

## BETTER CARE FUND: UPDATE

<b>Relevant Board Member(s)</b>	Councillor Ray Puddifoot MBE Councillor Philip Corthorne
<b>Organisation</b>	London Borough of Hillingdon
<b>Report author</b>	Kevin Byrne, Administration Directorate
<b>Papers with report</b>	None

### 1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	<p>This report provides an update following the Board's meeting on 23 September 2014, where it was agreed not to submit a final signed Hillingdon BCF plan and for the Chairman to write to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Since then, clarification has been provided that the money identified for new burdens under the Care Act should come across to the Council under the s.75 agreement. Given this amount now forms part of the pooled fund, it will have consequences for other expenditure identified in the draft plan which falls to the Hillingdon Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG).</p> <p>At present it is not envisaged that this will impact on the pathway approach identified in the plan, just on which costs fall within and without the shared pot under s.75.</p> <p>Officers are also working with NHS England who has provided feedback on the draft plan which identifies some areas where the plan could usefully be updated. This includes specifying the costs to which the new burdens funding will be allocated and considering the question of whether the 3.5% target for reducing emergency admissions to hospital is realistic.</p> <p>A timeline has been set to aim to complete and sign off an updated plan taking all these points into account for review by NHS England by 9 January 2015. It is suggested that Board approval is sought over this time frame once a final plan is ready, under the delegated powers given to the Chairman of the Board and the Chairman of HCCG.</p>
<b>Contribution to plans and strategies</b>	The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a mandatory process through which existing budgets are pooled and then reallocated based on approved plans for closer integration of health and social care activities.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	

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<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All
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## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the progress so far and agree to officers continuing to work towards a submission date of 9 January 2015 for a final BCF plan to be signed off by the Board under existing delegated powers to the Chairman and Chairman of HCCG.**

## **3. INFORMATION**

### **Supporting Information**

3.1. A Hillingdon Better Care Fund (BCF) plan was initially agreed by the Board in April 2014 and submitted on time to NHS England for review. It set out 11 current schemes, grouped into 4 workstreams and this framework still forms the developing Hillingdon BCF plan.

3.2. New guidance issued in July 2014 required some remodelling of Hillingdon's Better Care Fund plan to meet a new submission date of 19 September 2014. At its meeting on 23 September 2014, the Board agreed not to submit a plan because of ambiguity in the guidance regarding the Care Act new burdens funding for Adult Social Care costs. A sum of £838k was indicated as included in the Fund for this purpose but included in the allocations to the CCG.

3.3. The Board agreed that the Chairman of the Board should write to the Secretary of State and raise this issue directly with the BCF National Director. The Secretary of State has responded and the Chairman of the HCCG has now confirmed that the CCG will allocate £838k of the BCF for implementation of the Care Act.

3.4. Both the Council and the CCG have indicated that only the minimum should be included in the BCF pooled budget in its first year, so providing the new burdens funding of £838k will require the CCG to remove this amount of funding from a scheme currently in the draft BCF plan. This should not, however, undermine the pathway approach taken in the BCF, nor impact on the integrity of the plan, as it is work that has been agreed will be taken forward as part of wider work on integration anyway.

3.5. As expected, formal notification was received from NHS England on 31 October 2014 that the draft unsigned plan had not been approved and a Better Care Advisor has been appointed to support Hillingdon. A number of areas of feedback and clarification have also been provided and an updated plan is in development. One question being explored is whether the plan could justify having a less ambitious target for reducing emergency hospital admissions, given the national given target of 3.5% is for the whole population and Hillingdon BCF is focussed on over 65s.

3.6. NHS England has asked that final approved plans should be sent to them by 9 January 2015. The work currently underway, therefore, entails:

- Updating the financial modelling to reflect the different treatment of the £838k within the BCF.

- Reconsidering the metrics in light of feedback from NHSE.
- Action on feedback from NHSE on draft plan and revising some of the narrative.
- Reassuring the CCG governing body that the Care Act new burdens are robust and contained within the BCF.
- Seeking further endorsement from partners including primary providers and the voluntary sector that the plan adequately reflects plans and targets and is supported.
- Seeking final sign off under delegated powers for submission by 9 January 2015.

#### **4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

##### **What will be the effect of the recommendation?**

4.1. The recommendation will provide a way forward to agree a Hillingdon BCF plan in accordance with national guidance.

##### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

4.2. The draft plan has been developed with key stakeholders in the health and social care sector and through engagement with residents.

##### **Policy Overview Committee comments**

4.3. None at this stage.

#### **5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Hillingdon Corporate Finance Comments**

5.1. A summary of the key components in the draft BCF financial plan for 2015/16 is set out below.

<b>Key components of funding 2015/16</b>	<b>£000's</b>
NHS Commissioned Services funding	8,480
Non elective saving/Performance Fund	1,552
Care Act New Burdens Funding	838
Protecting Social Care funding	7,121
<b>Overall BCF Total funding</b>	<b>17,991</b>

5.2. The proposed funding to protect Social Care is estimated to be £7,121k, made up of the current section 256 funding of £4,772k, capital funding for DFG's etc of £2,349k. The contribution of £838k towards the Council's responsibilities under the Care Act is currently reflected separately whilst discussions continue to reassure the CCG governing body that the proposed expenditure on the Care Act new burdens reflect the Council's new responsibilities under the Act.

##### **Hillingdon Council Legal comments**

5.3. The Better Care Fund provides an opportunity to transform local services so that people are provided with better integrated care and support. It encompasses a substantial level of funding to help local areas manage pressures and improve long term sustainability.

5.4. This report clarifies that the money identified for new burdens should come across to the Council under a section 75 agreement. This accords with the NHS England Planning Guidance [Developing Plans for the Better Care Fund] which states that, in relation to the statutory framework for the Fund, in 2015/16 the Fund will be allocated to local areas, where it will be put into pooled budgets under section 75 joint governance arrangements between CCGs and local authorities. A condition of accessing the money in the Fund is that CCGs and authorities must jointly agree plans for how the money will be spent. Funding will be routed through NHS England to protect the overall level of health spending.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.