

REPORT FOR: HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date of Meeting: 11 September 2014

Subject: Better Care Fund submission

Responsible Officer: **Paul Najsarek** – Interim Head of Paid Service and Corporate Director of Community Health and Wellbeing
Rob Larkman – Chief Officer, NHS Harrow CCG

Public: Yes

Wards affected: All wards.

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is required to submit to the Department of Health a revised Harrow Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan on 19 September 2014. This will set out how commissioners and providers will work together to provide better integrated health and social care services by 2019/20. The emphases of the BCF are the reduction of non-elective hospital admissions, and the protection of social care services.

Recommendations:

The Board is requested to:

1. Endorse the ongoing work on the Better Care Fund for Harrow
2. Delegate responsibility for the signing of the Better Care Fund proposal for Harrow to
 - Interim Head of Paid Service, Harrow Council
 - Chair, Harrow CCG

- Chair, Harrow Health and Wellbeing Board.
3. To agree to receive and consider, following moderation by the Department of Health, a final version of the Better Care Fund Plan and an accompanying section 75 agreement setting out how the joint fund will be administered.

Section 2 – Report

Background

The Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced in the governmental spending round of June 2013. It mandates that CCGs and local authorities (LAs) will pool £3.8bn in 2015/16, with the aim of improving care for vulnerable, frail and elderly people. Of this £3.8bn, £1.9bn is an additional contribution from the NHS which would otherwise have been used for routine health spending.

The BCF is intended to fund schemes which promote better integration between social care and health services. The emphases of the BCF are the reduction of non-elective hospital admissions, and the protection of social care services.

The Health and Wellbeing Board considered and agreed the first iteration of the Harrow Better Care Fund Plan at its meeting on Wednesday 19 March. It was then submitted to NHS England early in April. Following a national evaluation process, all Health and Wellbeing Boards have been asked to revise their existing Better Care Fund Plans and re-submit on Friday 19 September.

The BCF resubmission will comprise a document showing how NHS organisations, the local authority and other stakeholders will work together to deliver services in the future. In addition, from 2015/16, in accordance with the guidance provided, the total value of the Harrow Better Care Fund will be administered through a Section 75 (Health and Social Care Act 2012) 'pooled budget' arrangement, which will be overseen by the Harrow Health and Wellbeing Board. As part of the BCF submission, the partnership must also show a credible financial settlement that underpins this plan.

Partners in the Harrow health and social care economy are at present having difficulty reaching this agreed settlement due to the significant financial challenges that the borough faces. However, work still continues towards achieving an agreement by the submission date.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked the following.

1. To endorse the ongoing work on the Better Care Fund for Harrow
2. To delegate responsibility for the signing of the report for submission on 19 September to
 - Interim Head of Paid Service, Harrow Council
 - Chair, Harrow CCG
 - Chair, Harrow Health and Wellbeing Board.
3. To agree to receive and consider, following moderation by the Department of Health, a final version of the Better Care Fund Plan and an accompanying section 75 agreement setting out how the joint fund will be administered.

Financial Implications/Comments

Both organisations face significant financial challenges over the next three to five financial years. As a result the process to agree the allocation of funding attempts to mitigate the revenue pressures that exist for both organisations, whilst being mindful of the expectations of the implementation of the BCF.

Of the £17.342m the Council is expected to receive £7.719m (45%) to contribute towards the funding of existing social care services. This comprises £6.529m revenue and £1.190m capital (as reported in the HWBB report on 19th March 2014). This increased level of funding to be received by the Council will be reflected in the draft budget reported to Cabinet in November 2014.

The balance of the funding of £9.623m (55%) will be used to fund

- Intermediate Care Services, (£5.8m): in particular the STARRS service provided by NWLHT and the Northwick Park intermediate Care Services
- Whole Systems Integrated Care Initiatives (£3.8m,).

Legal Implications/Comments

The HWWB is required by the relevant guidance governing the submission of the Better Care Funding application to approve the terms of the final submission.

As a committee of the Council, HWWB may delegate a decision to an officer as is proposed in this report, and the consultation proposed with the Chair in respect of the detail of the final submission will meet the terms of the Better Care Funding guidance.

The decision maker is subject to the Equality Act 2010 duties including the Public Sector Equality act duties at s149 when considering the final terms of the submission'

A final version of the Better Care Fund Plan and an accompanying section 75 agreement setting out how the joint fund will be administered will be received and considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board following the DH/LGA moderation and assurance process after the September 19 submission.

Risk Management Implications

A robust consideration of the risks inherent in the BCF will be contained within the plan. Additionally, existing and future transformation programmes that are developed for Harrow will be subject to proper processes of risk management.

Equalities implications

Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as necessary according to the requirements of the contributing accountable commissioning organisations, and to those of the key providers engaged in the transformational work that will underpin this BCF proposal.

The Whole System transformational work that underpins the BCF will deliver real improvements in the quality and style of service delivery for some of the most vulnerable people of the borough, including older people, those with frailty, complex needs and mental ill health. Additionally, as developing service approaches become increasingly personalised, individual needs will be more effectively privileged, including the needs of people often marginalised by mainstream, 'one size fits all' service approaches.

Council Priorities

The work to deliver a BCF for Harrow is being delivered in the spirit of the corporate priorities of the contributing organisations, specifically in the context of strengthening communities and protecting and supporting the most vulnerable people of the borough.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance (Council and Joint Reports)

Name: Donna Edwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 10 September 2014		
Name: Sharon Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 10 September 2014		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO
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Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Dylan Champion – Joint Programme Director
Hugh Evans – Head of Commissioning and Partnerships (LB
Harrow Council)

Background Papers: