

Better Care Fund Briefing Note for Health and Wellbeing Board - ADDENDUM

26th January 2016

Background

This paper is an addendum to the original note briefing note circulated to Health & Wellbeing Board members in December 2015, regarding requirements for the Better Care Fund (BCF) in 2016/2017.

On 8th January 2016, the policy paper "*Better Care Fund: how it will work in 2016 to 2017*¹" was published. This paper sets out the policy framework for the implementation of the BCF in 2016/17, as agreed across the Department of Health, Department for Communities and Local Government, Local Government Association, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, and NHS England. In developing this policy framework, the strong feedback from local areas of the need to reduce the burden and bureaucracy in the operation of the Better Care Fund has been taken on board, and the planning and assurance process has been streamlined and simplified, including removing the £1 billion payment for performance framework.

Key Messages

The key messages arising from the policy guidance, that Health & Wellbeing Board members are asked to note, are:

- The performance fund has been removed ("removed" means that funding will be accessed via an alternative route) and access to this £1 billion nationally replaced with two new national conditions:
 - Requirement for local areas to fund NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include a wide range of services including social care
 - Requirement for local areas to develop a clear, focused action plan for managing DTOC, including locally agreed targets
- The first of these conditions is now a key condition of BCF which will be required to access funding (along with need for HWB sign-off, S75 arrangements, and plans approved by NHSE, DH and DCLG)
- Areas will be "allowed to graduate" from BCF post-16/17 by demonstrating that they have moved "beyond its requirements"
- Definitions of national conditions have been amended and details/definitions are contained within the document
- The template for completing the submission was expected week commencing 18th January 2016. This has still not been released but there is a little more detail on what will be required and this is contained within the document also

¹ Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-how-it-will-work-in-2016-to-2017>

- Metrics will remain unchanged and areas will be expected to “maintain the progress made in 2015/16”
- For 2016/17, BCF plans will be submitted as part of mainstream CCG plans via UNIFY. The implication for this is that submitted plans will focus more on metrics and finance, and less on narrative than was seen in 2015/16. The deadline for this submission is **8th February 2016** and these will now not require HWB sign-off, although locally HWB members will be kept fully informed.
- Localities² to “commit to a fully integrated health and social care system” by 2020 through Sustainability and Transformation Plans. The model for these systems will not be prescribed, and localities will be able to choose from a “menu” of options, including:
 - Continuation of BCF plan
 - Devolution
 - Developing an accountable care organisation
 - Developing a lead commissioner model (e.g. NE Lincs Care Trust Plus model).
- There will be a BCF real terms increase of 1.9% in 2016/17. The detail of where this money will come from has not yet been provided.
- Locally the minimum required pool for Cheshire East has fallen from £23.891 million in 2015/16 to £22,599 million in 2016/17.
- The section 75 agreement needs to be refreshed and signed by 31/3/16.
- Extra £1.5bn for social care by 2020
- £500m extra for disabled facilities grant

Timeline

Planned timescales in Cheshire East to complete BCF Planning are shown below:

Task	Outcome	Date	Progress to Date
Planning workshop (1)	Consensus across commissioning partners achieved regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities for 2016/17 • Agreement on schemes that will be continued/ceased from 2015/2016 to 2016/17 BCF • Agreement in principle regarding which work areas should be brought into the section 75 pooled budget agreement for 	5/1/15	COMPLETED

² The geography of these localities has not been defined at the time of writing.

	2016/2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on redrafted S75 agreement for 2016/17 		
Health & Wellbeing Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update HWB on progress to date and plans to achieve agreement and submission in line with national requirements 	26/1/16	THIS MEETING
Submission of BCF plans with CCG operational plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit plans in line with national requirements 	8/2/16	PENDING RELEASE OF TEMPLATE
Planning workshop (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-assessment findings – gain an understanding across the commissioning partners of how joint commissioning is progressing locally and what actions are required to further improve • Agreement on final draft of S75 for 2016/17 • Agreement on work areas to be included in s75 for 2016/2017 and the finances attached to each scheme. 	24/2/16	AGENDA CIRCULATED
Gain approval on plans from all required governance groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HWB further update 	23/2/16	SCHEDULED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HWB formal approval 	15/3/16	SCHEDULED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECCCCG Governing Body 	30/3/16	SCHEDULED
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCCCCG Governing Body 	7/4/16	PENDING CONFIRMATION OF SCHEDULING
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LA Cabinet 	8/3/16	SCHEDULED
Sign-off of S75 agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed agreements in line with national requirements 	Mid April	
Refresh of originally submitted plans		Mid-March	
Final submission of refreshed plans		Mid to late April	

Further information is available from:

Caroline Baines (Strategic Commissioning Manager)

01270 686248

caroline.baines@cheshireeast.gov.uk