

MEDIA RELEASE**21 May 2015**

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BCCG reports £43.2m deficit for 2014/15 and outlines strategy to eliminate debt

At its Governing Body meeting today, BCCG announced a final end of year deficit for 2014/15 of £43.2m. The CCG also outlined initial proposals for taking the CCG out of deficit and returning it to a position where it can commission sustainable health services for Bedfordshire patients.

Accountable officer, Nick Robinson said: "The work we have carried out over the past few months, shows that the quality of the healthcare we commission is good and in many places excellent.

"We are also fortunate as a CCG in that we have received a major boost in our funding for the current financial year (2015/16), which gives us an extra £31m to spend on Bedfordshire patients and will help to fund increasing demand.

"However, detailed analysis of our accounts has revealed fundamental weaknesses in the way we operate as healthcare commissioners, which we must put right if we are to commission sustainable health services for local people.

"This is about becoming a more efficient and effective organisation; it is not about cutting services in Bedfordshire. We continue to be a clinically-led organisation and any changes to the services we commission will be sound clinical decisions.

"Change won't happen overnight but by the autumn we must be working in a very different way."

BCCG has identified six areas of the organisation that need significantly strengthening. These are: leadership skills; business intelligence and data gathering; governance processes; strategy and planning; financial controls, and performance management of its staff and healthcare providers.

The clinical commissioning group has already begun to address most of these issues. It has:

- taken on considerable leadership expertise appointing a full-time, interim accountable officer and chief finance officer
- strengthened its Governing Body with an additional non-executive director with extensive financial expertise

APPENDIX C

- developed the Governing Body's Finance Committee which now meets monthly to scrutinise the progress of the CCG's recovery plan
- bought in business intelligence and contract management support from NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit.

These activities have involved working closely with NHS England. To cement its involvement in BCCG's improvement plans, NHS England has today announced that it has issued the CCG with 'Directions'. A separate statement on what this involves is attached to this press release and is available from NHS England at www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/ccg-auth/key-docs/

The CCG first reported that it was likely to record a large deficit in November 2014 and in the succeeding months it became clear that this deficit was far larger and more complex than originally believed. In particular, it emerged that not all of this deficit could be attributed to 2014/15 but should have been reported in the previous financial year.

As a result BCCG has restated its accounts for 2013/14. It is now recording a deficit of £12.7m for 2013/14 and a deficit of £30.5m for 2014/15, making a cumulative deficit of £43.2m.

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Notes to editors

- Attached to this release is:
 - a copy of BCCG's finance story 2014/15, which will also be presented to the Governing Body today
 - BCCG's draft Annual Report and Accounts 2014/15 – this is still subject to audit
 - a copy of NHS England's about formal 'directions'
 - a copy of NHS England's letter of 'directions'.
- In 2014-2015, BCCG has a budget of approximately £440m to spend on healthcare services for Bedfordshire. In January this year, BCCG announced that it was forecasting a deficit of between £26m and £34m for this financial year (2014/15). Earlier this month, BCCG confirmed that its forecast deficit had risen to up to £40m.
- Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for planning, organising and buying NHS-funded healthcare for the 441,000 people who live in Bedfordshire. This includes hospital, community health and mental health services.
- BCCG is run by GPs, nurses, hospital doctors and other clinicians – the people you see whenever you come into contact with the NHS. All 55 GP practices in Bedfordshire are members of the CCG which is divided into five areas, which we call localities. These are:

APPENDIX C

Bedford, Chiltern Vale, Leighton Buzzard, Ivel Valley and West Mid Bedfordshire and all of the 55 GP practices in Bedfordshire are members.

- You can read more about how BCCG is organised in our [constitution](#). It explains how we operate, make decisions and our governance structures and processes. You can also read our [corporate plan](#) which sets out our priorities and aims for 2014-15.

www.bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk



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