



Reference Number: FOI-101004595561

Response provided under: Freedom of Information Act 2000

Request and Response:

The [latest guidance to social care providers](#) makes clear that they must notify their director of adult social services if Brexit poses a risk to service delivery. It states: “You must notify your local commissioner, director of adult social services and the Care Quality Commission as soon as possible if there is any risk to service delivery.”

1. **At the time you respond to this request, how many providers have contacted you to warn of a risk to service delivery?**

One, however see our response to question 2 below.

2. **A list of the types of providers that have contacted you (where possible, indicating how many of each type of provider have contacted you).**

We have been contacted by a representative body for the independent and voluntary care provider sector in Cornwall; for those who provide services including Residential Care, Domiciliary care, Day Care, Respite Care and Supported Living.

3. **For each type of provider, the total number of service users potentially affected.**
 - a. ***Where numbers would be so small it could identify individuals I am willing to have this anonymised e.g. “less than 5”***

Information not held.

Given the nature of the enquiry it is not possible to quantify a definitive number. The body making the enquiry has the interests of all relevant service users in Cornwall as part of its purpose. The membership of the body is known only to them.

- 4. Please list all specific risks that have been identified (e.g. shortage of medicines, staff shortages etc.). If you are able to, for each specific risk, please indicate how many care providers have warned of it. As per clarification, this question refers to risks providers have communicated to the Council.**

Information not held.

Again it is not possible to provide a definitive number as it is a representative body and their membership is only known to them.

The risks identified are;

- Impact of escalating costs of fuel, food and medical related items on their long term sustainability.
- Impact of unavailability of fuel on other sectors such as school staff unable to get to work; thereby requiring service provider staff to stay at home to meet childcare demands.
- Impact of unavailability of fuel and escalating costs on provider staffs' ability to meet costs of getting to work
- Impact of unavailability of fuel on contractors who may be unable to collect clinical waste
- Impact of unavailability of fuel on contractors who may be unable to collect dirty linen and deliver clean linen and the increased risk of infections.
- Impact of unavailability of spare parts for essential equipment such as lifts, washing machines and cookers.

As per clarification received, questions 5 and 6 relate to what the council has done to mitigate the risk posed to social care services, regardless of whether providers have warned of it.

- 5. What specific actions has the council taken to date to mitigate these risks?**

The council has limited capacity to mitigate the risks identified above and has therefore escalated them through the official EU Exit escalation channels so that they can be raised at a national level for consideration of a national response.

In addition the council has proactively engaged with providers throughout the EU Exit duration to keep them informed and signpost them to relevant sources of information and support. It is currently undertaking an updated

engagement programme in preparation for the latest EU Exit date of 31 October 2019.

Systems will be established to ensure that, in the event of disruption, providers will be enabled to escalate issues to the local authority, the Devon Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum, and to central government's National Supply Disruption Centre (NSDR).

Government has provided guidance on what factors to consider in preparing for EU Exit. As per [Government Guidance](#), including its [Operational Readiness Guidance](#), these include consideration of the following areas:

- Supply of medicines and vaccines
- Supply of medical devices and clinical consumables
- Supply of non-clinical consumables, goods and services
- Workforce
- Professional regulation (recognition of professional qualifications)
- Reciprocal healthcare
- Research and clinical trials
- Data sharing, processing and access
- Supporting EU nationals i.e. EU Settlement scheme

This information has been shared with providers. Inclusion of these as thematic risk areas does not indicate that they are considered areas of high risk. Our preparatory activity is now being refreshed following Government's latest position outlined this month, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/actions-for-adult-social-care-providers-to-prepare-for-brexit>

There are existing arrangements in place which support providers during times of difficulty and when they are unable to continue to deliver their services. These help ensure there is continuity of service provision to those who require support.

6. How much has the council spent so far on measures to mitigate the potential risk to social care service delivery as a result of Brexit?

The Council has not incurred any specific expenditure at this stage as a result of Brexit.

Further staff resource has been utilised to support preparatory work, however it is not possible to disaggregate this activity and it is considered

as part of business as usual activity, such as usually scheduled supplier engagement work.

The council has not incurred any additional expenditure at this stage on measures for social care delivery. It has continued to work with and support providers in the normal way and included the provision of information and sources of guidance regarding an EU Exit to help them prepare in the event of a no deal EU Exit.

Information provided by: Adult Social Care

Date of response: 23 September 2019