

CABINET

9 APRIL 2019

BETTER CARE FUND

Portfolio Holder	Councillor David Brake, Adults' Services
Report from:	Ian Sutherland, Director of People, Children and Adults Serviced
Authors:	Scott Elliott, Interim Head of Adults' (25+) Partnership Commissioning and Better Care Fund. Jo Barrie, Partnership Commissioning Programme Lead BCF

Summary

This report presents an update on Medway's Better Care Fund plan for 2019 - 2020.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is an ambitious programme spanning both the NHS and local government. It is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration between health and care to deliver person centered and coordinated services.
- 1.2 The BCF was established in 2015 to encourage integration by requiring CCGs and Local Authorities to enter into pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan.
- 1.3 The Better Care Fund (BCF) in Medway is a joint plan between NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG) and Medway Council with Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) as a key stakeholder.
- 1.4 A pooled budget for the Better Care Fund is administered in accordance with a Section 75 agreement between the CCG and the Council.
- 1.5 The new BCF planning phase covers the period 2019-2020. At the time of reporting a new National BCF policy framework has not been issued for the financial year 2019-20, nor the planning template, guidance or funding details. Officers attend regional and national BCF events and it is broadly anticipated that the guidance and confirmation of funding will be issued in the very near future.

2. Background

2.1 Medway's Joint Commissioning Management Group (JCMG) was established to lead on all elements of joint commissioning between the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group, including BCF. This has enabled the sharing of information to inform local plans across the system and provided the flexibility to adapt to changes in need, performance or circumstance. This joint approach also ensures that the separate CCG and Council governance processes are fully informed e.g. the Health and Wellbeing Board, Medway CCG's Governing Body and Medway Council's Cabinet.

2.2 A number of innovative programmes have been initiated through the Medway BCF to reduce the pressure across the health and social care system. These include:

- The introduction of a new Care Navigation Service in May 2015, with recommissioning in 2018 to create our Wellbeing Navigation service
- The reconfiguration of Medway's equipment service into one cohesive offer: Medway Integrated Community Equipment Service – MICES from July 2016
- The introduction of Home First, Medway's 'discharge to assess' initiative in April 2016 which enabled the focus to move from a bed-based health and care economy towards one which is needs-based
- The commissioning of a new Intermediate Care and Reablement service in October 2016
- Establishment of new discharge pathways including a new pathway for non-weight bearing patients
- Commissioning of additional home care capacity to support winter hospital discharges.

2.3 BCF initiatives also aim to improve the experience of those Medway residents in receipt of support from the health and social care system. Much effort has been made to ensure that respective parts of the health and social care system do not work in silos:

- The use of the NHS number across systems has been a BCF National Condition since inception. Medway Council is now compliant with this condition.
- The Wellbeing Navigator service has been expanded to include community and acute services and has the potential to impact positively on many aspects of patient care, reducing the demand on GP and Hospital services
- Recommissioning of support to Carers and Carer organisations in Medway and the development of a carer's strategy for 2019-2024

3. Advice and analysis

3.1 Officers attended a BCF event on 7 March which confirmed that 2019/20 is viewed as a transition year ahead of a new spending period. The publication of guidance is imminent and follows the publication of the NHS Long Term plan in January 2019, which establishes a 10 year vision for what the NHS should look like. The BCF Planning Requirements for 2019-20 will be collected via a single template with reduced, targeted, narrative input rather

than a separate narrative plan. There will be a single stage assurance process in 2019/20.

- 3.2 The Cabinet is requested to agree an extension of the existing BCF Plan and S75 arrangements to cover the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, as set out in Appendix A to the report, in order that the arrangements and services that sit within the BCF may be dealt with as seamlessly as possible.
- 3.3 The Cabinet is asked to agree to delegate authority for the development and delivery of Medway's Better Care Fund programme 2019-2020 to the Director of People - Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the CCG Deputy Managing Director, Chief Legal Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services.

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.
- 4.2 The majority of services within the BCF Plan are currently operational, and risks already assessed and owned. In the case of new services or major variations to existing services, business cases will be developed to ensure that they are fully costed, outcomes clearly stated and risks fully assessed. Business plans and Project Initiation Documents (PIDs) will be agreed by the Joint Commissioning Management Group. These plans will include robust mobilisation plans for each project, including key milestones, impacts and risks.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The framework and guidance is not yet available to enable planning for BCF 2019-2020. It was confirmed at the regional BCF event on 7 March that BCF planning requirements for 2019-20 will be collected via a single template with reduced, targeted, narrative input rather than a separate narrative plan. There will be a single stage assurance process in 2019/20.
- 5.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board will be asked to consider and support this proposal at its meeting on 2 July 2019.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The finances of the BCF are contained within a Section 75 agreement and this will be updated based on the revised National Policy Framework for BCF when published.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications for the Board arising from this report.
- 7.2 The S75 agreement will be updated based on the national policy framework for BCF in 2019-2020.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Cabinet is asked to agree an extension of the existing Better Care Fund Plan and S75 arrangements to cover the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.
- 8.2 The Cabinet is asked to agree to delegate authority for the development and delivery of Medway's Better Care Fund programme to the Director of People - Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the Medway NHS Clinical Commissioning Group Deputy Managing Director, Chief Legal Officer and the Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services.

9. Suggested reasons for decisions

- 9.1 The extension of the existing BCF Plan and S75 arrangements to cover the period from 1 April 2019 to 1 March 2020 will enable the arrangements and services that sit within the Better Care Fund to be dealt with as seamlessly as possible.

Lead officer contact

Scott Elliott, Interim Head of Adults' (25+) Partnership Commissioning and Better Care Fund, Gun Wharf, 01634 333012

Appendices

Appendix A – BCF narrative plan 2017-2019

Background papers

None