

Committee:	Dated:
Health and Wellbeing Board	4 April 2016
Subject: Better Care Fund 2016-17	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report Author: Ellie Ward	

Summary

The framework and timetable for the Better Care Fund 2016/17 was set out for the Health and Wellbeing Board in January 2016. The Board agreed that given the cycle of meetings, authority to approve the plan could be delegated, if necessary, to the Director of Community and Children's Services in conjunction with the Chairman of the Board.

This report provides the Board with an update on development of the Plan for 2016/17 and seeks approval of the final submission of the plan, due on 25 April 2016.

Recommendation(s)

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- Approve the final submission of the City of London Better Care Fund Plan 2016/17 with any final amendments delegated to the Director of Community and Children's Services in conjunction with the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Main Report

Background

1. The Better Care Fund (BCF) aims to facilitate the integration of health and social care services at a local level. It requires Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and local authorities in every area to pool budgets and agree an integrated spending plan for how they will use their BCF allocation. The spending plan can include a range of schemes that are commissioned by either the CCG or the local authority.
2. For 2016/17, the national BCF will be increased to a mandated minimum of £3.9bn (compared to £3.8bn in 2015/16), subject to national conditions (see paragraph 3 below). The local flexibility to pool more than the mandatory amount remains. The amount allocated to the City of London pooled budget is detailed at paragraph 8 below.

3. NHS England set a number of conditions that local areas will need to meet to access the funding. This is set out in Appendix 1 along with a summary of how the City of London Corporation has or will meet these conditions.
4. The BCF includes a number of performance metrics which local areas are required to set targets for – these are set out in Appendix 2. The targets set for these will be outlined at the meeting.
5. This year's process for submission of Better Care Fund Plans has been streamlined and builds on much of the information submitted in last year's more detailed plan.
6. The Health and Wellbeing Board are required to oversee the BCF and its performance.

Current Position

7. There have been a number of draft submissions that have been made but the final draft, which has to be approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board, is due for submission on 25 April.
8. For 2016/17, the City of London pooled budget will be £627,000 – a reduction on the pooled budget of £776,000 for 2015/16. This reduction is mainly due to a reduced allocation to the CCG from the national fund. The City of London Corporation has not contributed any additional funding to the pooled budget.
9. Plans for the City of London BCF 2016/17 will build on some of the successes of the 2015/16 plan and will also introduce some new areas in line with our strategic priorities and emerging areas of work. Proposed schemes to be commissioned through the BCF by the City of London Corporation include:
 - Continuation and expansion of the Care Navigator scheme which assists City residents to have a safe discharge from hospital
 - Disabled Facilities Grant to help with adaptations for disabled people to stay in their own homes
 - Continuation of a project to help people with long term mental health conditions to move to more independent living and a floating support worker to help facilitate integration across a number of services which support independence
 - Some City specific community health provision to work with the Adult Social Care Team for example community nurse and pharmacist
 - Support for carers in line with our carers' strategy
 - Social isolation (work is underway to develop this area)
 - Reablement plus scheme to support safe hospital discharge at weekends and bank holidays and to prevent admissions to hospital
10. Details of the final schemes and their spend profile will be presented at the meeting. This will also include the schemes that the CCG will be commissioning.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. The BCF fits with the Corporate Plan under the following priorities:

KPP2 Improving the value for money of our services within the constraints of reduced resources

KPP3 Engaging with London and national government on key issues of concern to our communities such as transport, housing and public health

11. The Department of Community and Children's Services Business Plan includes the strategic priorities of health and wellbeing and efficiency and effectiveness.

12. 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

13. Given the City of London residential population is smaller when compared with other local authorities, having separate pooled budgets for each integration project would not be viable. As with the 2015/16 fund, the whole fund for 2016/17 will be combined into one City-specific pooled budget.

14. As specific projects are developed, specific financial and legal advice will be required. If any joint-funded posts were developed as a result of the fund then HR advice on management arrangements would also be required.

15. The legal team will be involved in reviewing the Section 75 agreement which is the legal basis on which funding can be pooled into one budget.

Conclusion

16. The BCF provides an opportunity to further integrate health and social care services at a local level. The Health and Wellbeing Board are required to agree the priorities for the City of London BCF plan for 2016/17.

Appendices

Appendix 1: National Conditions

Appendix 2: BCF Performance Metrics

Background Papers

- Health and Wellbeing Board Paper 27 November 2015
- Health and Wellbeing Board Paper 29 January 2016

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