

Dear Secretary of State,

Council tax precept in 2017-18 and the 2017-18 allocation of the additional funding for social care provided at the Budget 2017

In reply to your letter of 5th April I am writing to confirm that Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council has increased its council tax to fund adult social care services in 2017-18.

Dudley's council tax (Adult Social Care element) has increased by 3% in 2017-18.

I am also writing to certify that Dudley will use the additional 2017-18 funding for adult social care (as announced in the Spring Budget 2017) to fund adult social care services.

I have completed the table in the spreadsheet attached (*S151 Return*), comparing the changes in adult social care budgets (including overhead and running costs) with those of other non-ringfenced/non-statutory services, including and excluding precept and the additional Budget funding for adult social care.

I certify that the authority will use the funding above 2% to improve the way social care services are delivered in my area, and have set out below how we propose to do so.

The last Population Census confirms that Dudley has a rapidly ageing population. This has been reflected in the profile of people accessing care and support where there has been a significant increase of people aged 85+ requiring domiciliary or residential and nursing support. The borough has a particular challenge in meeting the needs of people with complex and/or latter stage dementia. Over half of the £3m generated by the precept will therefore contribute to meeting demographic pressures and to enable further development of dementia specific care and support. The balance of funding will contribute to the costs of implementing a new client information system for every person accessing care and support in Dudley. The Council's current supplier Northgate will no longer offer a system from 2019 onwards. The new system will enable improved data quality, smarter functionality to enable online assessment and self-assessment functionality. Our aim is that everyone accessing care and support in Dudley is only required to tell their story once and that the system enables seamless and secure sharing of data across the Council.

With regards to the additional funding announced in the Budget the Council has focused upon the eight high impact changes agreed by NHS England and the Local Government Association. We are working on a detailed plan that will prioritise non-recurrent investment for each of the impacts alongside focusing on the viability of the local care market. Our plans will be signed off in partnership with Dudley CCG via the Better Care Fund, by Cabinet and we will also engage the Dudley Group (of Hospitals) via the A+E Delivery Board.

1) Early Discharge Planning

We will increase the number of discharges for people with social care needs per week. We will do so by temporarily increasing our assessment capacity in hospital and by scaling up our Discharge to Assess model (see point 4 below.)

2) Systems to Monitor Patient Flow

We will ensure the daily SIT-Rep (situation report) for discharges is validated and signed off. We will further enhance our systems to identify patients earlier in the discharge pathway.

3) Multi Disciplinary Discharge Teams including the Community/Voluntary Sector

We will build on the multi-disciplinary teams that are already operational across Dudley to ensure the top 200 people at greatest risk of admission to hospital are supported up-stream (i.e. to prevent hospital admission.)

4) Home First/Discharge to Assess (D2A)

We will develop a new outcomes focused model of domiciliary care based hospital discharges. This will build upon the significant impact of D2A last year that saw Dudley improve 26 places in the national league table. This will provide additional investment to domiciliary care providers to acknowledge the impact of the Living Wage and further incentivise performance.

5) Seven Day Services

We will ensure a social work presence in the hospital on a seven day week basis and will encourage the health and social care system to increase the level of discharges over the weekend.

6) Trusted Assessors

We will continue a Trusted Assessor approach that will see an improvement in discharges for people with complex needs (referred to as Pathway three cases). This will see more specialist care and support in the community; particularly for people with Dementia and Continuing Health Care (CHC) checklists completed at home not hospital

7) Focus on Choice

Following the implementation of the Living Wage we have seen some increase in the use of third party top-ups for residential and nursing care for older people. We plan to revise the third party top-up process to reduce the number of patient choice delays in the hospital

8) Enhancing Health in Care Homes

We have embarked on an ambitious pilot of the Airedale (telehealth) scheme in local care homes; starting with those homes who admit residents the most. We will put performance metrics in place to quantify the impact this has on reduced admissions to hospital.

Yours sincerely

Iain Newman, Section 151 officer



Tony Oakman - Strategic Director of People Services

