

Title	Better Care Fund 2016 to 2017: how will it work? An update
Date	
Report of:	Rachael Rothero – Service Director for Commissioning and Service Improvement
Lead contacts:	John Lisle – Chiltern CCG Colin Thompson – Aylesbury Vale CCG Rachael Rothero – BCC Ali Bulman - BCC

Purpose of this report:

To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the way in which the Better Care Fund will be implemented in the financial year 2016.17. This is based on the national policy framework which has recently been issued. The paper will also consider the implications of this for Buckinghamshire specifically. A summary of the main issues covered in this paper are as follows:-

- The legal and financial basis of the fund.
- The conditions of access to the funds.
- The priorities for the fund and the national and local performance metrics.
- The assurance and approval process of the fund including timescale for sign off.

Summary of main issues:

The BCF policy is intended to provide a big financial incentive to support the integration of health and social care services. It has required the pooling of budgets and an agreement about how integration will be taken forward and the funding prioritised to support this.

In 2015.16 the national allocation for the BCF was £3.8bn. This is expected to increase to £3.9bn in 2016.17. Whilst we have not had the precise allocation for Buckinghamshire health and social care system it is expected it will be similar to 2015. A summary of this is set out in the table below.

Contributions from the partners to the BCF	£m Contribution	Summary of what is included
Social care contribution via the NHS	£9,060m	Including £1,400 Care Act monies
Health contribution via the NHS	£17,395m	Made up of community healthcare teams and community inpatient services
Other funding via the Council	£2,430m	Made up of DFG and Social Care capital grant
Total BCF funding in the s.75 partnership agreement	£28,886	Health and social care funding

Of the £3.519m allocated to CCG in 2016.17 £2,519m will be available upfront to support the BCF plan and the local integration priorities. The remaining money will be subject to new national conditions. The allocations locally are not known yet.

It is also worth pointing out that in addition to this BCF the spending review has also made available up to an additional £1.5bn by 2019/20 which is paid directly to Councils. Whilst we have not had notification of our final out allocation we are expecting it to be in the region of £800k by 2019/20 which is one of the lowest in the country.

Local areas will be required to demonstrate that they meet the following conditions in order for the funding to be released. NHS England has the ability to withhold or redirect funds if the following conditions are not met.

1. Establishment of an s.75 agreement and pooled budgets.
2. A requirement for Health and Wellbeing Boards to jointly agree the plans to spend the BCF and to take forward integration.
3. A requirement for plans to be approved by NHS England and DCLG.
4. A requirement that a proportion of the areas allocation will be subject to a new condition around NHS commissioned out of hospital services and addressing DTOCs.
5. Plans will also be required to meet the following national conditions:-
 - Maintain provision of social care services
 - Agreement for the delivery of 7 day a week health and social care services to reduce unnecessary non elective admissions.
 - Better data sharing across health and social care including use of the NHS number.
 - Ensure a joint approach around assessment and care planning ensuring that there is an accountable professional for integrated packages of care.
 - Agreement on consequential impact of the changes on providers that will be substantially affected by the plans.
 - Agreement to invest in a range of NHS commissioners out of hospital services which may include investment in social care.
 - Agreement on a local action plan to reduce DTOCs.

In addition to this it is expected that local systems will develop a clear set of commissioning and decommissioning priorities to support the integration of health and social care services that the BCF will support the delivery of. In Buckinghamshire in 2015.16 the health and social care system signed off an integrated model for Older People services with a view to the investment in the BCF being reshaped over time to deliver this, as well as other funding in the health and social care economy. As part of the 2016.17 BCF there will be a requirement to review this integration plan and determine the detailed priorities to support integration during 2016.17 and the appropriate governance to oversee the delivery of this and the commissioning capacity required to drive this forward on behalf of the CCGs and the LA.

It is expected that local Better Care Fund plans will be agreed in line with the guidance. The key elements of the assurance and approval process for local Better Care Funds and the timescale around this is set out below. It is expected that before the 8th February submission of the One year Operating Plan for the CCGs and the BCF planning that it will have been signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Boards as part of the first gateway of assurance.

Date	Action
8 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BCF Policy guidance issued CCG allocations issued
15 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Planning guidance issued NHS Planning return template issued HWB level BCF allocations published
TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final technical BCF guidance and templates to be issued
8 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for first draft submission of BCF planning return Deadline for first CCG operating plan submission
12 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National team provide analysis of planning return to regions
19 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for feedback from regional assurance and moderation of the first draft submission, wider progress, and support offered where required
26 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue revised planning return template with CCG NEA numbers pre-populated
2 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for second CCG operating plan submission
TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for submission of BCF narrative plan (regionally)
9 March TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue final planning return template with final CCG NEA numbers pre-populated
16 March TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for submission of final BCF planning return
25 March TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for confirmation of proposed assurance rating for all plans from regions
20 April TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final plans submitted, signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board
31 April TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of outcome of assurance process

Senior officers from the CCGs and the County Council who are on the JET for Joint Care and the formal governance to oversee the delivery of the BCF in 2015.16 are in the process of negotiating the BCF plan and priorities for 2016.17.

Recommendation for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1. To note the content of this report.**
- 2. To provide any comments or observations to the content of the report.**
- 3. To advise on the Health and Wellbeing Board sign off process in light of the timescales for submission.**

Background documents:

2016/17 Better Care Fund Policy Framework DH and DCLG