

LOCAL AUTHORITY CIRCULAR**LAC(2006)2**

To: The Chief Executive
County Councils)
Metropolitan District Councils) England
Shire Unitary Councils)
London Borough Councils
Common Council of the City of London
Council of the Isles of Scilly

Chief Executive - Care Trusts
Chief Executive - Strategic Health Authorities

The Director of Social Services

3 February 2006

**GUIDANCE ON THE ACCESS AND SYSTEMS CAPACITY GRANT AND
THE DELAYED DISCHARGES GRANT FOR 2006/07 AND 2007/08****1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This guidance highlights the arrangements for payment of the Access and Systems Capacity Grant and the Delayed Discharges Grant for the tax years 2006/07 and 2007/08.
- 1.2 In 2006/07 and 2007/08, the **Access and Systems Capacity Grant** totals £546 million (see Annex A for allocation to Local Authorities). This includes an additional £4 million in both years to allow local authorities to meet any liabilities arising from the repeal of the Liable Relative Rules. No other recurrent or non-recurrent addition has been made to this grant in either year. The purpose of the grant is to build up community based social care services, and to help more older people live at home. It is at councils' discretion to determine what balance of services best suits the needs of older people locally.
- 1.3 Councils are strongly encouraged to work closely with their housing partners and the local 'Supporting People' committee to ensure that the money is spent effectively and that Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs) maintain a key role in the provision of services to older people, supporting them to remain in their own home.
- 1.4 In line with the key aims of the Government White Paper *Your Health, Your Care, Your Say*, the Access and Systems Capacity Grant supports the principle of meeting people's aspirations for independence and greater control over their lives, by helping to make services flexible and responsive to individual needs. Councils are encouraged to use the grant to shift to a greater emphasis on supporting people in their own homes.
- 1.5 The **Delayed Discharges Grant** totals £100 million for both 2006/07 and 2007/08, and represents additional resources originally introduced to accompany the Community Care (Delayed Discharges etc.) Act 2003 – (see Annex A for allocations to local authorities). The aim of the Delayed Discharge grant is to encourage local authorities to work with

health partners to invest to tackle the causes of delay in their local health and social care systems.

- 1.6 Authorities should note that both grants will be paid under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 and there will be no conditions attached to their grant payments.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE ACCESS AND SYSTEMS CAPACITY GRANT

- 2.1 The 2002 Spending Review outlined new resources to increase capacity and choice in the range of community based services available for older people, including new targets for assessment (all to begin within 48 hours and completed within 4 weeks) and provision of services (all services to be provided within 4 weeks).

- 2.2 As a result of the Spending Review 2004, the Department agreed a new Public Service Agreement (PSA) with the Treasury. For older people's services the target is to:

Improve the quality of life and independence of vulnerable older people by supporting them to live in their own home where possible, by:

- *Increasing the proportion of older people being supported to live in their own home by 1% annually in 2007 and 2008; and*
- *Increasing, by 2008, the proportion of those supported intensively to live at home to 34% of the total of those supported at home or in residential care.*

- 2.3 The Access and Systems Capacity Grant will enable councils to contribute to the PSA target, and to help a larger number of older people to live independently at home.

- 2.4 Councils are strongly encouraged to work with NHS partners when planning investment in services.

- 2.5 Both the Access and Systems Capacity and the Delayed Discharges Grants can be used for revenue or capital purposes.

- 2.6 Authorities are not required to submit a report on their expenditure of these grants. However, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI)'s 'Delivery and Improvement Statement' (DIS) will contain questions about the expansion of services covered by these grants and will allow the Department of Health to gauge progress.

2.7 Repeal of Liable Relative Rules (LRR) from 2006/07

Under sections 42 and 43 of the National Assistance Act 1948, where a person goes into residential care and receives social services' assistance from a local authority in meeting the cost of that care, the local authority has discretionary powers to ask the person's "liable relatives" to make payments towards the costs incurred by the state. Since the introduction of the Child Support Agency in April 1993 the rule has effectively only applied to married or divorced couples. As the rule is now widely regarded as anachronistic, the Government intends to repeal these provisions.

In the consultation on changes to the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations and the Charges for Residential Accommodation Guide in October 2003 and April 2004, DH notified local authorities that it planned to seek the repeal of these rules by primary legislation at the earliest opportunity, and not later than April 2007. In the interim, DH strongly encourages councils to exercise their discretion in favour of not applying the liable relatives rule.

To meet its responsibilities under the new burdens principle, DH has provided additional annual funding of £4 million to meet the costs of repealing the LRR. This will be allocated to local authorities through the Access and Systems Capacity Grant.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE DELAYED DISCHARGES GRANT

- 3.1 This grant was introduced in 2003/04 in support of the Community Care (Delayed Discharges etc.) Act 2003. This legislation introduced reimbursement charges, payable by local authorities to NHS Trusts, for those delays for which they are solely responsible. The aim of the grant is to encourage local authorities to work with health partners to invest in appropriate out of hospital services to tackle the causes of delay anywhere in their local system, including services not currently covered by the reimbursement legislation.

4. PAYMENT AND CERTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 Councils will be paid their grant allocations in two instalments for each grant, in April and October 2006. Three star social services councils will be paid their full grant allocations in April 2006. Authorities will not be subject to auditor certification of their grant spend.

5. CANCELLATION OF CIRCULARS

- 5.1 This Circular should be cancelled on 31 March 2006.

6. ENQUIRIES

- 6.1 Enquiries about this Circular [and its enclosures] should be made to:

Simon Medcalf
Department of Health
Room 116 Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG
Simon.medcalf@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Mark Woolsey
Department of Health
Room 126 Wellington House
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG
Mark.woolsey@dh.gsi.gov.uk

Further copies of this Circular may be obtained from Department of Health, PO Box 777, London SE1 6XH, Tel. 0870155 5455 or Fax 01623 724 524. Please quote the code and serial number appearing on the top right-hand corner. Current circulars are now listed on the Department of Health web site on the Internet at: <http://www.doh.gov.uk/publications/coinh.html> Full text of recent circulars is also accessible at this site.

ANNEX A

Local Authority	Access and Systems Capacity Grant 2006/07 (£)	Access and Systems Capacity Grant 2007/08 (£)	Delayed Discharge Grant 2006/07 (£)	Delayed Discharge Grant 2007/08 (£)
Principal Metropolitan Cities	43,943,378	42,911,813	7,896,217	7,761,441
Other Metropolitan Districts	92,863,783	91,332,422	16,750,221	16,553,840
Metropolitan Sub Total	136,807,161	134,244,235	24,646,438	24,315,280
Inner London	34,913,948	34,804,823	6,417,317	6,357,761
Outer London	49,594,789	48,493,314	8,901,409	8,751,728
London Sub total	84,508,737	83,298,138	15,318,726	15,109,489
Shire Counties	238,203,958	241,674,899	44,102,428	44,619,885
Shire Unitary Authorities	86,480,144	86,782,728	15,932,409	15,955,346
Shire sub total	324,684,102	328,457,627	60,034,836	60,575,231
England Total	546,000,000	546,000,000	100,000,000	100,000,000

Local Authority	Access and Systems Capacity Grant 2006/07 (£)	Access and Systems Capacity Grant 2007/08 (£)	Delayed Discharge Grant 2006/07 (£)	Delayed Discharge Grant 2007/08 (£)
<i>Principal Metropolitan Cities</i>				
Birmingham	12,909,688	12,588,883	2,329,290	2,302,425
Leeds	7,794,478	7,711,177	1,423,128	1,416,271
Liverpool	6,859,496	6,674,290	1,222,373	1,189,369
Manchester	5,701,869	5,547,918	1,016,082	988,648
Newcastle upon Tyne	3,620,801	3,523,039	647,766	638,984
Sheffield	7,057,046	6,866,505	1,257,577	1,225,743
Sub-Total	43,943,378	42,911,813	7,896,217	7,761,441
<i>Other Metropolitan Districts</i>				
Barnsley	2,871,984	2,794,440	511,792	497,974
Bolton	3,070,821	3,041,648	556,720	558,296
Bradford	4,721,237	4,779,633	881,783	884,018
Bury	1,857,241	1,853,509	339,802	341,071
Calderdale	1,971,672	2,085,644	383,589	390,600
Coventry	3,374,785	3,343,314	617,644	614,386
Doncaster	3,408,679	3,316,645	607,432	591,032
Dudley	3,861,738	3,773,046	689,439	689,445
Gateshead	2,744,282	2,670,186	489,036	480,117
Kirklees	3,851,564	3,838,886	703,820	706,133
Knowsley	2,255,347	2,194,453	401,906	391,055
North Tyneside	2,530,364	2,465,554	453,937	450,551
Oldham	2,472,544	2,460,242	451,584	452,369
Rochdale	2,296,541	2,328,137	427,598	430,549
Rotherham	3,237,860	3,150,438	576,992	561,413
Salford	3,268,843	3,180,584	582,513	566,785
Sandwell	4,387,766	4,269,296	781,907	760,795
Sefton	3,653,402	3,568,000	654,950	652,248
Solihull	1,982,979	1,929,439	353,370	347,526
South Tyneside	2,304,629	2,242,404	410,689	400,022
St Helens	2,303,296	2,241,107	410,451	399,369
Stockport	2,969,529	2,984,779	548,159	550,554
Sunderland	3,857,459	3,753,307	687,405	668,845
Tameside	2,619,156	2,598,691	476,641	477,362
Trafford	2,298,189	2,236,138	410,094	404,981
Wakefield	3,945,367	3,838,842	703,070	684,087
Walsall	3,548,334	3,452,529	632,319	621,084
Wigan	3,635,827	3,537,660	647,910	641,599
Wirral	4,061,055	3,997,113	733,733	732,484
Wolverhampton	3,501,294	3,406,759	623,936	607,090
Sub-Total	92,863,783	91,332,422	16,750,221	16,553,840

Metropolitan Sub-total	136,807,161	134,244,235	24,646,438	24,315,280
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Local Authority	Access and Systems Capacity Grant 2006/07 (£)	Access and Systems Capacity Grant 2007/08 (£)	Delayed Discharge Grant 2006/07 (£)	Delayed Discharge Grant 2007/08 (£)
<i>Inner London</i>				
City of London	121,559	124,267	23,020	23,062
Camden	2,817,277	2,791,465	515,432	512,969
Greenwich	3,206,572	3,119,995	571,417	555,988
Hackney	3,090,000	3,197,158	591,948	595,425
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,156,485	2,137,190	396,755	393,020
Islington	2,652,868	2,645,825	492,167	487,624
Kensington and Chelsea	1,970,736	2,214,282	404,424	421,264
Lambeth	3,086,016	3,002,693	553,296	543,719
Lewisham	3,207,593	3,120,988	575,836	566,627
Southwark	3,481,418	3,387,420	620,395	604,978
Tower Hamlets	2,985,462	2,916,272	544,329	534,225
Wandsworth	3,246,091	3,158,446	578,458	562,840
Westminster	2,891,871	2,988,823	549,841	556,020
Sub-total	34,913,948	34,804,823	6,417,317	6,357,761
<i>Outer London</i>				
Barking and Dagenham	2,393,358	2,328,737	426,500	414,984
Barnet	3,658,075	3,563,708	655,953	651,167
Bexley	2,253,176	2,192,340	401,519	390,678
Brent	3,005,563	2,924,413	535,596	521,135
Bromley	2,858,734	2,848,402	523,781	524,075
Croydon	2,916,023	2,837,290	519,640	505,610
Ealing	3,210,676	3,123,988	572,147	556,699
Enfield	2,929,921	2,919,990	537,469	537,347
Haringey	2,181,943	2,184,465	403,398	402,712
Harrow	2,488,375	2,434,126	445,910	445,088
Havering	2,483,545	2,416,490	442,572	436,112
Hillingdon	2,551,875	2,482,975	454,748	442,470
Hounslow	2,208,143	2,148,523	393,495	382,870
Kingston upon Thames	1,363,290	1,326,481	242,941	239,011
Merton	1,833,729	1,784,218	326,773	317,950
Newham	2,704,667	2,649,415	489,416	485,157
Redbridge	2,581,475	2,511,775	460,023	447,602
Richmond upon Thames	1,691,284	1,645,619	301,390	293,252
Sutton	1,866,729	1,816,328	332,654	327,288
Waltham Forest	2,414,209	2,354,031	435,485	430,517
Sub-total	49,594,789	48,493,314	8,901,409	8,751,728
London Sub-total	84,508,737	83,298,138	15,318,726	15,109,489

Local Authority	Access and Systems Capacity Grant 2006/07 (£)	Access and Systems Capacity Grant 2007/08 (£)	Delayed Discharge Grant 2006/07 (£)	Delayed Discharge Grant 2007/08 (£)
Shire Counties				
Bedfordshire	3,443,961	3,400,096	619,748	623,145
Buckinghamshire	4,288,895	4,194,462	764,964	766,507
Cambridgeshire	5,282,266	5,435,453	987,315	1,008,355
Cheshire	7,013,515	6,832,813	1,249,819	1,247,574
Cornwall	6,163,708	6,515,469	1,188,801	1,218,835
Cumbria	5,837,713	5,836,175	1,064,841	1,073,899
Derbyshire	8,708,129	8,595,900	1,566,007	1,575,224
Devon	7,995,893	8,537,676	1,558,006	1,601,713
Dorset	4,357,782	4,646,934	848,855	871,568
Durham	6,677,080	6,496,799	1,189,866	1,164,301
East Sussex	5,801,983	6,127,786	1,123,784	1,146,714
Essex	13,586,707	13,955,013	2,546,816	2,588,885
Gloucestershire	5,695,983	5,838,574	1,067,735	1,082,765
Hampshire	10,728,088	10,759,410	1,958,862	1,981,228
Hertfordshire	10,992,197	10,695,407	1,958,827	1,923,601
Kent	13,151,516	13,386,391	2,446,539	2,477,136
Lancashire	11,760,729	12,011,951	2,196,166	2,225,179
Leicestershire	5,363,527	5,417,133	986,844	999,712
Lincolnshire	6,929,758	7,322,688	1,329,863	1,368,957
Norfolk	9,001,448	9,646,223	1,760,091	1,811,499
North Yorkshire	5,570,658	5,820,031	1,061,957	1,085,089
Northamptonshire	5,727,808	5,830,075	1,061,545	1,078,370
Northumberland	3,695,939	3,624,812	660,948	662,984
Nottinghamshire	7,800,060	7,635,316	1,392,395	1,395,691
Oxfordshire	5,618,140	5,610,721	1,023,800	1,032,091
Shropshire	3,262,157	3,305,688	600,779	610,492
Somerset	5,463,823	5,741,030	1,047,319	1,072,094
Staffordshire	8,091,287	8,018,684	1,455,654	1,470,634
Suffolk	7,209,847	7,509,088	1,369,333	1,398,629
Surrey	10,254,781	10,043,099	1,842,223	1,837,391
Warwickshire	5,287,802	5,244,147	952,897	962,107
West Sussex	7,872,426	7,913,734	1,451,205	1,459,509
Wiltshire	4,138,712	4,226,140	769,074	782,394
Worcestershire	5,429,640	5,499,978	999,549	1,015,612
Sub-total	238,203,958	241,674,899	44,102,428	44,619,885

Local Authority	Access and Systems Capacity Grant 2006/07 (£)	Access and Systems Capacity Grant 2007/08 (£)	Delayed Discharge Grant 2006/07 (£)	Delayed Discharge Grant 2007/08 (£)
<i>Shire Unitary Authorities</i>				
Bath & North East Somerset	1,800,018	1,793,336	329,370	329,897
Blackburn with Darwen	1,406,732	1,403,059	258,723	258,314
Blackpool	1,943,856	1,964,291	362,641	363,135
Bournemouth	2,026,236	2,128,101	394,243	398,079
Bracknell Forest	852,824	829,797	151,975	149,988
Brighton & Hove	2,625,985	2,678,159	499,304	497,063
Bristol	4,512,767	4,413,578	818,479	808,185
Darlington	1,035,923	1,051,981	193,533	194,685
Derby	2,532,711	2,533,645	465,952	466,741
East Riding of Yorkshire	3,301,237	3,469,052	630,343	647,536
Halton	1,398,804	1,361,036	249,269	242,539
Hartlepool	1,125,432	1,099,754	201,633	201,048
Herefordshire	1,970,681	2,058,619	374,171	383,620
Isle of Wight Council	1,700,648	1,808,200	328,829	338,685
Isles of Scilly	34,732	36,278	6,648	6,767
Kingston upon Hull	3,244,230	3,173,167	588,905	581,118
Leicester	3,165,458	3,147,713	583,896	579,398
Luton	1,605,835	1,602,632	295,196	295,074
Medway	1,899,137	1,858,584	338,470	339,657
Middlesbrough	1,614,053	1,570,474	287,627	281,834
Milton Keynes	1,732,263	1,721,984	311,358	315,964
North East Lincolnshire	1,715,281	1,792,404	329,129	334,444
North Lincolnshire	1,585,834	1,580,662	287,571	290,486
North Somerset	2,117,331	2,192,899	400,436	407,844
Nottingham	3,117,746	3,044,245	566,757	557,421
Peterborough	1,619,751	1,646,893	301,706	304,743
Plymouth	2,679,690	2,642,763	484,391	484,509
Poole	1,450,339	1,490,362	273,093	276,658
Portsmouth	1,858,791	1,900,677	349,913	352,504
Reading	1,233,606	1,209,556	223,519	221,568
Redcar and Cleveland	1,621,287	1,599,903	292,071	293,231
Rutland	291,093	305,213	55,468	56,936
Slough	1,181,434	1,149,536	210,534	204,849
South Gloucestershire	2,103,859	2,102,311	381,480	386,533
Southampton	2,207,631	2,253,708	415,983	417,905
Southend-on-Sea	1,939,447	2,034,661	375,061	380,253
Stockton-on-Tees	1,838,720	1,789,074	327,663	323,819
Stoke-on-Trent	3,110,334	3,026,355	554,267	539,301
Swindon	1,576,254	1,537,706	281,459	280,905
Telford and The Wrekin	1,535,393	1,520,948	276,153	278,911
Thurrock	1,425,204	1,414,725	258,048	259,741
Torbay	1,848,833	2,037,467	372,852	385,712
Warrington	1,908,822	1,857,283	340,155	333,868
West Berkshire	1,193,314	1,189,079	216,658	218,543

Windsor and Maidenhead	1,237,255	1,203,850	220,481	214,528
Wokingham	928,004	921,959	166,890	169,161
York	1,625,328	1,635,047	300,104	301,647
Sub -total	86,480,144	86,782,728	15,932,409	15,955,346
Shires Sub-total	324,684,102	328,457,627	60,034,836	60,575,231
