

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>26 November 2015</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Better Care Fund Quaterly Report</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Amy Pitt – Joint Commissioning Better Care Fund Manager</b>

## **Classification**

Open

## **Key Decision**

This is not a key decision.

## **Wards Affected**

Countywide

## **Purpose**

To approve the Better Care Fund quarter two national report as per the requirements of the programme.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**That the Health and Wellbeing Board approves the Better Care Fund (BCF) quarter two report in order to submit to NHS England.**

## **Alternative options**

- 1 There are no alternative options as the return is a statutory requirement.

## **Reasons for recommendations**

- 2 The recommendation has been made as this is a statutory requirement for the submission to be made and the report is predicated on statistical performance and financial information.

## **Key considerations**

- 3 On 16 October 2015, the Government confirmed that the Better Care Fund will

continue in 2016/17. The BCF Policy Framework (including detail of the minimum size of the Fund) will not be confirmed until after the Comprehensive Spending Review on 25 November. Notwithstanding this, preparations for BCF 2016/17 has begun with the review of the S75 agreement and some planning has commenced, and the return does provide an opportunity to request support for the future planning of the BCF.

- 4 The report provides an update and monitors key areas within the BCF plan. All metrics are on schedule to either meet the targets or demonstrate improved performance from last year.
- 5 The reduction in fall related admissions is on track and shows a 24% reduction on arrivals at A&E following a decrease due to the implementation of the falls responder team. Performance in respect of the reablement service indicator has improved from last year but is not meeting the full target in-year. This is a small, targeted service and a small variation of change within the service can have a large impact on the metric.
- 6 The report demonstrates that the NHS number is being used as a primary identifier for health and social care and work is in progress to pursue open APIs (i.e. systems that speak to each other) and ensuring appropriate information governance controls are in place.
- 7 New integration metrics are also included within the report on risk stratification and personal health budgets. The CCG have recently applied and been accepted onto the personal health budgets accelerator development programme commencing in November 2015.

## **Community impact**

- 8 The BCF plan is set within the context of the national programme of transformation integration of health and social care. Herefordshire Council and Herefordshire CCQ are working together to deliver on the key priorities within the plan to achieve savings and improve the delivery of services.

## **Equality duty**

- 9 The council is committed to equality and diversity using the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.
- 10 All equality considerations are considered as part of the development and implementation of the plan.

## **Financial implications**

- 11 For 2015/16 the care home market management pool is currently projecting a financial pressure of £1,463k. This has arisen following a significant increase in continuing health care residential packages costing an additional £1,315k (15% overspend). There is also a much smaller overspend (less than 1%) of £148k in council funded care packages. The CCG has put mitigating actions in place to reduce the pressure.
- 12 The Board should be aware that In order for Herefordshire Council to be able to set the Council budget in accordance with the Council's constitution and ensure that its

statutory financial obligations are met, a number of key assumptions have been made in respect of key funding streams received by the Council through the BCF.

- 13 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy assumes that the local authority will continue to receive at least the same level of funding 2016/17 as it has received in 2015/16 in critical areas such as the protection of social care and the additional costs associated with implementing the Care Act (2014) requirements.

## **Legal implications**

- 14 There are no legal implications with the report

## **Risk management**

- 15 The risk of not approving the return will delay the response to NHS England and which will result in a late return. The report provides an update on the BCF plan and is based on statistical and financial information.

## **Consultees**

- 16 Public engagement is not required for this return however consultation with officers within the local authority and CCG have been undertaken to ensure an accurate response.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Better Care Fund Quarter two template.

## **Background papers**

- None identified