

From Norman Lamb MP  
Minister of State for Care and Support



Department  
of Health

Richmond House  
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POC3000907718

Dear colleague,

**Transforming care programme - capital funding for adaptations to housing to support transfer of people from inpatient to community-based settings 2014/15**

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Health has assessed your application for capital funding and will be making a grant payment to your local authority in December to invest in additional or improved housing and accommodation projects to facilitate supported housing options for people with learning disabilities, autism and/or challenging behaviour. This will need to be spent by the end of March 2015.

This follows commitments made in *Transforming Care: a national response to Winterbourne View hospital* and the *Winterbourne View Concordat* to:

- review all current in-patient placements and support everyone inappropriately in hospital to move to community-based support, and;
- for local areas to put in place a locally agreed joint plan to ensure high quality care and support services for all people with challenging behaviour which includes appropriate housing in the community.

This is not just about those currently within in-patient settings but also ensuring support for those who are at risk of going into them in future.

NHS England's data from September 2014 showed that 2,600 people remain in inpatient settings and 1,680 of these have an agreed planned transfer date. For people who, with the right support, could and should be living in community-based settings, the lack of appropriate housing can be a barrier. Progress has been very slow to date in achieving both discharges from inpatient settings and reductions in further admissions to inpatient care. We have made this funding available to help show what we can do through provision of appropriate housing to support people with learning

disabilities, autism and/or challenging behaviour to live in the community where that is the right setting for them.

We will make £60,000 available to your local authority underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding (see Annex A). This funding will not be ring-fenced.

The Department of Health has arranged for local authorities receiving capital funding to access support and advice from the Housing and Support Alliance for:

- planning effective and sustainable housing;
- making the capital go as far as possible;
- make connections with experienced housing providers and housing investors;
- support with technical and legal issues, and;
- support to ensure effective support planning and housing brokerage is in place.

This offer includes limited onsite support and unlimited telephone and email support and mentoring. To arrange, email: [kate.newrick@housingandsupport.org.uk](mailto:kate.newrick@housingandsupport.org.uk).

I hope that you will welcome this as evidence of our ongoing commitment to supporting local areas to provide high quality care for people with learning disabilities, autism and/or challenging behaviour and look forward to hearing about how this funding has been used to effect positive changes for this group of people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Lamb', with a horizontal line underneath.

**NORMAN LAMB**

## **Annex A**

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

#### **Transforming Care Grant - Capital funding for adaptations to housing to support transfer of people from inpatient to community-based settings 2014/15**

##### **Purpose of the grant**

1. The intended purpose of the funding is to invest in additional or improved housing and accommodation projects in a targeted way to facilitate supported housing options for people with learning disabilities, autism and/or challenging behaviour. The grant is to spend in line with their winning bids to achieve adaptations to support people with learning disabilities, autism and/or challenging behaviour to live in the community where that is the right setting for them.

##### **Payment Arrangements**

2. The grant will be paid in one single instalment.

##### **Declaration**

3. The Chief Executive and Chief Internal Auditor of each of the recipient authorities is required to return to the Department of Health a signed declaration by 22/12/2014, in the following terms:

“We agree to utilising this one-off grant to enable progress with the implementation of Transforming Care as per this Memorandum of Understanding.”

##### **Declaration returns**

4. To be sent to : Alison.chavasse@dh.gsi.gov.uk