



3 November 2021

Dear care colleagues,

I am delighted to launch the [Adult Social Care: Winter plan 2021 to 2022](#), setting out the Government's support for adult social care this winter, and how we are working with our partners across the sector.

The plan includes the following commitments:

- An investment of over £550 million of funding until 31 March 2022 to support the implementation of measures in the Winter Plan. This includes a £388.3 million extension to the Infection Control and Testing Fund (ICTF) and £162.5 million of funding through the new Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (WRRF).
- The WRRF will support local authorities working with providers to recruit and retain staff. The ICTF will continue to help the sector put in place essential measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.
- An extension of the use of designated settings, including continued access to the Designated Settings Indemnity Scheme until 31 March 2022.
- An IPC Champions Network, hosted by the Queen's Nursing Institute. This forum for IPC experts across the adult social care sector will share and disseminate best practice on IPC and ventilation.

We are making these commitments to support your continued efforts to deliver safe and consistent care over the challenging months ahead. This is alongside our ongoing commitment to delivering enhanced testing and PPE in care settings and stepping up our flu and COVID-19 booster vaccination programmes.

Thanks to the actions you have all taken to protect residents and staff, outbreaks and infection rates among care home residents and staff are now considerably lower than among the general population, while COVID-related deaths in care homes have also greatly reduced. However, we need to remain vigilant to prevent unnecessary deaths. This plan will help us navigate the coming winter period.

All care providers should continue completing the Capacity Tracker regularly and must do so at least once per week to receive funding through the ICTF. The Capacity Tracker provides essential information which is reviewed daily across national, regional and local Health and social care partners. It helps to inform decisions and resolve issues, target support and respond to changes on the frontline quickly, whether through local or national action.



Department
of Health &
Social Care

CARE

Thank you all for your ongoing dedication, compassion, and commitment to keeping those you care for safe, supported and well.

Yours sincerely

GILLIAN KEEGAN