



HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 12 MARCH 2014

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the work in progress to finalise the Better Care Fund plan for Leicestershire for submission by April 4th 2014.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. Planning Guidance was issued by NHS England and the Local Government Association in December 2013, which included a requirement for all Health and Wellbeing Boards to develop and approve a Better Care Fund Plan by 4th April 2014 covering the period 2014/5 – 2015/16.
3. The Better Care Fund Plan will set out joint priorities in each local area in order to:
 - a. Improve the integration of health and care for the benefit of local citizens
 - b. Develop a more integrated, comprehensive and consistent set of community based services, in order to reduce the number of avoidable admissions to hospital and reduce the length of time people spend in hospital, including through improved discharge arrangements.
4. A Cabinet Paper on February 4th and an All Member Briefing held on February 10th introduced the requirements of the Better Care Fund, the timetable for the work and outlined the 4 themes of Leicestershire's Better Care Fund draft plan. The slides from the All Member Briefing are appended to this report.
5. The Health and Wellbeing Board was asked to consider and approve a first draft of Leicestershire's Better Care Fund Plan on 13th February, in line an interim milestone of February 14th by which date all areas were to submit a draft plan for regional and national assurance.

Background

6. Local partners developed the vision for health and care integration during a Health and Wellbeing Board workshop in December 2013.
7. Work completed in January and early February led to the draft Better Care Fund Plan being developed under 4 key themes, with a small number of proposals under each theme.
8. The proposals at this stage are a combination of:

- a. Existing joint priorities which have been progressed over the past two financial years using the social care allocation funds, which are being made recurrent
 - b. An extension of existing priorities to provide greater coverage and scale to community based services, such as extending services to 7 day working/night cover
 - c. Some new areas of work which will involve transforming how we jointly deliver care and support. These will be subject to business case development. For example
 - i. options to improve the whole pathway of care for frail older people, which will be developed and considered rapidly in 2014/15
 - ii. developing a unified prevention offer in communities
 - d. Provisions have also been made in the plan in line with national requirements for the introduction of the Care Bill and ensuring there is sufficient protection for those social care services that support hospital discharge and admission avoidance.
9. All components of the Better Care Fund Plan are in the process of undergoing further analysis to assess the anticipated benefits and impact, in terms of both the financial and non financial assumptions.
 10. In particular we are examining the contribution the components of the plan will make individually and collectively to a reduction in emergency admissions and a reduction in delayed discharges from hospital.
 11. A key feature of the Better Care Fund Plan is the need to ensure the priorities and implications are agreed by all partners in the local health and care system including the providers of NHS services, whose baseline activity and income will be directly affected by these changes.
 12. The outputs of the impact analysis are being factored into the clinical commissioning groups' contractual arrangements with University Hospitals of Leicester, in terms of the anticipated reduction in hospital activity and income in 2014/15 and 2015/16 in favour of the investment in the jointly agreed community based developments.
 13. An Integration Executive is being proposed, with representation from all partners. This will report into the Health and Wellbeing Board and oversee delivery of the Better Care Fund plan and the pooled budget on a day to day basis.
 14. The Better Care Fund plan will contribute to the overall strategy to transform health and care services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) over the next 5 years and the work of Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board is closely connected to the LLR-wide work.

Consultation

15. Local Healthwatch have been engaged throughout this work, through their active participation in the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and through their support and assistance in planning a stakeholder engagement event about the Better Care Fund and our Joint health and Wellbeing Strategy which was held on 24th February.

Resource Implications

16. By 2015/16 a pooled budget of £38m will be in place to deliver the proposals within the Better Care Fund Plan.

Integration forms one of the Council's transformation priorities per the MTF5 Resources to deliver the integration priorities are in the process of being confirmed/arranged as part of the overall scoping work for the Council's transformation programme

Timetable for Decisions

17. The Health and Wellbeing Board will meet on March 13th and their agenda will include a paper to establish the Integration Executive
18. Subject to Health and Wellbeing Board approval, the Integration Executive will meet in late March to begin the programme of work to deliver the Better Care Fund priorities for 2014/15.
19. The Health and Wellbeing Board will meet on April 1st to consider the final draft of the Better Care Fund Plan.
20. The final version of the Better Care Fund Plan will be submitted via NHS England on April 4th
21. A further All Member Briefing about the Better Care Fund will be held in mid April

Conclusions

22. Significant further work is in progress in order to finalise the Better Care Fund Plan for submission on April 4th.

Background papers

Better Care Fund Draft Plan as submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 13th February <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1038&MIId=4072&Ver=4>

Better Care Fund Planning Guidance <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/part-rel/transformation-fund/bcf-plan/>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

Officer to Contact

Cheryl Davenport
 Director of Health and Care Integration
 0116 305 4212
cheryl.davenport@leics.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

23. The BCF aims to improve outcomes and wellbeing for the people of Leicestershire, with effective protection of social care and integrated activity to reduce emergency and urgent health demand. As part of the implementation of the Plan, an Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment and other relevant impact assessments will be undertaken to ensure that there is a clear understanding of how various groups are affected.

Risk Assessment

24. An initial risk analysis on the introduction of the Better Care Fund has been undertaken and a programme of work to develop a section 75 agreement with effect from 2015/16 is underway.
25. This includes setting out the risk sharing principles for all parties in the health and care system engaged in the Better Care Fund.
26. A copy of the initial risk analysis can be found at the end of NHS England Better Care Fund Template 1 (submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 13th February).