

10 SEPTEMBER 2019

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

BETTER CARE FUND

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Summary

This report presents Medway's Better Care Fund plan for 2019/20 for the Board's support.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF), established in 2015, is an ambitious programme spanning both the NHS and local government. The primary aim of the BCF is to facilitate integration between health and care organisations, in order to deliver person centered and coordinated services. It requires Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Local Authorities, to enter into pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan.
- 1.2 The 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.
- 1.3 A pooled budget for the BCF is administered in accordance with a Section 75 agreement between the CCG and the Council.
- 1.4 On 9 April 2019, the Cabinet agreed an extension of the existing BCF Plan and S75 arrangements to cover the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 (decision no. 50/2019 refers). This ensured that the arrangements and services that sit within the BCF could be dealt with as seamlessly as possible pending publication of guidance and funding for 2019/20.

1.5 The BCF Plan 2017 – 2019 set out at Appendix A to the report, is presented to offer transparency to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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 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. BCF Plan 2019/20

- 3.1 Based on the original minimum CCG contribution for 2019/20 of £17.488m, there is in the region of £300k for 2019/20 currently unallocated.
- 3.2 Potential opportunities for further investment presented in Appendix B were recommended by Joint Commissioning Management Group on 22 August 2019. Officers will develop Project Overview Documents with more detailed costings and expected impact analysis, where required for approved projects.
- 3.3 JCMG will also consider additional options to spend against the currently unallocated funds.
- 3.4 As an extension to the 2017 – 19 plan in Appendix A, the BCF Plan 19/20 as shown in Appendix B is presented for review and support by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4. Advice and analysis

- 4.1 On 9 April 2019, the Cabinet also agreed 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 (decision no. 51/2019 refers).
- 4.2 The BCF 19/20 Plan is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, ahead of submission for regional and national approval on 27 September. This has been reviewed and is supported by the Joint Commissioning Management Group. The table below shows the timescales for approval of BCF plans:

BCF planning submission from local Health and Wellbeing Board areas (agreed by CCGs and local government).	27 September
Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings, and regional moderation.	30 October
Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to Better Care Support Team	30 October
Cross regional calibration	5 November
Assurance recommendations considered by Departments and NHSE	5-15 November
Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend (CCG minimum)	Week commencing 18 November

- 4.3 Equality issues will be taken into account as part of the planning process. Better integration of services should mean that people receive a more

consistent service across Medway. A diversity Impact Assessment has not been undertaken as this report does not make any new recommendations that would have a detrimental impact on services.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 The majority of services within the BCF Plan 2017 - 19 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 will be produced for all new projects in year and agreed by the Joint Commissioning Management Group. These plans will include robust mobilisation plans for each project, including key milestones, impacts and risks.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 At Medway's Joint Commissioning Management Group on 22 August 2019 the BCF Plan for 2019/20 was approved.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 The finances of the BCF are contained within a Section 75 agreement and this has been refreshed and signed by the CCG and Council in order to support the operation of BCF schemes in 2019/20.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications for the Board arising from this report

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider this report and support Medway's Better Care Fund Plan in 2019/20.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

Appendix A – BCF Plan 2017 – 19
Appendix B – BCF Plan 2019 – 20

Background papers

None