

Better Care Fund renewed for 2019 to 2020

Ministers have confirmed that the Better Care Fund will be renewed for 2019 to 2020, bringing the pooled funding to over £6.4 billion.

The [planning requirements published on 18 July](#) will reduce the overall reporting burden on local partnerships while improving the measurement and effectiveness of the Better Care Fund.

The fund provides financial support for councils and NHS organisations to jointly plan and deliver local services. It enables people to leave hospital sooner to get the care they need at home.

Social care related delays to patients being sent home from hospital have been nearly halved since February 2017 following multi-billion government investment in integrating health and social care, the equivalent to freeing up almost 1,200 NHS beds.

The fund has been effective in:

- helping to keep people living independently at home
- providing joined-up reablement services
- reducing delayed discharges across the system
- achieving closer working between the NHS and social care services

This builds on the [NHS Long Term Plan](#)'s aims to create a more integrated and collaborative health and care system.

Minister for Care Caroline Dinenage said:

No one should be stuck in hospital when their treatment has ended – it's not fair to patients or their families and places huge pressure on our hardworking NHS staff. The Better Care Fund is an important part of ending these unnecessary waits in hospital, joining up councils and the health service for the benefit of patients.

Thanks to this government's multi-billion pound investment the fund has significantly reduced delays to discharging patients. We must continue to work together to improve services and give people the best possible experiences of care, a crucial part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

Local Government Minister, Rishi Sunak MP, said:

We're determined to improve the way social care services and the

NHS work together to help society's most vulnerable people.

The Better Care Fund has made a real difference by enabling more people to be cared for at home sooner after treatment, freeing up much-needed hospital beds. This is testament to the hard work of local authorities, the NHS and social care providers working together.

We remain committed to supporting local collaboration so that health and care services continue to improve.