

Council

18 July 2017

Approval of the Use of Adult Social Care Grant Funding

Recommendations

- (1) That Council approves the use of the grant as set out in section 2 of this report.
- (2) That Council approves the amendment of the savings plans for 2017-18 as set out in section 3 and 4 of this report.

1.0 Additional Funding and Purpose

- 1.1 After Full Council had agreed the One Organisation Plan 2020 (and associated Medium Term Financial Plan for 2017-20), the government announced a further tranche of one-off funding to support social care which for Warwickshire means an additional £8.3m in 2017/18 followed by a further £6.3m and £3.1m in 2018/19 and 2019/20 (£17.8m in total).
- 1.2 This is on top of an additional one-off grant for adult social care in 2017/18, amounting to £2.245m for Warwickshire that had been announced previously.
- 1.3 The early stages of financial planning for adult social care in Warwickshire assumed a very difficult financial position and therefore the decisions reflected in the Medium Term Financial Plan now need to be revisited in the light of the additional funding.
- 1.4 Although this funding is time limited in nature, and decreases over the financial planning period, already announced Improved Better Care Fund funding increases, therefore the overall position over the three years for the two grants combined is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Additional Recurring Funding

Recurring Resources	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Recent £2bn grant announcement	8,300	6,320	3,149
Longer Term BCF Increases		4,340	9,305
Total Funding	8,300	10,660	12,454

1.5 Whilst there is no guarantee that this funding will be recurrent¹, in order to discharge the funding effectively, the Council will need to work on the basis that a significant proportion of it will be.

1.6 The grant will be pooled into the Better Care Fund, and therefore partners will be asked to agree the use of the funding, through the Better Together Programme Board, and through sign-off of the Better Care Fund plan.

2.0 Conditions of Use of the Grant

2.1 There are expectations from the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department of Health about how this funding will be discharged. This additional funding is to be spent on adult social care and used for the purpose of

- meeting adult social care needs
- reducing pressures on the NHS...
- ...including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready
- stabilising the social care provider market

2.2 Use of the grant must be discussed and agreed with CCG partners, as part of the Better Care Fund plan, therefore the detail of these proposals will be part of those discussions. The recently announced £2bn is being allocated by the DCLG, and whilst it has to be pooled in the BCF, it has to be spent on social care. The previously announced funding from the Department of Health (starting in 2018/19) can have more conditions placed around it, which may mean that future year plans will be subject to change.

2.3 The Council will be required to report quarterly to the DCLG about how the money is being spent and how it is delivering against the outcomes identified.

¹ The funding was identified up until 2019/20, which at the time of the announcement, was up until the end of the Parliamentary term. Governments do not tend to announce or guarantee funding beyond the term of a Parliament.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 Table 2, below, sets out the allocations for these areas over the next three years in line with the above criteria. The plans and investment are often linked to more than one outcome. So, for example, increased capacity within social care should also help alleviate pressure on the NHS due to reduced admissions.

TABLE 2: PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS

	2017/18 £'000	2018/19 £'000	2019/20 £'000	Purpose
Reduction of savings plans	908	1,949	2,950	Reduction of higher risk savings, as set out in Table 3
Investment in market stability	2,765	3,170	3,170	Management of pressures from changing minimum wage legislation and facilitating increased market resilience / quality improvements
Reducing pressure on the NHS	1,500	1,565	1,365	Supporting timely discharges and admission prevention
Meeting adult social care service needs	3,127	3,976	3,484	Management of demand and investment in alternative community based delivery models to support people to maintain their independence for longer.
To be allocated			1,485	
TOTAL	8,300	10,660	12,454	

3.2 The proposed amendments to savings plans are to reduce the impact on areas with the highest risk of difficulty of implementation, or to minimise any detrimental impact on the vision for adult social care, as set out in the One Organisation Plan 2020. Reducing these savings initiatives will give more scope to support customers and carers and contribute to the aim of meeting adult social care needs. The impacted savings plans are set out in the table below.

TABLE 3: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SAVINGS PLANS

	Social Care and Support	Agreed MTFP			Proposal			Change		
		2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k
PG-SCS-01	Decommission the non-statutory additional dementia navigator and specialist support services contracts and decommission the stroke contract, ensuring the training offer and specifications of other external contracts include appropriate stroke support	427	427	427	212	212	212	(215)	(215)	(215)
PG-SCS-06	Ensure the personal budget offer is consistent and appropriate to need, including the use of the Resource Allocation System	518	1,042	1,320	200	724	1,002	(318)	(318)	(318)
PG-SCS-07	Increased reliance on mainstream transport solutions to enable customers to access the services they need	65	272	515	0	165	408	(65)	(107)	(107)
PG-SCS-17	Develop and shape community alternatives and improve social capital to reduce demand on statutory social care services - reducing the budget for commissioned services in line with a planned approach to developing community alternatives and local capacity, capacity building of existing and emerging third sector and informal organisations and securing strong connections between real and virtual sources of information so that self-help is the first option with a consequent reduction in demand.	310	2,269	4,290	0	960	1,980	(310)	(1,309)	(2,310)
Totals		1,320	4,010	6,552	412	2,061	3,602	(908)	(1,949)	(2,950)

3.3 As part of reducing the pressure on the NHS, changes to the charging policy on respite are intended to reduce the pressure on families by charging for residential respite on the same basis as community charges and residential, recognising that individuals will still have many of their accommodation costs to meet whilst in respite. This will be the subject of consultation with customer and carer groups and brought back to members for a final decision, along with some refinements to make the charging policy clearer for customers.

3.4 Investment in market stability will help address imbalances in the provider market, supporting the development of a more sustainable care market. Fee levels are a factor in this, as is skill mix and the career pathway that will help attract more workers into the care profession. Quality and capacity in the care market are essential to both facilitate swift discharges from hospital and admission prevention.

4.0 Additional Changes to Savings Plans

4.1 As a result of late changes to the council tax base, Social Care and Support received more from the 2% Council Tax Precept than when the savings were originally scoped. This means there is additional scope to reduce the savings plans within the overall social care budget.

4.2 As a result members are also requested to make the following alterations to the OOP 2020 plans:

TABLE 4: ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO SAVINGS PLANS

	Social Care and Support	Agreed MTFP			Proposal			Change		
		2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k	2017/18 £k	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k
PG-SCS-02	Ensure residential care for people with a disability appropriately meeting need and is cost effective	600	600	600	317	317	317	(283)	(283)	(283)
PG-SCS-04	Redesign contract arrangements for short breaks for people with disabilities, ensuring more consistent use of residential respite	131	463	854	0	332	723	(131)	(131)	(131)
Totals		731	1,063	1,454	317	649	1,040	(414)	(414)	(414)

5.0 Timescales and next steps

- 5.1 It is vital that this work progresses quickly in order to be able to demonstrate that the Council is using the money to support social care, and to see the improvements in outcomes for customers.
- 5.2 Cabinet on 13 July will be invited to endorse the proposals and recommend that Council endorse the reductions to savings plans. Work will then start immediately to increase capacity and to provide more support to the market. If Cabinet recommend any changes to these proposals these will be reported to this Council meeting.
- 5.3 As flexibility may be needed in order to best utilise the additional social care funding to meet the needs of Warwickshire residents, Cabinet are also being requested to delegate to the Joint Managing Director (Resources) the power to alter the breakdown of the use of the funding, for all areas except alterations to savings plans, to ensure it best meets the required outcomes where required. Any changes made as a result of this delegation will be report to Members as part of the OOP2020 quarterly progress report.
- 5.4 Equality Analysis for the detailed plans will be carried out as part of the overall Equality Analysis on the Better Care Fund plans for 2017-18.

Background papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication for the Cabinet meeting on 13 July 2017:

Adult Social Care & Health Chair and Spokespersons
Councillor Wallace Redford (Ch), Alan Webb, Kate Rolfe, Clare Golby (VC), Dave Parsons.