning process and to determine the detail of how this system will operate is required.</p> <p>NHS Directions on payments from the NHS to local authorities</p> <p>The government has issued these sets of directions; one of the key conditions is that the paying body must be satisfied that the payment will result in a more effective use of funds than if an equivalent amount was spent by the paying body. It also includes directions on the £859 million to be transferred by NHS England in 2013/14 to local authorities for social care. This funding, must support adult social care services in each authority, which also have a health benefit. The local authority and clinical commissioning groups must agree together how to use the money.</p>
<p>Duties and powers</p> <p>The board's duties and powers have been developing as the network of relationships between agencies and bodies matures, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - duty to develop and update a pharmaceutical needs assessment; - HWBs are expected to receive an annual report from the director of public health and Public Health England regional units on local arrangements; - HWBs should provide appropriate escalation route to the Secretary of State for Director of Public Health/LA health protection concerns. <p>The Department of Health's summary table of the duties and powers introduced by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 is attached as Appendix 1.</p>
<p>Barriers to choice review</p> <p>The Government has published the findings of an independent review into public service choice, looking at how effective choice is in health, social care and schools. The review highlighted the need to build flexibility in the way people interact with healthcare professionals and facilities; problems with the complexity of the personal budget system and in particular the bureaucracy and rules around using it, together with delays in the system and especially with a lack of information; cross barriers included the need for better information and choices, access to face-to-face advice, and the gap between people's expectation of choice and services delivered.</p>
<p>New proposals to ensure care and compassion in the NHS and in social care</p> <p>The Cavendish review has published its recommendations. Key points include that all healthcare assistants and social care support workers should undergo the same basic training, and must get a standard 'Certificate of Fundamental Care' before they can care for people unsupervised.</p> <p>The prime minister has launched the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF), which seeks to provide a single source of independent and authoritative assessment and advice on early intervention measures and will help improve the UK evidence base. The EIF has invited every Clinical Commissioning Group, Police and Crime Commissioner and all top-tier council to participate in the first wave of 20 first wave early intervention pilot projects. The EIF is considering proposals, and will announce the first wave shortly.</p>
Health/Public Health
<p>The Keogh Review</p> <p>The government has published the finding of a review of hospitals with high mortality rates (14). The review was commissioned in response to the Francis inquiry into failings at the Mid-Staffordshire Foundation Trust. The review found examples of good care, as well as scope for improvement, with each trust needing to address an urgent set of actions in order to raise standards of care, which included closure of operating theatres, suspension of services, changes to staffing levels, and dealing with patients' complaints. Media reports of 13,000 avoidable deaths are not sourced from the review – the review did not state any number of avoidable deaths either generally, or for any hospital.</p>

Public Health duties guidance

The Department of Health has issued guidance for local authorities assuming public health duties:

- Commissioning sexual health services and interventions: best practice guidance for local authorities;
- A framework for sexual health improvement in England;
- Best practice guidance for weight management services; and
- Material for setting up local health resilience partnerships.

Ring fenced public health grants to local authorities 2013-14 and 2014-15

Announcements have been made for the Public Health grant for LAs to provide mandated services and locally commissioned services. Southwark will receive £72 per head for 2013/14 (with a target of £78 per head 2014-15) which is ring fenced to target health inequalities, and to improve outcomes for the health and wellbeing of the local population. The grant permits local discretion in how these aims are achieved.

School food plan

A review into school dinners has called for free meals to be extended to all primary schools, starting in the most deprived areas of England. The move would mean almost 3m extra children eating free lunches. The recommendation was made by Henry Dimbleby and John Vincent, co-founders of the Leon restaurant chain, who had been tasked by the Education Secretary, Michael Gove, with conducting an investigation into school dinners.

Health protection duties

The Health and Social Care Act has delegated some of the Secretary of State's health protection duties to local authorities and require LAs to undertake some of their health improvement duties in particular ways. The legislation will also set out when LAs can charge for activity under their new duties, although no individual will have to pay new charges for their services.

"What about the Children" - report on children living with parents with mental health problems

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a thematic inspection and explored how well adult mental health services, and drug and alcohol services considered the impact on children when their parents or carers had mental ill health and/or drug and alcohol problems; and how effectively adult and children's services worked together to ensure that children affected by their parents' or carers' difficulties were supported and safe. Ofsted and the CQC made a number of recommendations:

- joint training and joint supervision to ensure that all practitioners have a thorough understanding of the impact of these difficulties on children and the opportunity to reflect together on their joint responsibilities in tackling concerns.
- monitor the extent to which adult mental health services meet their responsibilities to safeguard and protect children
- ensure that practitioners consistently challenge decisions that result in no further action if in their judgement action is warranted
- ensure that staff liaise with each other and agree a joint plan of action when parents or carers do not attend appointments with adult services.

The Dementia challenge

The Department of Health has announced a number of actions to improve the lives of around 800,000 people with dementia in the UK, including:

- linking £54 million in funding for hospital dementia risk assessments to the quality of dementia care
- making the dementia information on our local website available nationally, so people have a better understanding of the services available in their local area
- providing £50 million of funding to adapt wards and care homes for people with dementia
- helping to fund a £300 million programme to build or renovate housing for people with long-term conditions, including dementia
- providing £400 million to help fund breaks for carers
- launching a new toolkit to help GPs provide better support
- increasing annual funding of dementia research to around £66 million by 2015

Government launches care comparison website

The new care profiles provide the most comprehensive source of information on care services. They help people to search and compare residential care homes and other care services and make confident choices about registered care for themselves or family members. The profiles are available on [NHS Choices](#) and sit alongside easy to reference information on entitlements to care, paying for care, organising a care need assessment and other practical advice.

New premature mortality website launched by Public Health England

Longer Lives, a new website showing the variation in early death rates has been launched by Public Health England (PHE). Using a traffic-light rating system, the website ranks areas showing those above average in tackling avoidable deaths as green, while those that still have more to do, are red; it also shows how they compare to other areas with a similar social and economic profile. Southwark's ranking on the 4 national key measures are as follows (Deaths per 100,000 for 2009–2011):

1. Cancer – 104 out of 150 local authorities
2. Heart disease and stroke – 109 out of 150 local authorities
3. Lung disease – 127 out of 150 local authorities
4. Liver disease – 126 out of 150 local authorities

New Children's Partnership

The Department of Health, NHS England, and partners are setting up a Children's Partnership which will bring together key national organisations accountable for policy, commissioning and delivery to improve children and young people's health outcomes. The Partnership will consider and agree system priorities, design resolutions for improvement and work jointly to commission resources to deliver these. It will receive constructive, evidence based challenge and advice from the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum and will have strong links to the Health Transition Task Group.

Social care

Care minimum standards launched

The government has announced that new national eligibility criteria, to be introduced in 2015, will set a minimum threshold for councils to maintain levels of adult social care and support services. The Department of Health is inviting discussion on the proposals as well as the draft regulations. An analysis of the implications of the draft regulations has also been included in the document. A formal consultation will be launched in 2014 following the Care Bill becoming law.

Inspection of children's services

Ofsted has just closed a consultation (12 July) on the way it inspects services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. This single framework, covering child protection, looked after children and care leavers services and supporting multi-agency arrangements, replaces previous plans to implement separate inspection frameworks for each service area. Further raising the bar, the framework has three key judgements feeding an overall effectiveness judgement:

- Experiences and progress of children who need help and protection
- Experience and progress of children look after and achieving permanence (including graded judgements on adoption performance and experiences and progress of care leavers)
- Leadership, management and governance

The consultation also includes proposals for a graded judgement on the effectiveness of local safeguarding children boards, as well as seeking views on the grade descriptors comprising each judgement, and that 'good' will be set as the minimum standard.

Inspection of voluntary adoption and independent fostering provision

Ofsted's consultation on proposed revisions to the inspection of voluntary adoption agencies, and for revisions to the inspection of independent fostering agencies also closed on 12 July 2013. Key proposals in the voluntary adoption provision consultation included:

- Changes to the evaluation schedule into two parts: those providers of a range of adoption services; and those only providing support;
- Grade descriptors for 'good'; 'requires improvement'; and 'inadequate'.

Key proposals in the independent fostering provision consultation included:

- Changes to the inspection of independent fostering agencies;
- Grade descriptors for 'good'; 'requires improvement'; and 'inadequate'.

Care Bill

The government has published the Care Bill which introduces legislation to provide protection and support to the people who need it most and to take forward elements of the government's initial response to the Francis Inquiry. Key points include:

- funding reform, including bringing forward the cap on lifetime care costs individuals pay
- new duties around prevention
- new rights for carers
- Ofsted-style ratings for hospitals and care homes so that patients and the public can compare organisations or services in a fair and balanced way and make informed choices about where to go
- local authorities receiving a new legal responsibility to provide a care and support plan (or a support plan in the case of a carer)
- for the first time, providing people with a legal entitlement to a personal budget, which is an important part of the care and support plan
- giving young people and carers of children a legal right to request an assessment before they turn 18. This is to help them to plan for the adult care and support services they may need

Extra funding to prepare for SEND reforms

The children's minister announced that local authorities will be able to access £9 million to help them prepare for changes to the way children with special educational needs (SEN) are supported. Under the new system, due to be introduced in September 2014, SEN statements will be replaced by single education, health and care plans, requiring co-operation between all local services.

Lamb pioneers

Following the publication of the Care Bill, the government has announced that local areas are expected to develop integrated health and social care services over the next five years. There is no blueprint for integrated care, and a national programme of integration 'pioneers' will share solutions and identify barriers to integration, some of which will be addressed at a national level. Southwark and Lambeth Integrated Care submitted a bid to commence a pioneer project.

Adoption delay

In its response to the *Adoption and Fostering: Tackling Delay* consultation, the government has outlined measures to ensure adopters are approved more quickly and to overcome blockages in the legal system that slow the adoption process. Changes include a two-stage approval process for adopters to ensure the majority of adopters are approved to adopt within six months. A fast-track procedure for approved foster carers and previous adopters who wish to adopt will also be introduced. There will be a legal obligation on all adoption agencies to refer prospective adopters to the Adoption Register within three months of approval, and ensure information on children waiting to be adopted is kept up to date.

Fostering support

The Children and Families Minister, Edward Timpson announced a new package of support totalling £750,000 to:

- provide Fostering Network with £250,000 over 2 years to boost local recruitment of foster carers and help councils share good practice nationally
- provide intervention programmes for looked-after children and those on the edge of care and custody and their families
- fund 3 partnerships between local authorities and independent fostering services to explore recruitment/retainment

The announcement is especially focused on supporting LAs in recruiting foster carers who have the specialist skills to care for vulnerable children with different needs.

Disability payments

In June 2013, Disability Living Allowance (DLA) was replaced by Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

Children, Young People, Families and Education

School improvement inspections

Ofsted has published the LA school improvement inspection framework. Inspections are likely to be carried out only where a concern has been identified or where HMCI has received a request to inspect from the Secretary of State. In judging LA effectiveness, inspectors will evaluate the effectiveness of arrangements to support school improvement and identify the strengths and weaknesses of support and challenge for schools and other providers. The evaluation will also take account of a LA's statutory duties (s13A of the Education Act 1996).

GCSE overhaul

An overhaul of GCSEs in England has been announced by the Department for Education. Key changes from autumn 2015:

- Changes will initially be for nine core GCSE subjects (English language and literature, maths, physics, chemistry, biology, combined science, history and geography).
- Grading by numbers 8-1 rather than by the current letters A*-G
- Exams will be essay-based system
- Pass mark to be pushed higher

LACSEG refund

The Department of Education (DfE) will refund a total of £94 million to councils for school support following legal action by local authorities. Southwark's refund amounts to £1.195 million. Councils called for a judicial review after claiming the amount taken by the DfE to fund schools that had converted to academy status exceeded how much they would save from no longer being responsible for them. The DfE took £148 million from the LA Central Services Equivalent Fund (LACSEG) in 2011/12, but repaid £58 million in July 2012. The latest £94.16 million refund is for a £265 million cut made by the DfE in 2012/13.

Crime and justice

End of Pathfinder Scheme

The two-year reinvestment pathfinder scheme, which aims to reduce the use of custody for under-18s by providing councils with cash upfront for projects that divert young people from prison, comes to an end in November. Two of the consortia struggled to meet targets and dropped out a year early, to avoid being liable for financial penalties.