



Mr Geoff Parker
Chief Executive
Charnwood Borough Council
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Date: 24th August 2016
My ref: JS/JC/16-163
Your ref: GP/FLH/Let16:DFGs
Contact: John Sinnott
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Dear Geoff

Thank you for your letter of 12th August. This response is co-signed as the County Council provides the secretariat to the Health and Wellbeing Board and John Sinnott and I both agree that this correspondence should be referred to the Board at its meeting on 15th September.

We also share a concern that your letter may still reflect a lack of understanding of the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the nature of the Better Care Fund plan and the fresh approach to housing support services advocated by the Government and exemplified by the Lightbulb Project. Nevertheless, what follows answers the points in your letter.

The Integration Executive does consider that Charnwood Borough Council has formally objected to the decision of the Health and Wellbeing Board about the treatment of the DFG allocation within the 2016/17 BCF plan. There is really no other conclusion which can be drawn from the consistent position articulated by Charnwood Borough Council at various meetings about DFG allocations held over the past few months, in previous correspondence between partners about this matter, and in formal reports, such as the Charnwood Borough Council Cabinet report in July.

Not least because the BCF plan, which has been approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board, has been regionally assured and now approved without conditions by NHS England and the Government, was built up from a business case, the Integration Executive does not accept that a business case should be supplied in support of the proposal for Charnwood Borough Council to transfer funding into the BCF plan for 2016/17.

The BCF narrative plan itself (78 pages), has been available at the weblinks given below since the publication of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting papers of May 5th 2016. These documents, along with the examples of supporting business cases already supplied by the programme director, provide sufficient assurance on how the plan has been constructed and the funding priorities approved by partners for this financial year.

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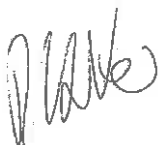
Better Care Fund Plan Final Submission and Assurance. [PDF 209 KB](#)

- [Appendix 1 - Narrative for BCF Refresh Leicestershire , item 282.](#) [PDF 2 MB](#)
- [Appendix 2 - BCF Spending Plan , item 282.](#) [PDF 154 KB](#)

The reference to the Lightbulb project in the decision from the Integration Executive reflects the impact the ongoing disagreement about the treatment of the DFG allocations has had on the Lightbulb project. As DFG allocations feature as one of the income streams in the new Lightbulb service from April 2017, this situation has clearly affected partner confidence when discussing medium term pooling arrangements and has led to significant extra work for the project team in mitigating the reputational impact of this risk, during this critical period when the Lightbulb business case is being developed with partners. As a result, the Charnwood DFG dispute currently features as one of the top 4 key risks in our integration programme risk register.

It was unfortunate that there was no written proposal from Charnwood Borough Council to the Integration Executive, with you referring only to an e-mail exchange with the West Leicestershire CCG. In terms of actions following the Integration Executive, and following the communication of the decision to you, we had anticipated that there would be an immediate report to Charnwood Cabinet on August 11th to seek approval from the Cabinet about the transfer of funds, (per section (b) of the Integration Executive decision) so that this matter could be concluded ahead of the September 15th meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board. It would be helpful to know if a report will be made to your September Cabinet meeting, so we can include this information in our update to the HWB Board on that date, and, if not, exactly what is Charnwood's proposal to resolve this increasingly concerning matter. We do not consider that there is much if any point in further discussion until Charnwood's position is clarified.

Yours sincerely



Dr Andy Ker
Chairman of the Leicestershire
Better Care Fund Integration Executive
Clinical Vice Chair
East Leicestershire & Rutland CCG



John Sinnott
Chief Executive
Leicestershire County Council