

Action Cerebral Palsy

Political & Parliamentary Monitoring – Week commencing 15th January 2018

This week, the Government has confirmed that it will continue to cut the public health funding allocated to local authorities in 2018/19 and 2019/20; it has been reported that the NHS is now losing 10% of its nurses each year; and the Welsh Government has published its Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care.

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Public health budget to be further reduced

The Government has confirmed that it will continue to [cut the public health funding](#) allocated to local authorities in 2018/19 and 2019/20, with a loss of £85 million in funding for each year. The reductions equate to a 5% reduction from existing allocations, and are on top of previous reductions announced for budgets up to 2020/21. Izzi Seccombe, Chair of the Local Government Association's community wellbeing board, said that "The government announced an extra £2.8bn for the NHS in the autumn budget. But to then take vital money away from the services which can be used to prevent illness and the need for treatment later down the line and ease the pressure on the NHS is extremely counter-productive."

The Government [also confirmed](#) that it will change how public health funding is distributed from 2020, by allowing local authorities to retain their own business rates – these are currently collected centrally and then redistributed in a grant. The chief executive of the Association of Directors of Public Health, Nicola Close, warned that this could exacerbate health inequalities in poorer areas that do not receive as much business rate income.

CQC chief executive to stand down in the summer

The chief executive of the Care Quality Commission, Sir David Behan, has [announced](#) this week he will step down from the organisation in the summer, after six years. The CQC will begin its search for his replacement immediately, and the Health Secretary said of Sir David's resignation that "he

deserves great credit for overhauling healthcare regulation in this country to put quality and safety at the heart of the ratings system.” Sir David highlighted that during his tenure the CQC has “inspected every hospital, adult social care provider and GP practice in the country – over 28,000 services and providers – and in the process developed a baseline on quality that is unique to anywhere in the world.”

NHS losing 10% of nurses each year

Statistics have emerged this week demonstrating that one in ten nurses left the NHS in each of the last three years, with 33,000 leaving last year. The figures mean that more nurses are now leaving the NHS than joining – in 2016/17 3,000 more nurses left than joined the health service. The problem has been attributed to workload pressures within the NHS and Brexit, as more EU nurses are now leaving than coming to the UK to work for the NHS. The head of the Royal College of Nursing, Janet Davies, said "The next generation of British nurses aren't coming through just as the most experienced nurses are becoming demoralised and leaving." The Department of Health said that initiatives are being implemented to tempt nurses to stay in the workforce, including transfers to different jobs, mentoring and staff awards.