

NHS England
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To: *(by email)*

Councillor Cllr Maurice Jones, Chair Central
Bedfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Richard Carr, Chief Executive,
Central Bedfordshire Council
Matthew Tait, Accountable Officer, NHS
Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

22 August 2016

Dear colleagues

BETTER CARE FUND 2016-17

Thank you for submitting your Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for regional assurance. We know that the BCF has again presented challenges in preparing plans at pace and we are grateful for your commitment in providing your agreed plan. As you will be aware the Spending Review in November 2015, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the integration of health and social care and the continuation of the BCF itself.

I am delighted to let you know that, following the regional assurance process, your plan has been classified as '**Approved**'. Essentially, your plan meets all requirements and the focus should now be on delivery.

Your BCF funding can therefore now be released subject to the funding being used in accordance with your final approved plan, which has demonstrated compliance with the conditions set out in the BCF policy framework for 2016-17 and the BCF planning guidance for 2016-17, and which include the funding being transferred into pooled funds under a section 75 agreement.

These conditions have been imposed through NHS England's powers under sections 223G and 223GA of the NHS Act 2006 (as amended by the Care Act 2014). These sections allow NHS England to make payment of the BCF funding subject to conditions. If the conditions are not complied with, NHS England is able to withhold or recover funding, or direct the CCG in your Health and Wellbeing Board area as to the use of the funding.

You should now progress with your plans for implementation. Ongoing support and oversight with your BCF plan will be led by your local Better Care Manager.

Once again, thank you for your work and best wishes with implementation and delivery.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Ridley', with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Andrew Ridley
Regional Director, South of England, and SRO for the Better Care Fund

NHS England

Copy (by email) to:

Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing,
Central Bedfordshire Council
Patricia Coker, Head of Partnerships and Performance
Social Care, Health and Housing, Central Bedfordshire Council
Attu Assan, Interim Director of Strategic Delivery
NHS England – Midlands & East (East)
Anthony Kealy, Programme Director, Better Care Support Team, NHS England