

From the Permanent Secretary  
Sir Chris Wormald



## Department of Health & Social Care

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To: All Local Authority Chief Executives and Directors of Adult Social Care

Dear Colleagues,

### **Government's preparations for a March 2019 'no deal' scenario for adult social care**

I am writing to provide an update on the Government's ongoing preparations for a March 2019 'no deal' Brexit scenario and what the adult social care system needs to consider as we step up preparations in the period leading up to March 2019.

As you will be aware, the Government and the EU have now agreed the basis upon which the UK will leave the EU in March 2019. 'No deal' exit is not the Government's policy, but it is our duty to prepare for all scenarios. Since the Secretary of State's [letter](#) in August, and with the assistance of our arm's-length bodies and industry, the Department for Health and Social Care has strengthened its national contingency plans for 'no deal'. With just over three months remaining until exit day, we have now reached the point where we need to ramp up 'no deal' preparations. This means the Department, alongside all other government departments, will now enact the remaining elements of our 'no deal' plans.

Delivering the deal remains the Government's top priority and is the best 'no deal' mitigation. But in line with the Government's principal operational focus on national 'no deal' planning, actions must now be taken locally to manage the risks of a 'no deal' exit.

I have today written to all adult social care and NHS providers outlining the steps they should be taking now to be prepared for a no deal EU exit. The focus of that communication is on ensuring that providers are prepared for the impact on supply chains, workforce, medicines and data availability. Many of these issues will have either a direct or indirect impact on councils and it is also possible that they will have a financial consequence for providers. I encourage you to work closely with your



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adult social care providers, in line with your legal market shaping duties, to assure yourself that any impact on providers can be managed locally.

Today, we have published the EU Exit Operational Readiness Guidance, which I have included alongside this letter. Adult social care providers are advised to use this guidance as a prompt to test contingency plans. As you will be aware, councils have a legal duty to ensure continuity of services for Local Authority funded service users and self-funders. The recent experience with Allied Healthcare has emphasised the importance of having robust contingency plans in place so that the duty to ensure continuity of services can be met.

As outlined in the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care's letter to adult social care and NHS providers, EU nationals play a critical role in the workforce and I want them to know that they have a secure future here after the UK leaves the EU. As the Prime Minister reiterated recently, regardless of whether we leave the EU with or without a deal, the rights of EU citizens will be protected here.

Through the EU Settlement Scheme, which will launch in early 2019, EU nationals will be able to register for settled status if they have been here for five years, or pre-settled status if they have been here for less than five years. The process to register is simple and largely digital, and will cost £65 per adult and £32.50 per child. I am aware that some employers are planning to meet this cost, and this is something that you may wish to consider asking the adult social care providers within your areas. Along with adult social care providers, we encourage you to fill in the Skills for Care Workforce National Minimum Data Set for Social Care and update it more regularly than they might otherwise do. This data set provides an important source for our national workforce risk assessments and we will be drawing data from it on a regular basis throughout the first six months of next year.

I urge you to also consider and update your contingency plans in light of the impact of EU exit on providers and assure yourselves that they are up to date and consistent with other local contingency plans across the health and care system, in particular those being developed by your Local Resilience Forums. I also encourage you to consider the months following EU Exit, and where appropriate, link with neighbouring local areas to ensure continuity of care is available for the vulnerable individuals who require social care support.

Local Resilience Forums are coordinating efforts to assess the impacts of EU Exit using a template provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Local Authorities may choose to coordinate a multi-agency response to an incident in an emergency through Strategic Coordinating Groups. All organisations in the local health and care economy are strongly encouraged to input to this work. As part of ensuring contact information is up to date, Local Authorities should nominate a local lead who has direct communication lines to named leads for all social care providers in that footprint.

*From the Permanent Secretary  
Sir Chris Wormald*



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

I know that Local Authorities' contingency plans will take into account the potential effects from a 'no deal' EU Exit scenario and you will be considering the impact on vulnerable people who use adult social care services.

The Department of Health and Social Care will work closely with colleagues in the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services to support you in this work and ensure that activity is co-ordinated nationally across the health and care system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Wormald".

**SIR CHRIS WORMALD  
PERMANENT SECRETARY**