

7 October 2020**Agenda Item: 6**

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR: ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH

BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE AND RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL OF THE 2019-20 BETTER CARE FUND PLANNING TEMPLATE SUBMISSION

Purpose of the Report

1. To approve the Nottinghamshire Better Care Fund (2019-20, quarter 4) reporting template that was submitted to NHS England & Improvement on 4 September 2020.
2. To consider the actions underway to progress the recommendations approved by the Health & Wellbeing Board on 24 July 2020, to implement the Better Care Fund review and utilise Nottinghamshire County Council's Better Care Fund reserve.

Information

The Better Care Fund (2019-20, quarter 4) report

3. The Better Care Fund (2019-20, quarter 4) reporting requirements were paused during the emergency response to COVID-19. In recognition of the disruption and reduced availability of resources caused by the pandemic, the resumed reporting requirements have been significantly reduced.
4. The reduced requirements aim to provide essential information relevant to accountability and delivery at the end of year 2019-20. Specifically, this includes:
 - Confirmation that mandatory national conditions were being met (tab 3 of the template)
 - Information to highlight a success with integrated working in quarter 4 (tab 6 of the template)
 - An overview of income and expenditure in quarter 4 (tab 8 of the template)
 - Overall year-end feedback, part 1 (tab 9 of the template).
5. The report template was agreed for submission to NHS England & Improvement by Councillor Tony Harper (Chairman of the Health & Wellbeing Board), Melanie Brooks (Corporate Director: Adult Social Care & Health), Amanda Sullivan (Accountable Officer) and Idris Griffiths (Accountable Officer), subject to formal ratification at the Health & Wellbeing Board on 7 October 2020.
6. The Better Care Fund (2019-20, quarter 4) submission is shown in full at Appendix 1.

Update on Better Care Fund recommendations

7. A Better Care Fund workshop for the Health & Wellbeing Board will take place on Wednesday 2 December 2020. This will aim to establish the vision and principles which guide the integrated approaches for health, care and housing in Nottinghamshire. Preparatory work will include engagement with people who use local services so that the voice of people with lived experience can inform the discussions.
8. Discussions are underway to scope out the focused work related to a) effective hospital discharge pathways for people who need support with housing problems, and b) more comprehensive use of assistive technology across Nottinghamshire to support health, wellbeing and independence. These were agreed at the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on 24 July to be areas where improvements could be readily realised.
9. At the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting on 24 July, it was agreed that a new Integration Executive, and a new Housing Partnership, would be established. These would replace the Better Care Fund Steering Group to allow greater oversight for integration approaches across health and care, and greater oversight of the housing, health and care interface. Work is in progress to establish these groups. These will allow partners to share local and national practice, report on developments that are underway, discuss actions to meet gaps, and resolve any barriers that are affecting services offered to people who have complex and multi-faceted needs.
10. Sixteen short-term transformation projects were approved for funding from Nottinghamshire County Council's Better Care Fund reserve. Implementation plans for these projects are currently being developed. A monitoring framework will be established to ensure that progress is tracked, problems resolved, benefits realised and learning shared. Updates will be provided to the new Integration Executive.

Section 75 Agreement

11. Nottinghamshire County Council, NHS Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group have now completed the 2020-21 variation to the Section 75 Better Care Fund agreement. This includes a new schedule to set out the arrangements for hospital discharge which applied from March 2020 and were updated in late August, and the agreed funding profile for the Better Care Fund for this financial year.

Other options considered

12. None.

Reasons for Recommendations

13. To ensure the Health & Wellbeing Board has oversight of the Better Care Fund and can discharge its national obligations.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. 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.

Financial Implications

15. The 2019-20 Better Care Fund pooled budget has been agreed as £92,221,595 after inflation. This is summarised in Appendix 1.

Human Resources Implications

16. There are no Human Resources implications contained within the content of this report.

Legal Implications

17. The Care Act facilitates the establishment of the Better Care Fund by providing a mechanism to make the sharing of NHS funding with local authorities mandatory. The wider powers to use Health Act flexibilities to pool funds, share information and staff are unaffected.

Constitutional comments (SS 28/09/20)

18. The Health & Wellbeing Board is the appropriate body to consider this report and the recommendations are within its powers.

Financial comments (OC 28/09/2020)

19. The £92,221,595 Better Care Fund allocation for 2019/20 is fully spent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) To approve the Better Care Fund (2019-20, quarter 4) reporting template that was submitted to NHS England & Improvement on 4 September 2020.
- 2) To note the actions underway to progress the recommendations approved by the Health & Wellbeing Board on 24 July 2020 and progress made to finalise the Section 75 Better Care Fund agreement.

Melanie Brooks

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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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.

- 2018-19 Progress Update and Approval for the Use of the BCF Care Act Allocation (Recurrent and Reserve), the Improved BCF, and the Winter Pressures Grant 2019-20 – report to Health & Wellbeing Board on 6 March 2019
- 2019-20 Better Care Fund Policy Framework, Department of Health & Social Care, 10 April 2019
- Quarterly reporting from Local Authorities to the Department of Health & Social Care in relation to the Better Care Fund, Quarter 4 Return – 18 April 2019
- 2018-19 Better Care Fund Performance – report to Health & Wellbeing Board on 5 June 2019
- Better Care Fund Planning Requirements for 2019-20, Department of Health & Social Care, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, and NHS England, 18 July 2019
- 2019-20 First Quarter Better Care Fund Performance and Programme Update – report to Health & Wellbeing Board on 4 September 2019
- Nottinghamshire 2019-20 Better Care Fund Planning Template

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All