

<b>Meeting Details:</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Performance Committee 6 June 2023 Trust Board 8 June 2023</b>
<b>Director:</b>	<b>Ms Eimear McCauley, Director of Finance, Contracts and Capital Development</b>
<b>Topic:</b>	<b>2023/24 Department of Health Equality Impact Assessment 2023/24 Budget</b>
<b>Response Required</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To note</b></li> </ul>	<p>The Trust has received a letter from the Permanent Secretary DoH dated 22 May 2023 in relation to the publication of an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) requirement in relation to the 2023/24 Budget outcome and which also went live on the Department’s website that same day.</p> <p>In addition, the Trust is aware of a letter issued to Health Party Spokespersons to inform the decisions taken by the Permanent Secretary in allocating the 2023/24 budget for Department of Health and the publication of the Departments EQIA. On the same day some Trust Board members attended a short NICON briefing at which the key messages were discussed.</p> <p><b>Key messages disclosed in this correspondence and any related impact to Trust are as follows:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DoH is confirming the projected funding gap for 2023/24 of £732m.</li> <li>• HSC has identified approximately £260m of savings and efficiency opportunities which are potentially achievable without long term or irrevocable damage to services. <b><i>The Trust has developed low-medium risk savings plans for £12m against a target of £25m and implementation of plans has commenced.</i></b></li> <li>• A funding gap of c£472m remains which includes c£375m required to fully honour the English pay offer in full for Agenda for Change staff. The Permanent Secretary has made it clear that funding this pay award would require large scale cuts on an unprecedented scale, with severe and lasting implications for health and social care services. He has concluded that taking such a decision would be outwith his authority.</li> <li>• The EQIA sets out an additional £100m of cost reduction measures on top of the £260m noted above and these include as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Additional savings from Trusts against staffing related issues such as agency and shift premia - £55m. <b><i>No additional targets have been issued to Trusts as yet.</i></b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- ii. Reduced Waiting Listing Initiative funding of £35m, however, £61.4m is still available for investment.
- iii. Enhanced savings from Departmental and other spending - £10m which includes reduced funding for the Departments Core Grant Scheme meaning C&V organisations will only receive core grant funding for the first half of the financial year. It is noted that this is a relatively small part of the total expenditure which goes to that sector.

The document indicates other areas which will be considered for savings should the £100m of savings not be yielded as indicated including, reduction in expenditure on community aids and adaptations, reductions to education and training places, reductions to community care provision, e.g. domiciliary care, nursing and residential care.

- A number of other areas where spending has had to be curtailed where a funding source is no longer available, the most significant of which are:
  - The additional 300 places for nursing and midwifery for 2023/24 committed under New Decade New Approach as part of a 3 year growth of 900 placements cannot proceed;
  - The one-off increase in AHP training posts in 2022/23 of 41 extra places cannot be replicated in 2023/24.
  - Discontinuation of financial support for general Dental practitioners;
  - Discontinuation of Water Surveillance Programme.
- With regard to Capital, the budget settlement is £468.6m and will enable the Department to fund existing priorities however it significantly falls short of the capital funding required to progress the Departments Capital investment programme. As a consequence the number of new projects, which DoH had wanted to commence in 2023/24, has been scaled down, however it has been confirmed that the new Mental Health Unit for the Trust will proceed as planned.

The consultation will close on 14 August 2023.