

Publications approval reference: 001559

To:

Chief executives of all NHS trusts and foundation trusts

CCG Accountable Officers

GP practices and Primary Care Networks

Providers of community health services

16 April 2020

Dear colleague

### **HMT funding for the hospice sector to support the COVID-19 response**

On 10 April 2020, the Government announced additional funding of up to £200 million over the next three months to enable the NHS to purchase extra support from hospices to deliver additional inpatient beds and end of life community services.

Hospices provide vital care to patients of all ages through both inpatient and community provision through multi-disciplinary workforce and a large number of volunteers.

The funding will be provided via a grant agreement between NHS England/NHS Improvement and Hospice UK. Hospice UK is now in the process of allocating specific funding grants to each of the 200 hospices across England.

Hospices will immediately make available up to 80% of their bed capacity, totalling 6800 beds per day and 60% of their community capacity, totalling 82,000 community contacts per day (based on 3 visits per day). The arrangements for this additional capacity will be in place for at least three months, but capacity requirements will be reviewed on a monthly basis. Due diligence and scrutiny procedures are in place to reduce the risk of over or under payment. Providers will need to upload their hospice beds and community capacity onto the national tracker twice daily.

Without this urgent solution there would be a risk that capacity will not be available when required, leading to additional pressures on acute and community hospitals and we will continue to work with local systems to ensure we reconcile local demand and capacity.

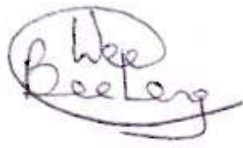
Yours faithfully



Matthew Winn

Director Community Health

NHS England and NHS Improvement

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Bee Wee". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Bee" written above the second name "Wee".

Professor Bee Wee

National Clinical Director for Palliative and End of Life Care,  
NHS England and NHS Improvement

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Sanderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with multiple overlapping loops.

James Sanderson

Director, NHS Personalised Care  
NHS England and NHS Improvement