

**Nottinghamshire County Better Care Fund
Report on the Public Consultation of the section 75 pooled fund agreement**

Background

There is a legal requirement to undertake a public consultation on the proposal to establish a pooled fund for the Better Care Fund (BCF) under section 75 of the National Health Service Act (2006). A four week consultation was open between 16th February and 15th March 2015 in accordance with the legislative requirements. This paper sets out the results from the consultation for the Programme Board to note and identify any actions required in response to the consultation results.

Consultation response

In total 43 responses to the consultation were received. 89% of responses were received from members of the public, with the remainder responding on behalf of their organisation. 41% of respondents were aged 65 years and over, with a further 24% aged between 56 and 65 years. All respondents had a Nottinghamshire post code. The consultation asked four questions regarding the section 75 pooled fund. It should be noted that the consultation was specifically about the pooled fund arrangements rather than the content of the BCF plan. Table 1 below shows the proportion of respondents agreeing or disagreeing with each of the four questions set out in the consultation.

Question	% agreeing	% disagreeing	Total number of responses
Q1 Do you agree that the proposal to pool budgets will support us in achieving our vision and making the most of the opportunity presented by the Better Care Fund?	85%	15%	41
Q2. Do you agree with the five key areas set out in the "Our Vision" section in the supporting document for which the money has been pooled?	90%	10%	40
Q3. Do you have any comments and /or concerns about the money being pooled for better care services?	47%	53%	38
Q4. Do you agree with the monitoring arrangements for making sure our services are working?	83%	17%	35

Table 1: % of respondents agreeing/disagreeing with consultation questions

Table 1 shows that respondents agreed with the pooling of budgets, the vision of the BCF and the monitoring arrangements in place to review the services within the BCF plan. Further details on the comments and / or concerns about the pooling of money are shown in table 2.

Theme	Number of responses	Example of comments
Ensuring accountability of fund	3	this money can help but not if it leave ccg short of money in other areas robin peter to pay paul. so make sure you tell people this not new money you are just moving it.
Importance of integration	1	Long overdue, the important thing is to ensure that staff feel they are working together, therefore true joint goals relating to the care they are providing
Improve efficiency	3	Hope the emphasis will be on better care services not proliferation of NEW buearocratic bodies protecting old territories
Service delivery	6	Money needs to be used efficiently and not just used to plug gaps where funding has been reduced/removed in social care
Total	13	

Table 2: themes regarding comments/concerns relating to Q3 - the money being pooled

In total, 13 comments were received in relation to Q3. These related to four key themes as described in the table above. All comments for each question are shown in Appendix 1.

Conclusions

Overall, there is support for the pooling of funds to deliver integrated care for older people in Nottinghamshire. Concerns were raised in relation to ensuring the money is used efficiently and about the delivery of services. Understandably there were queries relating to the plans, rather than just the pooled fund arrangements.

Recommendations

The Programme Board is asked to note the responses from the public consultation and agree any further actions that need to be taken in response to the consultation.

Appendix 1 Comments received during BCF section 75 pooled fund consultation

Comments on Q1 - Do you agree that the proposal to pool budgets will support us in achieving our vision and making the most of the opportunity presented by the Better Care Fund?

Pooling will result in someone stripping funds out in some way
 The plans just shift money, they don't really integrate health and social care
 seems to be a politically driven move to shift NHS resources to LA
 money will move away from NHS and healthcare.
 Your proposal only has involvement from CCGs and local authorities. These people are not the experts. Service Users, Carers and Independent Living Charities are and it is an arrogant assumption to have civil service only participation.
 Health money will be used to prop up cuts in social care budgets.

Comments on Q2 - Do you agree with the five key areas set out in the "Our Vision" section in the supporting document for which the money has been pooled?

The vision is rhetoric
 Not enough for mental health services, this need is getting more needy

Comments on Q3 - Do you have any comments and /or concerns about the money being pooled for better care services?

Focus of each will be lost if pooled
 Doesn't address the fundamental problem of inadequate home care - particularly following NCC's tendering exercise
 Long overdue, the important thing is to ensure that staff feel they are working together, therefore true joint goals relating to the care they are providing
 That silly rules exist like carer and cared for have to live and have gp in notts.
 Some areas may need more social care than others
 Hope the emphasis will be on better care services not proliferation of NEW bureaucratic bodies protecting old territories
 hopefully the budgets will assist more people by reducing admin. costs
 What if there isn't enough money pooled?
 experience from community equipment pool is that result in a blame game on who causing increasing costs. Pooling may see loss of control and accountability.
 Why is this funding targeted for elderly people only
 this money can help but not if it leaves ccg short of money in other areas robin peter to pay paul. so make sure you tell people this not new money you are just moving it.
 Money needs to be used efficiently and not just used to plug gaps where funding has been reduced/removed in social care
 I hope it will reduce bureaucracy and not induce more 'paperwork' between the parties involved. Also will the service be better than that provided now.

Comments on Q4 - The monitoring arrangements for making sure our services are working set out in the BCF Plan and in the section above called "How do we know our services are working?" Do you agree with these arrangements?

All the documents sound fine in theory, But I know from bitter experience as a carer that there is very little "joined up thinking" and communication between all departments. If a vulnerable older person has No-one at all to act as a helper/carer/supporter when he/she has to interact in Any way with the NHS, then they are completely at the mercy of a disjointed system. It all Sounds very grand, but in practise, it rarely works as it should.
 Monitors capability or competency
 Local CCG staff have had no opportunity to contribute to try to gain the benefits of integration
 Cannot find this section to respond
 Need more reassurance on control and accountability.
 What is the BCF plan? Where is the section above called "How do we know our services are working"
 The statutory guidance for the care bill is very clear and concise. The proposals submitted for monitoring focus far too much on financial then improving health and well-being. In fact the use of the unlawful NCC prepayment cards should be 100% taken off the plan. (Case Law and current legislation) Don't start with unlawful activities and if you are not aware NCC have a judicial review pending on this and many other unlawful proposals.