

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 10 July 2017	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Better Care Fund (BCF) – update	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Caroline Gilmartin, Director of Integrated Commissioning, NHS Southwark CCG Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, Southwark Council	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the latest position on planning for the 2017-2019 Better Care Fund (BCF).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Board received a report at its meeting on 2 May 2017 on the background to the (BCF) and the latest position regarding the development of the 2017-18 plan. The report stated that the national BCF planning guidance had been delayed since November 2016. As this sets out the requirements, timetable and templates for BCF submissions this had hampered the production of a local BCF plan. It was advised that the guidance was expected shortly after the general election after which a BCF plan may need to be produced and agreed in a relatively short period of time. As it is an important requirement of the BCF that it is endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board, as well as being agreed by the council and the CCG, the Board agreed to receive a report on the draft BCF plan before submission, recognising that this may require a special meeting to be convened. Board agreement is important in order to provide assurance that there is agreement on the approach to funding services from the BCF, and is a key component of the national BCF assurance process.
3. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on developments regarding the BCF since the May report.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. At the time of drafting this report (28 June) no BCF guidance has been issued and there is no known date for it to be issued, hence the position is essentially unchanged from the previous report. The reason for the delay has not been officially stated and no publication date provided. However discussions have been ongoing between the CCG and the council in order to progress discussions on the BCF to ensure maximum preparedness for the production of an agreed plan, and to help ensure stability for the services funded through the 2016-17 BCF until the 2017-18 plan is agreed. This work is informed by documents that have been released including draft guidance, policy framework, letters and advice from national BCF sources, and the formal grant conditions for the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) grant which are finalised. Some key aspects of the preparations are set out below:

Improved better Care Fund

5. There is a new Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) grant of £9.129m which will be paid directly to the local authority for protection of social care. The original local government settlement incorporated £1.658m IBCF for Southwark. An additional sum of £7.471m for Southwark was announced in the Spring Budget to address critical social care budget pressures.
6. The grant conditions for IBCF have been confirmed by DCLG on 24 April 2017 as follows:

Grant paid to a local authority under this determination may be used only for the purposes of meeting adult social care needs; reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready; and ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.

A recipient local authority must:

- pool the grant funding into the local BCF, unless an area has written Ministerial exemption;
- work with the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group and providers to meet National Condition 4 (Managing Transfers of Care) in the Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework and Planning Requirements 2017-19; and
- provide quarterly reports as required by the Secretary of State.

The Government has made clear that part of this funding is intended to enable local authorities to quickly provide stability and extra capacity in local care systems. Local authorities are therefore able to spend the grant, including to commission care, subject to the conditions set out in the grant determination, as soon as plans for spending the grant have been locally agreed with Clinical Commissioning Groups involved in agreeing the Better Care Fund plan.

7. Clearly the iBCF is a key change for 2017/18 bringing the total BCF to over £30m. However the additional funding is to be seen in the context of a structural budget deficit in Social Care that is in excess of the value of iBCF grant which limits the opportunities for this grant to fund new services. This is in line with local and national expectations regarding the application of this grant to protect existing service levels.
8. The CCG and council have considered initial proposals from the council for the way iBCF will be applied. The areas being considered focus on protecting home care services and nursing care services for which there are insufficient budgets to maintain current service levels, together with some funding for transformation including invest to save initiatives. These proposals will be further developed through discussion with health partners and when agreed will be presented to the Board as part of the draft BCF once the final submission date is known.

9. **2017-18 anticipated core BCF (excluding Improved BCF):**

- CCG Contribution £21,031,441 (includes expected 2017-18 uplift of £352,000)
- 2017-18 Council contribution - Disabled Facilities Grant : £1,263,268
- 2017-18 Total Main BCF (excluding Improved BCF) £22,294,709 (tbc)

Note: the BCF was £21,828,441 in 2016/17.

10. As reported to the last Board the Health and Social Care Partnership Board has recommended that for 2016-17 scheme budgets within the core BCF will roll forward into 2017-18 ensuring continuity of services. It is envisaged that a process of evaluation and redesign of the BCF will be undertaken in alignment with broader planning processes across the partnership and be implemented in most cases in 2018-19. Given the national delays in 2017-18 planning this is considered the most pragmatic approach. However ways of addressing immediate cost pressures within the BCF, including services for dementia and overnight homecare are being considered. BCF schemes will be evaluated against key criteria to ensure the final balance of schemes funded within the BCF has maximum impact.
11. Existing and new schemes will be rationalised and grouped into specific themes which more closely reflect the aims of the BCF programme, such as support for hospital discharge, hospital admissions avoidance and care in the home.
12. Any material changes to the core BCF will be set out in the report on the draft plan to the Board.

Key anticipated BCF planning criteria:

13. From draft information informally released it is understood that there will be 4 key BCF requirements which will be tested in the national assurance process:
 - a. Plans jointly agreed by the CCG, Council and Health and Wellbeing Board
 - b. Social Services funding level to be maintained from previous year
 - c. NHS Commissioned community health services minimum ring fenced sum to be maintained.
 - d. Managing Transfers of Care. Local bodies will be expected to be committed to reducing delayed transfers of care from hospital including through the agreement of a plan against the "High Impact Change" model.
14. Local areas will also be expected to have a clear plan for achieving integration of health and social cares services so that people are better supported in the community.
15. There are expected to be 4 key targets the schemes will be judged on:
 - a. Non-elective admissions to hospital

- b. delayed transfers of care
 - c. re-ablement outcomes
 - d. care home admissions
16. Work is continuing on draft plans covering these issues.

Summary of next steps

17. Work will continue to develop BCF proposals as set out above. When national guidance is released this will be incorporated into a BCF plan that meets the requirements as soon as possible. The proposed plan will be agreed through the individual governance routes of the CCG and Council and the joint Health and Social Care Partnership Board prior to being presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board. As previously agreed this may require a special meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider the plan before submission, depending on the final timetables and how this fits with existing meeting dates.
18. Schemes currently funded through the BCF have had their 2016/17 funding rolled forward in 2017/18 and any significant changes when the BCF is agreed will be subject to appropriate notice. It is anticipated that most significant changes will now be implemented in 2018/19.

Policy implications

19. There are no direct policy implications arising from this report. Any changes to the BCF for 2017/19 arising from the planning process described in this report may have policy implications. These will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board before the BCF is finalised in line with the national timetable.

Resource implications

20. The application of the iBCF grant and any changes to the core BCF for 2017-19 arising from the planning process described in this report will have resource implications. These will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board before the BCF is finalised in line with the national timetable.

Consultation

21. The BCF funds a range of health and social care services that are developed in line with existing policies on consultation in the commissioning process.
22. The approach to developing the BCF for 2017-19 has been discussed by the joint Adults Commissioning Development Group which includes senior CCG and Council and Healthwatch representation. The draft plan will be subject to consultation.
23. The plan includes the requirement to agree a high impact changes plan on delayed transfers, which requires joint discussion with local hospital trusts.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Better Care Fund documentation	160 Tooley Street SE1 2QH	Adrian Ward Programme Manager 020 7525 3345

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Caroline Gilmartin, Director of Integrated Commissioning, NHS Southwark CCG Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, Southwark Council	
Report Author	Adrian Ward, Programme Manager, Partnership Commissioning Team	
Version	Final	
Dated	29 June 2017	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		
29 June 2017		