



Department of Health

Social Care Local Government Care Partnerships
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS
T 020 7210 5348
E Jon.Rouse@dh.gsi.gov.uk
Twitter: [JonRouse@RouseJonDGDH](https://twitter.com/RouseJonDGDH)
www.dh.gov.uk

Chief Executives Local Authorities ENGLAND

21st November 2014

Dear Colleague,

Transfer of commissioning of 0-5 children's public health services

I am writing to update you on the transfer of the commissioning of 0-5 children's public health services from NHS England to Local Government, which as you know is due to take place on 1 October 2015.

I would like to thank all involved for their efforts. I am aware that there has been considerable work ongoing by Local Authorities, working with NHS England, to identify the costs of the commissioned services that will be transferring to you in 2015/16. 2015/16 allocations will be made using the principles of 'lift and shift,' supporting a safe mid-year transfer. I recognise that this is not a needs-based formula but we expect to move towards a distribution based on population needs in 2016/17 and have asked ACRA to advise us.

We intend to publish a document to give you an opportunity to comment on your proposed allocations for 15/16. We had hoped to publish this at the end of October. We recognise, however, that there are still some specific issues still trying to be resolved in particular localities and want to take some time to examine these.

The Baseline Agreement Exercise will set out the proposed local authority allocations and will mark the start of a four week engagement period. We intend to publish this before Christmas and to confirm local authority allocations early in the New Year.

We have been listening to your concerns and working with partners across the system to make good progress on some of the issues you have raised on CQUIN, inflation and commissioning costs. I'm pleased to inform you that on commissioning costs, Ministers have agreed to provide £2m extra funding in 15/16 to support the new commissioning responsibilities. More detail on these issues is set out in the factsheet we have published today.

This factsheet can be found [here](#). I have also attached a copy to this email.

Another concern you've raised is on performance data to enable you to understand current and expected performance on the elements that we intend to mandate. I'd encourage you to talk to your local providers, who will be able to give you this information. We are clear that we need to avoid creating new burdens and we intend that any ask of local government will be no greater than the ask of the NHS at the point of transfer.

We recognise that the publication of the baseline figures is later than we had originally planned, but we want to get to the best position possible commensurate with maintaining a reasonable timetable for agreeing contracts and managing transition. I have asked NHS England to continue working with you and to share information with you; I ask that you continue to engage with them.

If you need some extra support, Public Health England Centre Directors and local children's leads, through local networks, can assist in the process of facilitating agreements.

Together we now have a great opportunity to transform services for all children and their families and improve outcomes for 0-5s: let's make sure we use it. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Rouse', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Rouse

Director General of Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships