

Title of Report:	Better Care Fund –Underspends and Use of Contingency Fund
Report to be considered by:	The Health and Wellbeing Board
Date of Meeting:	24 th September 2015

Purpose of Report: To seek approval from the Health and Wellbeing Board for the adjustment of the financial plan and proposed alternative investments.

Recommended Action: Approve request

<i>When decisions of the Health and Wellbeing Board impact on the finances or general operation of the Council, recommendations of the Board must be referred up to the Executive for final determination and decision.</i>		
Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council’s Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes		Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:				
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome Where one or more ‘Yes’ boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality. In this instance please give details of how the item impacts upon the equality streams under the executive report section as outlined.				

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Executive Report

1. Better Care Fund Plan

- 1.1 Earlier this year the Health and Wellbeing Board gave its' approval to the West Berkshire Locality Better Care Fund Plan and associated pooled budget. The plan comprises 7 schemes that will promote integrated services across both West Berkshire and the West of Berkshire.
- 1.2 The total pooled budget underpinning the plans is £9.533m. although it is again worth noting that this was not new money for the local health and social care system. The Expenditure Plan allocates this money across the 7 BCF schemes and other areas relating to the national conditions of the BCF (including protecting local adult social care services), the existing Section 256 transfers from health to the LA and a contribution towards some of the costs arising from the Care Act 2014. Appendix A is a copy of the financial plan submitted to the Department Health as part of the Better Care Fund template. Appendix B is a simplified version which shows more clearly how the investment has been split between Newbury and District CCG and West Berkshire Council.
- 1.3 At the time the individual allocations across the schemes were agreed it was not certain how the projects would progress and therefore whether the investment set aside would be fully utilised.

2. Schemes likely to Underspend

- 2.1 We are now in Q2 and it has become apparent that some of the projects have changed and therefore the investment will either not be required in this current year or will be reduced. The changes include:

- (1) Hospital At Home The Proof of Concept exercise identified that significant redesign of the proposed scheme was required. The re-framed business case suggests that the numbers of people being subject to the new service in this financial year will be significantly reduced and therefore the budget allocated to this BCF scheme will be underspent.
- (2) Health & Social Care Hub

Adult Social Care is currently implementing its change programme, (New Ways of Working) which requires a very local focus and, most importantly, no handover of a person once they make contact with the Council. As a result the Council has paused its involvement in the project at the current time. This means the £70,000 allocated to this scheme will not be required in the current year.

- (3) 7 Day Services

BCF Expenditure Plan includes a significant allocation, for both the CCG and the Council, to cover the cost of extending 7 Day Services. Whilst new arrangements have been trialled by the Council and preparations are underway to create increased capacity, these changes will not be fully up and running until September and therefore an underspend is expected. The CCG allocation has been and will continue to be utilised to provide extended access in Primary Care therefore this allocation will be spent.

- 2.2 One of the key issues still impacting upon the schemes is the lack of certainty over the future of the Better Care Fund, we are already seeing comments being made that the key decisions over the future of the BCF have yet to be taken. Clearly it is important we do not make long term spending decisions until funding streams are secured.

3. Alternative Use of Funds

- 3.1 As part of the BCF approval process, a detailed Expenditure Plan had to be submitted to the Department of Health and NHS England for approval.
- 3.2 NHS England have been contacted to confirm the use of any unspent BCF monies on alternative initiatives. They have confirmed that this is acceptable providing the changes are appropriate to meet the national conditions, jointly agreed by the CCG and the Council and approved by the HWB.
- 3.3 Where it is identified that the full funding is not required for its original purpose in this year the process recommended will be for it to transfer into the BCF Contingency Fund. Any spend proposals agreed between the Council and the CCG will then come forward for approval before contingency funds are allocated to either partner. .

4. First Proposal – Frail Elderly Pathway

- 4.1 Subsequent to the development of the projects it has been identified that there is a requirement to invest in the creation of a financial model that will underpin the Frail Elderly Pathway (FEP). Appendix C contains more detail. The Health and Wellbeing Board has already signed up to the principles of the FEP.
- 4.2 In order to benefit from the model we request that £58,000 is allocated from the Contingency Fund to pay for consultancy and associated project management, If approved, this is matching the funding of the other 9 partners the Berkshire West 10.

It is not yet clear the scale of the demands that will be placed directly on the BW10 in respect of responding to requests for information from the clients. The previous work on the Frail Elderly Pathway undertaken by Finamore placed huge pressure on the local authorities. If the demands cannot be met from existing resources then a further bid for use of the contingency fund may be necessary.

5. Equalities

- 5.1 Projects contained within the Better Care Fund programme are focused service improvement and should result in a better service for all.

Appendices

Appendix A – BCF Financial Template V1

Appendix B – BCF Financial Plan

Consultees

Officers Consulted: Steve Duffin, Shairoz Claridge, Fiona Slevin Brown