

Somerset County Council

Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

Better Care Fund Plan 2017/19

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	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Office (Director Level)	Paul Goodwin, Director of Commissioning and Governance Stephen Chandler, Director for Adult Social Services	11.9.17
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Cllr Christine Lawrence Dr Ed Ford	11.9.17
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Julian Gale	11.9.17
Summary:	<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 Better Care Fund Plan 2017/19 was presented previously to the Board has since been signed off by the Chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Clinical Commissioning Group and submitted to NHS England on 11 September 2017 in accordance with the assurance timetable. This update on progress is brought to the Board today for information.</p> <p>An audit of the Somerset Better Care Fund undertaken by the South West Audit Partnership noted that the Health and Wellbeing Board constitution requires updating to provide clearer guidance on the board's role in managing the Better Care Fund. This is brought to the Board today for decision.</p>		
Recommendations:	That the Health and Wellbeing Board receives this report for information and notes:		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the BCF plan has been signed off by the Chair the HWB on behalf of the HWB • the agreed BCF plan has been submitted to NHS England • the next stage of the BCF assurance process as set out • The board's role in monitoring the progression and implementation of the BCF plan 2017/19. <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board takes note of the recommendation of the auditors with regard to updating the Boards constitution and takes the decision to progress this.</p>															
<p>Reasons for Recommendations:</p>	<p>The Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group have progressed the BCF plan for 2017/19 and have agreed the final plan.</p>															
<p>Links to Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy:</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>Financial, Legal and HR Implications:</p>	<p>The funding for 2017/18 and 2018/19 in summary is:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="624 1447 1390 1823"> <thead> <tr> <th>Contribution</th> <th>2017/18</th> <th>2018/19</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Local Authority Contribution</td> <td>£3,755,754</td> <td>£4,045,252</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IBCF contribution</td> <td>£12,083,687</td> <td>£16,359,653</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CCG Total Contribution</td> <td>£35,842,859</td> <td>£36,523,873</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Pooled Budget</td> <td>£51,682,300</td> <td>£56,928,778</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Contribution	2017/18	2018/19	Total Local Authority Contribution	£3,755,754	£4,045,252	IBCF contribution	£12,083,687	£16,359,653	CCG Total Contribution	£35,842,859	£36,523,873	Total Pooled Budget	£51,682,300	£56,928,778
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<p>Equalities Implications:</p>	<p>None</p>															

Risk Assessment:

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.

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. The Better Care Fund planning guidance was issued on 7 July 2017 which set out the planning and assurance requirements for the Better Care Fund plan.

A recent audit of the Better Care Fund recommends that the Health and Wellbeing Board constitution is updated to provide clearer guidance on the board's role in managing the Better Care Fund, outlining what information should be provided to them and the frequency and format of this information. A written progress report on each of the schemes should be provided at each meeting as a minimum.

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 have progressed the plans and the plan has now been submitted to NHS England on 11 September 2017 in line with the assurance timeline.

1.5. The next stage of the assurance process is set out as follows:

Action	Date
BCF Plan submission	11 September 2017
Scrutiny of BCF Plans by regional assurers	12 – 25 September 2017
Regional Moderation	w/c 25 September 2017
Cross regional calibration	2 October 2017

Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend	From 6 October 2017
Escalation panels for plans rated as not approved	w/c 10 October 2017
Deadline for areas with plans rated approved with conditions to submit updated plans	30 November 2017
All Section 75 agreements to be signed and in place	30 November 2017
The Health and Wellbeing Board constitution is updated to provide clearer guidance on the board's role in managing the Better Care Fund, outlining what information should be provided to them and the frequency and format of this information.	30 November 2017
A written progress report on each of the schemes should be provided at each meeting as a minimum.	To be included as a standing item in the HWB forward plan

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.

3. Consultations undertaken

- 3.1. Somerset County Council and the Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group have engaged and worked 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 funding for 2017/18 to 2018/19 in summary is:

Contribution	2017/18	2018/19
Total Local Authority Contribution	£3,755,754	£4,045,252
IBCF contribution	£12,083,687	£16,359,653
CCG Total Contribution	£35,842,859	£36,523,873
Total Pooled Budget	£51,682,300	£56,928,778

This is applied to the Better Care Fund schemes as follows:

Scheme	2017/18	2018/19
Community Reablement and other social care schemes, including carers breaks	£26,710,491	£31,667,471
Person Centred Care	£18,216,055	£18,216,055
Improved Discharge Arrangements	£3,000,000	£3,000,000
Disabled Facilities Grant	£3,755,754	£4,045,252
Total	£51,682,300	£56,928,778

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 Integration and Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2017/19 can be found:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/integration-better-care-fund-planning-requirements.pdf>