

Better Care Fund Plan 2017

To: Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting Date: 8 September 2017

From: Will Patten, Director of Commissioning – Cambridgeshire County Council

Recommendations: The Board is asked to:

- a) consider and approve the Better Care Fund Plan for 2017/19 subject to final amendments;
- b) delegate authority to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Chairman of the Board for any final amendments to be made to the Plan before submission.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The Better Care Fund (BCF) creates a joint budget to help health and social care services to work more closely together in each Health & Wellbeing Board Area. The BCF came into effect in April 2015. The 2017/19 plan is the third Cambridgeshire BCF Plan. Following previous discussions with the Health and Wellbeing Board, a joint plan has been developed between Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for 2017-19; however, two separate pooled budgets will be maintained in line with statutory requirements.
- 1.2** The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough BCF plan for 2017/19 must be submitted by 11th September, and Health and Wellbeing Board approval is required for the plan. The current draft of the plan is attached in the Appendices to this report. Please note that work will continue on the Plan until the date of the meeting and further papers may be tabled at the meeting. A verbal presentation will be provided to give an overview of the 2017/19 plan and explain any significant changes made since the version circulated.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 Policy Requirements

New guidance for the 2017 BCF plans were issued in late July and contained two key changes to policy framework. First, plans are now required to be developed for a two year period. Secondly, the number of national conditions has been reduced from eight to four. The national conditions require:

- A locally agreed plan, signed off by the health and wellbeing board, local authority and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Maintenance of adult social care spending from the CCG minimum contribution in line with inflation
- Investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services
- Areas to implement the high impact change model for managing transfers of care

Local areas are asked to continue to consider the previous national conditions, namely:

- Develop delivery of seven day services across health and social care
- Improve data sharing between health and social care; and
- Ensure a joint approach to assessments and care planning

Plans should also set out the joint vision and approach for integration, including how the BCF complements the Next Steps on the NHS Five Year Forward View, STP, Care Act 2014 requirements and wider local government transformation.

2.3 Approach

The narrative plan attached as Appendix A describes our overall approach to the Better Care Fund (BCF) in 2017/19. The plan describes local delivery priorities; the approach to the budget; and how our work will meet the BCF national conditions. This approach has been agreed with the Clinical Commissioning Group and will allow the plan to adapt to the local environment over the period of the plan.

Timescales

Milestone	Date
BCF planning submission (with HWB approval)	11 September 2017
Regional assurance	12-25 Sept 2017
Regional moderation	w/c 25 Sept 2017
Cross regional calibration	2 Oct 2017
Approval letters issued	From 6 Oct 2017
Escalation panels for plans rated as not approved	w/c 10th Oct 2017
Deadline for areas with plans rated approved with conditions to submit updated plans	31 Oct 2017
All section 75 agreements to be signed and in place	30 Nov 2017

2.3 Financials

The Better Care Fund will see some changes in the financial arrangements for 2017/19, the main being the addition of the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) funding stream. Appendix B1-5 contains the expenditure plan for the BCF.

Spending contained within the BCF broadly falls into three areas: spending in mainstream services; transformation; and the new iBCF grant.

Mainstream Priorities

Mainstream funding will retain the broad categories established in the Cambridgeshire's 2016/17 plan, namely:

- Intermediate Care and Reablement
- Promoting Independence
- Neighbourhood Teams
- Carers Support
- Voluntary Sector Joint Commissioning

- Discharge planning and Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOCs)

Transformation priorities

Due to the delay in the publication of national guidance there will not be detailed spending plans relating to the transformation priorities in the BCF plan. Instead, the funding will be allocated internally by each organisation to best meet the overall 4 priorities; with a particular focus on reablement.

Improved Better Care Fund

The new 'Improved Better Care Fund grant' is paid directly to local authorities, and amounts to £8,339k in Cambridgeshire in 2017/18. It is important to note that a proportion of the iBCF, announced in the Spring Budget 2017, is non-recurring and reduces over three years. Councils are required to balance use of the Improved Better Care Fund against three areas: Meeting adult social care needs generally; Reducing pressures on the NHS (including DTOC) and Stabilising the Care Market. A list of initiatives being supported by the IBCF is included in the BCF Plan. The CCG and local authorities will flex the investment over the period of the plan by reviewing performance through the Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB), and then adjusting the investment into schemes to meet the BCF Metrics.

3. BCF PLAN SUBMISSION

- 3.1 The BCF Plan must be submitted to NHS England by 11 September 2017, and should be signed by the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board are invited to comment on the draft plan attached and the verbal update to be provided at the meeting in order to inform the final plan. To allow final amendments to be made following the meeting, delegated authority is requested to the Director of Public Health in association with the Chair of the Board to make any final amendments to the plan before submission.

4. ALIGNMENT WITH THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The BCF is relevant to priorities 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- Priority 2: Support older people to be independent, safe and well.
- Priority 3: Encourage healthy lifestyles and behaviours in all actions and activities while respecting people's personal choices.
- Priority 4: Create a safe environment and help to build strong communities, wellbeing and mental health.
- Priority 6: Work together effectively.