

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 OCTOBER 2019

BETTER CARE FUND 2019/20 UPDATE

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Adults and Housing Scrutiny Committee members of progress with the submission of the 2019/20 Better Care Fund.
2. The update members of the plans for Better Care Funding beyond 2020.

Summary

3. The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and Local Government 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. It brings together ring-fenced budgets from Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) allocations, and funding paid directly to local government, including the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and the Winter Pressures grant.
4. The Darlington Plan for 2019/20 continues to deliver well in the priority areas of:
 - Improving healthcare services to Care Homes
 - Equipping people to be resilient and self-reliant through Primary Prevention/Early intervention, and Care Navigation
 - Intermediate Care and improvements to reablement and rehabilitation services; further
 - Improving Transfers of Care through the implementation of the High Impact Change Model
 - New models of Care and personalisation of services including through technology and domiciliary care
 - Supporting carers and delivering DFG adaptations
 - Improving Dementia Diagnosis and post diagnosis support
5. Planning guidance for 2019/20 was published by Government Departments on 18th July 2019. This confirmed there were no major changes from the 2017/19 guidance, including:
 - The 4 national conditions remain:
 - Jointly agreed plan between local areas Health and Wellbeing Boards
 - Social Care maintenance
 - NHS Commissioned out of hospital services

- Implementation of the high impact change model for managing transfers of care.
6. The main changes to 2019/20 from 2017/19 were the inclusion of winter funding, to encourage proactive joint planning ahead of winter and minimise seasonal pressures and strategic narrative setting out the agreed approach locally to the integration of health and social care.
 7. Winter Pressures monies will continue to be used to provide additional capacity and packages to support the expected pressure throughout the winter period.
 8. The Darlington Plan for 2019/20 was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 23rd September, prior to submission to the Better Care Team on 27th September. The submission is currently under scrutiny by regional assurers, with the outcome expected in mid-November 2019.
 9. Structures and funding for the BCF Programme beyond its current year are currently under discussion with government departments. A scenario planning exercise is currently underway to understand the risks at both a strategic and operational level if BCF funding is reduced or removed.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that:-

- (a) Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the report and approval by the HWBB and ongoing scrutiny by regional assurers
- (b) Notes the proposal to identify risks against any loss or reduction in future Better Care Funding.

Suzanne Joyner
Director of Children and Adults

Background Papers

Darlington BCF Plan submission 2019/20

Paul Neil : Extension 5960

S17 Crime and Disorder	Not applicable
Health and Well Being	The Better Care Fund is owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board
Carbon Impact	None
Diversity	None
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	Frail elderly people at risk of admission/re-admission to hospital

Budget and Policy Framework	Budgets pooled through section 75 agreement between DBC and Darlington CCG
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	Aligned
Efficiency	New ways of delivery care
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No impact

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

11. A summary of the funding sources comprising the BCF expenditure Plan:

Funding Source	Income
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£937,154
Minimum CCG Contribution	£7,856,365
iBCF	£3,855,005
Winter Pressures	£501,172
Total	£13,149,696

Please note: the format of the 2019/20 expenditure template includes both in year allocations for DFG and Winter Pressures; whilst iBCF funding is shown for the lifetime of the scheme. The actual allocation for 2019/20 is £707,000, with the remainder if the iBCF either committed or spent.

12. The BCF metrics continue as in previous years with a supporting narrative setting out the overall plan in achieving or maintaining expected levels. These are detailed in the submission, but in summary:

- Non-Elective admissions: NEA in the CCG Operating Plan was set by taking an agreed baseline and adjusting in line with predicted demand. Further adjustments were made for capacity and workforce planning, BCF/Efficiency scheme adjustments and the profile was adjusted for seasonal fluctuations. For Darlington CCG the baseline growth for 2019/20 was 5.8%, however net growth for NEA, which was submitted in the operating plan, was 3.4%. A number of the 2019/20 BCF funded schemes will support the reduction of NEA
- Delayed Transfers of Care: performance continues to be very strong. Winter Pressures funding will be used to ensure performance continues during the seasonal pressures
- Residential Admissions: the reduction in rates to residential care continues to be supported by ongoing investment in maximising independence to enable people to live in the community. This is enabled by a range of provisions, including increased reablement capacity
- Reablement: The proportion of older people who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation services continues to be set at 84%, current performance being 79%. However, the recent transformation of the reablement pathway will apply clear criteria for

accessing reablement which will have a positive impact on this indicator.

Outcome of Consultation

13. The BCF Plan for 19/20 has been discussed and agreed with partners across Health and Social. Given this is a continuation year for the fund, there were no major issues raised. The main focus was in relation to the future of the fund and the scenario planning exercise.