

The financial pressure on the NHS is widely reported. Many have highlighted the strain this puts on frontline care, and specifically on provider budgets. Inaccurate comparisons have been made with CCGs suggesting that, in contrast, they are operating within large underspends and holding back funds from providers. The truth is that CCGs budgets are also under considerable strain in the same way the whole NHS system is.

NHS Clinical Commissioners

The independent collective voice of clinical commissioning groups

Reported underspend across CCGs for 2014/15 was only 0.3% of their budgets, with **21 CCGs ending the year with overspends against their plans.**



CCGs have made big efforts

to support system-wide NHS finances by managing overspends, driving efficiency and investing in overall system transformation.



In 2014/15, the commissioning system planned for an in-year deficit of £400m, only balanced by draw down of a historical surplus pot that is **fast diminishing.**



Without large one-off items in 2014/15 (such as Quality Premiums and long-standing continuing healthcare claims), **CCGs would have overspent by £40m.**



Reported underspend also reflects a system that has both managed overspends and driven out savings in order to contribute to overall NHS finances – **there is no extra cash in the system.**



CCG financial performance is varied across the country, while all CCGs need to be in financial balance by 2016/17.



The whole system needs to contribute to delivering **£22bn of efficiency.**

Only 13%

of CCG chief finance officers are very confident their organisation will meet the savings target set for this year. [NHS Confederation national survey of NHS leaders]

