



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



**From**

Tom Surrey,  
Director, Quality  
Adult Social Care Group,  
[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

**To:**

Local Authority Chief Executives  
Directors of Adult Social Services

30 September 2020

Dear colleague

**Adult Social Care Service Continuity and Care Market Review**

The [Government's adult social care coronavirus \(COVID-19\) winter plan 2020 to 2021](#), published on 18<sup>th</sup> September, underlines the Government's commitment to support Local Authorities and the wider care sector to ensure that high quality, safe and timely care is provided to everyone who needs it. This care and support is relied on every single day and night and I recognise how much work is being undertaken by Local Authorities to secure it in the face of pressures brought about by Covid 19, as we head for winter.

The Winter Plan stated that the Department, in partnership with ADASS and the LGA, will be carrying out a **Service Continuity and Care Market Review** in the autumn. This review aims to establish the strength of the plans every Local Authority has in place, and what additional intensive support may be needed, to secure sufficient, sustainable and suitable capacity over winter to maintain continuity of provision. **I am writing to ask you to take part in the review.**

The review will help us reach a shared view of:

- risks to adult social care continuity of care arrangements in all settings and for all providers up to the end of March 2020, in the light of your Care Act responsibilities;
- your contingency plans and arrangements to mitigate these risks;
- local needs for targeted and intensive support through national or regional arrangements;
- examples of innovation and good practice which can be shared.

We have engaged Ian Winter CBE as Project Delivery Director to lead the delivery of the review. He has extensive sector experience, both as a DASS, and working for DHSC. He and his team will be available to provide additional guidance and support to you.

The ADASS regions and CHIP will also provide support during the process, as well as adding a commentary on preparations at the regional level and any feedback to government. We are very

grateful for the support of ADASS and the LGA in the development of the review process and for their assistance in delivering this project.

The review will include a self-assessment questionnaire we are asking you to complete, followed by work on regional and national overviews. The questions will explore your approach to mitigating risk, underpinned by your examples of good practice and what works well. We are encouraging Local Authorities to share their self-assessments with other Local Authorities in your region and with regional ADASS and CHIP partners, so that regional risks and mutual aid can be considered.

**Please contact [servicecontinuitysaq@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:servicecontinuitysaq@dhsc.gov.uk) if you have any questions about the self - assessment questionnaire or the review process. The date to complete the guided self-assessment questionnaire by is midnight Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October.**

We will draw this information together with other analysis, to produce a final report in mid-November, as well as sharing key findings with LGA, ADASS and Local Authorities. We are already working with LGA and ADASS on the targeted intensive support that will follow on for Local Authorities.

We are fully aware of the pressures and demands on you all and have taken time to design this questionnaire and process with LGA and ADASS in order to minimise the demand it places on Local Authorities at this challenging time.

Can I thank you again for your tireless work in challenging circumstances providing care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yours sincerely



Tom Surrey  
Director, Adult Social Care, Quality