

pipeline for social care, and to make sure that the £1.6bn funding was reaching social care providers. It was important to clarify a timeline for the resolution of the outstanding policy issues ahead of publication of the strategy.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- there were some commitments in the strategy that might cause difficulty for the Exchequer; the language in paragraph 2.8 on tax credits was too strong and would provide the opportunity to all individuals working on any Covid-19 related work to ask for special treatment. There would also be operational complexities for DWP and HMRC in establishing the processes if this policy were pursued;
- the commitment in paragraph 2.27 might cause difficulty for the Government as it would be the first time the government acknowledged that Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) was not appropriate and clarification would be needed as to why the novel policy would not apply to all ‘key workers’ who had already been declared as essential for the functioning of the economy;
- although there were operational issues with this novel policy it would not cause substantial impact to HMRC and DWP as it could be operationalised through existing contractual agreements the government had with social care providers;
- the discharge process outlined in paragraph 1.27 would present serious sector challenges, as there were 19,000 confirmed cases in hospital settings, with 1500-1900 patients discharged daily. Cohorting in care homes and the clinical policy set-out would need to be examined through the course of the day to ensure effective functioning of both hospital and care home settings;