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Quarry House  
Quarry Hill  
Leeds  
LS2 7UE

CCG Clinical Leaders

Direct Tel: 0113 82 51018

cc: CCG Accountable Officers  
Regional Directors  
Directors of Commissioning Operations  
Regional Medical Directors  
Regional IAPT Leads  
UECN chairs  
SRG chairs  
SCN chairs  
Crisis Care Concordat chairs  
MHT CEOs  
Acute trust CEO

8 October 2015

Dear Colleague,

**Re: Pump prime investment in all age 24/7 liaison mental health services in emergency departments (EDs)**

The purpose of this letter is to describe the use of the centrally held non-recurrent fund of £30m to develop adequate and effective levels of all-age liaison mental health services in a greater number of acute hospitals as set out in the 2015/16 planning guidance document, *The Five Year Forward View into Action*.

The funding will be used will be distributed as follows:

- **£25m shared among all CCGs.** This will be for targeted distribution to CCGs to pump prime sustained investment in 24/7 all-age liaison mental health services in emergency departments. CCGs are asked to develop plans within their SRGs describing how this additional investment will be used.
- **£4m to be distributed to CCGs within the UEC Vanguard sites.** These vanguard sites have committed to incorporate mental health crisis as a core part of their work and will test and evaluate all-age models of liaison mental health, including for children and young people and develop the dataset required to ensure inclusion of mental health crisis care in urgent and emergency care payment models. This process will have additional central oversight by the UEC vanguard support team and the NHS England mental health clinical policy and strategy team.
- **£1m (£250k for each region) ring fenced funding to establish a regional programme to prepare for a future anticipated access standard for liaison mental health services in EDs,** funding a programme management resource and dedicated clinical leadership time from liaison mental health (adult and paediatric)

and emergency medicine experts. These clinicians will be a key resource for the assurance of proposals developed by CCGs.

The approach being taken offers a balance of addressing current immediate need and maintaining a focus on the future strategic direction of the NHS via the new models of care programme.

The funding available to your CCG, subject to adequate plan assurance, is shown in Annex A. **Please note 50% of your allocation is being released immediately, with the remaining 50% to be released in December following assurance of investment plans by NHS England regional teams.**

Whilst the £30m non-recurrent funding will not cover the cost of bringing every service to 'Core 24' grading,<sup>1</sup> it is intended to pump prime sustained investment in these services. Liaison mental health services enable people presenting in acute hospitals with mental health needs to receive timely, skilled and compassionate assessment and treatment. The evidence also demonstrates savings of at least £2.50 per £1.00 invested.

While the access standard is being developed, the expectation is that CCGs work towards ensuring that all acute hospitals are operating at 'Core 24' service grading, which is the minimum service grading that the evidence shows will bring benefit to patients whilst generating savings. This includes investing in liaison mental health for children and young people, as well as working age and older adults.

The quality of liaison mental health services and mental health care now forms part of CQC's inspection programme for acute hospitals, with its judgements on their adequacy contributing to acute hospital ratings.

## **1. Plans for pump primed sustained investment**

As part of the planning requirement for 2015/16, CCGs will have already agreed service development improvement plans with their providers, setting out how providers will ensure there are adequate and effective levels of liaison mental health services in acute settings.

With the additional non recurrent funding, CCGs are asked to work with their providers to develop plans for pump priming investment in liaison mental health services in emergency departments, on a SRG footprint. CCGs are encouraged to work collaboratively with other CCGs within the SRG footprint as appropriate, to develop a single plan in respect of liaison mental health services highlighting in their submissions, details of the coordinating CCG.

The investment proposal should clearly identify the level of investment proposed for the relevant ED, the objectives to be achieved and how these will be measured. In developing these proposals, CCGs are expected to engage with relevant leads in their local Crisis Care Concordat group to ensure that the planned investment also supports a

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<sup>1</sup> – Model service specifications for liaison mental health, produced by the South West Strategic Clinical Network (these include the specification for a 'Core 24' service): <http://mentalhealthpartnerships.com/resource/model-service-specifications-for-liaison-psychiatry-services/>

clear coordinated pathway for people experiencing a mental health crisis. CCGs should reference these plans in their Children and Young People's Mental Health (CYPMH) Transformation Plans and record any related investment in the CYPMH financial tracker. If the CCG has already submitted its local transformation plan, this should be referenced in the next iteration and assurance of the tracker.

A template is provided in Annex B to be used to specify investment plans and to monitor their delivery. A self-assessment check list has been provided within this template for use by CCGs to ensure that the necessary key elements have been addressed in their proposals. There is an additional tab in the template for those CCGs who are in the UEC vanguard areas in recognition of the additional requirements they are to meet. Those CCGs will receive separate communication from the central UEC vanguards team to support their ambitions for liaison mental health.

CCGs and providers are advised to consider the following resources in developing their plans:

- a. The report of the 2nd national survey of liaison mental health (Annex C),
- b. A more detailed excel spreadsheet with data from the survey, showing the resource gaps between existing provision in your region and 'Core 24' grading. This is expressed in terms of numbers of consultants and nurses by acute hospital, along with A&E attendance figures for each acute Trust. Data has also been provided regarding existing paediatric liaison resource (Annex D).
- c. The following commissioning resources:
  - Model service specifications for liaison mental health, produced by the South West Strategic Clinical Network (these include the specification for a 'Core 24' service): <http://mentalhealthpartnerships.com/resource/model-service-specifications-for-liaison-psychiatry-services/>
  - Commissioning guidance developed by the Joint Commissioning Panel for Mental Health: <http://www.icpmh.info/good-services/liaison-mental-health-services/>
  - RCPsych guidance on establishing a liaison mental health service: [www.rcpsych.ac.uk/workinpsychiatry/faculties/liaison/members/servicedevlopment.aspx](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/workinpsychiatry/faculties/liaison/members/servicedevlopment.aspx)
  - RCPsych Quality Standards for liaison mental health: <http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/pdf/Standards%204th%20edition%202014.pdf>

It will be important for all plans to demonstrate:

- That they have been informed by expert clinical input and incorporate evidence from supporting resources;
- That they include investments already made in emergency department liaison mental health for children and young people as well as working age and older adults;
- That they are addressing the resource gaps towards achieving the Core 24 service model;

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- The key objectives that will be met with the additional investment and the measurable outcomes it will deliver;
- How the additional investment in liaison mental health services will be sustained in anticipation of a forthcoming access standard (within the next 2 years).

## 2. Funding allocation arrangements

CCG investment proposals should be submitted to NHS England regional teams by midday on **Monday 9 November**. Proposals from CCGs in vanguard areas should also be copied to the NHS England central team via the mailbox:

[England.MentalHealth@nhs.net](mailto:England.MentalHealth@nhs.net).

All investment proposals will be subject to an assurance process coordinated by NHS England regions, led by Director of Commissioning Operations (DCO) teams with support from expert clinicians in liaison mental health (adult and paediatric) and emergency medicine. Your NHS England regional office will send further details confirming the arrangements for the submission of proposals.

The initial 50% of the CCG allocations will be released via an in year revenue transfer this month (in October) with the remainder released in the month 9 (December) allocations once plans are deemed to be fully assured. For efficiency and where feasible, it is suggested that spending plans are aggregated across SRG patches in order to gain economies of scale to secure a more effective outcome with local providers. SRGs are to maintain oversight of the delivery of the local plan to improve liaison mental health services in emergency departments, reporting to regional tripartite groups.

### Key dates and milestones

Date	Milestones
October 2015	CCGs informed of total allocations. 50% of funding to be released immediately to CCGs.
9 November 2015	Submission of CCG pump prime investment proposals for 24/7 all age liaison mental health to NHS England regional teams.
27 November 2015	Assurance process completed by NHS England regional teams.
December 2015	Remaining funding (50%) released to CCGs

Yours sincerely



Karen Turner  
Director of Mental Health  
Mental Health Clinical Policy and Strategy



Sarah Pinto-Duschinsky  
Director of NHS Operations and Delivery