

Meeting:	Health and wellbeing board
Meeting date:	23 February 2016
Title of report:	Better care fund quarterly report
Report by:	Joint commissioning better care fund manager

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

To approve the better care fund quarter three national report as per the requirements of the programme.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) the better care fund (BCF) quarter three report attached at appendix 1 be approved for submission to NHS England.

Alternative options

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

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 The recommendation has been made as the authority has an obligation to submit quarterly performance returns for the better care fund. The quarterly return which is presented in appendix 1 of this report satisfies this requirement by demonstrating the statistical performance and financial information of the better care fund during the third quarter of 2015/16.

Key considerations

- 3 On 16 October 2015, central government confirmed that the better care fund will continue in 2016/17. Subsequently, the BCF Policy Framework was published, disclosing the details of the minimum size of the Fund. However the corresponding national BCF planning guidance for 2016/17 has not yet been published. Notwithstanding this, Herefordshire Council has initiated its preparations for BCF 2016/17 including, but not limited to, a review of the authority's section 75 agreement. In addition, the quarterly return provides an opportunity to request support for the future planning of the BCF.
- 4 The quarter three report at appendix 1 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 within the service can have a large impact on the metric. The lead commissioner is also addressing these issues with an improvement plan.
- 6 This report demonstrates that the NHS number is being used as a primary identifier for health and social care. Furthermore, work is in progress to pursue open API's (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 clinical commissioning group (CCG) has recently applied and been accepted onto the personal health budgets accelerator development programme which commenced in November 2015.
- 8 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 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.
- 9 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, a total of £5.0m.

Community impact

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

Equality duty

- 11 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.

- 12 All equality considerations are considered as part of the development and implementation of the plan.

Financial implications

- 13 For 2015/16 the care home market management pool is currently projecting a financial pressure of £1.2m. This has arisen following a significant increase in demand for continuing residential health care. However, this overall figure represents a small decrease from the £1.4m reported in Q2. In addition, social care spend shows a small decrease and is now in line with the budget. The risk share arrangements for 2015/16 mean that £0.9m of the overspend has to be funded by the local authority.

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.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Better care fund quarter three template

Background papers

- None identified