

Better Care Fund – 17/19 Submission
Update Position

1. Executive summary:

1.1

The Better Care Fund (BCF) continues to support transformational change in Wirral. All existing schemes have been reviewed in order to identify priorities for development and potential areas for recommissioning.

Additional resource for BCF has been identified nationally, locally this equates to £8.3m for 2017/18. This additional funding will be managed in the following way:

- £5m allocated to the protection of social care
- £1.3m allocated to 'Managing Transfers of Care'
- £2m allocated to a BCF Innovation Fund

1.2

Final guidance was received 7th July 2017 (originally expected Dec 2016).

Key changes:

- DTOC metrics with local targets
- Government to review performance & progress in November
- Single stage assurance (11th September submission)

1.3

Further advice on performance metrics anticipated later in July, including detailed local requirements for quarterly Delayed Transfer of Care & objectives.

2. Current position & key messages:

2.1 Please refer to appendix 1.

2.2

BCF plans must continue with a strong and developing focus on:

- Housing
- Disabled Facilities Grant
- Carers
- Integrated Personal Commissioning (IPC's) (Expected to be in use for 50% of footprints by 2019, for approx. 5% population)
- Enhanced Health in Care homes
- Delayed Transfers of Care

3. Funding Requirements

3.1

Following the budget announcement relating to increased funding for social care, the national guidance also includes specific reference to the 'Improved Better Care Fund'. This stipulates how the additional resource, channelled via existing BCF arrangements, needs to be utilised 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.

3.2

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 have been locally agreed. The funding will remain within local government to be used for Adult Social Care.

3.3

In addition, NHSE have also stipulated the following:

- The BCF must be transferred into one or more pooled funds established under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006; and
- A requirement that Health and Wellbeing Boards jointly agree plans for how the money will be spent, with plans signed-off by the relevant local authority and Clinical Commissioning Group.

3.4

Additional funding for Wirral equates to £15m over 5 years but is weighted to year 1 meaning a total of £8.3m is available for 2017/18

3.5

This additional funding, through discussion and agreement with the BCF Board, will be managed in the following way locally in year 1:

- £5m allocated to the protection of social care – this will provide additional capacity in the care market
- £1.3m allocated to 'Managing Transfers of Care' – this will predominantly support smooth discharge from hospital providing additional capacity for 'Discharge to Assess' provision and 'Home First', allowing patients to be more appropriately assessed outside of the acute environment and improving patient flow through the system
- £2m allocated to a BCF Innovation Fund

3.6

A bidding process has been developed for providers and commissioners within the system to apply for funding for innovative, sustainable schemes that will support delivery of the BCF requirements. Bids will be reviewed against specific criteria with final approval at BCF Board (the financial schedule in Appendix 2 shows indicative expenditure only against the innovation fund based on bids received).

4. Timeline:

- 17th July – planning requirements for BCF allocated
- W/C 10th July – planning return to be circulated
- 21st July – local areas to confirm draft DTOC metrics
- 11th September – BCF submission for Health & Wellbeing Board
- 11-25th September – scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers
- W/C 25th September – regional moderation
- W/C 6th October – Approval letter, formal permission to spend
- W/C 10th October – escalation panels for plans ‘not approved’
- 31st October – deadline for plans, rated as approved with conditions to submit updated plans.
- 30th November – section 75 agreements to be signed & in place
- November – government will consider a review of 18/19 allocations of IBCF for areas poorly performing.