

Health and Wellbeing Board

27 November 2019

Better Care Fund Plan 2019/20



Report of Jane Robinson, Corporate Director, Adult and Health Services, Durham County Council, and Dr Stewart Findlay, Chief Officer, Durham Dales, Easington & Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group and North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with a summary of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2019/20 which was submitted to NHS England on 27 September 2019.

Executive summary

- 2 The BCF provides a mechanism for joint health, housing and social care planning and commissioning. It brings together ringfenced budgets from Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) allocations, and funding paid to local government, including the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), the improved Better Care Fund (BCF) and the Winter Pressures Grant.
- 3 County Durham's BCF allocation for 2019/20 based upon the initial methodology is £49.2m plus additional monies through the iBCF allocation of £27.1m to support adult social care, and the Winter Pressures Grant of £2.8m to support the local health care system to manage demand pressures on the NHS.
- 4 BCF Planning and reporting incorporate the separate processes for iBCF and Winter Pressures Grants.

Recommendation(s)

- 5 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
 - (a) Note the contents of this report;
 - (b) Ratify the BCF Plan 2019/20 for County Durham;

Background

- 6 Since 2015, the Government's aims around integrating health, social care and housing, through the Better Care Fund (BCF), have played a key role in the journey towards person-centred integrated care
- 7 Integrated care is the key to strong, sustainable local health and care which prevent ill health (where possible) and the need for care, and avoid unnecessary hospital admissions. It also seeks to ensure that people receive high quality care and support in the community.
- 8 The BCF is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration through a pooled budget and provides a mechanism for joint health and social care planning and commissioning bringing together ring-fenced budgets from Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and funding paid directly to local government for adult care services.
- 9 County Durham's BCF allocation based upon the initial methodology for 2019/20 is £49.2m plus additional monies through the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) allocation to support adult social care of £27.1m and the Winter Pressures Grant of £2.8m to support the local health and care system to manage demand pressures on the NHS.

Policy and Planning Requirements

- 10 The Better Care Fund Policy Framework for 2019/20 provides continuity from the previous round of the programme.
- 11 The four national conditions set by the Policy Framework are:
 - (a) The BCF Plan including at least the minimum mandated funding to the pooled fund specified in the BCF allocations and grant determinations must be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), and by the constituent local authority and CCGs;
 - (b) How the area will maintain the level of spending on social care services from the minimum CCG contribution in line with inflation;
 - (c) That a specific proportion of the area's allocation is invested in NHS commissioned out of hospital services, which may include seven day services and adult social care;
 - (d) Implementation of the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care to support system wide expectations in maintaining or reducing rates of delayed transfers of care (DToC) during 2019/20.
- 12 The Policy Framework also sets out the four national metrics for the BCF:

- (a) Non-elective admissions (specific acute);
 - (b) Admissions to residential and nursing care homes;
 - (c) Effectiveness of reablement;
 - (d) Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC).
- 13 The main change in the BCF Planning Requirements from 2017/19 were that separate narrative plans were replaced by a template which included narrative sections covering:
- The approach to integration
 - Plans to achieve the metrics
 - Ongoing plans to implement the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care

BCF Work Programmes

- 14 There are seven main programmes within the BCF Plan which focus on health and social care initiatives to facilitate and enable the integration of a range of community services as follows;
- (i) **Short Term Intervention Services** – provide a range of service responses including intermediate care and reablement which promote recovery from illness, prevent unnecessary admission to hospital or permanent admission to residential or nursing care homes, facilitate timely and safe discharge and support from hospital and maximise opportunities for independent living (£10, 088, 119)
 - (ii) **Equipment and Adaptations for independence** – joint funding of the home equipment loan service to improve access to equipment and adaptations and increasing opportunities for the use of assistive technology to help people remain or return to their own homes after a crisis following changes to their health and care needs (£12, 238, 175)
 - (iii) **Supporting Carers** – in recognition of the value and contribution that carers make to the health and social care system and economy, we are committed to improving carer support in order to enable carers to maintain their caring role and aid their health and wellbeing (£1,361,000)
 - (iv) **Supporting Independent Living** – includes mental health and recovery services which focus on the wider detriments

of health such as accommodation and employment which relate to good mental health and wellbeing. The programme aligns with the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health (2016) in that it prioritises, prevention, access, integration, quality and positive experiences of care (£5,004,959)

- (v) **Social Inclusion** – through an asset based approach we have sought to increase community capacity and resilience working with the Voluntary and Community Sector in order to transfer services at a pre-health and care delivery stage through access to universal services, facilities and resources which promote wellbeing, respond to social isolation and help to avoid or delay the development of needs for health and care (£1,121,000)
- (vi) **Care Home Support** – we are committed to high quality care home provision. Our endeavours focus the competency and capability of care homes to provide high quality care as part of a more integrated health and care system which ensures person centred care, dignity and safeguarding adults standards are met (£1,774,000)
- (vii) **Transforming Care** – has a clear emphasis on new paradigms for integrated care delivery. An integrated Governance Framework has been implemented to unite stakeholders behind the vision of integration and developing a shared understanding of integration between partners, joining up service delivery where it makes sense for the service user, which is efficient, cost effective and outcome focussed with an emphasis on community based solutions and a whole system approach to early intervention and prevention which promotes independence and wellbeing (£17,513,514)

15 The approach to the use of the iBCF centres around three key initiatives:

- (i) Supporting people with complex learning disability needs in the community
- (ii) Supporting people with complex needs associated with dementia in the community
- (iii) Social Care and system related support

16 The agreed approach to the use of the Winter Pressures Grant (WPG) supports the local health and care system to manage demand and create capacity, particularly in relation to seasonal winter pressures in

support of safe discharge from hospital and admission avoidance where appropriate. The WPG also supports Adult and Health Services in discharging its duties to provide care and support under the Care Act 2014.

Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC)

- 17 Where areas have already met expectations for reducing DToC, they should continue to implement joint plans to manage discharge and patient flow to minimise delays. Progress in reducing DToC will continue to be monitored regularly by national partners. Expectations for reducing DToC in 2019/20 are articulated as a single Health and Wellbeing Board ambition and have not been split into separate NHS and social care expectations. This is intended to support joint working and accountability at system level collaboration.

BCF Timetable for Planning and Assurance

- (i) BCF planning submission to be submitted to england.bettercaresupport@nhs.net by 27 September 2019
- (ii) Scrutiny of BCF Plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meeting and regional moderation by 30 October 2019
- (iii) Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to BCST by 30 October 2019
- (iv) Cross Regional calibration by 5 November 2019
- (v) Assurance recommendations considered by departments and NHSE between 5–15 November 2019
- (vi) Approval letters issued week commencing 18 November 2019
- (vii) Section 75 Agreements to be signed and in place by 15 December 2019

Agreement by the Health and Wellbeing Board

- 18 The BCF Plan 2019/20 was 'signed off' the chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services and the Chief Operating Officer for North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Groups to meet the submission deadline in the absence of a scheduled meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

Author

Paul Copeland

Tel: 03000 265190

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

The BCF 2019/20 Pooled Budget is £40.2m.

Consultation

As necessary through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Equality Act 2010 require the Council to ensure that all decisions are reviewed for their particular impact upon people.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

Consideration of the impact by climate change in decision making and reporting has been considered.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

Failure to meet BCF performance metrics may result in reputational damage and increased national scrutiny.

Procurement

None.