



# Mental health investment standard

June 2017

For some time, the HFMA's Mental Health Steering Group has been considering the way that the Government's commitment to parity between physical and mental health is playing out in financial terms.

During 2016 and 2017, we have carried out three surveys of our members to highlight the challenges involved in increasing investment in mental health to meet the investment standard. All three surveys have reached broadly the same conclusions:

- within the financial context of the NHS, the ongoing national commitment for commissioners to increase their real term investment in mental health services is a significant challenge
- there is a continued lack of alignment between commissioners and providers over what it means to implement the mental health investment standard
- local visibility and transparency is critical: local sustainability and transformation partnerships (STPs) should be able to see where mental health money is spent and the priorities realised.

The latest survey highlights that within the current financial context, the ongoing national commitment for commissioners to increase their real term investment in mental health services is a significant challenge. It recognises the impact on 2017/18 contracts and that concerns remain for 2018/19 – there is much detail still to be debated. As a result, the HFMA's Mental Health Steering Group has concluded that a wider perspective is needed at both a local and national level – focused on delivering the objectives of the Five Year Forward View for mental health.