

For immediate release

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Primary care trusts' last funding announced

The Department of Health has announced NHS budgets for next year, the last funding which primary care trusts will receive before their proposed abolition.

Together NHS Leicester City and NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland will receive almost £41.5m extra for the financial year starting next April. This represents a 2.8% increase over the current year.

NHS Leicester City will receive £563.3m, an increase of £15.3 million over the current year.

NHS Leicestershire and Rutland will receive £958.3m, an increase of £26.2 million over the current year.

Included in this increase is £2.5m which will be specifically earmarked for further investment on helping patients recover after hospital treatment.

The two PCTs now work closely together as a single cluster as part of the countdown to a handover of many of the responsibilities to GP-led commissioning groups in 2013 under NHS reforms.

Sue Bishop, finance director of the primary care trusts for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, said: "We welcome the increases and will work closely with our area's three clinical commissioning groups and the three main local authorities to ensure that our very significant financial resources are used to provide the best quality healthcare available for the people we serve".

"These are the last budget allocations we are likely to receive as primary care trusts, as we prepare to hand over most of the responsibilities we have for paying for the area's healthcare to clinical commissioning groups in 2013. At the same time local authorities will take over our public health work. All of these proposed changes are subject to Parliamentary approval of the Health and Social Care Bill."

She added that all NHS Trusts were also working on targets to reduce their spending by improving productivity, preventing ill health, and introducing new, innovative, and more cost effective working practices. These savings will help pay for the increasing cost of healthcare as patients live longer, often requiring more treatment, and the price of professional healthcare rises.

The local figures were included in budget announcements for the rest of England, announced yesterday, where the average increase was also 2.8%, including the special amounts to aid patient recovery. The total investment in local NHS services for England for 2012-2013 is £91.6 billion, an increase in excess of £2.5 billion.

ENDS

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Notes to editor:

In October 2010 NHS Leicester City and NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland joined forces to form a 'cluster', in line with the requirements of the Department of Health. Although we share one Cluster Board and our staff work across the city and county boundaries, we have not legally merged, and retain our separate statutory duties. Together we serve a population of more than a million people. Cluster formation is an interim stage in the reform of the NHS, involving ongoing transfer of most local commissioning functions to GP-led clinical commissioning groups, in line with the Health and Social Care Bill, now before Parliament and the House of Lords.