

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

23rd JULY 2014

**REPORT OF: CORPORATE
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN,
EDUCATION & SOCIAL CARE
AND
CHIEF OFFICER, NHS
HARTLEPOOL & STOCKTON ON
TEES CCG**

BETTER CARE FUND

SUMMARY

This paper provides Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the recent announcements in relation to the Better Care Fund (BCF), providing a summary of the proposed changes and an initial analysis of the possible impact on the Stockton Better Care Fund plan. The paper also provides a short update on the implementation of the Stockton Better Care Fund plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Notes the proposed changes to the Better Care Fund, the initial analysis of impact and the implementation update.

BACKGROUND

The Stockton Better Care Fund plan, which was signed off at the March Health and Wellbeing Board, was submitted to NHS England on 4 April 2014. Since April there have been national discussions surrounding the assurance process for all Better Care Fund plans. We have been awaiting formal correspondence outlining any changes, which has now been received.

Summary of proposed changes

The Department of Health and Department for Communities and Local Government sent two letters to all Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs on 11 July 2014 outlining proposed changes to the BCF assurance and planning processes including changes in relation to the performance and finance metrics. The two letters are attached as Appendix 1 and 2. The key points identified in this correspondence are:

Pay for performance and risk sharing

1. Up to £1 billion of the Better Care Fund allocated to local areas is to be spent on out-of-hospital services according to the level of reduction in emergency admissions they achieve.
2. Health and Well Being Boards will propose their own performance pot based on their level of ambition for reducing emergency admissions (with a guideline reduction in emergency admissions of at least 3.5%) and they will be allocated a portion of the £1 billion performance money in the fund in accordance with the level of performance against this ambition.

3. Where local areas do not achieve their target reduction in emergency admissions the money not released will be available to CCGs, principally to pay for the unbudgeted acute activity
4. The remaining money from the performance pot not earned through reducing emergency admissions will be available upfront to be invested in out of hospital NHS commissioned services (inc joint services), agreed by Health & Wellbeing Boards.
5. Reduction in unplanned admissions will now be the sole indicator underpinning the pay for performance element of the BCF. The other existing performance metrics will not be linked to payments but must still be included within plans.

Plan improvement and Assurance

6. A revised planning template will be issued by NHS England, requesting additional financial data around metrics, planned spend and projected savings
7. Revised plans to be submitted at the end of the summer, ahead of a further process of national assurance and ministerial sign off
8. NHS England will provide revised guidance to shape the further development of local BCF plans, including information on the revised pay for performance and risk sharing arrangements
9. Plans will be reviewed later in the summer to ensure they are ambitious enough to achieve improvements in care and that every area is on track to begin in April 2015. A new national BCF Programme Team will be established working across Whitehall, local government and the NHS.

Initial analysis of impact for Stockton BCF

An initial analysis of impact on the Stockton BCF plan has been undertaken based upon the information received to date:

- The amount of funding to be held back in the Stockton BCF performance pot, dependent on the achievement of the target reduction in emergency admissions, will be between £1.4m and £3.9m.
 - 3.5% of Stockton's emergency admissions equate to approx. £1.4m
 - Stockton's share of £1bn equates to £3.9m
- The Stockton BCF plan sets an ambition of a 6.3% reduction in emergency admissions with expected savings of £2.55m
- Work is underway to determine which parts of the plan will be affected by the described funding changes and determine the overall impact on delivery of the outcomes.

Stockton BCF Implementation Update

Work has been underway to further develop our local implementation plans and progress the projects outlined within the Stockton BCF plan. Key milestones and achievements include:

- BCF Plan developed with all partners and signed off by Health & Wellbeing Board
- Governance arrangements agreed
- BCF Development workshop held 3 June 2014 – Bringing all partners together in the development and the delivery of the BCF plan with a focus on scheme 1. Key principals for the development of the Integrated Multi-disciplinary Team were agreed and next steps identified
- Early wins and possible pilot schemes identified and being progressed (including expanding and increasing access to reablement, utilising digital

technologies to support preventative pathways and exploring the use of assistive technologies in dementia pathways)

- Established Task & Finish group to design Integrated MDT
- Draft Implementation plan developed
- Engagement with VCS and work to ensure other VCS health initiatives are aligned with BCF plans
- Bi-weekly meetings with commissioning organisations to ensure progress
- Agreed performance framework and reporting to Steering group and Partnership Board.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial and legal implications associated with the Better Care Fund have been discussed in previous papers to Health and Wellbeing Board. The initial impact of the proposed changes are described in this paper and further work will be undertaken to determine impact when the detailed guidance is received.

RISK ASSESSMENT

A risk assessment is included within the Stockton BCF plan and the agreed BCF governance arrangements describe how risks will be managed throughout the BCF implementation.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The BCF plans support delivery on the Stockton-on-Tees Community Strategy and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Making a significant contribution to a number of the key themes including; healthier communities and adults; helping people to remain independent; improved access to integrated health and social care services and promoting healthy living. The BCF plan also focuses on older adults, one of the key supporting themes in the community strategy.

CONSULTATION

Engagement and consultation activities will be required throughout the implementation of the BCF plan and a detailed communication and engagement plan will be developed by the BCF Steering Group to support implementation.

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