



Health and Wellbeing Board
21st November 2014

BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE - SHROPSHIRE

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1. Summary

1.1 In order to establish whether Better Care Fund plans should be approved a consistent assurance methodology has been nationally adopted. The Nationally Consistent Assurance Review (NCAR) was designed to provide an appropriate rating for each plan based on both its quality as an approach and its suitability to the local context.

The four key elements to the review were:

- Standardised plan review by external review experts
- Local delivery risk review by Area Teams with HWBs and Regional colleagues
- Moderation by central team informed by Area Team and Regional colleagues
- National calibration by NELCSU and BCF Task Force

1.2 This report advises the Board on the Shropshire NCAR outcome as 'Approved with Support' and provides a definition of this status and what this means in terms of the response required.

1.3 Finally it summarises the actions that are required over the coming months to address the areas for improvement identified through the NCAR process.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1 Note and acknowledge the NCAR process and current status;
- 2 Note and agree the plan for updating the BCF Plan in line with NCAR recommendations;

REPORT

3. Background

- 3.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) was introduced in June 2013 as a way to provide an opportunity for local areas to transform local services so that people received better integrated care and support.
- 3.2 The Shropshire Health and Wellbeing Board established a working group who developed the local Better Care Fund plan through the Autumn 2013 and Spring 2014. Workshops with the Health and Wellbeing Board and other stakeholders through this time supported this development and a plan was submitted in April 2014.
- 3.3 The Shropshire plan/submission did not receive full assurance from NHS England and the Local Government Association (LGA) with concerns around our stakeholder involvement and a lack of clarity around our shared local vision; the 'golden thread'. However, concerns arose nationally that the submitted BCF plans as a whole did not demonstrate actual cost savings and reduction in pressure on acute services.
- 3.4 In July 2014 new and more detailed guidance was published with significant changes and updates and a request for all local areas to resubmit their plans by 19th September 2014.
- 3.5 The revised Better Care Fund (BCF) planning guidance, issued on 25 July, set out some key changes to the requirements of the BCF. These included:
- P4P now linked to reducing emergency admissions only; expectation that plans will set a minimum target of 3.5% reduction in emergency admissions
 - Expectation of stronger plans
 - Clear vision and schemes that will deliver the vision
 - The case for change
 - A plan of action
 - Strong governance
 - Alignment with acute sector and wider planning
 - Protection of Social Care
 - Engagement
- 3.6 During the summer of 2014 the BCF plan was refreshed to reflect the new guidance and a draft version of this was presented to the HWBB on the 11th September, following which updates were made and approved by the Chair of the HWBB for submission to NHS England and the LGA on the 19th September. The final version of the BCF Plan was presented to the Board on 10th October 2014.
- 3.7 In order to establish whether plans should be approved, NHS England and the LGA adopted a consistent assurance methodology, designed to provide an appropriate rating for each plan based on both its quality as an approach and its suitability on the local context. The Nationally Consistent Assurance Review (NCAR) methodology was developed with NHS England, LGA, Monitor and the TDA.
- 3.8 Following submission all plans were reviewed against the NCAR process. Shropshire's BCF Plan has been classified as '**Approved with Support**'. Please find attached a letter from Dame Barbara Hakin, National Director of Commissioning Operations at NHS England advising Shropshire H&WB Board of this outcome.

3.9 NHS England and the LGA define the classifications as follows:

- **APPROVED:**

No significant actions required. Plan is of sufficient quality to move forward to implementation with no actions required.

- **APPROVED WITH SUPPORT:**

Plan has some actions that are required but these do not represent a fundamental flaw in the approach or a material concern and can be resolved by a clarification of additional required information by the end of November

- **APPROVED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS:**

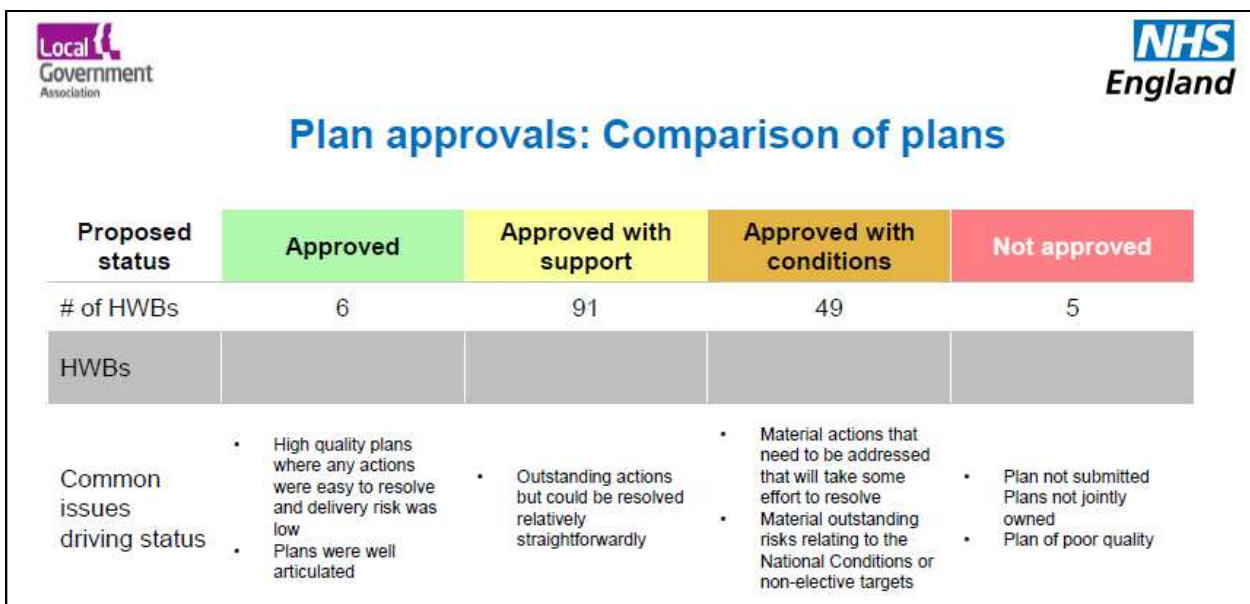
Whilst the fundamental approach is deemed suitable there are specific challenges that need to be addressed before proceeding to implementation. In particular:

- A material concern about the ability to deliver the National Conditions
- A material concern about the credibility of the non-elective target, given either current performance or the provider engagement in this plan
- The volume of corrective actions or unmitigated risks in the plan being such that a significant level of further work is required before they can be assured

- **NOT APPROVED:**

Plan falls short of key criteria either because it is not signed-up to by all parties or the fundamental approach is flawed.

3.10 A list detailing the full NCAR outcomes for all Health & Wellbeing areas can be found on page 28 of the [attached document](#) - NCAR Results and Analysis, in summary:



3.11 The letter from Dame Barbara Hakin and subsequent correspondence from the NHS Local Area Team (LAT), who ongoing support and oversight of the BCF Plan has been delegated to, sets out the next steps and arising from this approval category. They are detailed in the attached document – ‘Process Chart for ‘Approved with Support’ NCAR Outcome’ and can be summarised as follows:

- **29th October 2014** – H&WB areas receive letter notifying assurance category and named point of contact (NHS England Relationship Manager)

- **14th November 2014**– H&WB area to agree with LAT Relationship Manager what evidence and information will be submitted to mitigate risk areas and when this will be submitted through the completion of the Template E Action Plan.
- **28th November 2014** – H&WB areas to have submitted their further information/evidence for review and sign-off with NHS England LAT Relationship Manager
- **5th December 2014** - NHS England LAT recommend to BCF Taskforce that they seek Programme Board approval to move area(s) to fully approved category
- **8th December 2014** - Fully ‘approved’ outcome letters to be issued to H&WB areas.

3.12 The detailed actions that are required to mitigate risk areas are detailed in tab 2 of the attached document - Shropshire NCAR Outcome Report. A detailed action plan has been developed to address these actions; in the main the action required is relatively straightforward, with many simply requiring sections to be reworded to provide greater clarity or fields in the templates being populated differently to comply with the formatting rules.

3.13 There are some areas that require further action and those actions can be summarised as follows:




Ref	Action Required	Notes	By When
1	Aggregate lines of the expenditure plan and show how they contribute to achieving the linked performance measures.	Although much work was completed to show the benefits that will be delivered through the transformation schemes, the link to the performance measure was not always explicit. The scheme descriptors are being reviewed to make this linkage more explicit.	28/11/2014
2	Update the vision section to better articulate the overarching vision	The view of the NCAR Team is that the vision section of the BCF Plan currently reads as an ‘Executive Summary’ rather than a vision. This will be rewritten to describe the overarching vision of the Better care Fund – which aligns to the H&WB Vision	28/11/2014
3	Partnership Agreement	The plan was submitted with a list of principles from which a ‘Partnership Agreement’ will be developed. The NCAR Team is looking for further clarity or an indication of when there will be. Work has started to develop the Partnership Agreement, but given the significance of this piece of work, and the sign off required from the CCG, LA & H&WB Boards we will resubmit the BCF with the progress to date and a clear	Detailed plan by 28/11/2014 Partnership agreement in place by March 2015

		set of timescales of when this work will be concluded.	
4	Describe what 7 Day Services look like for Shropshire and how the plan will achieve this	Although the plan detailed what progress has been made towards implementing 7 Day Services in Shropshire, it did not start from the position of explain what services are required over 7 days and why so that we can show the incremental progress towards this. This section will be rewritten to describe this.	28/11/2014
5	Describe the Information Governance (IG) frameworks and how they provide assurance that appropriate IG controls are in place.	Although the plan detailed that IG controls are in place insufficient detail was provided in this section. This section will be re-written to describe the joint frameworks in greater detail.	28/11/2014
6	Show how intelligence/evidence relates to and has informed the plan	Although the evidence is shown throughout the plan – more work is required to ensure that the linkage is explicit. Review the scheme descriptors and case for change section to ensure that the evidence base is made explicit.	28/11/2014
7	Review scheme descriptors and update them to include the level of detail found in the ICS descriptor.	Although it was acknowledged that schemes were at varying stages of development the NCAR Team pointed to the ICS scheme descriptor and highlighted this as the standard for all other scheme descriptors. All scheme descriptors will be updated to reflect the comments – although acknowledging that at times this will still only include a plan for when further detail will be available.	28/11/2014

4. Conclusions

n/a

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

<p>Letter from Dame Barbara Hakim re: Shropshire's NCAR Outcome</p>	 Letter from Dame Barbara Hakim re: Shi
<p>Shropshire NCAR Outcome Report</p>	 Shropshire NCAR Outcome Report
<p>Process Chart for 'Approved with Support' NCAR Outcome</p>	 Process Chart for 'Approved with Suppc
<p>Link to the Better Care Fund NCAR Results and Analysis – October 2014</p>	<p>http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/bcf-ncar-results-analysis.pdf</p>

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Karen Calder

Local Member

All

Appendices

None