

To: NHS Accountable Officers
Cc: Local Government Chief Executive Officers

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Planning for operational resilience in health and social care during 2014/15 – funding to support ambulance services

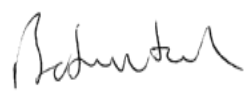
As part of the framework to support planning for operational resilience during 2014/15, we had previously advised that of the non-recurrent resilience funding for this year, £50m would be retained nationally for centrally agreed use. We are writing to confirm how a proportion of this will be used specifically to support ambulance services. We will communicate further detail of the remaining national share and how it will be used, e.g. for additional specialist capacity and in support of the deployment of the Intensive Support Teams, in due course.

£18m from the national reserve will be allocated to those CCGs who commission ambulance services. This money must be dedicated to supporting ambulance services on the basis of plans that must balance specific actions to address current system pressures, whilst encouraging behavioural changes and adoption of new models of care.

The £18m funding will be allocated to lead CCGs on the basis of call volumes (specifically 999 calls) for the relevant Ambulance Trust. Commissioners will need to agree plans following discussion with the respective System Resilience Groups (SRGs). These will then be assured by the Regional Tripartite Panels. Plans should be submitted via NHS England Area Teams no later than 31 July 2014.

Local SRGs will already be considering ways in which ambulance performance can be improved through direct investment in ambulance services or by investment in other areas which has an impact on ambulance performance. We expect that at least a further £10m from existing local system allocations will go to support the ambulance service, and CCGs will be notified of their indicative share of that £10m, and asked to demonstrate in their operational resilience plans how investment of at least this level will improve ambulance performance.

Finally, quality, access and financial balance are equally important and so should be fully considered when working up local plans. It is therefore essential that SRGs assure themselves that overall plans are affordable and do not lead to a deterioration in the financial position of member organisations.



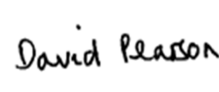
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