

12 October 2012

Directors of Adult Social Services – Adult Social Work  
Practice Pilot areas:

Surrey County Council;  
Shropshire Council  
Stoke Council  
Birmingham Council  
Suffolk Council  
Lambeth Council  
North East Lincolnshire Council

Dear Directors of Adult Social Services

**Notification of Proposal to Extend Adult Social Care Social Work Practice  
Pilot Sites**

Dear Directors,

I am writing to notify you of, subject to Parliamentary approval, the Department's intention to extend the period for which the Social Work Practice (SWP) pilot sites may run. As you will be aware, SWPs discharge functions of the local authority in providing adult social care services and are responsible for providing the support to people in the SWP to achieve better experiences and better outcomes

The sites were established pursuant to the Secretary of State's letter of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010 which called for expressions of interest and made clear that the pilot programme would run for two years from the summer of 2011 (subject to Parliamentary approval) . The Department's intention is that the SWPs may run until 31 March 2014 (subject to Parliamentary approval)

We have taken this decision following discussions with the Social Care Institute for Excellence who manage the sites on behalf of the Department, and after considering feedback from the sites themselves, including discussion at the meeting with Directors on 1<sup>st</sup> October. The proposed extension will allow the sites to continue providing their services until the independent evaluation has been produced and the Department is in a position to formally consider next steps. Of course, local authorities who wish to extend their SWP pilot schemes may have to renegotiate their contracts with the pilot sites in order to do so.

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the Contracting Out (Local Authorities Social Services Functions) (England) Order 2011 will be amended by the Contracting Out (Local Authorities Social Services Functions) (England) (Amendment)

Order 2012 to give effect to this decision and will come into force on **13 December 2012**. We shall inform you of Parliament's decision in due course.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Vineall".

William Vineall  
Deputy Director, Adult Social Care Policy & Legislation

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Health.