

Committee(s)	Dated:
Health and Wellbeing Board	16 June 2016
Subject: Better Care Fund 2017-19	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Ellie Ward, Integration Programme Manager	

Summary

The Better Care Fund (BCF) plays a key role in the health and social care integration agenda and for the City of London funds a number of important initiatives such as the Care Navigator post which ensures that City of London residents have a safe and supported discharge from hospital.

In order to fit with the two year NHS planning process, the next round of the BCF is also for two years (2017-19). As the City of London Corporation moves forward with integrated commissioning, the BCF will be considered within the aims of this integrated approach.

Publication of the technical guidance by the Department of Health and a submission date for the BCF is still awaited. The submission dates may sit outside of the cycle of Health and Wellbeing Board meetings and therefore this report seeks delegated authority for the sign off of the plan by the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, in conjunction with the Director of Community and Children's Services.

This report sets out background information and a proposed outline of the plan for the City of London BCF in 2017-18.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report and the proposed outline of BCF plans for 2017-18
- Delegate authority to the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, in conjunction with the Director of Community and Children's Services, to sign off the BCF plans for submission if the timetable sits outside of the schedule for Health and Wellbeing Board meetings.

Main Report

Background

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was launched in June 2013. It brings together some health and social care budgets to integrate services at a local level to support more person-centred co-ordinated care. In the first two years of the BCF, the total amount of pooled funding was £5.3bn in 2015-16 and £5.8bn in 2016-17.
2. The next round of the BCF covers two years (2017-19) to align with NHS planning timetables and to give areas the opportunity to plan more strategically.
3. Nationally for 2017-18, the BCF will be £5.128bn and for 2018-19, £5.617bn. The local flexibility to pool more than the mandatory amount will remain.
4. The main change to the Framework from last year is the inclusion of additional local authority funding. Some of this was announced in the 2015 spending review and an additional £2bn over three years was announced in the Spring budget 2017. This is known as the Improved BCF (iBCF) and is to be used 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.
5. A number of conditions have to be met in order to access the BCF and going forward these have been reduced from eight to four. These are as follows:
 - BCF Plans to be jointly agreed
 - NHS contribution to adult social care is maintained in line with inflation
 - Agreement to invest in NHS out of hospital services
 - Managing Transfers of Care (this is amended from the previous one which focused on reducing the number of days of delayed transfers of care)
6. BCF forms an important part of the wider integration agenda and local areas are required to ensure that the financial planning and overall direction of travel within the BCF plans and the local STP are aligned.
7. The City of London Corporation had its own BCF plan in both 2015/16 and 2016/17. The pooled fund (consisting of City of London Corporation and CCG funds) was governed by a s75 agreement and in 2016/17 the total pooled budget amounted to £627,000. Of this, £210,000 was for services to be commissioned by the City of London Corporation, £26,000 for Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and the remainder for services commissioned by City and Hackney CCG.
8. Any City of London Corporation BCF plan has to be agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Current Position

9. The policy framework for the BCF 2017-19 was published in March 2017 but there has been significant delay on publication of the technical planning guidance and therefore the submission timetable has not yet been confirmed.
10. The estimated funding for the City of London Corporation BCF 2017-18 is as follows:

Better Care Fund Funding Contributions	2017-18	2016-17
Minimum NHS (CCG) contribution	£590,000	£580,00
Disabled Facilities Grant	£28,000	£26,000
New grant allocation for adult social care (iBCF)	£179,000	£0
Total	£797,000	£606,000

11. It is proposed that the funding for 2017-18 is used as follows. The City of London Corporation commissioned services are on-going services which have been funded before through the BCF.

	2017-18
Care Navigator Service (City of London Corporation commissioned)	£60,000
Reablement Plus (City of London Corporation commissioned)	£65,000
Mental health reablement & floating support worker (City of London Corporation commissioned)	£120,000
DFG (held by Local Authorities)	£28,000
Carers' support (City of London Corporation commissioned)	£10,000
Additional care packages and step down provision to facilitate hospital discharge	£179,000
CCG commissioned services	£335,000
Total	£797,000

12. The strategic direction for the BCF and iBCF locally is set in the context of the integrated commissioning arrangements between the City of London Corporation and City and Hackney CCG.
13. In February 2017, the City of London Corporation Policy and Resources committee agreed to enter into integrated commissioning arrangements with City and Hackney CCG. The arrangements are built on commissioning decisions about health, public health and social care being taken together through an Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB). Integrated commissioning aims to reduce duplication and bureaucracy, make the most of the organisations' shared knowledge, experience and resources and improve health, social care and wellbeing outcomes by better meeting the needs of our communities.
14. Integrated commissioning is based on a pooled budget which includes health, public health and social care funding and the legal framework for this is a Section 75 (s75) agreement. It was proposed that the BCF and the iBCF were included in the overall pooled budget and therefore the s75 agreement for

integrated commissioning. NHS England (NHSE) requested the CCG pause signing any overarching s75 until some queries had been resolved. It is therefore proposed that during this pause, a separate s75 agreement is developed to cover the BCF.

15. Given that BCF and iBCF are to be included within the integrated commissioning arrangements, it is proposed that the plans are considered by the ICB prior to being agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
16. Given that the timetable is not yet confirmed for submission of the BCF and the fact that the plans have to be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board, it is proposed that delegated authority is given to the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, in conjunction with the Director of Community and Children's Services, to agree the plans for submission.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

17. Integration fits into the wider corporate objectives of engaging with London and national government on key issues of concern to our communities such as transport, housing and public health, and improving the value for money of our services within the constraints of reduced resources.
18. The integration of health and social care is reflected in the Departmental Business Plan's strategic objective of choice, control and independence.
19. The Government's agenda of promoting integrated care is designed to put the person at the heart of the services they receive, to maximise the opportunity for innovative services, to create a new culture within health and social care and to deliver cost efficiencies.

Implications

Financial Implications

20. The financial implications are set out in the body of the report.

Legal Implications

21. There are no additional legal comments.

HR Implications

22. The proposed schemes for BCF commissioned by the City of London Corporation are existing schemes and do not come with any HR responsibilities for the City of London. However, if this did arise as a result of the fund, then HR advice on management arrangements would be required.

Equalities Implications

23. A Test of Relevance was carried out on these schemes for the 2016-17 BCF. There have been no significant changes since then and therefore the Test of Relevance is still valid.

Conclusion

24. The technical guidance and submission dates for BCF 2017-19 have not yet been published.
25. This paper outlines the estimated BCF funding for the City of London and proposed plans for 2017-18. It also seeks delegated authority for the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, in conjunction with the Director of Community and Children's Services, to approve the final BCF plans for submission where the timetable may fall outside of the cycle of Health and Wellbeing Board meetings.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

<http://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk/documents/s73009/Integrated%20Commissioning%20for%20Health%20and%20Social%20Care.pdf>

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