

# Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

## Report for Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

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### Better Care Fund draft Plan 2017/19

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	<b>Seen by:</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Report Sign off</b>	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Office (Director Level)	Paul Goodwin, Director of Commissioning and Governance Stephen Chandler, Director for Adult Social Services	3.7.17
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	N/A	
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)		4.7.17
<b>Summary:</b>	<p>The Better Care Fund is aimed at supporting the integration of health and social care. The fund is an opportunity for local services to transform and improve the lives of people that need it the most. The BCF provides a framework for joint health and social care planning and commissioning, bringing together ring-fenced budgets from Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) allocations, the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and funding paid directly to local government for adult social care services – the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF).</p> <p>The presentation outlines the draft Better Care Fund Plan for 2017/19.</p>		
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<p><b>That the Health and Wellbeing Board</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Consider and comment on the presentation of the draft BCF plan subject to the BCF planning guidance being formally released.</b></li><li><b>2. Continue to monitor the progression and implementation of the BCF plan 2017/19.</b></li></ol>		
<b>Reasons for Recommendations:</b>	<p>The Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group are continuing to progress the BCF plan for 2017/19.</p>		

<p><b>Links to Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy:</b></p>	<p>We have been working together as a health and care system for some time and have an aligned vision and approach for our population. This vision outlines the need for a patient population to be able to access care or support that is joined up. This is further supported by the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy which outlines our commitment to supporting people to live healthy and independent lives, supported by thriving and connected communities with timely and easy access to high-quality and efficient public services when they need them.</p> <p>The Better Care Fund plan aims to improve care and support for people by providing a framework to support creating a more integrated approach across health and social care.</p>
<p><b>Financial, Legal and HR Implications:</b></p>	<p>The indicative funding for 2017/18 in summary is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Reablement and other social care schemes, including carers breaks (£17.628m)</li> <li>• Person Centred Care (£18.246m)</li> <li>• Improved Discharge Arrangements (linked to IBCF funding scheme)</li> <li>• Disabled Facilities Grant (£3.756m)</li> </ul> <p>The CCG and LA are currently in discussions to agree an approach to the use of the Improved Better Care Fund money.</p>
<p><b>Equalities Implications:</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Risk Assessment:</b></p>	<p>In common with all aspects of the health and social care economy there is a risk that the fund will not be sufficient to meet the rising demand associated with local demographic changes.</p>

## 1. Background

- 1.1. The Better Care Fund is aimed at supporting the integration of health and social care. The fund is an opportunity for local services to transform and improve the lives of people that need it the most. The BCF provides a framework for joint health and social care planning and commissioning, bringing together ring-fenced budgets from Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) allocations, the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and funding paid directly to local government for adult social care services – the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF). The 2017 Budget announced an additional £2 billion to support social care in England. This money is included in the IBCF grant to Local Authorities and will be included in local BCF pooled funding and plans.
- 1.2. The Better Care Fund policy framework was released by the Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2017. The policy framework forms part of the NHS England Mandate for

2017/18. It requires NHS England to issue further detailed requirements to local areas on the developing BCF plans for 2017/19. However, the Better Care Fund planning guidance has not yet been released. However, a draft version was released on the Local Government Authority (LGA) website in April 2017 but it should be noted that this was not formally cleared by NHS England or the LGA.

**1.3.** Key changes to the policy framework since 2016/17 include:

- A requirement for plans to be developed for the two year period 2017 to 2019 rather than a single year
- The number of national conditions which local areas will need to meet through the planning process in order to access the funding has been reduced from eight to four

**1.4.** Both the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group continue to progress plans in the absence of the formal release of the Better Care Fund Planning Guidance for 2017/19.

**2. Options considered and reasons for rejecting them**

**2.1.** The BCF is a mandatory requirement from central government and NHS England; therefore, there is no option not to adopt a Better Care Fund plan, although feedback from the Health and Wellbeing Board on the development of the plan is welcomed.

**3. Consultations undertaken**

**3.1.** Somerset County Council and the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group continue to engage and work together on the development of the plan.

**4. Financial, Legal, HR and Risk Implications**

**4.1.** Central government has introduced the Better Care Fund and the subsequent Care Bill by statute and Somerset would be in breach of this were it not to agree a plan. The CCG and Somerset County Council will need to re-enter into an agreement under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 for the Better Care Fund for 2017/19. The Act gives powers to the CCG and Local Authority to establish and maintain pooled funds, out of which payment may be made towards expenditure incurred in the exercise of prescribed Local Authority and NHS functions. The budgets which create the BCF will be pooled under this Agreement and jointly commissioned by the parties.

**4.2.** The indicative funding for 2017/18 in summary is:

- Community Reablement and other social care schemes, including carers breaks (£17.628m)
- Person Centred Care (£18.246m)
- Improved Discharge Arrangements (linked to IBCF funding scheme)
- Disabled Facilities Grant (£3.756m)

The CCG and LA are currently in discussions to agree an approach to the use of the Improved Better Care Fund money.

## **5. Background papers**

**5.1.** The 2017/19 Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework can be found:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/integration-and-better-care-fund-policy-framework-2017-to-2019>

**5.2.** The draft Integration and Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2017/19 can be found:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKLGA/bulletins/1970999>