



Department
of Health

From the Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Secretary of State for Health

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Sir David Behan CBE
Chief Executive
Care Quality Commission
151 Buckingham Palace Road
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- 7 JUL 2017

Dear Sir David,

The Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government wrote to you on 2 May 2017 confirming that the Care Quality Commission may undertake preparatory work to enable a series of targeted reviews to take place. I would first like to thank you for that work. With agreement from the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government, I am now formally inviting you to begin the reviews.

Under Section 48 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 we are requesting that you initiate CQC reviews in initial twelve areas, as laid out in **Annex A**, beginning as soon as is practical.

The purpose of the reviews is to better understand the pressures and challenges and identify any areas for improvements in the provision of health and social care within a local system, so that people using services are provided with safe, timely and high quality care.

As agreed with your colleagues, the reviews will be focused on NHS care and adult social services which are provided at the interface of health and social care, including the interface between social care and general primary care, and acute and community health services. The reviews will look at how older people move between health and social care, and the provision of services to those people, including reference to Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC). The reviews will also look at commissioning across the health and adult health and social care interface.

As I'm sure you will be aware, Section 48 requires the CQC to consider whether the reviews raise matters on which it ought to advise me, including appropriate recommendations for special measures if, and when deemed necessary.

Over the coming months I will provide you with a further eight local areas which will undergo targeted review between February and April 2018. We will look at the possibility of including 2 stronger performing areas in these to allow you to draw out good practice lessons. The suspension of reviews over late December and early January will be a good opportunity to provide an interim report regarding the reviews, enabling us to evaluate the methodology and findings to date.

I know you understand the importance of improvement in these 12 areas before the most difficult time for the NHS and the need to draw out common themes that all areas can draw from. I realise completing the first 12 reviews in advance of winter will be a challenge and am very grateful for your commitment to doing everything possible to deliver these in advance of winter. I would be grateful if your team can keep in close touch with my officials and their counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government on this.

I look forward to seeing the findings of this valuable work and continuing to encourage learning to be shared across health and local government.



JEREMY HUNT



Department of Health

Annex A

Initial twelve areas for CQC targeted review:

- Oxfordshire
- Birmingham
- East Sussex
- York
- Coventry
- Plymouth
- Hartlepool
- Bracknell Forest
- Manchester
- Halton
- Trafford
- Stoke-on-Trent

