

Title	Better Care Fund 17-19
Date	7 November 2017
Report of:	Jane Bowie, Director of Joint Commissioning
Lead contacts:	Jane Bowie; Susie Yapp

Purpose of this report:

To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Better Care Fund plan for 17-19, which was submitted to NHS England on 11 September 2017. Delegated authority for finalising and submitting this report was granted to the Integrated Commissioning Executive Team.

Summary of main issues:

The Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for 17-19 was submitted to NHS England on 11 September 2017.

It was expected that all areas would receive a letter informing them of the decision to approve or not approve BCF plans by 5 October.

Those areas who have submitted non-compliant plans were first informed that they were progressing to the escalation stage. Buckinghamshire was informed its plan had been approved on 27 October (attached).

Secretaries of State for Health and Communities and Local Government have issued letters to upper tier authorities setting out their perception of DToC performance in relation to the Government expectations set out in July 2017. 32 authorities have been placed on the Government's 'watchlist' and are at risk of possible financial sanctions if their performance does not improve.

The letter received by Buckinghamshire County Council (attached) states that Buckinghamshire is not on the watchlist, however, the Leader will receive another letter in six weeks that will confirm whether or not Buckinghamshire will be included in the review.

NHS Provider Trusts and CCGs have received a letter from the National Urgent and Emergency Care Director (attached) which states that in areas that do not meet the DToC reduction target, NHS-sourced BCF funds will be deployed on social care for these delayed patients and in exceptional cases will be used to source additional home care and care home places over winter.

The first of the 20 Care Quality Commission targeted reviews looking at how people move through the health and social care system on Halton local authority was published on 12 October <https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/first-cqc-local-system-review-published-halton>

The Q2 return on iBCF, monitored by DCLG, was submitted on 19 October.

ADASS and the County Council Network (CCN) have written to the Secretary of State to highlight concerns regarding both the threat of BCF funding being withheld as a result of DToC targets in plans not aligning with Government expectations, as well as the impact of iBCF funding in 2018/19 potentially being withheld if DToC expectations are not met by November 2017.

ADASS and the CCN have requested information from member authorities regarding their DTOC plans and whether or not these plans are considered to be achievable.

The Buckinghamshire system missed the performance target for DToC in August.

Buckinghamshire had 1579 delayed days – target is 1194

Social care delays 303 – target is 317

NHS delays 1271 – target is 874.6

Delayed days have reduced from July which had 1713 system delays.

Recommendation for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

To note the update

To support continuation of 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>