

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD

25 April 2017

BETTER CARE FUND

Board Sponsor

Sander Kristel & Simon Trickett

Author

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Priorities

Older people & long term conditions Yes

Item for Decision, Consideration or Information

Decision

Recommendation

- 1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to:**
 - a) note the projected budget forecast position (Period 11) of the 2016/17 Better Care Fund (BCF) as reported to the Integrated Commissioning Executive Officers Group (ICEOG) on 10 April 2017;**
 - b) note the current assumed deadlines for both first and final submissions of the BCF plan to NHS England;**
 - c) authorise the Director of Adult Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Health and well-being Board and the CCG Accountable Officers, to make the first submission of the BCF plan; and**
 - d) note that the final BCF plan will be approved at the Health and Well Being Board meeting in June 2017.**

Background

2. The creation of the Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced in June 2013 with the overarching aim of facilitating the integration of health and social care through the creation of a single pooled budget.

3. The Worcestershire BCF for 2016/17 totalled £38.142m. The estimated BCF budget for 2017/18 totals £48.894m (see table below)

BCF 16/17 Period 11

4. The Period 11 forecast is that the BCF will underspend by £474k. The underspend has been driven by reduced use of spot-purchased UUPs placements as Community Hospital beds have been successfully used for UUPs. All of the schemes which focus on admission prevention and facilitated discharge continue to be monitored closely at weekly panels. The final year end position will be reported to the next Health and Well Being Board.

BCF 2017/18

5. The 2017/18 Integration and BCF Policy Framework (though not the full guidance) was released on 31 March 2017. The Framework covers two financial years (2017-19) to align with NHS planning timetables and to give areas the opportunity to plan more strategically.

6. The main change to the Framework from last year is the inclusion of local authority social care grant funding. It was announced in the Spring Budget 2017 that Councils would receive an additional one-off £2 billion nationally over the next three years for social care, with £1 billion of this to be provided in 2017/18. In 2017/18 Worcestershire will receive £10.1m.

7. The new funding will be paid as a Department for Communities and Local Government specific grant and will be pooled into the Better Care Fund. It is to be spent on adult social care and used for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs, supporting reducing pressures on the NHS and stabilising the social care provider market. However, the detailed grant conditions are yet to be released.

8. Whilst the additional grant is welcome, it should be noted that it is not recurrent so any plans for spending will need to address this and ensure that the impact of the funding is long term but does not put an ongoing pressure on budgets.

9. The deadline for submission of the BCF plan has not yet been released. The advice received from the regional BCF support team is to work on an assumption of 12 May 2017 as deadline for the first submission, and 16 June 2017 as deadline for the revised, final submission.

10. The first submission does not require sign-off from the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB). However, HWB sign-off is required for the final submission in order to access funds, as confirmed in the BCF policy guidance. NHS England have set the requirement that Health and Well Being Boards agree the BCF plan, with the plan signed off by local authorities and CCGs.

11. There are no further scheduled formal HWB meetings before the current working submission date of 16 June 2017 and national deadlines related to BCF have previously slipped. However, there is a private informal meeting of the Board members scheduled for 13 June 2017. It is therefore recommended that there be a public meeting of the HWB on 13 June 2017 to deal with a specific agenda item, in order to ensure the BCF final submission is signed off.

12. The detail of the BCF plan (including confirmed financial allocations) is yet to be published. Planning discussions between stakeholders are currently based on the estimated amounts as per the table below. Evaluations for all schemes currently funded by the Better Care Fund have been received and reviewed by ICEOG. The majority of these schemes will continue in 2017/18.

	Estimated amount for planning discussions (£000)
Current BCF contributions from CCGs (as per 2016/17) used to Support Adult Social Care	12,244
Current BCF contributions from CCGs (as per 2016/17) used to Support Community Health and CHC	21,662
Disabled Facilities Grant (as per 2016/17)	4,236
Current 2016/17 BCF	38,142
Estimated Inflationary increase to CCG contributions	607
Worcestershire additional allocation (non-recurrent)	10,145
Estimated Total amount in Worcestershire 2017/18 Better Care Fund plan	48,894

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

13. The policy framework for the implementation of the statutory Better Care Fund (BCF) was first announced in the Government's Spending Review of 2013 and established in the Care Act 2014. The Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government issued further guidance on 31 March 2017.

Privacy Impact Assessment

There are no specific issues to highlight at this stage.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Equality relevance will be considered when the 2017/18 Plan is developed.

Contact Points

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