

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 08 January 2020

Staffordshire Better Care Fund Plan 2019/20

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Note that the 2019/20 Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan was approved by the HWBB Co-Chairs and submitted to the Better Care Fund regional team on 27 September;
- b. Note that a request for re-baselining was made in order to correct some historic issues with BCF funding in Staffordshire;
- c. Note the timescales for the approval of the BCF Plan.

Background

1. In March 2019 the Health and Wellbeing Board noted the progress of the Staffordshire BCF during 2017-2019, agreed the extension of the current BCF schemes into 2019/20 and approved the delegation of the final sign-off of the 2019/20 plan to the Co-Chairs of the Board.
2. In June the HWB noted that the 2019/20 BCF Policy Framework had been published and also noted the financial risk presented by the delay in the publication of the BCF Planning Requirements.
3. In July the 2019/20 Better Care Fund (BCF) Planning Requirements were published allowing the drafting of the BCF Plan to commence and removing the risk in relation to BCF funding.

BCF Plan

4. The 2019/20 BCF Plan was drafted, agreed and submitted, in accordance with required timescales, by 27 September 2019. It was approved by the co-chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Board in line with delegation from the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was developed jointly between Staffordshire County Council and the Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups and in accordance with guidance from the national and regional teams, the plan is largely a rollover of the 2017-19 Staffordshire BCF Plan.
5. The 2019/20 BCF Pooled Fund is made up of the following sources of funding:

Funding	£000's
CCG RNF transfers to SCC for ASC (previously SCISH)	18,037
CCG cash transfers to SCC for carers	601
RNF Cash Transfer plus Carers	18,638
CCG cash transfer for costs of Care Act	1,977
Total CCG cash transfer to SCC for adult social care	20,614
CCG directly commissioned services (retained by the CCG)	125
Total CCG contribution to adult social care	20,739
CCG aligned	51,073
iBCF part 1	23,202
iBCF part 2	5,003
Winter pressures	3,542
DFG	8,818
BCF Total	112,377

Approvals Process

6. Timescales for assurance of the BCF Plan and status of each is as follows:

- a. Submission of BCF Plan: 27 September – COMPLETE;
- b. Scrutiny of plans by regional assurance: end October - COMPLETE;
- c. Assurance recommendations considered by departments and NHSE: 5-15 November: COMPLETE
 - i. SCC and the CCGs have received notification that the Staffordshire BCF Plan has been recommended for approval and we await a formal letter to confirm this.
- d. Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend: w/c 18 November: SUBJECT TO DELAY
 - i. As above, SCC and the CCGs have received notification that the Staffordshire BCF Plan has been recommended for approval and we await a formal letter to confirm this.
- e. Section 75 agreements to be signed and in place: 31 January 2020 – IN PROGRESS AND ON TRACK.

7. Owing to the timing of the writing of this report, a further verbal report will be given at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

Re-baselining

8. Following submission of the Staffordshire BCF Plan, SCC and the CCGs made a request to re-baseline the CCG minimum contribution to social care to ensure that Staffordshire has the resources required to sustain essential services going forward.
9. The purpose of this re-baselining is to ensure that going forward the CCG minimum contribution includes funding to support carers and the Care Act.
10. SCC and the CCGs have received position informal feedback regarding this request, and it is likely that it will be approved. A further verbal report will be given at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.

Next Steps

11. Should the Staffordshire BCF Plan be approved SCC and the CCGs would need to have an agreed Section 75 Agreement in place by 31 January 2020. As there are no fundamental changes of the BCF Plan, it is envisaged that this will be a simple refresh of the 2017/19 Section 75 Agreement.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

N/A

Contact Details

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