

Budget Survey Foreword

As in previous years, work on pulling together the responses to the annual budget survey has been carried out during the year between ADASS and the LGA. This year we had a record response rate of 84%, which represented an increase of 11% on last year's survey and was an indication of the overwhelming commitment from Directors in supporting this activity.

Until recently, the annual survey has been regarded as an important and authoritative source of evidence on total social care spend across the country in making future spending decisions. It has been useful in providing details on the resources available to deliver social care services to people in vulnerable situations. Directors, in particular, have made best use of the information in identifying expenditure trends, any areas of financial pressure and as a comparison for benchmarking and future planning.

However, in this time of financial uncertainty and significant change, the historical perspective coming from the budget survey is not as useful as it has been in more settled times. In these circumstances, the information contained in the survey report, whilst very interesting, has become almost irrelevant as a result of the dramatic changes being experienced in the local, national and economic environments.

In this context, the information on the spending patterns and resources available across the country is not considered as useful to Directors in respect of future planning particularly as we enter more challenging times. Decisions are being made locally in the context of corporate policies and savings requirements will be dependant on the local environment and decision making processes.

For these reasons and to ensure that we continue to make best use of the information available, we have jointly agreed to distribute the survey results to Directors to be shared locally with Lead Members and to be used in a way that best meets the needs of the local community and priorities

Richard Jones, President, ADASS



Andrew Cozens, LGA Group Strategic Lead for Adult Social Care and Health

