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**Media release**

## **NHS North Somerset receives extra funding To help people leaving hospital**

NHS North Somerset is to receive nearly £635,000, part of a £162 million package from the Department of Health to spend on front line services. The money is being made available available to local health and care services to spend this financial year, thanks to a successful efficiency drive, Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has announced.

The extra money will be spent on helping people to leave hospital more quickly, get settled back at home with the support they need, and to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital.

The Health Secretary explained: ““Savings have been made in the Department of Health’s budget which can now be invested in frontline NHS services. It’s really important, particularly at this time of year, that we help people to leave hospital as quickly as they can, when they are ready. Older people often need particular support after a spell in hospital to settle back into their homes, recover their strength and regain their independence. This money will enable the NHS and social care to work better together for the benefit of patients.

The money allocated to NHS North Somerset will be transferred to North Somerset Council to spend on social care support. Both organisations will discussed how best to use the additional funding to make the greatest impact on

relieving additional pressures on North Somerset hospitals over the winter period.

Examples of the kinds of services that could be invested in are:

- additional short-term residential care places, or respite and intermediate care;
- more capacity for home care support, investment in equipment, adaptations and telecare;
- investment in crisis response teams and other preventative services to avoid unnecessary admission to hospital; and
- further investment in reablement and rehabilitation services, to help people regain their independence and reduce the need for ongoing care. PCTs and councils have already received additional funding this year to expand reablement services.

There will be further long-term investment in occupational therapists, who are vital to reablement and rehabilitation services, and homecare equipment services which support people to live at home independently.

The extra £162 million funding is in addition to the previously announced £70 million that the NHS will spend this year on reablement services, and there will be a further provision of £300 million by 2014-15 for continued investment in these vital front line services. The Department has made efficiency savings by applying the controls over central spending on consultancy, IT, administration and advertising common across all of Government.

The NHS is already planning on spending an additional £800 million from April on support to social care that benefits health. This was part of the package of measures in the Spending Review to provide an additional £2 billion for social care, in recognition of the importance of these services to hundreds of thousands of families.

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to Editors**

- NHS North Somerset is the local Primary Care Trust for North Somerset. The trust was established in April 2002 to ensure the provision of the highest quality healthcare services to the residents of North Somerset. It was recently assessed as one of the most improved PCTs in England by the Care Quality Commission.

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