

Meeting:	Health and wellbeing board
Meeting date:	19 July 2016
Title of report:	Better care fund quarterly update report
Report by:	Joint commissioning better care fund manager

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To consider the better care fund quarter four national report as per the requirements of the programme. To provide the board with an update on the financial outturn for the better care fund for 2015/16 and financial plans for 2016/17.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) the better care fund (BCF) quarter four report, attached at appendix 1, as submitted to NHS England on 1 June 2016 be reviewed and any additional actions to improve performance are identified;**
- (b) the contents of the financial outturn report, attached at appendix 2, are reviewed and any additional actions to improve performance are identified; and authority is delegated to the director for adults and wellbeing, following consultation with the accountable officer of the clinical commissioning group, to sign off future BCF submissions on such occasions when health and wellbeing board meetings do not coincide with submission dates, and to bring that submission to the next available board meeting to enable the board to review performance and make recommendations for improvement**

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options to submission of returns as the return is a requirement of the national BCF programme and provides factual information. It is however open to the board on reviewing the outturn reports to identify additional actions to improve performance or efficiency in the management of better care plan funds.
- 2 The board may choose not to delegate authority for signing off submissions in the future; if that option is chosen the board may need on occasion to schedule extraordinary meetings in order to comply with changing NHS submission deadlines.

Reasons for recommendations

- 3 It is recommended that the board review the BCF quarter four report, as the council and the CCG have an obligation to submit quarterly performance returns. 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 BCF during the fourth quarter of 2015/16.
- 4 The board is required to 'review' the content of the quarterly return, rather than 'approve' it, as the dates announced by NHS England for completion and return of the template were such that it was not possible for the return to come to a meeting of the board prior to its submission. The return template was issued on Friday, 27 May 2016 and NHS England required submission on Wednesday, 1 June 2016. The chairman of the board was consulted prior to the submission.
- 5 Given that NHS England seems likely to continue to change at short notice the dates for submissions, and issue the relevant templates only a few days before they are due to be returned, the existing intention that submissions be approved by the board in advance may not always be practical. Where such circumstances arise, delegation of approval of the quarterly national returns to the director for adults and wellbeing, following consultation with the accountable officer of the CCG, would avoid the need for the health and wellbeing board to provide retrospective approval for future returns whose submission dates did not coincide with the board's meeting schedule.
- 6 The health and wellbeing board is asked to review the BCF financial outturn for 2015/16 in fulfilment of its role in providing oversight of the BCF plan.

Key considerations

- 7 The quarter four 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.
- 8 This final performance report for 2015/16 provided the opportunity for the delivery of the BCF 2015/16 to be evaluated. As demonstrated in the report, a range of key outcomes were achieved through the year, including:
 - a. reprocurement of the carer's service
 - b. the implementation of an information and guidance service
 - c. improvements in community equipment services

- d. implementation of a rapid access to discharge bed provider framework
 - e. realignment of the care management teams
 - f. roll-out of virtual ward and hospital at home provision across the county
 - g. implementation of a highly effective falls rapid response service
- 9 The board should note that, as detailed in the financial outturn report at appendix 2, the additional pooled fund reported an overspend of £1.3 million for 2015/16. The additional costs have been shared between partners in accordance with the 2015/16 risk share agreement.
- 10 The financial plans for 2016/17 have been agreed by the partners in principle and provide protection for adult social care in so far as the below inflationary uplift to the minimum fund permitted. Further minor adjustments to the detailed figures may be required to ensure that the recent change in national guidance on this issue is addressed sufficiently for the plan to receive final sign-off through the national assurance process.
- 11 The partners have agreed to revisit the risk share arrangements for 2016/17 to ensure that they encourage behavioural change to deliver increased integration and efficiency in line with the BCF overarching objectives. Central to this is an agreement to focus the risk share on a specified group of service users where changes in the cost of their services appears likely as a result of robust joint review and reassessment of their care needs.
- 12 As previously reported to the board, a single section 75 agreement which incorporates the BCF and the original section 75 agreement between the council and CCG, is currently being developed, with planned implementation from October 2016. This will include a number of additional schemes and services, including the funding for children with complex needs. Performance on the original agreement is currently reported to the joint commissioning board.

Community impact

- 13 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

- 14 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.
- 15 All equality considerations are considered as part of the development and implementation of the plan.

Financial implications

- 16 For 2015/16, the care home market management pool reported an overspend of £1.3m, of which £1.2m was in the CCG and £0.1m by the council. This has arisen

following a significant increase in demand for continuing residential health care. This is in line with the quarter 3 projections. The risk share arrangements for 2015/16 mean that £0.9m of the overspend has to be funded by the council, with the remaining £0.4m funded by the CCG.

- 17 The BCF funding for the protection of adult social care for 2016/17 is in line with council budget assumptions and 2015/16 expenditure.

Legal implications

- 18 There are no legal implications with the report.

Risk management

- 19 This report seeks retrospective approval of the quarter 4 performance, therefore there is limited risk as the national return has already been submitted. The report provides an update on the BCF plan and is based on statistical and financial information.

Consultees

- 20 Public engagement is not required for this return.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Better care fund quarter four template 2015/16

Appendix 2 - Better care fund financial update report Q4 2015/16

Background papers

- None identified