

2 July 2014**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE CLINICAL LEAD, NHS NOTTINGHAM NORTH AND EAST
CCG****BETTER CARE FUND – REVISED PROCESS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the revised assurance processes for Better Care Fund plans.
2. To seek approval for the Board to delegate approval of the assurance plans within the required timeframes.

Information and Advice

3. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced in June 2013 within the Government's spending review. It was described as creating a national £3.8 billion pool of NHS and Local Authority monies intended to support an increase in the scale and pace of integration, whilst also promoting joint planning for the sustainability of local health and care economies.
4. At its meeting on 5 February 2014, the Board considered the draft BCF plans before their submission to the NHS England Area Team. Subsequent discussions determined that there was scope to strengthen the narrative section of the submission. This was carried out with the agreement of the local planning groups, and the updated draft plans were submitted 14 February 2014, following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board.
5. At an exceptional meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on 2 April 2014, the Board considered the final BCF plans and approved their submission to the NHS England Area Team on 4 April 2014.
6. Since this submission, there have been national changes to the BCF assurance process and further information is required. In summary, the recent changes are:
 - a. Aligning the requirements of BCF plans with the requirements for business plans
 - b. Improved understanding of the assumptions around acute provider activity
 - c. Development of local risk pooling arrangements with providers
 - d. Reduced number of performance metrics to simplify performance monitoring

- e. 2014/15 to be used as an index year with performance-related payments applying to activity in 2015/16 (with the 70% 'achievement' threshold)
- f. The establishment of BCF Programme Boards at national and regional levels to ensure consistent methodologies are followed for regional assurance and tighter governance

7. The revised timescales for BCF plans are as follows:

- a. By **20 June 2014** a ministerial letter confirming that the BCF will go ahead. This was still awaited at the time of writing the report.
- b. By **1 July 2014**, new guidance published on BCF assurance with new templates.
- c. By **1 August 2014**, each HWB area to resubmit their BCF assurance templates.
- d. By **30 September 2014**, the regional and national assurance process will be completed.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. To meet the Department of Health requirement for the HWB to approve the plans before submission.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

10. It is expected that integrated systems will improve the service user journey and experience. Information on existing service provision has been gathered by the local planning groups and the impact of resource redirection ascertained to ensure that the impact on service users is not detrimental.

Financial Implications

11. The financial implications are outlined in the Nottinghamshire BCF plan.

Equalities Implications

12. Equality issues will be taken into account as part of the planning process undertaken in the working group and local planning groups. Better integration of services should mean that people receive a more consistent service across the county.

Legal Implications

13. The Care Act facilitates the establishment of the BCF by providing a mechanism that will allow the sharing of NHS funding with local authorities to be made mandatory. The wider powers to use Health Act flexibilities to pool funds, share information and staff are unaffected. Ongoing engagement will be necessary as well as an Equalities Impact Assessment with regard to how monies are spent.
14. Services will need to be jointly commissioned by Local Authorities and CCGs. Agreement will need to be reached on contract leads for particular aspects of delivery.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Board:

1. Notes the requirement to resubmit the Nottinghamshire BCF plan according to the revised process and timelines.
2. Approves the delegation of authority to approve the BCF assurance plan to the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council (as chair of the Nottinghamshire BCF Working Group) in consultation with the co-chair of the BCF Working Group, and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the HWB.

Dr Paul Oliver
Clinical Lead, NHS Nottingham North and East CCG

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Lucy Dadge, Director of Transformation
lucy.dadge@mansfieldandashfieldccg.nhs.uk / 01623 673330.

Constitutional Comments (SG 24/06/2014)

15. By virtue of its Terms of Reference, the Health and Wellbeing Board has responsibility for discussion of all issues considered to be relevant to the overall responsibilities of the Board, and to perform any specific duties allocated by the Department of Health. The proposals in this report fall within the remit of the Board.

Financial Comments (KAS 24/06/14)

16. The financial implications are contained within the Nottinghamshire BCF Plan.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Letter from NHS England dated 4 June 2014. Publications Gateway Reference: 01685. (now superseded with the deadlines and requirements outlined above)
- Letter from NHS England and Adult Directors of Social Services (ADASS) dated 20 May 2014.
- Nottinghamshire Better Care Fund plans accessible online:
<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/yourhealth/developing-health-services/health-and-wellbeing-board/bettercarefund/> [last accessed 24 June 2014]

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All