

BETTER CARE FUND PLAN 2016/17

To: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 21 April 2016

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1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- provide an introduction to the draft Better Care Fund plan for 2016/17;
- update the Board on further areas for development in the plan; and
- seek delegated authority for sign off of the final BCF plan.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) creates a joint budget to help health and social care services to work more closely together in each Health and Wellbeing Board area. The BCF came into effect in April 2015 and in Cambridgeshire the BCF totalled £37.7 million for 2015/16, which was brought into the BCF from existing health and social care budgets. The BCF is designed to support better integration of health and social care to improve services for the most vulnerable people in the community; provide better support for carers and create efficiencies. In the first year of BCF most funding remained in community health and social care budgets, particularly supporting the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)'s Older People and Adult Community Services (OPACS) contract; and a smaller amount of funding has been focused on medium term projects that will begin to support our shared outcomes.

2.2 Cambridgeshire's final Better Care Fund plan for 2016/17 must be submitted by 2 May 2016. The current draft BCF plan is attached as Appendix A (narrative) and Appendix B (budgets and performance information). More information on the background to this year's submission is contained within the paper on BCF to the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2016.

3.0 CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S BETTER CARE FUND APPROACH IN 2016/17

- 3.1 The Narrative Plan describes our overall approach to the Better Care Fund in 2016/17, describing delivery priorities; the approach to the budget; and how our work will meet the BCF national conditions. The Council and CCG have agreed as guiding principle for the Better Care Fund in 2016/17 that there should be greater transparency over the budget lines in the BCF pool. Every budget line will have clear performance metrics attached; and clear and realistic expectations should be set for the transformation projects undertaken through BCF. It is expected that this approach will assist all partner organisations, and the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board, in better assessing the impact of the BCF. This will become increasingly important as the system moves towards longer-term, more integrated planning beyond 2016/17.
- 3.2 As the BCF does not contain any new investment, a significant proportion of the fund will still support existing services. Partners have attempted to bring service budgets into the BCF where a clear benefit can be realised through aligning service budgets in health and social care. The expectation is that this will drive further joint commissioning and support an expansion of integrated working in future years. This will increase the overall size of the BCF in 2016/17, to £42,085k. This is described on page 15 of Appendix A.

4.0 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE BCF PLAN

- 4.1 Cambridgeshire received feedback on its first BCF submission for 2016/17 on 13 April 2016. The plan could have received a rating of 'assured'; 'assured with support'; or 'not assured'. Cambridgeshire's plan was rated as 'not assured', reflecting the fact that there is still work to do on the Plan and that a number of areas were identified as gaps in our submission. However, the format and focus of the plan was welcomed; and reviewers commented that they felt the area should not have a problem in providing a complete plan by the deadline of 3 May. Some areas of detail have since been added but there are a number of areas to be completed. A verbal update will be provided on these areas at the meeting. In particular the following areas must be developed further:
- Budget figures within the plan are provisional. Whilst the broad budget areas are correct, partners are keen to include more detail for the largest budget lines in the plan – particularly for provision in the Neighbourhood Teams
 - Performance targets are not yet included within the draft plan, although conversations are ongoing about appropriate metrics for each of the budget lines.
 - More information will be included about each of the transformation projects receiving investment as described on page 17
 - There are a number of areas of the narrative plan where more detail is required to provide full assurance

4.2 Work on these areas will continue up until the BCF Plan deadline of 2 May. Therefore delegated authority is requested for completion and approval of the BCF Plan to the Director of Public Health in association with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:
- Notes the report and provides comments on the draft Better Care Fund templates attached; and
 - Delegates authority for completion and approval of the Better Care Fund templates to the Director for Public Health in association with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Source Documents	Location
Better Care Fund Technical Guidance	https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/part-rel/transformation-fund/bcf-plan/