

# **Brexit implications for Health and Social Care**



**Health and Social Care - Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee 20 March 2019**

# National Developments



- As at 18 March EU/UK were still deadlocked on the Northern Ireland backstop, last week :-
- The withdrawal agreement and political framework were rejected a second time (but there may yet be a third meaningful vote)
- Parliament voted against leaving without a deal and to extend article 50 but as it stands no deal is still the default option
- Working assumption for us is 'no deal' until either a) a deal with the EU is in place, or b) article 50 is withdrawn or postponed

# Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) expectations



Checklist of things MHCLG expected to have in place:-

- All the statutory services for which the council is responsible
- All regulatory services for which the council is responsible
- The impact (direct or indirect) of any Border areas
- The impact on supply chains
- Data handling
- Local partnership working
- Communications

# Dep't of Health & Social Care



**Actions to prepare for a 'no deal' scenario.**

**EU Exit Operational Readiness Guidance lists 7 areas of concern.**

- supply of medicines and vaccines;
- supply of medical devices and clinical consumables;
- supply of non-clinical consumables, goods and services;
- workforce;
- reciprocal healthcare;
- research and clinical trials; and
- data sharing, processing and access.

# Supply of medicines and vaccines



- Three-quarters of the medicines and vaccines we use come from or via the EU
- DHSC is working with industry and the health and care system to maintain supplies to the UK
- Securing freight, buffer stocks, stockpiling and warehousing, and regulatory flexibility will help to ensure the continuation of medical supplies
- Local stockpiling is unnecessary, important that patients order their repeat prescriptions as normal
- The supply of medicines and medical products should be uninterrupted

# Supply of medical devices and clinical consumables



- All suppliers that regularly source products from EU countries asked to review their supply chains
- Working to ensure there is sufficient roll-on/roll-off freight capacity to enable medicines and medical products to move freely into the UK
- No need for health and adult social care providers to stockpile additional medical devices and clinical consumables beyond business as usual stock levels
- We have identified local risks around PPE equipment and nuclear material
- We are working on local protocol to enable pooling of PPE equipment

# Supply of non-clinical consumables, goods and services



- Reviewing and managing relevant categories at national level including food and laundry services
- Supply chain reviews across the health and social care system to assess commercial risks
- Engaging with suppliers and industry experts to identify and plan for any supply disruption
- Guidance pending, on basis of NHS self-assessment tool results, e.g. substitute food items
- Local business continuity plans have been updated, all suppliers (500+) contacted and risk assessed
- Fuel plans in place and now liaising with providers to identify staff mobility requirements

# Workforce



- Less exposed than other areas as EU care workers make up smaller proportion of our workforce, but may be high in some sectors
- Recruitment to care sector generally challenging and workforce turn over is high, need to consider cross sectoral competition for labour
- Settlement scheme aimed at persuading EU migrants already resident here to stay, immigration bill includes temporary scheme for care workers
- Considered a high risk as contract headroom is minimal and the need to fund any additional pay would impact on contract viability



# Reciprocal healthcare, research, clinical trials and data sharing.



- Reciprocal healthcare – we will signpost Government advice to UK residents travelling to the EU and to EU nationals living in the UK
- Research - successful bids for EU programme funding until the end of 2020 will receive their full financial allocation for the lifetime of the project
- Clinical trials - no action required around clinical networks, organisations should contact trial sponsors and follow the normal process for seeking regulatory approval
- Data sharing – DELT have necessary continuity arrangements in place issue around cloud storage

# Summary of key local risks and mitigation



- Brittany ferries operating freight contract via Millbay- no disruption to port is anticipated
- Business continuity – all social care providers contacted and advised about need to ensure business continuity plans are in place.
- Workforce – vulnerabilities understood and communicated to government
- Proactive discussion with Health around pooling PPE ongoing, e.g. latex gloves and other infection control.
- Fuel plans in place and discussed with Livewell and providers to identify staff mobility requirements.