

Title	Better Care Fund 17-19
Date	14 th September 2017
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Purpose of this report:

To update the Health & Wellbeing Board on the Better Care Fund plan for 17-19, which was submitted to NHS England on the 11th September 2017. A draft plan was first presented to the Health and Wellbeing board on the 9th March and delegated authority for finalising and submitting this report was granted to the Integrated Commissioning Executive Team (ICET). The plan has since been informed by a stakeholder engagement event and a late draft approved by the CCG governing body, which also endorsed delegated authority for finalising and submitting the plan to ICET.

Summary of main issues:

The Better Care Fund (BCF) was first announced in the Government's Spending Review of 2013 and established in the Care Act 2014. The BCF brings together health and social care budgets into pooled budgets for each Health and Wellbeing Board area to support more person-centred, coordinated care. In the first two years of the BCF, the total amount pooled nationally was £5.3bn in 2015-16 and £5.8bn in 2016-17.

The Government has published a Better Care Fund policy framework for 2017-19 and announced funding of £5.128bn BCF in 2017-18 and £5.617bn. In addition in the 2017 budget an additional £2bn funding over the next three years was announced (£1bn in 2017/18, £674m in 2018/19 and £337m in 2019/20) to be pooled within the BCF. This is the 'improved BCF' (iBCF).

The BCF has four national conditions attached to the funding:

1. Plans to be jointly agreed
2. NHS contribution to adult social care is maintained in line with inflation
3. Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include 7 day services and adult social care
4. Managing Transfers of Care (a new condition to ensure people's care transfers smoothly between services and settings).

The iBCF may only be used for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs; reducing pressure on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital; and ensuring that the local social care market is supported

The iBCF must:

- Be pooled in the BCF
- Meet national condition 4 of the BCF (managing transfers of care)
- Provide quarterly reporting

The planned areas of spend for 17-19 align with the wider integration initiatives across the Buckinghamshire system, particularly the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West, the Roadmap to Integration and the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy. The planned areas of spend for the iBCF announced in the Budget will help to support adult social care and care providers and are in line with national conditions.

The main focus of spending in the existing BCF are largely unchanged from 2017-18. Agreement has also been reached locally on the areas of spend for the iBCF. It has been agreed with the CCGs that the BCF plan will include more details of health and social care activity and improvement metrics in relation to all areas of spend (this has not been sufficiently strong in the BCF plan previously) and that we will agree on some local improvement measures to support

- delivery of best practice models that have been identified nationally to support improved patient flow and discharge; i.e. the High Impact Change Model
- social work support for achieving the 28 day Continuing Health Care multi-disciplinary team assessment performance
- proactive support to community hospitals and Wexham Park hospital discharges
- maintaining improved access to reablement and reduced transfer of care waits

The Integrated Commissioning Executive Team (ICET) provides joint accountability and oversight of the strategic direction, budget and performance of the Better Care Fund. In addition a joint management sub group (ICET JMG) meets quarterly to review the financial arrangements, performance and value for money of the schemes that sit within the section 75 agreements that are in place for the Better Care Fund.

Performance of Better Care Fund schemes against national and local metrics are regularly reviewed by ICET and by the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure schemes are delivering results. The ICET has recognised that there are many sources of health and social care data available that can facilitate our understanding of the impact of integration initiatives. A joint working group are currently reviewing the range of health and social care data sources available across the system with a view to developing a dashboard that will better measure the cost benefit realisation of the Better Care Fund Schemes.

In addition, it is a requirement of the fund that a quarterly return on the finances and performance of the BCF is submitted to NHS England and a quarterly return on the iBCF is submitted to DCLG.

The BCF narrative plan had previously been shared with NHS England for informal comment and whilst there were a few suggestions made and put in place, overall it was felt the plan was good. Areas have been addressed to help ensure it meets the standard expected in the national sign-off process.

The national sign off process will include:-

- Review by a panel including Margaret Wilcox on 20th September
- Regional moderation 25th September
- National moderation 27th and 28th September
- Final plan sign off 5th October

NHSE did advise on 1st September that Simon Stevens (Chief Executive NHSE) has further revised guidance on the BCF, specifically that there would be no negotiation for trajectories relating delayed transfers of care so there could yet be changes to the process.

Recommendation for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

To approve retrospectively the Better Care Fund Plan for 17-19.
To continue with governance and sign-off arrangements in place

Background documents:

2017-19 Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework :

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/607754/Integration_and_BCF_policy_framework_2017-19.pdf

Buckinghamshire Roadmap to Integration:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s94866/Health%20and%20Social%20Care%20integration%20report%20for%209%20March%20HWB.pdf>

Appendix 1: Final Buckinghamshire Better Care Fund Plan 17-19

N.B. Final BCF plan will be circulated as an additional agenda item on the 11th September following submission to NHS England