

Title of Report:	Better Care Fund Update Report
Report to be considered by:	The Health and Wellbeing Board
Date of Meeting:	27 th November 2014

Purpose of Report: To update the Health and Wellbeing Board of progress on the Better Care Fund plans

Recommended Action: The Health and Wellbeing Board to approve submission, to the Department of Health, of the joint plans agreed between the CCGs and the Council for use of the Better Care Fund.

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Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A detailed report setting out the implications of changes to social care funding arrangements as a result of the Care Act and performance targets for the Better Care Fund (BCF) was considered at a special meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 18th September 2014.
- 1.2 The report highlighted two main challenges: the change in performance target to focus on non-elective admissions and the financial implications for adult social care of the change in eligibility criteria from critical to substantial.
- 1.3 The size of the funding gap created by the change in eligibility was considered to be the main issue for HWB to consider ahead of submission of the latest BCF template on the 19th September.
- 1.4 The report also outlined that Wokingham Borough Council faced the same challenge in relation to the change in eligibility.
- 1.5 HWB approved submission with the following caveat 'To approve the Better Care Fund Plan subject to clarification that an adequate level of funding will be provided to meet the cost to West Berkshire District Council of moving to the new national minimum eligibility criteria being received from the Department of Health by 31ST October 2014 and if a positive response is not received to address this issue then the Health and Wellbeing Board reserves its right to withdraw the Plan.
- 1.6 Given the implications it was agreed that West Berkshire and Wokingham, with the support of the CCG, would work together on this.

2. Progress update

- 2.1 Following a meeting with senior officials from the DH on 6th October it was agreed that both councils would provide evidence of the funding implications arising from the change in eligibility criteria.
- 2.2 For West Berkshire the evidence provided consisted of two main areas, the numbers of new people would be eligible for support and the additional costs of meeting the increased eligible needs of existing clients.
- 2.3 For the first area a comparison of our client numbers against 6 social care councils from our CIPFA comparator group was undertaken. This suggested that we should expect to see client numbers increase by around 12% which would be 224 more clients at a cost in the region of £2.21m.
- 2.4 For the second area we undertook a desktop exercise of 49 existing clients. This involved a detailed review of all of the information gathered as part of the original care needs assessment. We identified the eligible needs that would have had to be met if we were operating at 'substantial' and compared the cost of the care plan against the cost of the package of care put in place following the original assessment. This exercise identified the following;
 - the cost for those existing clients would increase by 20.69%.

- The client groups that would be impacted the greatest would be Memory & Cognition (particularly clients with dementia) and Physical Support.
- The key areas where additional services would be required are domestic routines and community support.

On the assumption that these findings are reflective of our overall caseload, this would provide an increase in costs of £5.09m per annum. However it is recognised that it would not be appropriate to apply any increase in respect of those clients in residential, nursing or supported living (LD clients) placements as we would not expect to see any increase in the required levels of support. This would reduce the increase in costs for existing clients to £1.87m per annum. This brings the total estimate of cost pressure to £4.08m which is off set by the £1.5m already provided in the Better Care Plan, beyond the nationally mandated amount. The resulting net pressure is £2.58m

- 2.5 This evidence was provided to the DH in the last week of October and discussions are continuing.
- 2.6 The deadline for resolution has been extended to the end of November to allow for negotiations to continue.
- 2.7 DH confirmed that the West Berkshire Locality were among 90 areas who had BCF plans approved subject to conditions. 5 areas including Oxfordshire and Essex have not had their plans approved. The letter from DH set out the financial risks associated with failing to meet the conditions. "If the conditions are not complied with NHSE reserve the right to withhold or recover funding, or direct the CCG that it be spent in a particular way."
- 2.8 All areas had to submit an action plan to the DH setting out how they would address the challenges by 14th November (Appendix A).
- 2.9 Resolution of the financial implications created by the change in eligibility was highlighted as the main 'show stopper'; other issues were identified but actions have been agreed.
- 2.10 DH has provided a consultant to support both us and Wokingham with the completion of the action plan.
- Further discussions are due to be held with the DH week commencing 17th November to look at the evidence and agree a way forward. Newbury and District and North West Reading CCGs have confirmed their continued support to the Council in negotiations with DH, providing senior presence at all meetings, and the discretionary allocation of the £1.5m towards Care Act pressures in the Better Care Plan.
- 2.11 The national deadline for submitting BCF plans is 9th January (See Appendix B for latest version of BCF Template 1). Subject to resolution of the Care Act funding for Adult Social Care it was felt that our plans were strong enough to be submitted by 12th December.
- 2.12 This will require production of Project Initiation Documents for the locally led projects to be agreed at the joint West Berkshire Integration Steering Group on 10th December.

2.13 It must be stressed that, whilst no major changes will be made to the template between now (dispatch of HWB papers) and the submission date, there are still a small number of areas where data is being gathered and some tidying up of the paper is required.

3. **Summary**

3.1 All parties remain committed to the schemes outlined in the draft plan originally submitted to the DH in February 2014.

3.2 Subject to resolution of the Care Act funding we will be seeking to submit our BCF plans on the 12th December 2014.

Appendices

Appendix A: BCF Action Plan
Appendix: B: BCF Template 1

Consultees

Local Stakeholders:

Officers Consulted: Steve Duffin, Head of Service
Shairoz Claridge, Operations Director Newbury & District CCG

Trade Union: N/A