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To: *(by email)*
Cllr Kieron Williams, Chair, Southwark Health
and Wellbeing Board
Andrew Bland, Accountable Officer, Integrated
Care Board
Althea Loderick, Chief Executive, Southwark
Council

05 January 2023

Dear Colleagues,

BETTER CARE FUND 2022-23

Thank you for submitting your Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for regional assurance and approval. We recognise that the BCF has again presented challenges in preparing plans at a late stage and at pace and we are grateful for your commitment in providing your agreed plan.

I am pleased to let you know that, following the assurance process, your plan has been classified as '**Approved**'. The relevant NHS funding can therefore now be formally released subject to the funding being used in accordance with your final approved plan, and in accordance with the conditions set out in the BCF policy framework for 2022-23 and the BCF planning requirements for 2022-23, including the transfer of funds into a pooling arrangement governed by a Section 75 agreement.

You will also be aware of the recent announcement regarding the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund and the conditions requiring that the funding allocations be pooled into the BCF. This additional funding has been made available to help you reduce delays in discharge from hospitals and support those who are fit to leave hospital so that they can continue their recovery in the most appropriate location. As you already do with the BCF, it is crucial that health and care systems and providers work together to meet the care needs of people and make the best use of this additional funding.

The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) grant are paid directly to local authorities via a grant by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Local authorities are also receiving additional grant allocations through the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund. These grants are pooled together with the NHS BCF allocations and are subject to grant conditions set out in their respective grant determinations, as specified in the BCF planning requirements.

Your Section 75 agreement covering the whole of the BCF plan including the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund monies should be developed and agreed by all parties by the end of January 2023.

Ongoing support and oversight with regards to the spending of BCF funding will continue to be led by your local Better Care Manager (BCM). Following the assurance process, we are asking all BCMs to feed back to local systems where the assurance process identified areas for improvement in plans and share where systems may benefit from conversations with other areas. BCMs will also review the Capacity and Demand plans that areas were asked to complete to identify support needs and inform requirements for future years. Nationally, we will also be reflecting on what the data tells us and what more we need to consider in the future.

Local systems must remain compliant with the conditions set out in the BCF policy framework for 2022-23 and the BCF planning requirements for 2022-23 (including the addendum published for the Adult Social Care Hospital Discharge Fund). Where an area is not compliant with one or more conditions of the BCF, or if the funds are not being utilised in accordance with the agreed plan or are being utilised in a way which creates a risk that the conditions will not be met, then the BCF team, in consultation with national partners, may make a recommendation to initiate the intervention and escalation process as outlined in the BCF planning requirements 2022-23. Any intervention will be proportionate to the risk or issue identified. The intervention and escalation process is outlined in the BCF Planning Requirements 2022-23.

Reporting on the overall BCF programme for 2022-23 will be limited to an End of Year return. However, there are additional planning and reporting requirements for the Adult

Social Care Discharge Fund which must be complied with including the submission of the planning template and fortnightly reporting. Further information on End of Year reporting will be confirmed in due course.

Once again, thank you for your work and best wishes with implementation and ongoing delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Amanda Doyle OBE, MRCGP

National Director, Primary Care and Community Services, NHS England

Copy (by email) to:

Helen Pettersen, Interim Regional Director, NHS England

James Sanderson, Director of Community Health Services and Senior Responsible Officer for the Better Care Fund

Jennifer Keane, National Director, Intermediate Care and Rehabilitation, NHS England

Rosie Seymour, Programme Director, Better Care Fund Team, Better Care Fund Programme, NHS England

Andre Lotz and Nicole Valenzuela-Sotomayor, Better Care Managers, Better Care Fund Programme, NHS England