

| Staffordshire Health and Well-being Board | |
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| Title | Better Care Fund |
| Date | 09 March 2017 |
| Board Sponsor | Dr Richard Harling |
| Author | Rebecca Wilkinson |
| Report type | For Decision |

Summary

1. The 16/17 Staffordshire Better Care Fund was signed and submitted 31.01.2017
2. The Staffordshire BCF has undergone scrutiny at national and regional level the assessors reached a consensus view that the plan should be approved. There were no remaining unmet KLOEs (detailed feedback can be found in **Appendix B**)
3. Although the national guidance has not been released SCC are working closely with CCG counterparts and the regional BCF manager to begin planning for 2017-19.
4. The BCF Partnership board has been reconvened to oversee the formation of the agreed scope into a detailed plan.

Recommendations to the Board:

5. HWB note the contents of the report, specifically the link between the BCF and STP
6. HWB Board agree in principle to use the BCF as a local delivery mechanism for the STP
7. HWB discuss and agree the scope for the 17-19 BCF
8. Board to agree delegated decision making to the Chairs for the final BCF as we will need to enable the HWBB to agree this before the next Board meeting in June – (Note - When developing the submission timetable the BCST will take into account that not all Health and Wellbeing Boards are able to meet bi-monthly or monthly.
9. Approve the outline scope for using the BCF as a local delivery mechanism for the STP
10. Discuss the option of using one narrative for the STP and BCF and provide officers with a steer

Background / Introduction

11. The priorities for the Staffordshire Better Care Fund (BCF) derive from the vision and overarching principles for the quality of life for people in Staffordshire as set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy:-

“Staffordshire will be a place where improved health and well-being is experienced by all. It will be a good place to live. People will be healthy, safe and prosperous and will have the opportunity to grow up, raise a family and grow old, as part of strong, safe and supportive communities.”

(Living Well in Staffordshire 2013-18”- Staffordshire’s Joint Health and Well-Being Strategy)

12. The 2016/17 plan built on the 2015/16 agreement and the 2017/19 plan will continue to build on the principles of early community intervention and integrated working with the Staffordshire CCGs. The 17-19 plan will not be a standalone integration tool but align to and compliment the Staffordshire STP. Although the national guidance has not been released SCC are working closely with CCG counterparts and the regional BCF manager to begin planning for 2017-19.

Current activity

13. The monthly BCF Partnership board has reconvened to oversee the delivery of the Staffordshire BCF Plan

BCF 2017-19

14. The new BCF will be a 2 year scheme with a change control provision included as part of the s75 agreement. Guidance and templates have been delayed; there no proposed date for release at this stage, however there are a number of key factors we are already aware of through liaising with Regional Lead for BCF and joining conversations with planning leads at a national level.
 - a. We do know that as soon as the guidance is released we have a maximum of 6 weeks to complete and return
 - b. National conditions have been reduced from 8 to 3:-
 - i. A requirement for a jointly agreed plan, approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
 - ii. Real terms maintenance of transfer of funding from health to support adult social care
 - iii. Requirement to ring-fence a portion of the CCG minimum to invest in Out of Hospital services
 - iv. **Plans will also need to set out the area’s vision for integrating health and social care by 2020.**

- c. 2017-2019 BCF is expected to align to wider integration in the HWB health economy and align to the STP within the HWB area, the BCF is **not** a separate integration tool
- d. The 2017 plan should evolve from the 2016
- e. Alignment to the STP will be set out in the planning guidance - The way in which the different local plans fit together will be dependent on individual geographies and arrangements for integration and transformation. We recognise that this is a complex, challenging landscape. BCF plans will be agreed by Health and Wellbeing Boards and should take into account the priorities across the wider system.
- f. One plan can be submitted for more than One HWB area providing each HWB signs off the individual plans
- g. The local area can decide how to align the BCF to the STP; national and regional advice has been that the BCF must as a minimum compliment the STP
- h. STP can be used as a vehicle for joint planning
- i. The local area can decide in conjunction/with the approval of the regional advisor to use the same narrative for BCF and STP providing the right template is used

Key principles for 2017-19:-

- 15. Focus on the protection of Adult social care and associated issues i.e.:
 - a. Discharge to assess
 - b. Aligning LIS (Intermediate care, Res/Nursing, community hospitals)
 - c. CHC
- 16. BCF to provide the local delivery mechanism for the STP
- 17. The s75 will be used to pool funds and drive the market with a mutual benefit for SCC and the Staffordshire CCGs

Scope

- a. Integrated out of hospital care
- b. Intermediate care
- c. Reablement
- d. DToCs

Potential schemes still to be explored:-

- a. CHC
- b. Discharge to Assess

Update on Funding

18. From 2017/18 a new funding element will be added to the Better Care Fund. The improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) will be paid directly to local authorities as a grant. The conditions of grant will require that the authority pool the grant as part of their local BCF plan and that this money should be spent on social care. The grant will be distributed using a methodology which ensures every authority gets its share of the total funding available through the improved Better Care Fund and the Social Care Precept, as measured by the social care Relative Needs Formula. This means that there is sizable variation in the amounts that each authority receives in grant, and indeed in 2017/18, when the overall size of the grant is smaller, some authorities will not receive any money through the iBCF.

2017/18 Adult Social Care Support Grant

19. This is distinct to the Adult Social Care Support Grant. This is a one-off grant for 2017/18 worth £241 million nationally. This grant will be paid directly to local authorities to support social care but, unlike the iBCF:
 - a. Authorities will not be required to include the grant in a pooled BCF pot.
 - b. The grant is calculated purely on Relative Needs Formula, so all authorities with social care responsibilities will receive some funding and the relative size of these grants will be different to iBCF
20. This grant is derived from money that was reprofiled through savings to the New Homes Bonus.

Options & Issues

21. Current feedback from the regional office for BCF states very clearly that the BCF as a minimum must complement the STP therefore the HWB have the option of submitting one narrative for the STP and BCF (providing the relevant planning templates and are completed)
22. On receipt of the planning guidance there will be a very short turnaround to complete the templates (at this stage this is reported to be **no more than six weeks**)