

Autumn Survey of Directors of Adult Social Services 2019 - Key Messages

The survey

This survey was undertaken to gather views about adult social care from councils across England. The survey covered a range of subjects, including budgetary issues, the ability to meet statutory duties, the ability of local care markets to cope with pressures and the impacts of the national focus on reducing rates of delayed discharges.

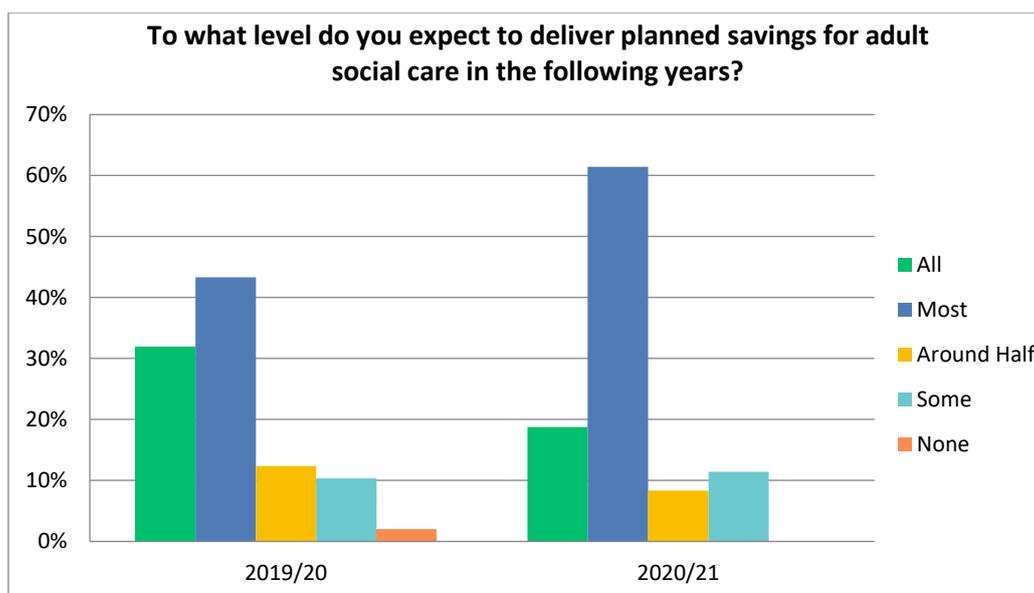
ADASS circulated a short survey to all 151 Directors of adult social care in England. The survey was open for four weeks from mid-September to mid-October 2019 and 98 (65%) of directors responded.

The results of the survey will provide vital evidence ahead of the publication of the provisional local government finance settlement 2020/21 and the expected 2020 Spending Review, as well as any proposals for reform from the incoming Government.

1. Confidence regarding delivery of savings

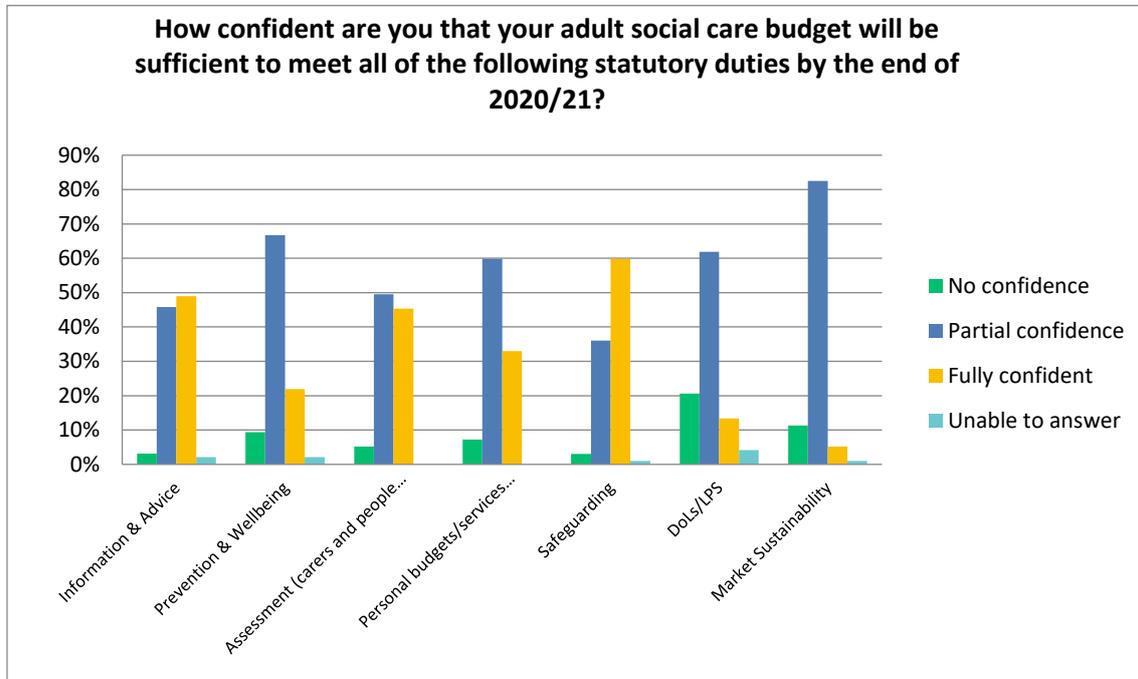
Earlier this year, the 2019 ADASS Budget Survey found that adult social care departments are planning to deliver savings of approximately £699m in 2019/20, equating to 4.7% of net adult social care budgets.

Six months into the financial year we asked Directors how confident they were that they could deliver planned savings for the current financial year (2019/20). 75.3% of Directors are expecting to deliver either all or most of planned savings, and for 2020/21 this increases to 80.1% of Directors.



2. Confidence in meeting statutory duties by the end of 2020/21

Directors were asked how confident they were that their adult social care budget will be sufficient to meet their statutory duties by the end of 2020/21.



94% of Directors either have no or only partial confidence that they will be able to deliver their statutory responsibilities for care market sustainability by the end of 2020/21.

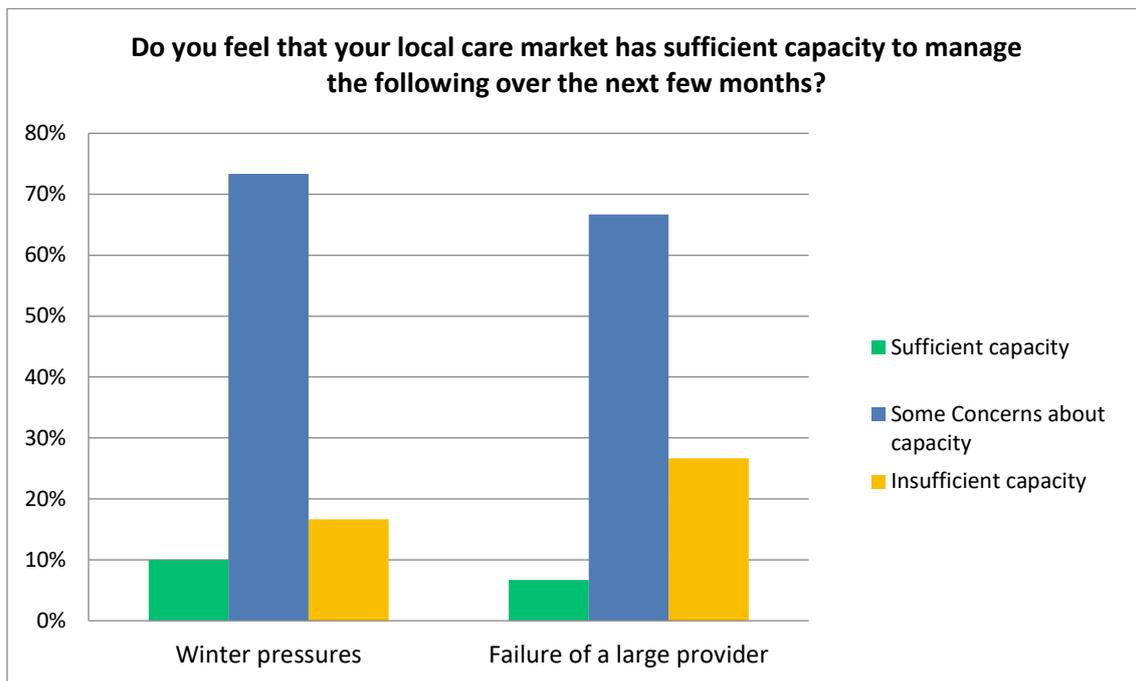
82% of Directors have no or partial confidence that they can deliver the statutory responsibilities relating to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) and 76% have no or only partial confidence that they can deliver their statutory duty in relation to prevention and wellbeing.

Directors are most confident that they will be able to deliver statutory duties relating to safeguarding by the end of 2020/21, with 59.7% stating that they have full confidence. This is followed by information and advice (49%) and assessment for carers and people using services (45.4%).

3. Capacity of local care markets to manage major events

Directors were asked whether they felt that their local care markets have sufficient capacity to manage two potential challenges over the coming months - winter and/or the failure of a large care provider.

Concerningly, 93% of Directors indicated that they have some concerns, or insufficient capacity to manage the failure of a large provider. 90% of Directors stated that they have either some concerns, or insufficient capacity to manage winter related pressures over the coming months.



3. Unintended consequences of the national focus on reducing rates of delayed discharges

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.

In particular, 85.5% 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. This increased from 82.3% in 2018.

In the past 12 months the most significant increase in impact has been in emergency readmission(s) to hospital - this increased by 13 percentage points between 2018 (63.6%) and 2019 (76.6%).

The proportion of Directors indicating that there has been a moderate, significant, or very significant increase in the number of admissions to hospital that would have been avoidable had there been sufficient social, primary, and community services has remained fairly static in the past 12 months, reducing marginally from 72.9% in 2018 to 72.2% in 2019.

64.4% of Directors felt that the number of people waiting for assessments at home has increased moderately, significantly, or very significantly in 2019, compared to 53.1% in 2018.

65.2% of Directors reported that there had been a moderate, significant, or very significant increase in the number of people waiting for care packages at home in 2019, compared to 68.8% in 2018.

In relation to the focus on home first/community model discharge, Directors report that there has been a slight shift away from the principle underpinning Home First/community discharge models, with 52.2% of Directors reporting that there has been a moderate, significant, or very significant reduction in focus on these types of services in 2019, compared to 50% in 2018.

% that stated yes- moderate, significant or very significant	2018	2019	% Change
Increase in rapid discharges to short-term care home placements that became long-term	82.3%	85.5%	+3.2%
Increase in the number of admissions to hospital that would have been avoidable had there been sufficient social, primary & community services	72.9%	72.2%	-0.7%
Increase in the number of people waiting for care packages at home	68.8%	65.2%	-3.6%
Increase in emergency readmission(s) to hospital	63.6%	76.6%	+13%
Increase in the number of people waiting for assessments at home	53.1%	64.4%	+11.3%
Reduction in focus on home first/community model discharge	50%	52.2%	+2.2%

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 Officer- Policy on 07887491004, or michael.chard1@adass.org.uk

November 2019