

# Autumn Short Survey of Directors of Adult Social Services 2018 - Key Messages

## The survey

This survey was undertaken to garner views from across councils in England about in-year pressures on adult social care budgets. The results of the survey will provide vital evidence ahead of the publication of the government's Adult Social Care Green Paper, the 2019/20 Spending Review and the NHS Long-Term Plan.

ADASS circulated a short survey to all 152 directors in England. The survey was open for two weeks from late September into early October 2018 and 97 (64%) directors responded.

## Over and underspends against budget

At present 56% of directors are forecasting overspends against their adult social care budget, with the remainder either forecasting a balanced budget (25%) or a marginal underspend for 2018/19 (19%).

On average adult social care departments are predicting overspends of approximately £894k each by the end of 2018/19, or £136m overall.

This highlights a worsening overall position from 2017/18 where across England adult social care departments in their totality delivered a balanced budget figure of £14.5bn. However, it should be noted that this figure masked the fact that just over half of councils (76) overspent against their budgets in the same year.

## Confidence in delivering savings

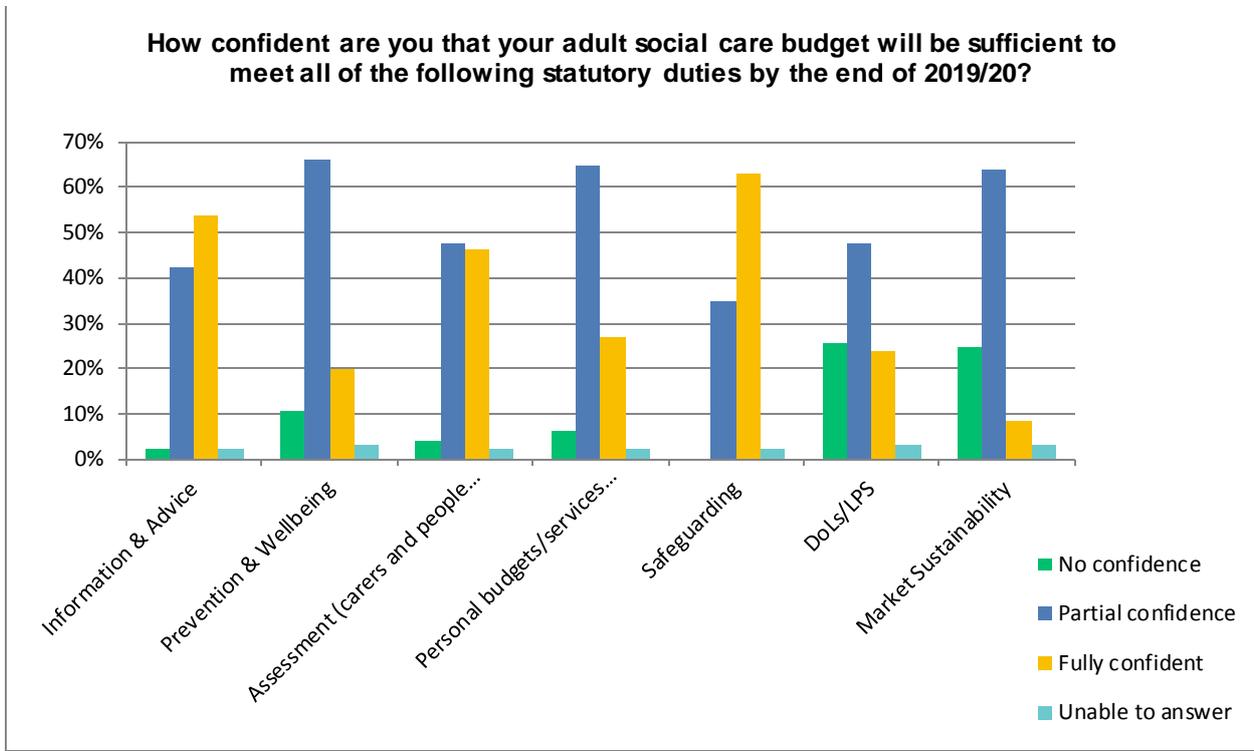
The 2018 [ADASS Budget Survey](#) found that adult social care departments are planning to deliver savings of approximately £700m in 2018/19, equating to 4.7% of net adult social care budgets.

For the current financial year 85.26% directors are expecting to deliver either all or most of planned savings, with 14.73% only expecting to deliver around half, some, or none of planned savings.

However, confidence in delivering savings drops significantly from 2018/19 to 2019/20, with 32.26% of directors only expecting to deliver around half, some, or none of planned savings in 2019/20. The remaining directors (67.74%) expect to deliver either all or most of planned savings within the next financial year.

## Confidence in meeting statutory duties by the end of 2019/20

Directors were asked how confident they were that their adult social care budget will be sufficient to meet the following statutory duties by the end of 2019/20:



Respondents had either no confidence or partial confidence that their social care budget will be sufficient to meet statutory duties relating to Market Sustainability (88.66%) by the end of 2019/20. This was followed by prevention and wellbeing (76.85%) and DOLs/LPS (73.19%).

## Impact of targets and resources

Directors identified that there have been unintended consequences of the strong and successful focus on reducing rates of delayed discharges from hospitals in their areas over the past 18 months. Local authorities have reduced delayed transfers care attributable to adult social care by approximately 40 per cent during this period.

In particular, 82.30% of respondents indicated that there has been a moderate, significant, or very significant increase in rapid discharges to short-term care home placements that became long-term and 72.91% indicating that there has been an increase in the number of admissions to hospital that would have been avoidable had there been sufficient social, primary, and community services. 68.75% reported that there had been an increase in the number of people waiting for care packages at home.

<b>% that stated yes- moderate, significant or very significant when asked whether there have been unintended consequences as a result of the strong and successful focus on reducing rates of delayed discharges:</b>	
Increase in rapid discharges to short-term care home placements that became long-term	82.30%
Increase in the number of admissions to hospital that would have been avoidable had there been sufficient social, primary & community services	72.91%
Increase in the number of people waiting for care packages at home	68.75%
Increase in emergency readmission(s) to hospital	63.55%
Increase in the number of people waiting for assessments at home	53.13%
Reduction in focus on home first/community model discharge	50.00%

## About Us

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services is a charity. Our objectives include:

- Furthering comprehensive, equitable, social policies and plans which reflect and shape the economic and social environment of the time
- Furthering the interests of those who need social care services regardless of their backgrounds and status and
- Promoting high standards of social care services

Our members are current and former directors of adult care or social services and their senior staff.

If you have any questions regarding this submission please do not hesitate to contact Michael Chard, Senior Staff Officer- Policy on 07887491004, or [michael.chard1@adass.org.uk](mailto:michael.chard1@adass.org.uk)

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