

Health and Wellbeing Board

6 September 2017

Better Care Fund Planning Submission 2017/19

Recommendation(s)

1. To approve the Better Care Fund Plan for 2017/19, known locally as the Better Together Programme, including the plan for resources made available through the additional social care monies (iBCF), Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and Clinical Commissioning Group contributions.
2. To note the governance timeline and the regional quality assurance process for the plan for 2017/19.
3. To recommend Warwickshire County Council entering into a new Section 75 Partnership Agreement with Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group, South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning Group for the delivery of the Better Care Fund Plan once completed. This will include the alignment of Out of Hospital service provision and funding across all partners as a step towards closer integration and risk sharing.
4. To recommend the County Council continuing as the pooled budget holder for the fund.

Key Issues

- 1.1 The integration of health and care is a national policy ambition based on the premise that more joined up services will help to improve the health and care of local populations and make more efficient use of available resources.
- 1.2 Whilst the Sustainability and Transformation Programme (STP) known locally as Better Health, Better Care, Better Value is the primary planning tool for health and care, the Better Care Fund is the only mandatory policy to facilitate integration. The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the local government and the NHS which seeks to join-up health and care services, so that people can manage their own health and wellbeing, and live independently in their communities for as long as possible.

- 1.3 In March 2017 a draft policy framework for the Better Care Fund was issued at the same time as significant additional funding being made available to councils in order to protect adult social care. This funding (worth £8.3m to Warwickshire in 2017/18) was in addition to the previously announced Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF). The iBCF funding conditions mean it must be used to support social care in the following ways: meeting adult social care needs; reducing pressure on the NHS; and ensuring the local social care provider market is supported. This funding, and it's planned use, have already been to members (Cabinet 13/07/17, Council 18/07/17).
- 1.4 The Better Care Fund policy framework was finalised and issued at the beginning of July and outlined the Better Care Fund requirements for local areas for the next two years of the programme 2017/19 (years three and four of the five year programme). At the same time the submission requirements and timelines for local area plans were issued. Similar to last year, the Disabled Facilities Grant continues to be allocated through the Better Care Fund through top tier authorities due to its importance to the health and care system.
- 1.5 The policy framework outlines the four national conditions:
1. A jointly agreed plan
 2. The NHS contribution to social care is maintained in line with inflation
 3. Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services
 4. Implementation of the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care
- 1.6 In addition, there are four specific areas of focus within the policy framework and performance will be measured against the National Performance Metrics, these being:
- Reducing Delayed Transfers of Care
 - Reducing Non-Elective Admissions (General and Acute)
 - Reducing admissions to residential and care homes; and
 - Increasing effectiveness of reablement
- 1.7 More recently, in mid-July updated guidance and additional submission requirements relating to Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC) were issued due to the increased national focus on this area. This now includes a requirement to ensure the High Impact Change Model to manage transfers of care is implemented across all areas.

2.0 Options and Proposal

- 2.1 Locally our plan for 2017/19 is based on our long term vision, as outlined in our original submission in 2015/16 and builds on the progress made in 2016/17 and focusses our activities to improve our performance in the four key areas.
- 2.2 The timescales to approve the Better Care Fund Plan for 2017/19 are challenging. The planning process for 2017/19 requires our submission to include the BCF Planning Template (a spreadsheet), outlining the funding contributions from each partner organisation, a scheme level spending plan and quarterly plan figures for the national metrics; and a narrative document outlining the progress to date and the content of our plan.
- 2.3 These documents have been developed following a series of workshops and meetings with partners represented on the Better Together Programme. Delegated powers have been obtained where required to ensure all partners have signed off the plan prior to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 2.4 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the plan is also in progress.
- 2.5 Our plan is currently progressing through the final stage of our local governance processes:

Warwickshire Cares Better Together Programme Board	17 th August 2017
South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group	20 th August 2017
Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group	21 st August 2017
WCC People Group Leadership Team	24 th August 2017
Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning Group	24 th August 2017
Health and Wellbeing Board	6 th September 2017

- 2.6 Unlike previous years, the regional and national assurance of plans has been streamlined into one stage. All plans will be subject to regional assurance and moderation using a risk-based approach and measured against sixteen Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs).

2.7 Assurance of submissions - will assess whether planning requirements are met and agree whether plans should be:

- Approved
- Approved with conditions
- Not Approved

2.8 Moderation of the assurance outcomes – will then scrutinise assurance outcomes and comments across the NHS region to ensure consistency of approach.

2.9 Cross regional calibration – will then ensure consistency of approach across regions.

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

3.1 The planning process for 2017/19 requires our BCF Plan submission (narrative plan and planning template) and supporting documentation to be finalised and submitted by the 11th September 2017.

3.2 The timeline for assurance and moderation is as follows:

Assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th September 2017 – submission of our draft BCF Plan • w/c 11th & 18th September 2017 – Scrutiny by regional assurers • w/c 25th September 2017 – Regional assurance panel meets to confirm ratings
Moderation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • w/c 25th September 2017 – Regional moderation meeting
Calibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • w/c 2nd October 2017 – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of analysis with national partners ○ Cross regional calibration meetings ○ Advice on approvals considered • w/c 9th October 2017 – plan approval ratings sent to areas (Approved, Approved with conditions, Not Approved)
Escalation	<p>If no plan is submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • w/c 11th September – notification to areas escalation process is commencing • w/c 25th September – Escalation meetings held

3.3 Following receipt of the plan approval ratings in October, an updated section 75 agreement will be finalised and signed by Warwickshire County Council, Coventry and Rugby CCG, South Warwickshire CCG and Warwickshire North

CCG. Section 75 agreements to be signed and in place by the 30th November 2017.

- 3.4 As part of the development of the section 75 agreement and to support closer integration it is proposed that all partners align Out of Hospital service provision and funding across the county, to support greater transparency and enable an improved understanding for future risk sharing.
- 3.5 In November 2017, the Department of Health and Department for Communities and Local Government will take stock of progress to date against the four national metrics and will consider a review of 2018/19 allocations of the social care funding provided at Spring Budget 2017 for areas that remain poorly performing at the end of November. This funding will remain with Local Government and will be used for adult social care but additional conditions or options will be explored to promote effective progress in reducing delayed transfers of care. Further detail on this review is awaited.

Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Rachel Briden	rachelbriden@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 01926 74 6978
Head of Service	Christine Lewington	chrislewington@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 01926 74 5101
Strategic Director	John Dixon	johndixon@warwickshire.gov.uk Tel: 01926 41 2665
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Les Caborn	cllrcaborn@warwickshire.gov.uk

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local WCC Member(s): N/a

Other WCC members: Councillors Seccombe, Caborn, Morgan, Redford, Golby, Parsons and Rolfe.