

Health and Wellbeing Board

12th September, 2019

HWBB Joint Commissioning Report - Better Care Fund Update

Responsible Officer

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1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress on the Better Care Fund (BCF) for 19/20.

1.2 The BCF guidance was published in July and the 19/20 plans are due on the 27th September. The guidance can be found through the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/821675/BCF_Planning_Requirements_2019-20_DHSC_1.pdf

1.3 The BCF in 19/20 continues to provide a mechanism for personalised, integrated approaches to health and care the support people to remain independent at home or return to independence after an episode in hospital. The BCF Policy Framework provides continuity from previous rounds by maintaining 4 national conditions. These are (in brief):

- 1.3.1 Must be signed off by the HWBB and by the Local Authority and CCG;
- 1.3.2 Must demonstrate how the area will maintain the level of spending on social care services from the CCG minimum contribution in line with the uplift to the CCGs minimum contribution;
- 1.3.3 Must allocate a specific proportion to out-of-hospital services;
- 1.3.4 Must provide a clear plan for managing transfers of care through the High Impact Change Model

1.4 Other notable requirements of the plan include:

- 1.4.1 The DFG, iBCF and Winter Pressures Grant monies are included within the BCF (although there has been no confirmation on the continuation of the iBCF and Winter Pressures – additional information in the Risk section below)
- 1.4.2 The narrative should reflect the joint plan for integration of health and social care locally as well as reflect jointly agreed approaches across the STP geography

1.5 On the 4th September 2019, central government announced a continuation of the iBCF and Winter pressures grant funding consistent with 19/20. The values are as follows:

| Grant | 19/20 Value | 20/21 Value |
|------------------|-------------|---|
| Original iBCF | £8,153,520 | £8,153,520 (possibly plus inflation) |
| Additional iBCF | £1,967,260 | £1,967,260 |
| Winter Pressures | £1,393,823 | £1,393,823 |

This is welcome news however, as noted in the risk section below, this is funding provided via a year on year grant, that will hold significant risk should the grants cease.

- 1.6 In autumn/ spring 18/19, the Joint Commissioning Group conducted an annual review of the BCF; this review in combination with the Joint Statement of Intent, endorsed at the May HWBB has been used as a guide to develop the BCF plan for 19/20.
- 1.7 The priorities of the BCF together with key suggested programmes from the statement of intent are:
- Prevention – keeping people well and self-sufficient in the first place; community referral including Let's Talk Local and Social prescribing, Dementia companions, Voluntary and community sector, population health management
 - Admission Avoidance – when people are not so well, how can we improve their health in the community; out of hospital focus (Care Closer to Home, Integrated Community Services, new admission avoidance scheme), carers and mental health
 - Delayed Transfers and system flow - using the 8 High Impact Model; Joint equipment contract, Assistive technology, Integrated Community Service, Red Bag
- 1.8 We are working at a system level to develop the 8 High Impact model and to articulate our person centred care ambition for the system. The narrative, which will also feature in the STP Long Term Plan will recognise the significant transformation and shift required to deliver person centred integrated care, but highlights the system commitment to deliver at scale.
- 1.9 Despite good progress on developing the plan and associated pooled funds, due to the late publication of the guidance and templates, it is not yet ready for presentation to the HWBB. The Board is asked to delegate sign off of the plan to the Joint Commissioning Group and the Chair of the HWBB for the 27th September deadline; with final sign off of the plan and an updated Section 75 Partnership Agreement being presented to the HWBB in November.
- 1.10 The Risk section below highlights a rising risk to the system regarding Admissions Avoidance and Delayed Transfers (DTCO), as there has been no national announcement of the continuation of the iBCF and Winter Pressures grant funding (see 3.4 below).
- 1.11 On a positive note, despite the delay in receiving the BCF guidance, we continue to utilise the Section 75 Partnership agreement to pool our funds. The pooled fund is a total of 7.79 million.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The HWBB to note progress of BCF plan.

2.2 Given the timescales, the HWBB allow the Chair and Joint Commissioning Group to provide interim sign off for the 27th September deadline, with the final BCF Plan 19/20 and updated Section 75 Partnership agreement to come to the HWBB on the 14th November.

2.3 The HWBB note the risks associated with continued reliance on grant funding to pay for system initiatives to support transfers of care and admission avoidance.

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3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1. (NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)
- 3.2. The HWB Strategy requires that the health and care system work to reduce inequalities in Shropshire. All decisions and discussions by the Board must take into account reducing inequalities.
- 3.3. The schemes of the BCF and other system planning have been done by engaging with stakeholders, service users, and patients. This has been done in a variety of ways including through patient groups, focus groups, ethnographic research.
- 3.4. Continued reliance on grant funding (iBCF and Winter Pressures), to support system flow, admissions avoidance and transfers of care schemes, holds significant financial risk should the grant funding stop.

4. Background

4.1 The Better Care Fund progress is reported at every Health and Wellbeing Board through the Joint Commissioning Report to the HWBB.

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| List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) For the final BCF plan please see HWBB paper here |
| Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Cllr Dean Carroll, Adult Social Services and Climate Change |
| Local Member n/a |
| Appendices n/a |