

**Health and Wellbeing Board – September 2016
Better Care Fund plan update**

Report of Andrew Jepps

Recommendations

That the Health and Well-being Board

1. Note that SCC and the CCGs have not yet agreed the funding and that this is with the national escalation process.

1.0 Report

1.1 Background

1.2 In the second year of the BCF deal 2016/17 the CCGs have been instructed to prioritise funding of increased acute hospital activity in order to provide additional income for the acute trusts and then to address their own deficits.

1.3 As a result they are unable to commit the agreed funding aside from the Care Act to protect adult social care in 2016/17 and beyond. This leaves SCC with a financial gap of £15m against planning assumptions for 2016/17.

2.0 Escalation

2.1 Staffordshire County Council and CCG's didn't agree the funding for Better Care Fund, as part of this the plan entered a national escalation process.

2.2 An escalation panel meeting was held on the 17th May; the outcome of this meeting was that two independent experts were appointed to make recommendations about how the issues should be resolved.

2.3 The experts were asked to secure a greater understanding of the financial arrangements over 2015-16 and 2016-17 including ensuring comparability between years in relation to implementing the Better Care Fund Policy Framework, including clarity on: The amount to be pooled, Total social care spend, Social Care spend from CCG minimum funding, Figures identified for protection/maintenance of social care, NHS commissioned Out of Hospital Services and how this relates to the enhanced community offer set out in the Plan.

3.0 Independent experts meet with SCC and CCG's

3.1 The two independent experts held a series of meetings with stakeholders on the 1st of June. A summary of their findings has been reported recently to SCC and the CCGs. SCC is considering the contents of the review in the context of a continuing underlying disagreement with key findings. However

it is accepted that it would be constructive for the long term if both parties could look again at the Out-of-Hospital Care expenditure in the Better Care Fund pool to see if there is scope for a rebalancing of investment between health and social care.

4.0 Next steps

4.1 The Better Care Fund plan remains unsigned. SCC is keeping the position under review in light of the extent to which the NHS nationally and locally is able to contribute to resolution of the £15m gap

4.2 SCC are continuing to have constructive discussions with CCGs about the potential for NHS investment in admission prevention and hospital discharge pathways which could improve urgent care, and release savings from a reduction in acute trust capacity - over and above those required by QIPP plans.

4.3 SCC are actively supporting development of the Staffordshire and Stoke Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) which includes opportunities for the County Council and the local NHS to work together: to strengthen prevention, improve the urgent care system, establish Multi-Specialty Community Providers, and make better use of our shared estate.

4.4 In mitigation of these risks to the financial position SCC have put in place enhanced spending controls across the full range of operations, SCC will also be proceeding with a range of savings to health and care services.

5.0 Link to Strategic Plan

The Better Care Fund is recognised as a priority within our business plan.

5.1 **Link to other Overview and Scrutiny Activity** N/A

5.2 **Community Impact** N/A

5.3 Contact Officer

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