

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

29 JULY 2014

Title:	Better Care Fund - Update
Report of the Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: ALL	Key Decision: No
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Sponsors: Anne Bristow, Corporate Director of Adult & Community Services.	
Summary: <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board considered and agreed papers on 11 February and 25 March 2014 which enabled the submission of the Borough's final Better Care Fund to NHS England.</p> <p>This paper provides an overview of the current position and response to recent announcements about further submissions being required to address national deficiencies in the programme.</p> <p>The delivery of Barking & Dagenham's Better Care Fund plan continues in the meantime with work underway to progress the individual schemes.</p>	
Recommendation(s) It is recommended that Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the latest position and that further guidance is still not forthcoming (including the attached DH press notice within the Background Papers).• Note that we maintain our shared and clear ambition, locally reflected within our Better Care Fund Plan and within the CCG's strategic 5 year plan.• Delegate to the Corporate Director of Adult and Community Services on behalf of the Council to finalise any outstanding matters from the Board's discussions with the Accountable Officer on behalf of Barking and Dagenham CCG. Also, to take further action as necessary in the event of further steps being required to make any adjustments to the BCF plan to comply with emerging requirements from the government, Department of Health or NHS England.	

- That the Health and Wellbeing Board receive a detailed update on progress at its September meeting.

Reason(s)

The Better Care Fund is now a major driver of local activity to jointly improve health and social care services and, in particular, to manage pathways that run across the local hospital trusts and social care services. The Health and Wellbeing Board, having approved these plans as consistent with the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and delivering our shared ambition, should receive regular assurance that actions to meet emerging guidance are being taken, subject to the Board needing to consider any re-submission of Better Care Fund plans in response to Department of Health requirements.

The Better Care Fund underpins the Council's priority in improving local health and wellbeing through all stages of life.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Better Care Fund was announced in June 2013 as part of the 2013 Spending Round. The Fund provides an opportunity for the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group to work together to transform local services so that people are provided with better care and support to enable the achievement of health and social care outcomes and accelerate our progress towards integration.
- 1.2. A draft plan for the Better Care Fund was signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 11 February and submitted to NHS England on 14 February 2014. NHS England provided the Borough with positive feedback on the draft submission and expressed confidence in the Plan, stating that they felt that remaining issues would be resolved before the final submission on 4 April 2014.
- 1.3. The 25 March report to the Board provided an overview of the vision of the Better Care Fund and the priority work areas – the 'schemes' – that make up the Fund. It also outlined the remaining actions that would be worked through by the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group over the subsequent weeks and what would return to the Board in its September meeting.

2. New guidance and possible resubmission of the Plan

- 2.1. Whilst it is clear nationally that Better Care Fund Plans are on course, Board members will be aware of the media speculation and communications from Government which have raised questions about the extent of the impact of Better Care Fund Plans on health services and demand – notably upon acute admissions.
- 2.2. Communications do clearly reflect the Government's shift in focus for Emergency Admissions from being one of the priorities to being the core driver of the Better Care Fund. Expected guidance will set the level of savings to be expected with a single cost per Emergency Admission. A key change here is that our submission was based upon an estimate of all Emergency Admissions (as they vary in cost). It

is also clear that target reductions have become more explicit in the setting of a minimum reduction of 3.5%. Our proposed target reduction of 170.1 to 163.3 (metric value) already exceeds the minimum requirement and will achieve savings of £700,000.

- 2.3. However, we propose to review our ability to increase this further in order to provide stretch and provide sufficient ambition. This will also be important as the Performance element (nationally £1bn) will be much more closely tied to reduced emergency admissions, and of the £1bn, a percentage will be paid to areas for delivering those reductions and the percentage will depend upon how ambitious the target is, further incentivising improved performance.
- 2.4. Current communications have raised some concerns, notably within the Local Government Association, that directions provide for any savings achieved from reduced emergency admissions should be spent on NHS commissioned services and would therefore appear to reduce local ability to determine further investment in and 'protection' of social care services.
- 2.5. It is important that we are reflective and able to act upon further guidance which may be issued. We are however confident that both the Council and the CCG are working together in the same direction, and have a clear vision for what we seek to achieve through our local Better Care Fund plans. Work is underway within each of the 11 schemes forming part of our Better Care Fund submission previously considered by the Board.

3. Resubmission

- 3.1. The Department of Health expect local areas to submit revised plans later in the summer, ahead of a further process of national assurance and ministerial sign off. Locally, we are making the case clearly that any revised plan will need to be seen by the Health and Wellbeing Board before resubmission, and that therefore no submission can be made ahead of 9 September when the Health and Wellbeing Board next meets.
- 3.2. It is thought that the resubmitted template will need to include testimony from significant hospital providers in the locality on how they have been engaged in the production of the plan, and its 'fit' with their own strategic activity.

4. Implications

- 4.1. The Council and the CCG will be working through anticipated guidance and making adjustments to the Better Care Fund Plan as required over the summer. As stated above, any revisions to the Better Care Fund plan will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 9 September. The Board will also receive a more detailed update on the progress of the Better Care Fund so far at that meeting. Detailed implications will therefore be included in the September Health and Wellbeing Board report.

5. Background Papers

Plans to improve out of hospital care for the elderly and vulnerable will reduce emergency admissions. Department of Health Press Release, 5 July 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/better-care-plans-to-provide-dignity-independence-and-reduce-ae-admissions>