

**Sent via email**  
A&E Delivery Board Chairs

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25 April 2017

Dear colleagues

**Re: Integration and Better Care Fund Planning 2017-2019**

I write to draw your attention to the opportunity for Board colleagues to be meaningfully involved in the development of the Integration and Better Care plan(s) for your area.

The Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework published on 31 March states at page 29:

**“National Condition 4 – Managing Transfers of Care**

All areas should implement the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfer of Care to support system-wide improvements in transfers of care. [Better Care] narrative plans should set out how local partners will work together to fund and implement this ... Areas should agree a joint approach to funding, implementing and monitoring the impact of these changes, ensuring that all partners are involved, **including relevant Accident and Emergency Delivery Boards.**”

The Integration and Better Care Fund Planning Requirements (the guidance) which underpins the policy framework will be published soon and this will require that bodies responsible for agreeing a Better Care Plan (Local authorities, CCGs and local Health and Wellbeing Boards) should involve providers, including A&E Delivery Boards, in “***agreeing the approach***” taken to implement the high impact model. This suggests an active engagement of A&E Delivery Boards in the development of these elements of the Better Care plan.

This involvement of the A&E Delivery Board will be essential to realise the national ambition set out in the ‘Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View’ that “*hospitals, primary and community care and local councils should work together to ensure people are not stuck in hospital while waiting for delayed community health*”

*and social care ...[and]... ensure that the extra £1 billion provided by the Chancellor for investment in adult social care in the March budget is used in part to reduce delayed transfers of care, thereby helping to free up 2000-3000 acute hospital beds – the equivalent of opening 5 new hospitals” (page 15)*

Once the guidance is published, the first submission deadline for Better Care plans will only be around 6 weeks later. This is a challenging timescale to secure involvement of all local partners, so please can I ask you to have an early conversation with your Health and Wellbeing Board colleagues and local Better Care Fund Lead Officers to ensure that necessary Board meetings, or delegated mechanisms, can be appropriately scheduled in this period.

If you have any difficulties in making contact with your local Better Care leads, please contact the East Midlands Regional Better Care Manager, Wendy Hoult, at [wendy.hoult@nhs.net](mailto:wendy.hoult@nhs.net)

The High Impact Change Model can be found at:  
<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/7058797/Impact+change+model+managin+transfers+of+care/3213644f-f382-4143-94c7-2dc5cd6e3c1a>

The Integration and BCF Policy Framework is at:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integration-and-better-care-fund-policy-framework-2017-to-2019>

Yours sincerely



Jim Heys  
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