

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

21 OCTOBER 2014

BETTER CARE FUND PLAN UPDATE

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Summary

This report provides the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on progress on the Better Care Fund plan for Medway. This includes feedback through the assurance process following the revised submission on the 19 September 2014.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Medway submitted a revised plan to NHS England/Local Government Association (LGA) for the Better Care Fund (BCF) on 19 September 2014 in line with revised planning and technical guidance.
- 1.2 Following Medway's submission, a National Consistent Assurance Review (NCAR) process took place between Monday 22 September and Friday 3 October 2014. The NCAR process involved a teleconference with an external provider (PWC) whose Reviewer Team had conducted the technical review of Medway's plan. The Review Team consisted of three representatives from a financial, analytical and narrative perspective. A teleconference took place on Friday 26 September 2014 with key representatives from the local authority and the CCG. The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board was also invited to participate.
- 1.3 This report provides a brief summary of the outcome of the NCAR process.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The Reviewer Team from PWC assessing the revised BCF plan used a national guidance assessment tool and the preliminary quality of Medway's plan was deemed to be 'medium' quality.
- 2.2 The feedback of areas requiring further development have been worked on since the plan was submitted. The areas for development are also in keeping with the national picture. The key areas for further development centred on the following:

- Further clarification with regards to financial risk sharing and contingency
- Additional information outlining how Medway will meet the national conditions
- What would be the impact of not having the Better Care Fund
- Requirement for a more detailed Benefits Realisation Plan
- Ensuring the measures clearly link with the identified Programme Areas and the Detailed Scheme Descriptions
- Further explanation of how the BCF Plan aligns with provider plans

2.3 PWC were not in a position to advise of the outcome of the review. PWC agreed to feedback to the national team the results of the NCAR and further clarification sought during the teleconference.

2.4 Medway is still awaiting final confirmation of the status of the BCF Plan, which will fall into one of the following four categories:

- Approved
- Approved with support
- Approved with conditions
- Not approved

This is expected to be known during the week commencing 13 October 2014.

2.5 Since submitting Medway's Better Care Fund Plan in April 2014, work has started at pace to progress different work programmes, for example:

- A joint Dementia Strategy is being developed in partnership with key stakeholders
- A Joint Intermediate Care Strategy is being developed in consultation with key stakeholders
- A GP Signposting Service for Medway is being implemented through joint working with iMPower. A Map of Medicine is being introduced for GP practices that includes social care content
- Research is being carried out in relation to a Care Navigator Role and task and finish groups meetings and GP consultation has taken place in relation to Community Services Redesign
- We are in the process of developing a joint specification for community equipment
- A Programme Manager has been recruited for DERiC
- We are in the process of researching and exploring benefits associated with an alternative falls prevention service
- A BCF Programme Manager has been recruited

3. Financial and Legal Implications

3.1 There are no financial or legal implications to consider at this stage.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Officers will continue to progress the actions identified at 2.2.
- 4.2 The status of Medway's BCF Plan will be communicated to Health and Wellbeing Board members once known.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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Background documents:

None