

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, ADULT & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD		
DATE:	21 MARCH 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	4
TITLE:	BETTER CARE FUND SUBMISSION: UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR HOSKIN / COUNCILLOR EDEN	PORTFOLIO:	HEALTH / ADULT SOCIAL CARE
SERVICE:	HEALTH / ADULT SOCIAL CARE	WARDS:	BOROUGH WIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF), previously called the Integration Transformation Fund, provides for local funding for health and care services in ways which take forward the integration agenda. It is intended that the Better Care Fund monies are held as local pooled budgets.
- 1.2 In order to draw down the funding available through the BCF allocation, local authorities and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) must submit agreed two-year plans for use of the BCF, which plans have also been approved by the appropriate Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.3 Reading's final BCF submission will be lodged as required with NHS England and the Local Government Association (LGA) by 4 April, 2014. To date there has been no feedback on the original submission, making it impossible to produce an updated document for consideration by the HWB (the draft having been considered on 14 February). This report therefore seeks the Health & Wellbeing Board's approval to a delegation in order to meet nationally determined timescales. A copy of the submission will be circulated to all members of the HWB in order to take into account any views or comments they may have.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board:

- (a) notes progress to date in developing an agreed BCF submission for Reading; and
- (b) authorises the Accountable Officer for the Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Groups jointly with the Director of Education, Adult and Children's Services to approve an updated Reading BCF proposal for submission in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Health and the Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The BCF provides an opportunity to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in Reading who use health and social care services. The Fund is intended to be used to help those people by providing them with better services and better quality of life. Through the BCF, services will be redesigned and developed so that more people receive the right care in the right place at the right time.
- 3.2 The Better Care Fund is intended to be used locally so as to manage pressures, and to improve the long term sustainability of an integrated health and social care service. It has been established on the premise that there will be a significant expansion of care in community settings, taking forward both the integration and the prevention agendas. The BCF plan is for health and social care services to work more closely together, working in partnership through a single pooled budget to achieve a better customer journey, better outcomes and better value for money.
- 3.3 Five schemes have been identified in Reading's draft BCF submission

A Hospital at Home Service - targeted at those patients that require initial intensive 24-hour support and treatment but can be managed at home and then discharged after a few days into traditional community care provision.

Supporting residential and nursing care homes - through introducing a GP enhanced community service, providing additional training to care home staff, and additional community pharmacist resource.

Health and Adult Social Care Services systems interoperability - to enable information to be shared across different electronic systems and so address delayed transfers and discharges as well as supporting better informed decisions at all stages and improving the patient / service user experience.

Time to Think Beds - offering a step down from hospital care as soon as this is appropriate for patients with complex care needs who, at the point of discharge from hospital, are likely to have an ongoing need for nursing care.

7-day Integrated Health & Social Care Neighbourhood Teams - linked to an integrated health and social care hub, with strong connexions across a range of neighbourhood services including preventive support provided by voluntary and community groups, and supported by GP extended working,

- 3.4 In addition to delivering these schemes, the BCF is also to be used to protect social care services locally, prepare for new obligations under the Care Bill, and deliver carers' break services and Disabled Facilities Grants. Reading's submission includes proposal to move towards 7 day working and better data sharing anyway, but these are some of the national conditions for drawing down the BCF.
- 3.5 Formal feedback on Reading's first BCF submission is still awaited, although informal feedback to date has been positive. Officers are continuing to develop the plans contained in that submission by reference to the Assurance Process Guidance issued to NHS England Area Teams and to local government regional peers appointed to assure the BCF submissions. Reading's final submission will need to address any issues raised in the feedback. A delegation is therefore sought from the Board to allow the Accountable Officer for the Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Groups jointly with the Director of Education, Adult and Children's Services to approve a final proposal for submission by the deadline of 4 April.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Better Care Fund Submission report to Health & Wellbeing Board 14.02.2014
Better Care Fund planning template - Reading - February 14 - Part 1
Better Care Fund planning template - Reading - February 14 - Part 2
Better Care Fund Assurance Process Guide