

Meeting:	Health & Wellbeing Board
Meeting date:	25 March 2015
Title of report:	Assessing Readiness for Implementation of Better Care Fund Plans in 2015-16
Report by:	Assistant Director, Housing and Community Wellbeing

Classification

Open

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide update to the Health and Wellbeing in relation to the national expectation that local health and social care communities will complete a national template to assess readiness to implement the Better Care Fund.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) **The Health and Wellbeing Board note the assessment completed by officers from Herefordshire Council and Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.**
- (b) **The assessment is set within the context of the agreed Section 75 Partnership Agreement and the governance arrangements operating allied to the Better Care Fund Plan**
- (c) **Board members comment on the plans.**

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options as this is a national requirement and is a support to Better Care Fund implementation. This process enables local health and social care communities to stocktake progress in relation to local schemes and progress towards implementation.

Reasons for recommendations

2. As indicated above this is a national requirement and reporting acknowledges the role performed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to the Better Care Fund.

Key considerations

3. All 151 health and Wellbeing Boards in England have an agreed BCF plan in place for 2015 –16. These Plans represent an ambitious programme of work to be delivered by local areas from April 2015 onwards. The national BCF Taskforce has put in place a support programme from January to March 2015 to provide tools and coaching to help preparation for implementation, following on from the support provided to help with the planning process. There is a commitment to continuing to provide support in 2015 –16.
4. The purpose of the self-assessment is threefold:
 - To support local areas in carrying out a self-assessment of their own readiness for delivery to inform discussions locally.
 - To inform the planning and allocation of resources and support that will be made available to areas in 2015 -16 to further help implementation and delivery of BCF Plans; and
 - To provide feedback to the national team and the headline results to be shared back with local areas on an anonymous basis. The data will not be shared outside the national Taskforce other than in an aggregated and anonymised form. The self-assessment is not a performance management tool and will not be used as such. It is recommended that the self-assessment is shared with the full Health and Wellbeing Board and this report is illustrative of this to help understanding of issues locally.
5. The process for conducting the self-assessment has been set out nationally and the template has been designed to be simple and quick. The timescale for completion will allow time for the information to be gathered and distilled to feed into planning for 2015 -16.
6. The form is designed to combine the need for responses that can be analysed nationally with room for local areas to choose from a range of possible responses to reflect upon their own positions. The construction of the form is through a range of pre-determined cells with fixed character commentary.

Community impact

7. The Understanding Herefordshire 2014 and local needs assessments will provide the evidence base to support the BCF Plan and the redesign of services. The system wide Transformation Programme incorporating the BCF will be directed by the overarching Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Herefordshire which is currently being developed.
8. There is a strong emphasis within the overarching Transformation Programme, and within both the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group on developing our community partnerships to ensure services and pathways meet local need and

that communities are able to take a lead role in the design of how services could be delivered in the future.

9. Service users, carers and frontline staff are and will be actively engaged to support the redesign of services through a number of mechanisms including Making it Real Board, the Learning Disability Partnership Board and Healthwatch.

Equality duty

10. An equality impact assessment will be undertaken for each of the schemes of change within the Better Care Fund and Commissioning Strategies and Plans. The equality impact assessment will identify potential problems or missed opportunities and adjust the policy to remove barriers or better promote equality.

Financial implications

11. The financial implications are clearly articulated within the Herefordshire Better Care Fund that has been assured nationally and agreed by the local statutory commissioners.

Legal implication

12. The Better Care Fund was announced in June 2013 to drive the transformation of local services to ensure people receive better and more integrated care and support. Section 121 Care Act 2014 provides the Better Care Fund arrangements require a pooled budget established under Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006. A Section 75 Agreement is an agreement between a local authority and an NHS body in England.

Risk management

13. The section 75 Agreement allied to the Better Care Fund contains an understanding which has been developed by the partners allied to the management of risks.

Consultees

14. A full engagement strategy will be developed for the BCF as elements are implemented and the partners will equally ensure proactive provider engagements.

Appendices

Appendix One – Assessing Readiness for Implementation of the Better Care Fund Plans

Background papers

Herefordshire Better Care Fund Plan