

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date of Meeting

29 March 2017

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### Better Care Fund Plan 2017/19

Responsible Officer: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health & Housing ([Julie.ogley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.ogley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)); and Donna Derby, Director Commissioning - Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group ([donna.derby@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk](mailto:donna.derby@bedfordshireccg.nhs.uk))

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#### Purpose of this report

1. To advise the Board of the requirement to produce a two year BCF Plan for 2017/18 – 2018/19.
2. To delegate the BCF Commissioning Board to take forward the necessary activities to develop and agree the Better Care Fund 2017-2019 and the required S75 agreement.
3. To ask for delegated authority to be put in place to sign off the BCF Plan submission ahead of the next scheduled meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. **note the timetable for the submission of the Better Care Fund Plan (BCF) for 2017/19; and**
2. **delegate approval of the Plan submission to the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing and the Director Commissioning, in consultation with the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board.**

#### Background

4. NHS England has confirmed that the Better Care Fund will continue in the 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years. The Plan should build on the 2016/17 BCF plan.
5. Publication of the BCF guidance was due in November but has been significantly delayed pending the issue by the Department of Health of the BCF Policy Framework which informs the NHS guidance, requirements and financial allocations.

As a result of this delay, the size of the fund, national conditions and planning requirements for 2017-18 and 2018/19 remain unclear. The delay in publishing the guidance means tight timeframes for developing, approving, and submitting plans.

6. However, early indications suggest that the policy framework will be broadly similar to previous years. HWBs are required to submit a narrative plan, outlining the local vision for integration and case for change. The Plan should also include a detailed expenditure plan setting out the initiatives and projects that will be funded via the BCF pooled fund.
7. The 2017/19 BCF plan should build on the approved 2016/17 plan and demonstrate that local partners have reviewed progress in the first two years of the BCF as the basis for developing plans for 2017-19.
8. The Plan should also set out the local vision and approach to integration and demonstrate alignment with local strategic visions for the STP and the GP Forward View.

### **Reasons for the Action Proposed**

9. The Better Care Fund Planning Guidance requires that Plans are signed off by HWBs and by the constituent Council and Clinical Commissioning Group.
10. The HWB has a statutory duty to promote integration and is seen as a valuable forum for stakeholders to come together to review performance of the BCF and consider opportunities for transforming health and social care. The expectation is that HWBs will continue to oversee the strategic direction of the BCF and the delivery of better integrated care, as part of their statutory duty to encourage integrated working between commissioners.
11. The BCF Plan for 2016/17 aligns and contributes to the delivery of the national health and care strategy as set out in Delivering the Five Year Forward View, published in December 2016 and the emerging Sustainability and Transformation Plan.
12. The BCF Plan is consistent with the priorities of Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Central Bedfordshire for improving health, wellbeing and reducing health inequalities.

### **Conclusion and next steps**

13. The timetable for the BCF submission will be tight and likely to be before the next scheduled meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
14. It is therefore necessary to seek delegated authority to develop and submit the initial plan on behalf of the HWB. Though this and future iterations will be brought to the Board for approval, where possible and ratification.

15. The BCF Commissioning Board will oversee the development of the 2017/19 Plan and ensure its alignment with the local vision for Integration and STP priorities for Primary, Community and Social Care.

### **Governance & Delivery**

16. Progress on the Better Care Fund Plan will be reported to the HWB and delivery will be through agreed Joint Commissioning Board and governing boards for partners. The Health and Wellbeing Board will provide overall assurance and sign off performance monitoring returns.
17. A review of the role of the BCF Commissioning Board is underway. The new Board will consolidate the work of the BCF Commissioning Board and the Joint Strategic Commissioning Group. It will continue to have oversight of the BCF delivery on behalf of the HWB.

### **Financial**

18. The Better Care Fund creates a pooled fund of £20.543m in 2016/17 to support the delivery of integrated care. This is made up of contribution of £5.258m from Central Bedfordshire Council and £15,275 from Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. An amount of £4.977m has been assigned out of the CCG minimum allocation for the protection of social care services. The BCF pool also includes the Council's Disabled Facilities Grant of £3.417m.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)**

19. The PSED requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between and in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

### **Source Documents**

BCF Plan 2016/17

### **Location (including url where possible)**

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-social-care/better-care-fund/plan-2016-17.aspx>