

# DoH Budget 2023/24 EQIA Consultation

RCN Zoom Workshop

31.05.23

# Background

- Secretary of state set the budget in absence of an Executive 27.04.23
- Civil servants in NI Departments are now releasing Equality Impact Assessments to consult on impacts on S75 groups
- Short presentation on the budget and some of the cuts proposed.
- Discussion on impact on S75 groups in rural communities, mitigation and any other comments

# DoH Resource budget 2023/24

- £7.3B resource budget for DoH – similar level to 2022/23 so no allowance for pay, price and demand inflation
- DoH funding gap of £732M. DoH low/medium impact savings and efficiencies can yield £260M and are already being implemented
- Funding gap of £472M remains.
- DoH assessed a further £100M of cost reduction measures could be delivered leaving funding gap at £372M
- DoH “not currently in position to make a pay offer to its staff.”
- EQIA consultation comments “early response appreciated”
- Comments open until 14.08.23

# DoH Capital Budget

Capital Budget settlement is £468.6M

DoH reducing the planned capital allocations for:

- Estate and backlog maintenance,
- Investment in the upgrade of GP Practices,
- Research and Development and in IT
- £35.9M left to meet the £110.6M of inescapable capital pressures
- Shortfall in capital budget impacts on ability of DoH to transform and rebuild Health services

# DoH Resource Cuts already being Implemented

Table on pg 10 & 11 of EQIA but headline savings are:

- Reduction in Covid-19 Response spending £100.0M
- Reduction in Departmental baselines as a result of a critical review of slippage in previous years £30.2M
- Trust low and medium impact savings £92.1M
- **Restrict Range of Core Demand Led Services across Acute and Community Services £14M**
- No additional funding for 300 undergraduate nursing and midwifery places (New Decade New Approach commitment)

# DoH Resource Cuts being Proposed

DoH proceeding with further actions, to break even including:

- Additional savings from Trusts £55M
- Reduce funding for Waiting List Initiatives £34.6M
- Reduce funding for Departmental Core Grant Schemes £1M
- Additional Departmental savings £6.5M
- Additional savings from other ALBs £2.9M

DoH unable to make a pay offer to staff without implementing measures that would have immediate detrimental impact on services.

# DoH Further Resource Cuts being Considered

DoH is considering the following cuts if savings measures in previous slides don't yield level of savings needed:

- Reduction in £ for services from the Community and Voluntary sector.
- Reduction in £ on community aids and adaptations for clients living in their own homes.
- Reduction in education and training places
- Further reductions in Waiting List Initiative activity
- Reduction in nursing and residential care placements
- Restriction of domiciliary care packages

# DoH Capital Budget Cuts

- Budget will allow flagship projects, contractual commitments and begin to reduce backlog maintenance
- Budget indicative and vulnerable to unpredictability of construction projects exacerbated by supply chain volatility and materials prices.
- Critical ICT – regarded as critical to continuity & functioning of health service



# S75 Impacts identified by DoH EQIA

DoH identifying main impacts on Age Gender Disability & Dependent Status  
S75 categories:

Older people tend to have highest/most complex needs. So will be more affected by reduction in health services.

Reduction in DoH core grants scheme will impact on childrens' organisations so impact on children and young people indirectly

Disability – as disabled people have more frequent and more complex needs any reduction in services impacts them disproportionately.

Gender – absence of pay award will impact on women disproportionately.  
(80% of the workforce is female)

Dependants – reduction in core demand led services

# Rural Issues of Concern

EQIA states DoH committed to ensuring rural needs are taken into account. Once further savings measures agreed ALBs will take account of rural needs.

No actual RNIA published on DoH website

Big concerns from a rural POV on

- Distance from services
- Lack of public transport and proposed cuts to public transport
- GP practices under threat of collapse
- Threat to funding for community transport

# Feedback/Discussion

- Consultation Questions in EQIA are:
  1. Are there any adverse impacts in relation to any of the Section 75 groups that have not been identified If so, what are they?
  2. What action could be taken to reduce or eliminate any adverse impacts in allocation of the Department's budget?
  3. Any other comments?

# Next Steps

- “Early response appreciated” to inform DoH allocation of 2023-24 funds.
- Consultation will remain open until 14 August 2023
- We will write up notes of our conversation this morning and circulate to everyone.
- We will share our draft response to the consultation.