

Health and Wellbeing Board

19 September 2019

Better Care Fund Plan Submission 2019/20

Recommendation(s)

1. To approve the Better Care Fund Plan for 2019/20, known locally as the Better Together Programme, including the plan for resources made available through the additional social care monies (iBCF), adult social care winter fund (ASC Winter Pressures grant), 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 2019/20.
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.

1.0 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 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 The policy framework for the Better Care Fund includes significant additional

funding made available to councils in order to protect adult social care. This Improved Better Care Funding (iBCF) is worth £12.4m to Warwickshire in 2019/20. 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.

- 1.4 For 2019/20 the additional funding made available to councils to support winter, the Adult Social Care Winter Fund (Winter Pressures grant) is also included in the Better Care Fund. The funding conditions mean it must be used to support the local health and care system to manage pressure on the NHS with particular reference to seasonal pressures.
- 1.5 The Better Care Fund policy framework was finalised and issued in July 2019 and outlines the Better Care Fund requirements for local areas for the final year of the BCF Policy Framework and programme. At the same time the submission requirements and timelines for local area plans were issued. As 2019/20 is the last year of the 5 year policy framework the policy framework and conditions set out that it is expected that existing plans and activity will continue.
- 1.6 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. Decisions around the use of the DFG funding need to be made with the direct involvement of both tiers working jointly to support integration.
- 1.7 The Better Care Fund Policy Framework for 2019-20 provides continuity to previous years of the programme. The policy framework outlines the four national conditions:
 1. **A jointly agreed plan** - That a BCF Plan, including at least the minimum mandated funding to the pooled fund specified in the BCF allocations and grant determinations, must be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), and by the constituent local authorities (LAs) and CCGs. In 2019/20 for Warwickshire the pooled budget is £55.697m.
 2. **NHS contribution to social care is maintained** - A demonstration of how the area will maintain the level of spending on social care services from the CCG minimum contribution in line with the uplift to the CCG's minimum contribution. In 2019/20 for Warwickshire the minimum contribution is £13.028m.
 3. **Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services** - That a specific proportion of the area's allocation is invested in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include seven day

services and adult social care. In 2019/20 for Warwickshire the minimum contribution is £10.411m.

4. **Implementation of the High Impact Change Model (HICM) for Managing Transfers of Care** – This requires a clear plan on managing transfers of care, including implementation of the HICM. As part of this, all HWBs must adopt the centrally-set expectations for reducing or maintaining rates of delayed transfers of care (DToC) during 2019-20 into their BCF plans

1.8 In addition, there are four specific areas of focus within the policy framework and performance will be measured against the same National Performance Metrics as previous years, these being:

- Non-elective admissions (specific acute);
- Admissions to residential and nursing care homes;
- Effectiveness of reablement; and
- Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC)

1.9 As in previous years the focus on Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC) will continue and includes the 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 2019/20 will continue to be based on our long term vision, as outlined in our original submission in 2015/16 and builds on the progress made from 2016-19 and focusses our activities to improve our performance in the four key areas.

2.2 A lot of preparation has been done in advance of receiving the guidance to ensure we are able to meet the timescales for submission. For 2019/20, a single format for scheme level planning and reporting will remove duplication in collection and reducing the reporting burden overall. This includes:

- Incorporation of narratives into a shorter single template;
- Removal of the requirement to submit separate plans for Winter Pressures grant; and
- Removal of separate reporting on iBCF schemes and initiatives.

2.3 These documents have been developed following a series of meetings with partners represented on the:

- a) Better Together Programme which in addition to continuation of existing and on-going schemes has agreed the following three key areas of focus

for 2019/20: Social Prescribing, Housing, and Residential / Nursing Care Commissioning (Accommodation with Support) with Assistive Technology as a cross-cutting enabler across all three; and the

- b) Finance Sub-Group which has been leading on developing the scheme level spending plans and approach to risk share.

2.4 Delegated powers have been obtained where required to ensure all partners have signed off the plan prior to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Plan will also have been submitted to Cabinet on the 12th September 2019.

2.5 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of the plan is also in progress.

2.6 Our plan is currently progressing through the final stage of our local governance processes:

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| WCC Corporate Board | 20 th August 2019 |
| Warwickshire Cares Better Together Programme Board | 3 rd September 2019 |
| Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group | 5 th September 2019 |
| Warwickshire North Clinical Commissioning Group | 5 th September 2019 |
| WCC Cabinet | 12 th September 2019 |
| South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group | 18 th September 2019 |
| Health and Wellbeing Board | 19 th September 2019 |

2.7 Similar to 2017, the regional and national assurance of plans has been streamlined into one stage. The assurance process will be a joint NHS England and local government process. All plans will be measured against nine Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs).

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

- Approved
- Not Approved

2.9 Following regional assurance and moderation the Better Care Support Team will co-ordinate a cross-regional exercise to ensure plans have been assured in a consistent way. Following this, recommendations for approval will be provided to the Department of Health and Social Care and Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and then NHS England for approval of spending plans from the CCG minimum contribution.

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

3.1 The planning process for 2019/20 requires our BCF Plan submission (planning template) and supporting documentation to be finalised and submitted by the 27th September 2019.

3.2 The timeline for assurance and moderation is as follows:

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|--|------------------------------------|
| BCF Planning Submission deadline | By 27 th September 2019 |
| Regional and moderated assurance | By 30 th October 2019 |
| Cross regional collaboration | By 5 th November 2019 |
| Assurance recommendations considered by Departments and NHSE | 5 – 15 th November 2019 |
| Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend (CCG minimum contribution) | W/C 18 th November 2019 |

3.3 If no plan is submitted, one or more of the national conditions are not met, there is no local agreement on the use of local authority grants (DFG, iBCF and Winter Pressures), there are no plans in place for the delivery of metrics or the Health and Wellbeing Board do not approve the plan, escalation will be considered.

3.4 Following finalisation of the plan, 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 15th December 2019.

3.5 As part of the development of the section 75 agreement and to support closer integration it is proposed that all partners continue to align Out of Hospital service provision and funding across the county, to support greater transparency and enable an improved understanding for future risk sharing.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The programme and initiatives for its success are in part funded through national grants: Better Care Fund, Improved Better Care Fund and Winter Pressures Grant (2019/20: £55.7m). The former comes from the Department of Health and Social Care through Clinical Commissioning Groups, while the latter two are received by the local authority from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. All three are dependent on meeting conditions that they contribute towards the programme and the targets, and that plans to this effect are jointly agreed between Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Local Authority under a pooled budget arrangement. The funding is temporary, awaiting a national Social Care funding review, and, in order to counter the risk inherent in temporary funding, all new initiatives are temporary

or commissioned with exit clauses. There are, however, a number of areas where the funding is being used to maintain statutory social care spending and this would require replacement funding if the Better Care Fund was removed without replacement. This risk is noted in Warwickshire County Council's annual and medium term financial planning.

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 None.

Background papers

6.1 - Schedule 3 – Funding and expenditure plans

6.2 - Metrics and performance targets, High Impact Change Model plan and extract of narrative section from the Planning Submission Template

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

Local WCC Member(s): N/a

Other WCC members: Councillors Caborn, Redford, Golby, Adkins and Roodhouse.