

**ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 DECEMBER 2019**

BETTER CARE FUND 2019/20: FOR INFORMATION

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

- (a) To update Board members on the 2019/20 Darlington Better Care Fund Plan submission
- (b) To update Board members of BCF plans beyond the current period.

Summary

1. 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.
2. As previously reported, the 2019/20 plan continues with the seven broad workstreams to support the delivery of the BCF priorities in the areas of:
 - (a) Improving healthcare services to Care Homes
 - (b) Equipping people to be resilient and self-reliant through Primary Prevention/Early intervention, and Care Navigation
 - (c) Intermediate Care and improvements to reablement and rehabilitation services; further
 - (d) Improving Transfers of Care through the implementation of the High Impact Change Model
 - (e) New models of care and personalisation of services including through technology and domiciliary care
 - (f) Supporting carers and delivering DFG adaptations
 - (g) Improving Dementia Diagnosis and post diagnosis support
3. The planning guidance for 2019/20 was published on 18th July 2019, with a final submission date of 27th September following approval by Local Health and Wellbeing Boards.

4. Following regional scrutiny of all BCF plans, it is expected that approval letters will be issued during December 2019.
5. As expected, publication of the guidance confirmed there were no major changes to the requirements for 2019/20 from 2017/19. This includes:
 - the 4 national conditions remain:
 - NC1: Jointly Agree Plan
 - NC2: Social Care Maintenance
 - NC3: NHS Commissioned out of hospital services
 - NC4: Implementation of the HICM Model for Managing Transfers of Care.
6. A breakdown of the funding package that makes up the BCF is below:

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

The format of the 2019/20 template includes both in year allocations for DFG and Winter Pressures; whilst iBCF funding is shown for the lifetime of the scheme.

7. Confirmation is currently awaited on the future of BCF funding beyond the current period. It is not expected that this will be confirmed until early 2020.
8. In preparation for this an options exercise is currently underway across both CCG and the Local Authority based on a number of scenarios across all funded schemes.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that:-
 - (a) A&H Scrutiny note the submission of the 2019/20 plan and expected timescales for approval
 - (b) Note the current position in respect of BCF for 2020/21

Reasons

10. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:-
 - (a) The current year of the BCF plan is a continuation of previous years with the programme delivering well against the required metrics
 - (b) Quarterly submissions will continue to be reported and submitted highlighting progress

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Background Papers

Darlington Better Care Fund 2019/20 submission available on request

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S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Well Being	The Better Care Fund is owned by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no implications arising from this report.
Diversity	There are no implications arising from this report.
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 Delivering Care
Implications for Looked After Children and Care Leavers	No impact

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

11. 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:
 - (a) 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
 - (b) Delayed Transfers of Care: performance continues to be very strong. Winter Pressures funding will be used to ensure performance continues during the seasonal pressures

- (c) 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
- (d) 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

12. The BCF Plan for 2019/20 has been discussed and agreed with partners across Health and Social Care and approved outside of a formal Board meeting, by the Chair and Vice Chair. Given this is a continuation year for the fund, there were no major issues raised.