

Update note on planning for Brexit, particularly if there is no agreed deal.

- 1) National guidance has been produced for councils and N.H.S. partners about the need to make contingency arrangements if there is no agreed Brexit deal.

There are particular recommendations in relation to the Health and Care sectors as these are likely to be amongst the most effected.

2) Medication

Some of the key recommendations for health partners relate to concerns about the availability of essential medication from European suppliers.

Individual care providers and pharmacists have been asked however not to stockpile medication. It is envisaged that coordination arrangements will be coordinated from a national level. At this stage there is no requirement to take any action at the local level.

3) Other supplies and services:

It is envisaged that there could be a potential shortage of some surgical appliances and care support equipment. Again no specific action is required locally at this juncture. However at a sub-regional London level, providers are being asked to identify any known supply chains that are dependent on European suppliers.

4) Workforce:

Under the proposed *Withdrawal Agreement*, EU citizens and their family members who are resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 will need to apply under the EU Settlement Scheme for permission to continue to live here after Brexit.

Lewisham Council started systematically recording nationality status from June 2017 for new employee starters. To date therefore, we have 12 staff recorded as EU nationals, since June 2017. To help us ascertain a more accurate figure so we can give more direct support, a note went out in the Chief Executive newsletter to all staff in December 2018. The note requested that EU staff contact us centrally by replying to an email in box. To date we have had 18 staff contact us through this method.

The council has published our intention to fund the Settled Status application fee for staff and agency workers (not family members).

The forward communication plan is to signpost those EU staff who have registered with us to ongoing government information, and also to the process we will be putting in place to support payment of the settled status application fee.

The government has also just announced from 21 January 2019, that the on-line application scheme pilot is being offered earlier to either EU nationals who hold passports which

contain biometric chips or non-EU nationals who are the family members of an EU national and have been issued with a biometric residence card by the Home Office.

The reason for this restriction is that those applying at this stage must use the "EU Exit: ID Document Check" app, which is used to verify the applicant's identity by reading the biometric data in their passport or biometric residence card. The app is currently only available on tablets and smartphones operating on the android platform.

For those who do not hold biometric identity documents or have access to an android device, the Scheme is due to be open fully by 30 March 2019 when other arrangements will be in place for verifying identity. Under the *Withdrawal Agreement*, the Scheme is scheduled to remain open until 30 June 2021.

In addition to the arrangements put in place by each local council, N.H.S. Will also be contacting all of its staff or invite them to apply to remain under the E.U. Settlement Scheme. Some staff but not their families will be eligible to apply for the £65 registration fee to be applied on their behalf.

Alongside local authority providers, each N.H.S. regional areas has also been asked to contact local health and social care partners across both the private and voluntary sectors. It is unlikely that most of these providers will have their staff registered or classified on the basis of their European nationality and they will therefore be encouraged to ensure that their E.U. National staff are contacted and identified by other means S soon as possible. This initiative will be complemented by a national campaign to make citizens aware of the changes required.

In London this work is being undertaken by the STPs. The council is therefore working with its partners across S.E. London to ensure that this work is undertaken and is an integral part of the S.E. Brexit planning group. Each council has its own Brexit planning group.

6) Civil Unrest and Reassurance:

Each local authority has been asked to be prepared to contribute to emergency planning arrangements that could be required across the Capital. Adult Social Care services are being asked to contribute to any community support/ reassurance work that might be required. There are of course other areas of work that will be effected outside of the Health and Social Care sector which may also have an indirect impact and these are being identified at both a borough and London wide level.