

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 14 MARCH 2019**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND CARE INTEGRATION**

**BETTER CARE FUND PLAN 2019/20**

**Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an overview of the progress to refresh and submit the Leicestershire Better Care Fund (BCF) plan, including an update on the refreshed expenditure plan and outcome metrics for 2019/20 as at the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**Recommendation**

2. It is recommended:
  - a) That the draft BCF Plan for 2019/20, as summarised in Appendix A and B, be approved for submission to BCF National Team in line with the national timetable, subject to the publication of the national BCF guidance and any further amendments required;
  - b) That the Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council, following consultation with the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, be authorised to make any amendments to the BCF plan 2019/20 in light of the national guidance, prior to its submission to NHS England;
  - c) That the final submitted version BCF plan for 2019/20 be submitted to the next possible meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board for assurance, along with a progress update on the process and timescales for national assurance via the BCF National Team;
  - d) That the Board notes that the members of the Integration Executive (a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board responsible for the day to day delivery of the BCF Plan), will be asked to confirm their agreement to the final version of the plan to be submitted to NHS England.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

3. The BCF policy framework was introduced by the Government in 2014, with the first year of BCF plan delivery being 2015/16. The Cabinet in February 2014 authorised the Health and Wellbeing Board to approve the BCF Plan and plans arising from its use.
4. The Health and Wellbeing Board approved Leicestershire's current BCF plan in July 2018. <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=5299>

## **Background**

5. The purpose of the BCF is to transform and improve the integration of local health and care services, in particular to reduce the dependency on acute hospital services, in favour of providing more integrated, preventative and coordinated community-based support.
6. The strategic framework is set by BCF national policy requirements, BCF national conditions, BCF metrics, CCG commissioning intentions, and key local authority duties for example with respect to integration and the Care Act, or the delivery of disabled facilities grants for major adaptations in the home.
7. Keeping people out of statutory and acute provision wherever possible, sustaining adult social care within new models of care locally, ensuring there is a cohesive plan for data integration at population and care planning levels, implementing integrated teams at neighbourhood level to coordinate community based care with GP practice, improving hospital discharge, ensuring access to seven day services and developing an infrastructure and platform for integrated commissioning remain high priorities within the integration agenda nationally and locally.

## **Current Position**

8. At the time of writing this report, the national BCF policy framework and technical guidance for 2019/20 is still awaited. The timetable for submission of BCF plans to the BCF National Team/NHS England will be confirmed when the guidance is published.
9. Ahead of the policy framework and guidance being released, work commenced in September 2018 to refresh the BCF plan, in line with the annual financial planning arrangements for the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Leicestershire County Council.
10. On the 20<sup>th</sup> September and 22<sup>nd</sup> November, two multiagency BCF plan refresh workshops took place to review the existing plan for 2017-19 and to make recommendations and agree further actions based on partner commissioning intentions for 2019/20. Engagement with partners was undertaken during quarter three to receive feedback on the recommendations.
11. The BCF expenditure plan was reviewed and iterated by the Integration Finance and Performance Group (commissioner only Board of both CCGs and Leicestershire County Council) with further review and assurance undertaken at the Integration Executive meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December. All actions and recommendations have been incorporated into the draft expenditure plan which is being taken through partner governance via CCG Board meetings on 12<sup>th</sup> March and Leicestershire County Council's on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

## **BCF Plans for 2019/20**

12. To date the messages received from the BCF National Team is that 2019/20 will be a continuation of the 2017-19 plan with minor adjustments. Therefore, a full revised BCF narrative plan will not be required, rather a short section detailing any changes to the plan between 2018/19 and 2019/20 will be requested.

13. The full BCF Plan for 2017-19 is available at the following link:  
<http://www.healthandcareleicestershire.co.uk/download/Leicestershire-BCF-Plan-2017-19.pdf>
14. It is expected that the submission to the BCF National Team will consist of one template detailing the expenditure plan, outcome metrics and a short narrative outlining the changes from the 2017-19 plan and any new commitments/matters to be reported on.
15. A presentation has been prepared, provided at Appendix A, summarising Leicestershire's BCF plan for 2019/20. This sets out:
  - a) the wider vision and goals within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland's Better Care Together Programme;
  - b) supporting detail of what will be delivered and funded within each theme of the plan in 2019/20, in support of work taking place at system, place and neighbourhood levels;
  - c) a summary of information on the BCF outcome metrics;
  - d) the source of funds for the plan;
  - e) the financial adjustments made between 2018/19 and 2019/20 including inflationary uplift.

### **BCF National Conditions**

16. The current BCF policy framework and existing technical guidance for 2017-19 require that a local BCF plan must meet the following national conditions:
  - a) Plans must be jointly agreed and be approved via the local Health and Wellbeing Board.
  - b) Maintain NHS contribution to social care in line with inflation.
  - c) Demonstrate commitment to investment in NHS-commissioned out of hospital services.
  - d) Deliver improvements in managing (delayed) transfers of care.
17. The work undertaken to date on the BCF plan has been completed in line with the existing national conditions.
18. It should be noted that these conditions could be subject to change, once the final technical guidance is published for 2019/20.

### **BCF Outcome Metrics for 2019/20**

19. BCF plans are assessed against four BCF outcome metrics. It is anticipated that the following metrics will all continued to be nationally required in 2019/20:
  - a) Reducing the number of total emergency admissions;
  - b) Effectiveness of reablement at 91 days;
  - c) Improving delayed transfers of care; and
  - d) Reducing the number of permanent admissions to care and nursing homes.

20. Slides 13-17 of Appendix A set out the proposed target for each metric, with a comparison against the target for 2018/19.
21. The actual targets for the delayed transfer of care and emergency admissions metrics will be set by NHS England when the guidance is published.

### **BCF Expenditure Plan for 2019/20**

22. The BCF Plan for 2019/20 totals £59.1million (subject to final confirmation of allocations).
23. The table provided in slide 18 of Appendix A provides a summary of the BCF allocations setting out the source of funds.
24. In mid-January, NHS England reported that for planning purposes, CCGs and Health and Wellbeing Boards should assume that the CCG minimum contribution into the BCF pooled budget will be maintained in real terms in 2019/20 (a 1.79% increase in case terms). This was only an assumption and formal guidance on minimum contributions will be issued shortly.
25. An increase of 1.79% for the CCG minimum contribution has been built into the draft expenditure plan and will be reviewed once the formal guidance is published.
26. The draft BCF expenditure plan, provided at Appendix B, sets out the line items/ service areas for each element of the BCF pooled budget.
27. The individual line items in Appendix B show the apportionment of the financial contribution across East Leicestershire and Rutland CCG and West Leicestershire CCG. For the majority of the line items this is divided in the usual proportions of 56.8% (WLCCG) and 43.2% (ELRCCG). In some cases, there are line items that are specific only to one CCG, and/or the usual proportions have been varied, due to other service specific factors. All of these apportionments have been confirmed and assured by the respective parties.
28. The line items funded by the Improved Better Care Fund (adult social care grant) are highlighted and are subject to Local Authority determination and grant conditions.
29. The Disabled Facilities Grant Allocation is automatically transferred to each District Council per the apportionment set out by government.
30. Appendix B also provides an overview of the illustrative expenditure plan for 2020/21, based on current policy and commissioning intentions; this is for medium-term planning purposes only. Approval of the 2020/21 plan is not being sought at this time, as 2019/20 is a transitional year for the NHS Long Term Plan and the BCF Policy Framework and there are likely to be significant changes to take into account.

**Next Steps**

31. The draft BCF plan for 2019/20 will be reported to both CCG Board meetings on 12th March, subject to any changes required following the publication of the BCF policy framework.
32. Following the publication of the BCF national documentation, the plan will be reviewed to ensure that it meets all national conditions. Any adjustments required will be made and taken back through the appropriate governance route as noted in para 31 above.

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None

**Officer to Contact**

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**Appendices**

Appendix A – Presentation Summary of Leicestershire’s BCF plan for 2019/20

Appendix B – Draft BCF Expenditure Plan

**Relevant Impact Assessments****Equality and Human Rights Implications**

33. The BCF aims to improve outcomes and wellbeing for the people of Leicestershire, with effective protection of social care and integrated activity to reduce emergency and urgent health demand.
34. An equalities and human rights impact assessment has been undertaken which is provided at <http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2017/1/11/better-care-fund-overview-ehria.pdf>. This finds that the BCF will have a neutral impact on equalities and human rights.
35. A review of the assessment was undertaken in March 2017.

**Partnership Working and associated issues**

36. The delivery of the BCF plan and the governance of the associated pooled budget is managed in partnership through the collaboration of commissioners and providers in Leicestershire.
37. Day to day oversight of delivery is via the Integration Executive through the scheme of delegation agreed via the Integration Executive’s terms of reference which have been approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

38. The delivery of the Leicestershire BCF ensures that a number of key integrated services are in place and contributing to the system wide changes being implemented through the five-year plan to transform health and care in Leicestershire, known as Better Care Together, LLR's Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) <http://www.bettercareleicester.nhs.uk/>.