

To: NHS Accountable Officers  
Cc: Local Government Chief Executive Officers

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## **Planning for operational resilience in health and social care during 2014/15**

Today we have published a framework to support planning for operational resilience during 2014/15. This will cover both urgent and planned care.

This builds on your successful work in 2013/14 through Urgent Care Working Groups (UCWGs) which brought together key players across health and social care to provide a cross-system approach to delivery of services to patients over the winter period.

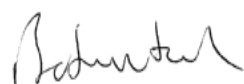
The guidance sets out best practice requirements across planned and urgent and emergency care that each local system should reflect in their local plan, as well as providing information on more general delivery requirements such as operational planning, patient experience and planning for higher dependency patient groups. The guidance also advises of the timetable for completion of local plans and the assurance process that will be completed in relation to these over the next few months.

As a result of the inclusion of planned care, we expect UCWG to evolve into System Resilience Groups and for these groups to broaden their approach to cover year round system resilience that encompasses elective as well as urgent and emergency care.

Quality, access and financial balance are equally important. It is therefore essential that SRGs assure themselves that overall plans are affordable and do not lead to a deterioration in the financial position of member organisations.

This wider remit is partly informed by the recent pressures that have been seen in delivery of the RTT standard, but is primarily driven by the principle of good local healthcare planning being equally focussed and resilient across planned and urgent care.

The guidance sets out the timetable for the delivery of plans as well as the assurance arrangements to be undertaken by the four organisations. We look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming months.



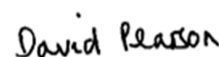
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