

## Review of the NHS Funded Nursing Care (FNC) Rate in England

### Overview and Objectives

The Department of Health has commissioned an **independent review** across England to consider the costs of providing registered nursing care as part of a package of care in a nursing home. The current FNC standard rate is £112 per week per person.

The project will provide a transparent and robust mechanism for determining the actual cost of registered nursing care to inform a re-assessment of the current FNC rate and the basis for annual uplifts.

### Introduction to Mazars LLP

Following a formal procurement process, the Department of Health has appointed Mazars LLP to undertake this project over the period from November 2015 to February 2016.

Mazars are an independent firm of professional advisors with specific experience in the health and social care sector as well as in carrying out similar assignments. Their team includes nursing, technical costing and modelling expertise.

### Mazars' Core Team

Overall leadership of the assignment is provided by **Bob Green**, Engagement Partner and Mazars' UK Lead for Health and Social care Advisory Services. **Mary-Ann Bruce** is Director of the team; she is a nurse and provides overall clinical leadership. **Tom Brichieri-Colombi** is Lead Partner with oversight of the technical modelling aspects of the project.



#### Michelle Carberry

Michelle is the **Engagement Manager**. She is an experienced finance professional with over 25 years' commercial and operational experience in the public sector. Michelle will liaise with all parties to understand technical complexities and manage the input of the team.



#### Alison Wright

Alison is the **Data Management and Modelling Lead**. She will develop the survey and costing tools ensuring the data collection tool is efficient, user-friendly and data is anonymised. Alison will also provide training, guidance and ad hoc support to participants.



#### Jane Valle

Jane is the **Communication and Engagement Lead** and is **your prime point of contact** (details provided below). Jane is a registered nurse and has worked in care homes. She will liaise with care home representatives to ensure an effective process for data collation and act as a focal point for issues and concerns.

### Communication and Engagement

The Mazars' team will work with the Department of Health and a range of stakeholders involved in the project, including representation from the NHS, Local Authorities and care sector providers. They will ensure a comprehensive programme of engagement to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to take part in the exercise and express their views.

During the first phase of the project there will be a series of opportunities to get involved in the process through engagement sessions and other communication mechanisms. Mazars will also be setting up a dedicated web-site to provide communication and updates on the progress of the project. Further details will follow.

## **Process**

Following the engagement phase, the team will be working directly with the sector to collect cost and activity information from nursing homes through a survey of those operators who are willing to participate. A key objective is to ensure a representative sample of homes across regions and by type of home and this is being taken into account as part of planning. The data collected will be modelled, aggregated and analysed to provide intelligence on costs for funded nursing care across England.

Mazars will be working independently with nursing home providers, maintaining the integrity of the process at all times. All information from individual homes submitted for the purposes of the exercise will be kept in complete confidence and will not be shared with third parties.

## **Next Steps**

There are tight timescales for the project, due to the need to complete the exercise before the start of the next financial year. Following the engagement phase and finalisation of the methodology, the plan is for the survey to take place in January 2016 with project completion by mid-February.

Mazars is in the process of building a database of registered nursing homes through the CQC in accordance with the CQC's information governance requirements. Mazars will contact homes directly through an "Invitation to Participate" at the beginning of December 2015.

## **For further information, please contact:**

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