



Central Bedfordshire
Health and Wellbeing Board

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Title of Report Better Care Fund Plan 2017/18 - 2018/19

Meeting Date: 12 July 2017

Responsible Officer(s) Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health & Housing
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Clinical Commissioning Group

Presented by: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health & Housing
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Recommendations The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. note the latest policy framework in respect of Better Care Fund plan for 2017/19 and progress made on developing the plan;
2. note the end of year progress against the 2016/17 Better Care Fund Plan (BCF); and
3. note that Quarter 4 BCF monitoring template was submitted to NHS England 31 May 2017.

Purpose of Report	
1.	To provide an update on the development of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2017-19.
2.	To advise the Health and Wellbeing Board on planned use of the additional social care grant, the Improved Better Care Fund, as set out in Appendix 3.
3.	To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the delivery of the BCF Plan 2016/17 and to note the Quarter 4 BCF monitoring template that was submitted to NHS England 31 May 2017.

Background	
1.	The Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework for the two year 2017-19 BCF was published in March 2017. The Policy Framework for the Fund covers two financial years to align with the NHS operational plan timetables and to give areas the opportunity to plan more strategically.

	It remains unclear however when the planning guidance will be published.
2.	The policy framework sets out the story of integration of health, social care and other public services. It provides an overview of related policy initiatives and legislation, as well as the Government's proposals for going beyond the BCF towards further integration by 2020.
3.	<p>The 2017/19 BCF Plan should build on the 2016/17 plan and is a key mechanism for the delivery of integration. There is also a requirement for partners to develop, and the HWB approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An agreed narrative including details of how national conditions will be addressed. • Confirmed funding contributions from each partner organisation. • A spending plan which sets out funding of each of the BCF schemes. • A plan detailing how health and social care integration will be achieved by 2020. • Quarterly plan figures to meet the national metrics. • Engagement with stakeholders in formation of the plan. • Progress a new nationally produced 'High Impact of Change' Model template.
4.	In 2017-18, the total BCF will be increased to a mandated minimum of £5.128 billion and £5.617 billion in 2018-19. The local flexibility to pool more than the mandatory sum remains. The main change to the Framework from last year is inclusion of significant amounts of local authority social care grant funding. Some of this was announced at the 2015 Spending Review, with an additional £2 billion over three years announced at Spring Budget 2017.
5.	As well as completing a national planning template, Health and Wellbeing Boards are required to submit a narrative plan that outlines the local vision and approach to integration, the case for change and demonstrate alignment with local strategic vision for the STP and the GP Forward View.
6.	The narrative plan should also include a detailed expenditure plan setting out the initiatives and projects that will be funded via the BCF pooled fund and the arrangements for the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF).
7.	<p>The BCF 2017-19 Policy Framework sets out four key national conditions for the two year plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plans to be jointly agreed 2. The NHS contribution to adult social care is maintained in line with inflation 3. Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include 7 day services and adult social care 4. Managing Transfers of Care (a new condition to ensure people's care transfers smoothly between services and settings).

8.	<p>Beyond these, areas have flexibility in how the Fund is spent over health, care and housing schemes or services but need to agree how this spending will improve performance in the following four metrics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delayed transfers of care, 2. Non-elective admissions (general and acute), 3. Admissions to residential and care homes and 4. Effectiveness of reablement.
9.	<p>Whilst awaiting publication of the technical guidance and confirmation of the BCF allocations and ring fenced sums, health and social care colleagues have been working to consider the areas of focus for the next plan.</p>
10.	<p>The 2017/19 BCF plan should build on the 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.</p>
11.	<p>In light of this, the guiding principles set out in the BLMK STP Plan and the GPFV will continue to be reflected in the new plan and are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and early intervention • Care Closer to home • Improving out of hospital services • Securing integrated outcomes for people across physical, social and mental health.
12.	<p>A place based approach to integration is being considered by partners. Equally an Integration Plan will be importantly influenced by the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Enquiry into Integration in Central Bedfordshire. A report on the findings will be presented at the Executive meeting in June.</p>
13.	<p>Agreement will be sought on the overarching schemes identified within the Plan. These schemes will contain a number of projects which will help to meet the national conditions as well as deliver outcomes against the national metrics and build on both strategic and operational integration initiatives already underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multidisciplinary Approaches delivering integrated services and improving pathways across all parts of health and social care. • Care Homes – including incorporating key elements of the Vanguard Enhanced Health Care in Care homes (EHCH) framework • Assistive Technology and Housing Adaptations (to include DFGs) • Improving Out of Hospital services – including an integrated reablement service, discharge to assess and home care services.

	New Grant for Adult Social Care (Improved Better Care Funding)
14.	The Chancellor's Budget in March 2017 announced £2bn additional non-recurrent funding for social care, of which Central Bedfordshire can expect £1.810M in 2017/18, followed by £1.956M in 2018/19 and £1.3M in 2019/20. This additional funding is required to be pooled through the BCF and should be spent on unmet social care need. The conditions also stipulate that the additional funding for adult social services paid directly to local authorities does not replace, and cannot be offset against, the NHS minimum contribution to adult social care.
15.	The new improved BCF grant will be paid directly to local authorities from the Department for Communities and Local Government. The grant will be included in the BCF however can only be used for the purposes of meeting social care needs, reducing pressures on the NHS and ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.
16.	While the additional funding will need to be pooled within the BCF and principles agreed as part of the overall plan, plans for investment of this element of the fund will need to be agreed by Council.
17.	<p>The Council can use the money to drive forward the strategy for Central Bedfordshire which is to implement a community based model for health & social care that focusses on the whole population. It will enable the population to access health and social care closer to home, via health and social care hubs, and also focusing activity on reducing the delays of transfers from hospital (DToC) but also addressing the real challenges of reducing admission into hospital.</p> <p>This would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investment in additional social care resources to support timely discharge from hospital, • complex care management and support to care homes, • voluntary sector investment to build capacity in the community • adult social care market sustainability • expanding the use of assistive technology • increasing community bed capacity
18.	The investment will also look at the importance of Housing as, nationally and locally, there is a strong focus on the relationship between housing, adult social care and health. The Council will need to focus on the whole system not just ASC or health.
19.	The use of the money will come under national scrutiny and as such both DCLG and NHSE will be seeking quarterly evidence of the success of the deployment of the money.

	A more detailed breakdown of the proposed use of the grant is set out in Appendix 3.
	Progress on BCF Plan 2016/17
20.	In this second year of BCF plans, there is demonstrable evidence of the impact on the health and care system. Key projects such as multidisciplinary working in our localities and relationships with care providers, particularly Care Homes. Local partnerships are strengthened and there is greater collaboration across services to deliver integrated outcomes for people.
21.	<p>The Q4 and End of Year return submitted to NHS England was made on 31st May 2017 and the following outturn on performance against the six metrics were reported:</p> <p>Non elective admissions: no improvement against BCF Target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing non-elective admissions remains a challenge. We are continuing to review the reasons for the increasing figures and have recently undertaken a Public Health led review which will help to ensure that local plans are focused to deliver improvements. <p>Delayed transfers of care: on track for improved performance but not to meet full target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The additional community beds commissioned to support timely discharge from hospital are having some impact. A discharge to assess model is being developed. The Council has increased capacity within the hospital social work team to provide greater oversight and timely support to coordinated discharge from hospital and reduce DTOCs. <p>Emergency admissions due to falls: on track for improved performance but not to meet full target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a more joined up and collaborative approach to improve the falls pathway. Delivery of falls awareness and training to care homes have had a real positive impact and non-elective admission for falls showed an 8% reduction in 16/17 against a rising trend in NELs overall. <p>Patient satisfaction: on track for improved performance but not to meet full target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was based on last quarter – as latest data not available. <p>Permanent admissions to care homes: on track to meet full target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of residential care has reduced and is below the BCF Target.

	<p>Reablement, patients/customers still at home 91 days after discharge: on track for improved performance but not to meet full target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been some marginal improvements in the proportion of people at home 91 days after discharge from hospital. Further work is continuing to ensure more people who can benefit from the rehab/reablement receive support and to promote independence and wellbeing. <p>A Summary of Highlights and successes and the Year End Feedback on the BCF 2016/17 Plan are attached as Appendix 1 and 2.</p>
	<p>Financial Performance</p>
22.	<p>Financial performance of the fund is in line with the BCF Plan. There is however an underspend of £1.258M comprising our 2015/16 brought forward capital grant and 2016/17 increased Disabled Facilities Grant - we have made minor use of both capital grants during 2016/17 and propose to carry forward £1.214M. We also have a revenue reserve of £0.044M which we plan to use in 2017/18.</p>
23.	<p>The focus of the DFG capital grant will be on expanding the use of Assistive technology to promote independence, self management and continue to reduce reliance on institutional forms of care.</p>

<p>Reasons for the Action Proposed</p>	
24.	<p>The Better Care Fund Planning Guidance requires that Plans are signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards and by the constituent Council and Clinical Commissioning Group.</p>
25.	<p>The Health and Wellbeing Board (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.</p>
26.	<p>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.</p>
27.	<p>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.</p>

Conclusion and next steps	
28.	The timetable for the BCF submission will be tight and likely to be before the next scheduled meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
29.	Whilst awaiting publication of the technical guidance and confirmation of the BCF allocations and ring fenced sums, health and social care colleagues will continue to progress planning for the BCF Plan aligned with an Out of Hospital Strategy.
30.	The Health and Wellbeing Board has given the delegated authority to officers developed and submit the initial plan on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This initial plan and any future iteration will be brought to the Board for approval, where possible.
31.	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.

Issues	
Governance & Delivery	
32.	Delivery of the Better Care Fund Plan is a key mechanism by which the Health and Wellbeing Board is able to fulfil its statutory duty to promote integration of health and social care.
33.	Progress on the Better Care Fund Plan will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board 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.
34.	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 Health and Wellbeing Board.
Financial	
35.	This section will be updated once the actual allocations for the 2017/19 plan are established.
36.	The current Better Care Fund created a pooled fund of £20.543M in 2016/17 to support the delivery of integrated care. This was made of up of contribution of £5.258M from Central Bedfordshire Council and £15.275M from Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. An amount of £4.977M was assigned out of the CCG minimum allocation for the protection of social care services. The BCF pool also included the Council's Disabled Facilities Grant of £3.417M.

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	
37.	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.
38.	Are there any risks issues relating Public Sector Equality Duty No

Source Documents	Location (including url where possible)
BCF Plan 2016/17	http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-social-care/better-care-fund/plan-2016-17.aspx

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- Appendix 1 – Highlights and Success
- Appendix 2 – BCF Successes
- Appendix 3 - Improved Better Care Fund