
Better Care Fund 2017/19

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a government initiative established to fast track integration with Health and Social Care. 2015/16 was the first year of implementation, all Councils and CCGs had to agree a plan and then obtain approval from their Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- 1.2 The previous two years have required us to plan on an annual basis. The Better Care Team has now confirmed that the plans will be for two years. This will align them more closely with CCG financial planning.
- 1.3 Funding allocations are still to be determined but are likely to be minimal; estimates are 1.79% in 2017/18 and 1.9% 2018/19. Whilst plans will be agreed for two years there will still be some flexibility to make adjustments should the need arise.
- 1.4 Going forward it is still the intention that where systems are able to demonstrate real progress in their plans for integration it will be possible to 'graduate' from the BCF process. Neither the process nor criteria for this has been agreed but it is believed that from 6 – 10 systems will graduate in 2017/18.

2. BCF National Policy Framework - Assurance

- 2.1 There has been a delay in issuing the national guidance; we understand this is likely now to be towards the end of w/c 20th March 2017. Advice from the Better Care Team is that all localities will have 7 weeks to write and agree their plans, with the submission date being the 12th May 2017. They have also advised that the National Conditions will reduce from 8 to 4, see below:
 - Plans to be jointly agreed
 - Maintaining the provision of social care services
 - Agreement to invest in NHS out of hospital services, which may include a wide range of services including Social Care
 - Agreement on local action plan to reduce delayed transfers of
- 2.2 The Spring Budget on 8th March 2017 announced additional funding for Local Authorities over the next 3 years. This funding will be ring fenced for Adult Social Care. We have been advised conditions will apply to this funding, we await formal guidance. West Berkshire will receive £704,449 in 2017/18, £583,666 in 2018/19 and £281,912 in 2019/20.

3. West Berkshire Locality BCF Plan

- 3.1 A number of planning meetings have been held with the CCG; please see attached the latest draft plan, which is still work in progress and will be finalised following publication of the national guidance. For the overarching financial plan we have worked on the basis of a 1.79% increase on the revenue elements of the Better Care Fund.

- 3.2 In addition to the revenue amounts we anticipate that the Disabled Facilities Grant will continue to be paid through the BCF.
- 3.3 In the new plan the Joint Care Pathway will be confirmed as 'business as usual'. Given the change in status it has already been agreed that this funding will be added to the 'Maintain the provision of social care services'.
- 3.4 This year we have reduced the investment into 7 days services to £155k. This will require an adjustment to the current arrangement. The remaining funding will be used to fund a new 'step down' project in Birchwood Care Home; the project team have modelled the proposed arrangement on the Willows a successful service operated by Reading Council.
- 3.5 The BCF also includes funding for West of Berkshire projects. These include 'Connected Care', an ICT project that aims to support more effective information sharing across health and social care, a key requirement of any integration programme and 'Care Homes' which focuses on reducing the disproportionately high number of non elective admissions from care homes.
- 3.6 The West of Berkshire projects have been expanded to incorporate the Mental Health Street Triage. This reflects the intention of expanding the BCF to incorporate a broader range of priorities.
- 3.7 Subject to any change resulting from the publication of the BCF guidance we have limited funding. This means that we are not currently able to agree to other projects which would enhance the range of support to the local residents.
- 3.8 We have also agreed with the CCG to include investment related to the contract held with BFHT. This covers a range of services including intermediate care, speech and language therapy and the community geriatrician.

4. BCF Assurance Process

- 4.1 For 2017/18 the BCF have confirmed the assurance process will continue to be managed collaboratively between NHS England, the Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Adult Social Care. Initially there were three milestone dates, given the delay it is likely to be reduced to one.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The 2015/16 BCF has provided significant learning that should allow us to build on plans for the coming year. Delays in publishing the national guidance have created a degree of uncertainty but we have continued to develop local plans. This is reflective of the approach in both Reading and Wokingham Localities.
- 5.2 It is recommended, that the Board agrees the latest draft plan and gives the Locality Integration Board delegated authority to approve the plan in order that the submission date of 12th May 2017 is achieved.

6. Consultation and Engagement

West Berkshire Locality Integration Board

Background Papers:

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only

Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:

The proposals will help achieve the following Council Strategy aim:

P&S – Protect and support those who need it

Officer details:

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Appendix B

Equality Impact Assessment - Stage One

We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity.

Please complete the following questions to determine whether a Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Name of policy, strategy or function:	Better Care Fund Programme 2016/17
Version and release date of item (if applicable):	V.01
Owner of item being assessed:	Tandra Forster
Name of assessor:	Tandra Forster
Date of assessment:	10 th March 2016

Is this a:		Is this:	
Policy	No	New or proposed	No
Strategy	Yes	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes
Function	No	Is changing	No
Service	No		

1. What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the policy, strategy function or service and who is likely to benefit from it?	
Aims:	The Better Care Fund Programme is a initiative established to promote greater integration between health and social care.
Objectives:	To outline the project initiatives and associated investment for the West Berkshire Locality Better Care Fund.
Outcomes:	The range of projects will help promote better integration between health and social care services, meet the national conditions as set out in the Better Care Fund Policy Framework.
Benefits:	Improved the experience of health and social care services for local residents by reducing duplication of services, increase access to health and social care by implementing 7 day work, better information sharing, protecting existing provision of social care.

<p>2. Note which groups may be affected by the policy, strategy, function or service. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.</p> <p>(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)</p>		
Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Age	Improved access to services both in terms of pathways and availability	National conditions - see attached BCF Policy Framework Range of projects within the locality support this and robust assurance process is in place to ensure compliance.
Disability (frail elderly)	Improved access to services both in terms of pathways and availability	National conditions - see attached BCF Policy Framework Range of projects within the locality support this and robust assurance process is in place to ensure compliance.
Gender	This is not a distinguishing factor in this service	This is not a distinguishing factor in this service
Marriage and civil partnership	This is not a distinguishing factor in this service	This is not a distinguishing factor in this service
Pregnancy and maternity	No impact	This programme of work is currently focused on frail elderly
Race	This is not a distinguishing factor in this service	This is not a distinguishing factor in this service
Sex	This is not a distinguishing factor in this service	This is not a distinguishing factor in this service
Sexual Orientation	This is not a distinguishing factor in this service	This is not a distinguishing factor in this service
Further Comments relating to the item:		

3. Result	
Are there any aspects of the policy, strategy, function or service, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to	No

inequality?	
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The proposals are intended to enhance service provision and outcomes for service users/patients	
Will the policy, strategy, function or service have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?	No
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The proposals are intended to enhance service provision and outcomes for service users/patients. Appropriate arrangements are in place which mean employees are not disadvantaged by any new arrangements.	

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage 2 Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template.

4. Identify next steps as appropriate:	
Stage Two required	
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	
Stage Two not required:	X

Name: Tandra Forster

Date: 10.03.16

Please now forward this completed form to Rachel Craggs, the Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) for publication on the WBC website.