

To:
LA Chief executives
LA Directors of Adult Social Care
CCG Clinical Leads
CCG Accountable Officers

18 July 2013

Dear Colleagues,

Arrangements for the section 256 funding transfer in London

I am writing to bring to your attention the letter of 19 June 2013, Funding transfer from NHS England to social care – 2013/14 (DH gateway reference: 00186) attached in annex 1. As you will be aware NHS England is now responsible for managing this funding, taking on the role previously undertaken by Primary Care Trusts.

This funding provides a significant opportunity for NHS and Local Authorities to work together to better meet the health and social care needs of our communities. I am keen we make the most of this opportunity and I wanted to share with you the arrangements for the section 256 funding transfer in London.

I know many local areas have already made commitments to improving the integration of services within your Urgent and Emergency Care Recovery and Improvement Plans. I hope that the formal announcement of this funding provides local areas with the opportunity to further develop these plans.

Conditions for the use of funds:

In line with the [national directions for payment](#), the application and outcome monitoring of the use of funds must be agreed between NHS England, the local authorities and their local health partners.

The plans for the use of the funding should have due regard to the findings of the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the CCG's commissioning plan and the Local Authority's plans for social care.

Agreement should be made following a submission of a Joint LA/CCG proposal
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to your local Health and Well Being Board which will be the forum for the discussion and agreement of your local plans for the use of these funds.

Local plans will need to meet the conditions associated with use of the Section 256 funds which are detailed in the letter provided in Annex 1, and summarised below:

1. Funding must support adult social care services in each local authority in a way that also has a health benefit.
2. Local authorities must obtain agreement from their local health partners on how the funding is best used within social care and the anticipated outcomes from the investment.
3. Health and Wellbeing Boards will be expected to discuss and approve local proposals for use of the funding.
4. NHS England will make it a condition of the transfer that local authorities demonstrate how funding will make a positive difference to social care services and the benefits for service users, compared to service plans in the absence of the funding transfer.

The process for Payment:

Payments will be administered by the NHS England (London) Delivery Teams and the funds will pass over to local authorities once the Section 256 agreement has been signed by both parties.

As part of the formal process for the agreement of Section 256 funds, NHS England must ensure that it has access to timely information (via Health & Wellbeing Boards) on how the funding is being used locally against the overall programme of adult social care expenditure and the overall outcomes against the plan.

To support this assurance, funds will be applied in three equal payments in quarters 2, 3 and 4, contingent on the appropriate application of funds and the monitoring against the agreed outcomes in your plan.

I hope the information provided within this letter supports you to further development joint working across health and social care services in your local area and to improve the health and social care outcomes for London.

If you have any questions regarding the application or processing of these funds please contact your Local Area Delivery Team in the first instance (please view contact details on the following page).

NCEL**Delivery director:** paul.bennett8@nhs.net

Barnet CCG	Barking and Dagenham CCG	Camden CCG
City and Hackney CCG	Enfield CCG	Haringey CCG
Havering CCG	Islington CCG	Newham CCG
Redbridge CCG	Tower Hamlets CCG	Waltham Forest CCG

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Bexley CCG	Bromley CCG	Croydon CCG
Greenwich CCG	Kingston CCG	Lambeth CCG
Lewisham CCG	Merton CCG	Richmond CCG
Southwark CCG	Sutton CCG	Wandsworth CCG

NWL**Delivery director:** AlexGordon@nhs.net

Brent CCG	Central London CCG
Ealing CCG	Hammersmith and Fulham CCG
Harrow CCG	Hillingdon CCG
Hounslow CCG	West London CCG

Yours sincerely,

**Anne Rainsberry**
Regional Director (London region)

cc: Simon Weldon, Director of Operations and Delivery (London Region)
David Slegg, Director of Finance (London Region)
Ian Boyle, Head of Financial Assurance, (London region)
Khadir Meer, Head of Rectification and CCG Support, (London region)