



Better Care Fund - Partnership Agreement

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The June 2013 Spending Round announced that £3.8 billion would be utilised to deliver closer integration between health and social care. The Better Care Fund is described as a “single pooled budget for health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas, based on a plan agreed between the NHS and Local Authorities”. The Better Care fund is a pooled budget held between the Local Authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- 1.2 The fund will be an important enabler to take the integration agenda forward at scale and pace and will act as a significant catalyst for change to improve outcomes for patients, service users and carers.
- 1.3 The Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for Shropshire is now fully approved by NHS England, however, the final element of completing the associated documentation is to draft and adopt a Partnership Agreement across Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Shropshire Council.
- 1.4 The Partnership Agreement is fundamental to the smooth delivery and implementation of the BCF plan and ensuring the level of risk both financial and non-financial the council, CCGs, partner organisations and providers may be exposed to is managed appropriately.
- 1.5 It is a requirement that a Partnership Agreement (including the s75 pooled budget agreement) to be developed to support the delivery of the Better Care Fund plan from 1 April 2015. This has been supported through the publication of Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Account (CIPFA) Guidance ‘*Pooled Budgets and the Better Care Fund*’.
- 1.6 A ‘Partnership Agreement’ template, developed by Bevan Britain in association with Wiltshire Council, was provided by NHS England and the Local Government Association to support the local development of this. This has been used as the template for this agreement.

2. Recommendations

- Review and comment on the content of the Partnership Agreement and agree that final amendments can be agreed by the Health & Wellbeing Delivery Group in cooperation with the Portfolio Holder for ASC and the CCG Clinical Lead for the Better Care Fund
- Agree that the agreement is reviewed by the Health & Wellbeing Delivery Group and the findings reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board in 6 months

3. Report

3.1 The purpose of this Partnership Agreement is to support the delivery of the Better Care Fund by setting out the governance and practical management arrangements specifically associated with the Better Care Fund pooled budget. The details of these arrangements are set out in the document attached.

3.2 This Partnership Agreement has been developed by the BCF Task & Finish Group which has had full and active membership from an Elected Member, Clinical Lead and relevant Senior Officers from both the Local Authority and CCG.

3.3 The document has been through a process of legal, finance and contracts ratification and is supported by those departments

3.4 This document has also been presented to the CCG Quality, Performance and Resources Committee and the Local Authority Directors, CCG Board and Local Authority Cabinet and has received support.

3.5 The agreement sets out standard elements relating to the establishment and hosting of the fund and sets out the expectations on each partner. Your attention is specifically drawn to the following sections:

3.5.1 Page 14 (Point 6.6) It is recommended that Shropshire Council becomes the 'Host Partner' for the pooled budget agreement. Options have been considered by the Task & Finish group and guidance has been received through regional and national groups and publications. The main advantages of this option are that it takes advantage of the favourable Council VAT regimes and also aligns the budget with the overarching governance of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

3.5.2 Page 15 (Point 10) Schedule 3 of the BCF Partnership Agreement sets out the Risk Share, Overspends and Underspends arrangements. Options for this have been considered by the Task & Finish Group and an Options Appraisal that was completed in order to reach the conclusions in the Partnership Agreement. This appraisal is attached to the agreement for your reference.

3.5.3 Page 18 (Point 17) Schedule 2 sets out the governance arrangements of the Better Care Fund. It should be noted that these are the existing governance arrangements and that these will be reviewed in light of the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy and Governance review.

3.5.4 Page 29 (Schedule 1) It should be noted that Schedule 1 covers new transformation schemes only and that existing integrated activity within the remainder of the pooled fund will be subject to existing contracting arrangements until such time that those arrangements are reviewed and new schedules created.

3.5.5 Page 39 (Schedule 7) It should be noted that the Information Governance Protocol attached references Shropshire PCT rather than Shropshire CCG. This document was created prior to the transition of the PCT to CCG and is only scheduled for review this year and therefore has not yet been amended. Shropshire CCG recognises this agreement and continues to act in accordance with it.

3.6 This Partnership Agreement will be reviewed by the Health & Wellbeing Delivery Group after six months in order that the requirement for any refinements that become apparent during implementation can be made.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Better Care Fund Partnership Agreement 2015	
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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

**Cllr Karen Calder – Chair Health & Wellbeing Board
Cllr Lee Chapman – Portfolio Holder for Adult Services**

Local Member

ALL – this is a Countywide matter

Appendices

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