

MESSAGE FROM JANE WOOD – AD COMMISSIONING AND INTEGRATION

Dear colleagues,

I understand how challenging it is for social care providers, and in particular care homes, dealing with this pandemic, and many of you have contacted me directly to raise specific issues. From now on I will provide a brief update each week on what is being worked on in the Department of Health & Wellbeing in relation to support for the sector. Key priorities for this week are:

- An approach to support care home sustainability in the face of significant voids is close to final approval. The BCA has been consulted as part of the development of the approach. Details will be shared as soon as possible.
- Additional funding to support IPC in care homes and community services – we understand the Bradford share of the additional £600 million announced by government last week is £5.8 million. We are awaiting full guidance about how to allocate this. The lions share will be directed to care homes. The aim of the funding is to support IPC, similar to the contingency fund payments we have already made based on funded placements on 23rd March.
- The staff care bank through skills house is now operational and there is further guidance in the bulletin about how to use it and how it will be managed in relation to IPC guidance about restricting movement of care staff between settings.
- We will be attempting a provider forum via the BCA Zoom platform on Thursday 21st from 10-12. There will be a full round up of topics and presenters including myself, colleagues from health and from IPC. The session will be recorded and made available to those that cannot join us and there will be an opportunity for posting questions during and after the session.