

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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UPDATE ON THE BETTER CARE FUND

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Summary

This report updates the Health and Wellbeing Board on the latest position regarding the Better Care Fund and progress made to date.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a joint plan between NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG), Medway Foundation Trust (MFT) and Medway Council.
- 1.2 The implementation of the BCF will roll out from April 2015 essentially focussing on reducing non-elective admission to MFT through improving the interaction between the various partners specifically health and social care.
- 1.3 The pooled budget will be administered in accordance with a Section 75 agreement between the CCG and the Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Board will recall the latest resubmission of the BCF plan was delivered in December 2014; this included a number of adjustments to address the issues raised during the assessment by [the central team]¹.
- 2.2 As a result of this additional work the partnership plan was approved by DCLG on 30 January 2015 and judged to be *“strong and robust with every confidence that the partnership will be able to deliver against it. This puts you in a strong position for delivering the change outlined above.”*
- 2.3 Within this submission the final non-elective admission target, the only target remaining within the scheme, was reduced from 3.5% (910) to 2.5% (605).
- 2.4 The significant winter pressures experienced in December and January and increased admissions (over 50% more than the previous year) led to a further

¹ All BCF submissions were reviewed by a central “core” team at DCLG

review by NHS England and a proposal to reduce the target further to 0.8% (194).

3. Advice and analysis

- 3.1 Now the BCF has been approved it is entering the final project planning and first delivery phase: much preparatory work has already been done across the partnership and some details have already been reported to the Board.
- 3.2 Within the scheme the work is gathered into five key themes:
 - i. Self-help and community resilience
 - ii. Reablement, rehabilitation and intermediate care services
 - iii. Carers Support
 - iv. Community Service Redesign
 - v. Dementia Services
- 3.3 In addition the plan details the envisaged changes to infrastructure and development support, preparing for the impact of the Care Act, disabled facilities grants and Adult and Social Care Capital Grants.
- 3.4 The various delivery elements of the plan are being driven forward through the partnership with joint leads on a number of facets to ensure a “joined up” approach delivering the short, medium and longer term aspirations set out in detail within the plan.
- 3.5 Details of the component parts of the various schemes are attached as Appendix 1.

4 Risk management

- 4.1 Risk management is an integral part of the BCF plan and there is an embedded risk management plan within the Section 75 agreement which has also been endorsed by the Board.
- 4.2 The notification of approval also included an assessment of the risk: “*We are confident that there are no areas of high risk in your plan and as such you should progress with your plans for implementation*”
- 4.3 The agreement relating to the pooled funding apportions the risk relative to the contribution, addresses the issue of over commitment of budget lines and deals with associated risk.
- 4.4 The Better Care Fund Risk Register is attached at Appendix 2.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation across various population groups of those delivering as well as those in receipt of services has and will continue to take place.
- 5.2 Through consultation and agreement in order to begin the process of Service Redesign all local Medway GPs have decided to participate in seven geographical Care Groups and the progress of those groups and the related changes to the delivery of adult social care continue to be plotted.

- 5.3 As recently reported to Medway Cabinet (10 February 2015) the initial findings on the service user consultation with those in receipt of dementia services will be reflected in the commissioning intentions which is scheduled to be reported to Cabinet in July 2015.

6 Financial implications

- 6.1 The financial implications of the BCF are detailed in the separate Section 75 agreement, the structure of which has already been reported: work to finalise the detail of this is nearing completion.

7 Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications for the Board as the recommendation is for the Board to note the current position. The decision to host the section 75 Pooled Fund Agreement for the Better Care Fund was taken by Cabinet on 13 January 2015. Cabinet delegated authority to the Director of Children and Adults Services with the Assistant Director, Legal and Corporate Services, and in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, following endorsement by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 21 January 2015, to produce and finalise the agreement with the Chief Operating Officer of the Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Board is requested to note this report and is advised that regular reporting of progress under the BCF will follow.

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Background papers

Appendix 1 contains details of the projects and programmes which it is planned to deliver under the BCF plan.