

Committee(s): Health and Wellbeing Board	Date(s): 3 October 2019
Subject: Better Care Fund 2019-20	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Ellie Ward, Interim Head of Strategy and Performance	

Summary

The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme spanning both the NHS and local government which seeks to join-up health and care services. The Fund has been running for over 5 years and funds several services in the City of London Corporation as well as some local health-based services.

Each year, detailed plans must be submitted to the Department of Health and Social Care setting out the schemes to be funded and how they will contribute to a number of nationally set objectives and metrics.

There was a delay from NHS England in publishing the forms that have to be submitted - these were due for submission on 27 September 2019 and need to be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB). It has been agreed that the plans can be submitted on 27 September with HWBB approval to follow on 3 October. The plans have been agreed between the City of London Corporation and City and Hackney CCG.

The schemes to be funded through the Better Care Fund remain the same as previous years for the City of London.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the City of London Better Care Fund plan for 2019-20 which was submitted as draft to NHS England on 27 September 2019.

Main Report

Background

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.

2. The BCF provides a mechanism for joint health, housing and social care planning and commissioning. It brings together ring-fenced budgets from 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. The total income for the City of London Better Care Fund is as follows:

Funding	Amount
DFG	£32,689
Minimum CCG Contribution	£626,523
iBCF	£265,353
Winter Pressures Grant	£48,791
Total	£973,356

3. The BCF Planning Requirements were published in July 2019 and Health and Wellbeing Boards were required to submit BCF plans by the 27 September 2019.
4. In June 2018, the Government announced a review of the current functioning and structure of the BCF to ensure it supports the integration of health and social care. There will be an update later this year about future plans for the BCF.
5. The integrated spending plan includes schemes which are commissioned by the City of London Corporation and by City and Hackney CCG separately. The schemes (with a total budget of £256,000) to be commissioned by the City of London Corporation remain the same as previous years as follows:
- Care Navigator Service to support safe hospital discharge
 - City Homecare Intensive Response Service to support admissions avoidance and discharge to assess
 - Mental Health Reablement and Floating Support to assess and support individuals in supported living to move to more independent accommodation and lives
 - Support to unpaid carers through information, advice and practical support

There is also an 0.53% uplift and shall remain the same as last year to the amount of £1,352.

6. The other funding that is allocated to the City Corporation to use (totalling £346,000) covers:
- Disabled Facilities Grants to support disabled people's independence in their homes
 - Purchase of additional care packages to support discharge and placement without prejudice
 - Increased OT capacity in the social care team to support safe hospital discharge
7. The schemes to be commissioned by City and Hackney CCG totalling around £371,000 include (but are not limited to):

- Funding to support the City of London bespoke neighbourhood model
- Community nursing
- Falls prevention work
- Rehabilitation services
- Paradoc

8. It is a requirement that any pooled funding, and specifically the BCF is governed by a Section 75 (s75) Agreement. A new s75 Agreement dated 5th July 2019 for integrated commissioning commenced on the 1st August 2019.

Current Position

9. As noted above, the requirements for the BCF plans were not published until July 2019 with a submission date of 27 September 2019. It is a requirement that these plans are approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

10. It was agreed that plans would be submitted to NHS England on 27 September 2019 in draft, subject to approval of HWBB on 3 October 2019.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

11. The Departmental Business Plan for Community and Children's Services has a priority objective for independence, involvement and choice. One way this will be delivered is through greater integration of health and social care funding and commissioning which will improve outcomes and experience for service users.

12. This ties in with the Corporate Strategy objective of contributing to a flourishing society which includes people enjoying good health and wellbeing.

Legal Implications

13. Section 75 of the National Health Services Act 2006 gives powers to local authorities and clinical commissioning groups to establish and maintain pooled funds from out of which payment may be made from expenditure incurred in the exercise of prescribed local authority functions and prescribed NHS functions.

14. The new Section 75 Agreement includes the BCF, and the parties agreed to roll over the existing BCF Plan for continuity until the revised BCF Guidance had been published. There is scope to vary the Agreement to update the new BCF Plan by way of a Deed of Variation being entered into between the parties.

Financial Implications

15. The financial implications are included in the body of this report.

Conclusion

16. Plans for the BCF for 2019-20 were required to be submitted on 27 September 2019 to the Department of Health and Social Care.

17. It is a requirement that Health and Wellbeing Boards sign off their local BCF plans. It has been agreed that the plans can be submitted to NHS England on 27 September with HWBB approval to follow on 3 October.

Appendices

- None

Background Papers

- None

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