

Better Care Fund – Audit Update

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Author: As above

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Cabinet Member: Cllr David Hall/Cllr David Huxtable/Cllr Christine Lawrence

Division and Local Member: Not applicable

1. Summary

- 1.1. This brief report provides an update for Audit Committee following the partial opinion received in relation to the *Better Care Fund* audit, issued September 2017.

2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are asked to note the actions that have taken place by officers since the audit was completed

3. Background

- 3.1. The Better Care Fund is a pooled budget, created in its original guise in 2013. The intention was to shift resources into social care and community services from the NHS budget in England by keeping patients out of hospital. The format of the fund has changed considerably over the last twelve months with the introduction of the *improved Better Care Fund*, recognising the continued and increasing pressures faced by the Health and Care Sector.

4. Update on Management Actions

- 4.1. Given 1) the significant changes seen across the Better Care Fund, 2) the recommendations included in the audit report, 3) continuing financial pressures across the health and social care sector and 4) a desire across both Somerset CCG and SCC to maximise outcomes, value for money and reporting, it was agreed that a review team be brought together led by the CCG's Chief Finance Officer and Director of Performance and SCC's Director of Finance, Legal and Governance services.
- 4.2. At the core of this review is the Better Care Fund and the Joint Commissioning Board and to date two meetings have been held with Finance colleagues since Christmas 2017 and a further whole system review meeting is being held in April 2018. This will include colleagues from across the CCG, Public Health and Childrens Services as well as Adults services staff, ensuring that all appropriate stakeholders can influence the way in which systems and processes across Health, Social Care and the Better Care Fund operate, to ensure maximum benefit for the Health and Social Care system.

4.3. As a result, all actions included in the audit and shown in Appendix A tie back to the review above. Once complete, a summary of the review outcomes and actions can be brought to this Committee.

5. Background papers

5.1. Better Care Fund Audit - Final Report September 2017.
Appendix A – Summary of Proposed Outcomes

Note For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author