

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Better Care Fund		
Contributors	Whole System Model of Care Programme Lead	Item No.	5
Class	Part 1	Date:	27 April 2017
Strategic Context	Please see body of report		

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on Better Care Fund (BCF) planning for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- Note the delay in the publication of the Better Care Fund Planning Guidance;
- Agree that, if required, an additional meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board be arranged as soon as the date for submission of the plan is known so that it can be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## 3. Strategic Context

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires Health and Wellbeing Boards to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social services in the area to work in an integrated manner, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the area.

- 3.2 The Care Act 2014 amended the NHS Act 2006 to provide the legislative basis for the Better Care Fund. It allows for the mandate to NHS England to include specific requirements relating to the establishment and use of an integration fund.

- 3.3 The Government's Spending Review in November 2015 announced a requirement for all areas to have a plan for integration between social care and health by 2017, to be implemented by 2020.

- 3.4 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a joint health and social care integration fund managed by Lewisham Council and Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group. The strategic framework is set out in the national BCF policy framework and planning guidance.

## 4. The Better Care Fund Policy Framework and Planning Guidance

- 4.1 The Policy Framework for the implementation of the BCF in 2017-18 and 2018-

19 was only published on 31 March 2017. At the time of writing the detailed planning requirements and allocations that underpin the framework were in the process of being finalised.

- 4.2 The Policy Framework for the BCF covers two financial years (2017-19) to align with NHS planning timetables.
- 4.3 The number of national conditions has been reduced from 8 in 2016/17 to 4 in 2017-19. The BCF Plan is required to demonstrate that the following national conditions have been met:
- Plans to be jointly agreed and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board;
  - NHS contribution to adult social care is maintained in line with inflation;
  - Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services; and
  - Managing Transfers of Care.
- 4.4 As in 2015/16 and 2016/17 the plan will outline targets and plans to deliver against the four national metrics:
- Non elective admissions
  - Admissions to residential and care homes
  - Effectiveness of reablement
  - Delayed transfers of care
- 4.5 The main change to the Framework from last year is the inclusion of a new grant for adult social care announced in the 2015 Spending Review and 2017 Spring Budget as the 'Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)'.
- 4.6 The new iBCF grant will be paid directly to local authorities via a Section 31 grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government. The Government has attached a set of conditions to the Section 31 grant to ensure it is included in the BCF at local level and spent on adult social care. The draft conditions have been shared and can be summarised as:
- The grant must be used for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs; reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready; and ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.
  - A recipient local authority must:
    - a) pool the grant funding into the local BCF,
    - b) work with the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group and providers to meet National Condition 4 (Managing Transfers of Care); and
    - c) provide quarterly reports as required by the Secretary of State.
  - The Government has made clear that part of this funding is intended to enable local authorities to quickly provide stability and extra capacity in local care systems. Local authorities are therefore able to spend the grant, subject to the conditions set out in the grant determination, as soon as plans have been locally agreed.

## **5. BCF Plan 2017-18 and 2018-19**

- 5.1 As in 2016/17 the BCF Plan will be developed by Lewisham Council and Lewisham CCG.
- 5.2 The BCF Plan 2017-18 and 2018-19 will be an evolution of the 2016/17 Plan and, subject to the planning guidance, is expected to continue to fund activity in the following areas:
- Prevention and Early Intervention
  - Primary Care including supporting extended access to GP services.
  - Community based care and the development of neighbourhood care networks
  - Enhanced Care and Support to reduce avoidable admissions to hospital and to facilitate timely discharge from hospital.
  - Estates and IMT

## **6. BCF Timetable**

- 6.1 The timetable for assurance and approval of BCF plans will be published in the Planning Guidance.
- 6.2 The delay in the publication of the Planning Guidance is likely to result in a tight timetable for submission of our local BCF Plan and it is possible that approval and sign off of the plan will fall in the period between this meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the next. Members are asked therefore to agree that, if required, an additional meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board be arranged. However if the timetable allows the plan will be presented for sign off at the July meeting.
- 6.3 In the meanwhile, a review of the 2016/17 BCF plan is taking place and a first draft of the 2017-18 and 2018-19 plan is being prepared addressing the key areas as set out Policy Framework.

## **7. Governance**

- 7.1 The BCF arrangements are underpinned by pooled funding arrangements with a section 75 agreement. (A section 75 agreement is an agreement made under section 75 of the National Health Services Act 2006 between a local authority and an NHS body in England. It can include arrangements for pooling resources and delegating certain NHS and local authority health related functions to the other partner).
- 7.2 The Section 75 Agreement Management Group (Adults) oversees the 2016/17 BCF Plan and will also oversee the 2017-2019 BCF Plan and expenditure.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. Monitoring of the activity supported by Better Care Funding continues to be undertaken by the Section 75 Agreement Management Group (Adults).

## **9. Legal implications**

9.1 As part of their statutory functions, Members are required to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social services in the area to work in an integrated manner, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the area, and to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of health-related services in its area to work closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

9.2 Where there is an integration of services and/or joint funding, then this is dealt with under an agreement under Section 75 NHS Act 2006 which sets out the governance arrangements for the delivery of services, and where relevant any delegation of functions from one party to another and the respective budget contributions of the local authority and the CCG in relation to the services.

## **10. Crime and Disorder Implications**

10.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

## **11. Equalities Implications**

11.1 Although there are no specific equalities implications arising from this report, Equalities Analysis will be undertaken where necessary to inform the BCF plan.

## **12. Environmental Implications**

12.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

## **13. Conclusion**

13.1 This information report provides an update on the Better Care Fund and invites members to agree the recommendations set out in paragraph 2.1.

13.2 If you have problems opening or printing any embedded links in this document, please contact [stewart.snellgrove@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:stewart.snellgrove@lewisham.gov.uk) (Phone: 020 8314 9308)

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