

The Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC)

Our Business

The Department of Health & Social Care helps people to live more independent, healthier lives for longer. We work closely with our partners in the health and care system, our arm's length bodies (ALBs) and agencies, local authorities, and across government. We are also committed to ensuring that the health and care system puts patient safety and quality at the heart of everything we do.

To achieve these ambitions, the health and care system must be a service that is well-led, continuously improving, driving efficiency and reducing waste, and ensuring public money is spent wisely. This will continue to drive our vision to become a great Department of State.

Our role is to:

- Support and advise our ministers: we help them shape and deliver policy that delivers the government's objectives
- Set direction: we anticipate the future and lead debate ensuring we protect and improve global and domestic health
- Be accountable: we make sure the department and our arm's length bodies deliver on our agreed plans and commitments
- Act as guardians of the health and care framework: we make sure the legislative, financial, administrative, and policy frameworks are fit for purpose and work together, and
- be troubleshooters: in the last resort, the public and parliament expect us to take the action needed to resolve crucial and complex issues.

The Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) provides an analysis of the department and its ALBs property assets and sets out our vision to move forward and support delivery of the Government Estates Strategy.

Our Estate

The department's wider property portfolio is largely made up of ALB properties, which accounts for over 90% of the departmental family estate. The ALB estate is diverse and includes offices, laboratories, blood centres, warehouses, storage facilities and hybrids of these. Many ALBs have regionally based teams who serve particular geographic locations and are based in those locations. Our largest concentrations of staff are based in London, Leeds, Newcastle and Manchester but we are also located in many other cities around the country.

The department has relocated into its new London headquarters at 39 Victoria Street, delivering a modern, smarter working environment, improving efficiency and reducing our central London footprint significantly in the process. The space vacated in Wellington House and Skipton House will enable our ALBs to further consolidate into fewer, less expensive buildings.

The department's space in Quarry House, Leeds will also be modernised. The completion of this work will enable the department to reduce its space in Leeds, achieving significant cost savings and providing a modern workplace for all our staff and visitors.

The department has introduced modern technology and infrastructure to support smarter working in the office, on the move and at home. This allows more staff to be based in the same workplace, increasing property efficiency.

The department has also managed the estate across the health cluster through the approval of lease exemptions by the Property Asset Management board which has resulted in further rationalisation of the health cluster estate.

Our Capability

DHSC and its ALBs continues to drive towards meeting the challenges of the 2015 spending review. We have begun and continue to develop our plans for further rationalisation and colocation through a number of projects during 2018/19. Our ambition is to provide a cost effective, efficient and sustainable estate that supports the department and its ALBs to deliver their business.

To meet our objectives, we are committed to identifying, growing and developing our people to be successful in their roles in leading the health and care system. We will develop our leaders to be confident, inspirational and empowering, supporting high performance and creating a diverse and inclusive workforce where difference is valued.

In the early part of 2018/19 we have rebuilt our property professional capacity and the DHSC estates team is now back up to full complement, with an increased skill and experience level. The department and its ALBs are also supporting the land for housing initiative. The vast majority of the health target is to be met from the sale of NHS land which is outside the scope of this SAMP. Within scope, the department currently has 17 sites and properties identified for disposal.

The department and its ALBs are fully committed and engaged with the Government Hubs Programme. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) will complete their relocation to the East London Hub in 2018. NHS Digital has been working closely with the Government Property Agency (GPA) and HMRC in the design and operation of the new Government Hub in Leeds, exploring design options which will feed in to the planning for future Government Hub locations.

NHS Digital is scheduled to relocate in November 2020, supporting the rationalisation of the public estate in Leeds and delivering a modern workplace for its staff.