

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**25 APRIL 2017**

### **BETTER CARE FUND 2017-2019**

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#### **Summary**

This report notes the Adult Social Care Budget Package announced in the Spring Budget on 8 March 2017 and provides an update on the timescale for development of a Better Care Fund plan for 2017-2019.

#### **1. Budget and Policy Framework**

- 1.1 A letter to Chief Executives was received from the Department of Health (DH) and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on 22 March 2017 confirming the announcement in the Spring Budget that councils will receive an additional £2 billion over the next three years for social care. £1 billion of this will be provided in 2017-18.
- 1.2 A revised BCF policy framework was issued on 31 March 2017; however the planning template, full guidance and approval and submission dates have not yet been received (as of drafting 07.04.17).
- 1.3 A more detailed report will be presented, together with the draft BCF plan for 2017-19 at the next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in June, subject to receipt of further guidance, confirmation of local funding, and the BCF planning template.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a joint plan between NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG), Medway Council with Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT), as a key stakeholder. The BCF seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing, and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.
- 2.2 A pooled budget for the Better Care Fund is administered in accordance with a Section 75 agreement between the CCG and the Council.
- 2.3 Initiatives driven forward under the auspices of BCF have made significant improvements across the health and social care system, including:

- The introduction of the Home to Assess and Intermediate Care pathways facilitating better discharge from the acute trust and providing the foundation for the local plan to drive down delayed transfer of care (DToc).
- The introduction of a single provider for the newly commissioned Medway Integrated Community Equipment Service.
- The introduction of Home First, a new 'discharge to assess' service which allows rapid discharge from hospital for those who can be assessed for ongoing health and care needs at home.

2.4 The following table shows National BCF funding contributions in 2017-19 confirmed within the policy framework issued 31 March 2017, including new grant allocation for adult social care:

<b>Better Care Fund funding contribution</b>	<b>2017-18 (£bn)</b>	<b>2018-19 (£bn)</b>
Minimum NHS (clinical commissioning groups) contribution	£3.582	£3.65
Disabled Facilities Grant (capital funding for adaptations to houses)	£0.431	£0.468
New grant allocation for adult social care (Improved Better Care Fund)	£1.115	£1.499
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5.128</b>	<b>£5.617</b>

### **3. Advice and Analysis**

- 3.1 The additional £2bn funding announced in the Spring Budget is to be spent on adult social care and used for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs, reducing pressures on the NHS - including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready - and stabilising the social care provider market.
- 3.2 The new funding will be paid as a DCLG grant to councils, recognising that councils are best placed to determine what is needed to maintain a diverse and sustainable market locally and ensuring that funding reaches the social care frontline swiftly. It is suggested that distributing the funding based on a 90% (improved Better Care Fund) and 10% social care relative needs formula (RNF) split ensures that the funding is distributed according to social care need.
- 3.3 There are a small number of draft grant conditions attached to the grant, to ensure that the money is spent on adult social care services and supports improved performance at the health and social care interface. These are:

- i) A recipient local authority must:
  - a. Pool the grant funding into the local Better Care Fund, unless the authority has written Ministerial exemption;
  - b. Work with the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group(s) and providers to meet National Condition 4 (Managing Transfers of Care) in the Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework and Planning Requirements 2017-19; and
  - c. Provide quarterly reports as required by the Secretary of State.

The Government has made clear that part of this funding is intended to enable local authorities to quickly provide stability and extra capacity in local care systems. Local authorities are therefore able to spend the grant, including to commission care, subject to the conditions set out in the grant determination, as soon as plans have been locally agreed.

#### **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 pooled budget agreement which has previously been endorsed by this Board.
- 4.2 A full analysis of risk will be undertaken as part of the BCF planning process and reported at the June Health and Wellbeing Board.

#### **5. Consultation**

- 5.1 The BCF plan for 2017-19 will be drafted by the Council and CCG in partnership and will draw on existing consultation and engagement. Full details will be presented in the BCF report to this Board in June.

#### **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1 The policy framework for the Better Care Fund was published on 31 March 2017 and covers two financial years (2017-19) to align with NHS planning timetables and to give areas the opportunity to plan more strategically.
- 6.2 In the first two years of the BCF, the total amount pooled nationally was £5.3bn for 2015/16 and £5.8bn for 2016-17.
- 6.3 National BCF funding contributions in 2017-19 confirmed within the policy framework issued 31 March 2017 are contained within the body of the report.

#### **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1 This report notes the additional social care funding for social care announced in the Spring Budget and the indicative timeframe for producing the BCF plan for 2017-19. There are no legal implications for the Board.

## **8. Recommendations**

8.1 The Board is requested to:

- i) Consider how past successes can be built upon to enhance the Better Care Fund and to inform the draft Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2017-19.
- ii) Note that a draft BCF plan for 2017-19 will be presented in June 2017 for endorsement by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Lead officer contact**

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### **Appendices**

None.

### **Background papers**

DH/DCLG Letter to Chief Executives  
Draft grant conditions