

BETTER CARE FUND

To: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 2 October 2014

From: Adrian Loades, Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults Services.

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Better Care Fund (BCF) submission to Government made on 19 September and outline the next steps for transformation across the system, including agreements made at the inaugural meeting of the Cambridgeshire Executive Partnership Board (CEPB).
- 1.2 To seek Health and Wellbeing Board's approval of the use of £10,652,000 S256 Sustainability Funding, outcome measures and monitoring arrangements as set out in the draft agreement attached as Appendix Ai.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Better Care Fund was announced by the Government in the June 2013 spending round, with the aim of supporting transformation in integrated health and social care. The BCF was announced as a single pooled budget to support health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas. The pooled budget is expected to be in place from April 2015. In Cambridgeshire, the amount allocated to the fund is £37.7m. This is not new money granted by Government, but rather a re-organisation of existing funding that is currently used to provide health and social care services in the county.
- 2.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board had previously approved plans for submission to central Government in February and April 2014. In July 2014, the government introduced a new set of guidance for the BCF and asked all local areas to resubmit their plans by 19 September 2014. The background to this process is outlined in more detail in the papers for the 11 September Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.
- 2.3 At its 11 September meeting, the Board discussed the draft BCF submission for Cambridgeshire and delegated authority to the Director of Public Health in conjunction with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board to agree the final submission to Government. The key area discussed was the target for reducing emergency admissions for all ages. Although central Government guidance sought an absolute reduction of 3.5%, given the recent agreed trend in Cambridgeshire for an annual increase of 2% or higher, Health and Wellbeing Board Members agreed that this target should be set at a decrease of 1%.
- 2.4 Subsequently, officers finalised the report and following comments from the Chair and Vice Chair of this Board and final approval from the Chair in conjunction with the Director of Public Health, the final submission to Government was made on 19 September 2014. The final submission, Appendix B (submission Part 1) and Appendix C (submission Part 2) to this report, is available on the Council's website at <http://tinyurl.com/ccc-chwb-141002>.

3.0 ASSURANCE OF THE BCF PLAN AND NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The Government has outlined the next steps for the Better Care Fund following submission. The Department of Health has committed to assessing all 145 submissions nationally within the next fortnight. Assessment of each will take a day. A team of three assessors will review the plan in the morning; and a telephone conference is then held in the afternoon to allow any questions to be asked of local representatives. The assessors will then discuss all regional plans with representatives from the regional National Health Service (NHS) teams, and regional representatives of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).
- 3.2 Plans will go through four approval levels, up to Ministers and Secretary of State. They have stated that announcements will be made by the end of October on the position of all plans. All plans will be assessed as:
- Approved
 - Approved with support (where additional information is required)
 - Approved with conditions (for plans that do not fully meet the national conditions)
 - Not approved (likely to be reserved for areas that do not submit a plan or submit a plan that does not meet national conditions).
- 3.3 A verbal update on progress with the Cambridgeshire submission will be given at the meeting on 2 October. The telephone conference to discuss Cambridgeshire's submission is scheduled for 30 September and it will be possible to provide a strong indication of Cambridgeshire's position in the assurance process.

4.0 NEXT STEPS FOR THE BCF

- 4.1 The Cambridgeshire Executive Partnership Board (CEPB) will provide a key forum for developing and delivering the BCF Programme of work, as well as other system-wide transformation. The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to establish CEPB at its meeting in July 2014, and the group held its inaugural meeting on 15 September 2014.
- 4.2 At that meeting, the group agreed its terms of reference and discussed the role of CEPB, especially when considered alongside other multi-agency forums in Cambridgeshire. It is suggested that the CEPB will oversee three projects relating to the BCF: 7-day working; information sharing; and joint assessments including an accountable professional. In addition it was agreed that the CEPB will be the forum for oversight of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)'s Older People and Adult Community Services (OPACS) Contract. Meetings of CEPB will be arranged by the Integration and Transformation Team established within Cambridgeshire County Council, and regular updates will be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board. A further meeting of the CEPB has been scheduled for 22 October 2014.
- 4.3 Following the Executive Partnership Board, officers from the Integration and Transformation Team are working to develop the scopes for each of the BCF projects. The project areas identified for BCF will contribute to both a reduction in emergency admissions; and will begin to develop the longer term transformation required across the system in order to make all of our services more sustainable for the future. These project scopes will be discussed at the next meeting of the CEPB on 22 October; a significant amount of development work will take place between October and March to ensure that once BCF funding is secured, projects are able to proceed as quickly as possible.

- 4.4 The proposals and ideas put forward by organisations across the sector in December 2013 to January 2014 were wide-ranging in their scope and came from a range of providers, including voluntary and statutory bodies of all sizes. The sheer volume and quality demonstrated a positive commitment in Cambridgeshire to the transformation of the health and social care system. At its meeting on 11 September, Health and Wellbeing Board Members noted that work would continue to ensure that the ideas set out in these proposals would not be lost. Provision has been included for taking forward at least some of the BCF proposals in the new version of the BCF plan, through creation of an 'Ideas Bank'. A communication is being developed to be sent to all stakeholders that have contributed to the development of the BCF submission; in particular to organisations that developed and submitted proposals for use of the BCF. Given the additional restrictions placed on the use of the BCF since it was first announced, it is important that it is communicated that financial resources to support these proposals remain extremely limited. This communication will be circulated in advance of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.
- 4.5 A supporting element to the BCF will be the sustainability funding transfer (Section 256 funding) from the NHS to local authorities which occurs each year. The funding transferred by NHS England is to be used for services or programmes that are of benefit to the wider health and care system, and provide good outcomes for service users that might otherwise be reduced due to budget pressures in local authorities. In 2015-16, the transfer has increased by £2.33m to £10.65m. The additional investment will be used to further support the care system and in anticipation of the Better Care Fund.
- 4.6 The payments are to be made via an agreement under Section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006. NHS England will enter into an agreement with each local authority which will be administered by the NHS England Area Teams (and not Clinical Commissioning Groups). Funding from NHS England will only pass over to local authorities once the Section 256 agreement has been signed by both parties. The 2015-16 Section 256 Memorandum of Agreement and the proposed allocation of funding can be found in appendix A. This version is subject to amendments following discussions with NHS England East Area Team.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are significant implications associated with the BCF which have been set out previously and will be summarised in the detail of the plan. Any late changes will be reported to the Board at the meeting.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION / DECISION REQUIRED

- 6.1 Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the update above and provide comments on the verbal update to be provided at the meeting.
- 6.2 Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to comment on the proposals contained in the Section 256 Memorandum of Agreement at Appendix Ai and to delegate authority for completion and submission of the S256 Agreement to the Director of Public Health in association with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Source Documents	Location
BCF national guidance	Room C009, Castle Court, Cambridge
BCF assurance process	Room C009, Castle Court, Cambridge