
Meeting: Social Care Health and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 12 May 2014
Subject: Better Care Fund Plan – Final Submission
Report of: Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley, Executive Member for Social Care and Health and Housing

Summary: The Better Care Fund provides an opportunity to transform local services so that people are provided with better integrated care and support. A final submission was made on 4 April 2014.

Advising Officer: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
Contact Officer: Patricia Coker, Head of Partnerships and Performance, Social Care, Health and Housing

Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

- Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.

Financial:

2. The Better Care Fund for Central Bedfordshire is approximately £18 million from 2015/16 onwards. This pooled fund is based on monies already allocated within the health and social care system and includes funding to mitigate the impact of the transformation of adult social care proposed in the Care Bill.

The development of the BCF plan has financial implications for both the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group for the following reasons:

- Financial and demographic pressures facing councils and the NHS and the requirement to protect services
- The combined pooled budget of Adult Social Care and the CCG will require a robust governance framework to manage the pooled funds
- Elements of the Care Bill for implementing new and health and social care responsibilities are aligned to the Better Care Fund
- The reduction of NHS Acute allocations to support the implementation of the Better Care Fund Plan could impact on Acute Providers if the agreed outcome measures are not delivered.

Legal:

3. Legal implications will be considered as part of delivery of the Better Care Fund Plan.

Risk Management:

4. Risk issues are identified within the Better Care Plan. A shared risk register will be established as part of the Better Care Fund Programme and will include the impact on Acute Services, as emphasised in engagement with acute sector providers, social care delivery and the steps that will be taken if activity volumes do not change as planned for example failure to reduce emergency admissions or increasing use of nursing/residential home admissions.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. Not Applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. The Better Care Fund Plan for Central Bedfordshire is focussed on improving the health and social care outcomes for older people. The Better Care Plan is based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and reflects the priorities set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, commissioning plans and strategies, which have been or will be subject to the appropriate equalities impact assessments and take account of the protective characteristics of the Equality Act 2010

Public Health

7. The Better Care Fund Plan is focused on improving health and social care outcomes for older people, with an emphasis on promoting health and wellbeing through prevention and early intervention.

Community Safety:

8. Not Applicable.

Sustainability:

9. Not Applicable.

Procurement:

10. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION(S):**The Committee is asked to:-**

1. **Note the Better Care Fund Plan for Central Bedfordshire and the wider implications for the health and social care economy in Central Bedfordshire and for the Council as a whole.**
2. **Receive an update following submission of the Plan**

Background

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF - previously referred to as the Integration Transformation Fund) was announced in June as part of the 2013 Spending Round, to ensure transformation in integrated health and social care.
2. The Fund provides for £3.8 billion worth of funding in 2015/16 to be spent on health and care to drive closer integration and improve outcomes for patients and service users and carers. It is intended to provide a better experience of care to patients and service users and by so doing reduce the pressure on residential care and acute hospitals.
3. The Better Care Fund for Central Bedfordshire is approximately £18 million from 2015/16 onwards. This pooled fund is based on monies already allocated within the health and social care system and includes funding to mitigate the impact of the transformation of adult social care proposed in the Care Bill. It also represents a 2 year element of the Clinical Commissioning Group's five year strategic Plan for Patients.
4. The final submission reflected feedback on the initial submission made as part of the assurance process from NHS England. Appendix 1
Further changes were also made as a result of the revised template for Part 2 which incorporates financial and performance elements of the Plan (although these changes are relatively minor and, specifically, split out recurrent and non-recurrent spending and benefits). Appendix 2
5. The key programmes set out in the initial submission remained largely unchanged. There was further engagement with Acute Sector Providers to understand the consequential impact of the proposed changes and how these might be addressed. We have also engaged heavily with the localities in this process and for the programme we need to construct to deliver on our ambitions.
6. There is further emphasis on mental wellbeing in the final version of the plan and this is reinforced in the prevention and early intervention programme. The need for access to high quality mental health services and a closer alignment of physical and mental health particularly in the acute sector is articulated in the document.

The Better Care Fund Plan

7. The Better Care Fund Plan for Central Bedfordshire sets out a shared vision for health and social care in Central Bedfordshire, rooted in a locality-based delivery model. It describes the agreed strategic approach based on four priority programmes for delivering integrated care at scale and pace, and therefore achieving the key outcomes expected by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the people of Central Bedfordshire.

8. In setting out the four priority programmes below, we recognise the importance of shifting resources from hospital settings to more community-focussed care to deliver improved health and care experiences as well as more effective use of resources:
 1. **Reshaping the model for prevention and early intervention** – through an integrated approach to primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention to stop or reduce deterioration in health. This will ensure the most progressive, evidence-based prevention and early intervention programme are available to our population.
 2. **Supporting people with long term conditions through multi-disciplinary working** – focussing services around general practice in locality networks and helping people to manage their own conditions in the community. This will ensure robust and consistent arrangements are in place across Central Bedfordshire to both identify and organise effective support to those with long term conditions, particularly those with complex co-morbidities. This will include access to multi-disciplinary support and packages of care organised to maximise independence.
 3. **Expanding the range of services that support older people with frailty and disabilities** – developing and integrating the range of housing, new technologies, mobility, and support for carers. This will ensure availability of services that wrap around older people with specific conditions and issues to maintain their independence and remain in their own homes and in their communities for as long as it is safe to do so.
 4. **Restructuring integrated care pathways for those with urgent care needs** – ensuring that these are seamless, clear, and efficient to help deliver the clinical shift required to move care away from acute settings, where appropriate.
9. The Central Bedfordshire Better Care Fund Plan provides the opportunity to transform local services so that people are provided with better integrated care and support and is seen as an important enabler to take the integration agenda forward at scale and pace. It supports the aim of providing people with the “right care, in the right place, at the right time” through a significant expansion of care in community settings. It builds on the work already underway including the Community Bed Review, Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Integrated Care Pioneer Bid, South Bedfordshire Demonstrator Project and investment in Prevention Services. It is intended that this approach can be applied across all customer groups including children and young people.
10. More comprehensive description of planned changes and key success factors are set out from page 15 of the Submission.

Summary of changes from the February Submission:

- 11 We received very positive feedback on our initial submission from NHS England and only small amendments were requested by them. This means that we have been able to focus more on establishing the approach we want to take to deliver on the programmes included in the plan.

Key changes made following feedback from the NHSE Local Area Team and Local Government Association from the 14 February submission and further local engagement activities are as follows:

- Alignment of the Better Care Fund Plan with the Mental Health strategy and emphasis on mental wellbeing and need for access to high quality mental health services and a seamless approach to physical and mental health particularly within the acute sector
 - Reflecting the consequential impact of the proposed changes on the acute sector and how these might be addressed
 - Demonstrating the Care Bill element of the Better Care Fund Plan
 - Reflected feedback from Healthwatch and locality groups in relation to dementia and end of life care.
 - Further revision to the Risk register
12. The tenet for delivery of the Better Care Fund Plan in Central Bedfordshire is locality approaches and delivery of care through a number of Hubs based around the four Localities. These would be multidisciplinary hubs, operating seven days per week, providing a range of medical, nursing and social care interventions to support their local population and would prevent people, especially frail older people, making unnecessary journeys to hospitals.
- 13 The Better Care Fund Plan ambition for integrated locality based delivery of health and care services is importantly linked to the on going review of local health services in Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. This link is also referenced in the Better Care Fund Plan submission.
14. Further detailed work is required to fully develop the programmes for each of the four localities in Central Bedfordshire including:
- Moving forward coherently with full sight of the risks and budget changes required to deliver the locality model.
 - Defining further locality specific based activities
 - Understanding the commissioning implications and the fundamental changes required in procuring and delivering services.

Key elements of this work includes data modelling to understand patient flows, further clarifying the savings, workforce capacity issues and implications for information and data sharing. An Officer Delivery Group has been established to support the Better Care fund programme and further guidance is being sought from senior officers about how we deliver the Better Care Fund programme.

15. A Chief Officer Group comprising officers within the Council, Clinical Commissioning Group and Locality Leads will be convened to lead on commissioning for integrated care and will oversee financial and performance management. Progress in implementing the Better Care Fund Plan will be monitored through outcomes reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Transfer of funds

16. The Better Care Fund will be governed by a Section 75 agreement which will be finalised within the coming months and will be brought back to a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board
17. There is an existing section 256 agreement to transfer funds from health to social care to support the delivery of social care objectives, approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in November 2013. The value of this transfer was £3.099m 2013-14 and was targeted towards preventative services including Reablement. The value of this transfer will increase in 2014-15 to £3.821m, an increase of £0.722m over the NHS Transfer funding for 2013/14.
18. The national allocation of £3.8bn for 2015/16 will lead to an apportionment of £15.144m to Central Bedfordshire taking account of the other funding streams set out above. The amount includes £1.19m for Disabled Facility Grants and Social Care capital grants with £14.1m transferring from the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The Clinical Commissioning Group has agreed to top up the adjustment to reflect the initial sum of £15.290m.

Conclusion and Next Steps

19. The Better Care Fund Plan represents a real opportunity to deliver integrated and locality based services at pace. Although there are important challenges for delivering change within the context of a rapidly growing and ageing population, located in a predominantly rural area across seven non-catchment acute hospitals, getting our delivery model for integrated care right and delivered within the next 2 years is crucial to our ability to manage this demand.
20. A shared vision for improving outcomes and health and care experience for older people is evolving across the health and care economy in Central Bedfordshire. This shared vision will be key to delivering the Better Care Fund Plan whilst other fundamental changes, such as the review of local health services across Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes and the re-commissioning of community health and mental health services is on-going.
21. A strong governance framework is being implemented to ensure the commitments made in the Better Care Fund Plan are delivered.
22. Engagement with Acute Providers and other key stakeholders will continue throughout the process of implementation

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Better Care Fund Part 2 Final Submission
CBC Better Care Fund Plan Final Submission

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands