



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From Caroline Dinenage MP
Minister of State for Care*

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Ian Trenholm
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Dear Ian

I am writing in response to David Behan's letter of 20 June to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care about the CQC's local system reviews.

I am grateful for the CQC's work to undertake these reviews which I know have helped local systems to examine and focus their efforts on improving services for patients at the boundary of health and social care. I also welcome the summary report that you published in July and we will consider the recommendations the report set out.

The Government has also considered the scope of a further tranche of local system reviews during 2018/19. I am now, with the agreement of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, formally requesting under Section 48 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008, for the CQC to undertake:

- a full review of Staffordshire and Leeds. These two areas have been chosen as poorly performing systems as measured by the Department's health and social care interface dashboard;
- a full review of Reading. This is a system that achieved improvements as measured by the Department's health and social care interface dashboard during 2017/18. The purpose of the review would be to better understand the drivers of the improvement achieved.
- a re-review of three systems, from the first tranche of twelve local system reviews, that the CQC considered to be most challenged during 2017/18. The purpose of the re-reviews in particular is to assess what progress has been

made against the action plans developed as part of the initial local system review; and,

- work to develop and implement a process to monitor progress in the remaining nine areas from the first tranche of reviews.

This work should commence as soon as possible and be completed in 2018/19. The three local system reviews should be completed by December, ahead of winter.

The purpose of the reviews remains to better understand local pressures and challenges, and identify any areas for improvement, 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. The reviews should recognise the nationally commissioned improvement support provided to Staffordshire and Leeds on patient flow and discharge.

The reviews will continue to be focused on NHS and adult social care services which are provided at the interface of health and social care, including social care, primary care, 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. The reviews will also look at commissioning across the adult health and social care interface.

To be clear, the Department is not expecting a further national report to be published from this further work but the focus to be on sharing best practice for local delivery through the review process and local report.

I look forward to seeing further progress in how the CQC can help the NHS and local government to deliver improved services for patients and local communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Dinénage', with a stylized, cursive script.

CAROLINE DINENAGE