
REPORT FOR:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
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Date of Meeting:	19 September 2019
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Subject:	Better Care Fund 2019-20
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Responsible Officer:	Angela Morris, Director Adult Social Services Javina Seghal, Managing Director, Harrow CCG
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Public:	Yes
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Wards affected:	All wards
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Enclosures:	None
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Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the agreed high level 2019-20 Better Care Fund Plan.

For Decision:

The Board is requested to:

- 1) Agree the overarching schemes for the 2019-20 Better Care Fund Plan to be submitted to NHS England on 27th September 2019 in accordance with the mandated national deadline.
- 2) Note that the detailed schemes and Quarter 2 BCF update will be reported to the HWBB at its meeting on 26th November 2019.

Section 2 – Report

Background

Department of Health and Social Care, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and NHS England published the BCF planning requirements for 2019-20 in July 2019.

The document set out the detailed requirements for plans (including the CCG minimum BCF allocations), based on the 2019-20 BCF policy framework published by the DH and DCLG in April 2019 which supports the core NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance for 2019-20 which was published in January 2019.

BCF Policy and planning requirements in 2019-20

The Better Care Fund Policy Framework for 2019-20 provides continuity from the previous round of the programme.

The **four national conditions** set by the government in the Policy Framework are:

- i. That a BCF Plan, including at least the minimum mandated funding to the pooled fund specified in the BCF allocations and grant determinations, must be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), and by the constituent local authorities (LAs) and CCGs.
- ii. A demonstration of how the area will maintain the level of spending on social care services from the CCG minimum contribution in line with the uplift to the CCG's minimum contribution.
- iii. That a specific proportion of the area's allocation is invested in NHS-commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include seven day services and adult social care.
- iv. A clear plan on managing transfers of care, including implementation of the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care (HICM). As part of this, all HWBs must adopt the centrally-set expectations for reducing or maintaining rates of delayed transfers of care (DToc) during 2019-20 into their BCF plans.

The Policy Framework also sets out the **four national metrics** for the fund:

- i. Non-elective admissions (Specific acute);
- ii. Admissions to residential and care homes;
- iii. Effectiveness of reablement; and
- iv. Delayed transfers of care (DToc).

The deadline for submitting BCF plans is 27th September.

Funding sources and expenditure plans

It will be a condition of the BCF that plans for spending all funding elements are jointly agreed by local authority and CCG partners. Plans will need to confirm that individual elements of the mandatory funding have been used in

accordance with their purpose as set out in the BCF Policy Framework, relevant grant conditions and these requirements.

Scheme level spending details will need to include, where appropriate, an indication of the metric or metrics that a scheme is intended to improve. Where a planned scheme is an enabler for integration (for instance a workforce or digital integration scheme), areas will be asked to indicate this on the spending. Areas should also include short descriptions of schemes commissioned in the scheme level expenditure plan.

Areas can agree to pool additional funds into their BCF plan and associated Section 75 agreement(s). These additional contributions are not subject to the conditions of the BCF but should be recorded in the Planning Template. The mandatory contributions for 2019-20 are set out below:

Funding Source	National	Harrow
Minimum NHS ring-fenced from CCG allocation	£3,840m	£15.489m
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£505m	£1.517m
Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)	£1,837m	£5.498m
Winter Pressures Grant	£240m	£0.970m
Total	£6,422m	£23.474m

CCG minimum contribution

The mandate to NHS England for 2019-20 sets out an objective to ring-fence £3.84bn in 2019-20 within its overall allocation to CCGs to be pooled into the BCF and subject to the conditions set out in the Policy Framework and Operating Requirements.

NHS England has published allocations from this national ringfence for each CCG for 2019-20, on its website. The allocation for each CCG includes funding to support local authority delivery of reablement, Carers Breaks and implementation of duties to fund carer support under the Care Act 2014.

Grant Funding to local government to be pooled into BCF plans

The DFG, iBCF and Winter Pressures grant monies are paid directly to local authorities under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, with specific grant conditions, including a requirement that the funding is pooled in the BCF.

The Grant Determination for the iBCF and winter pressures funding details the conditions of the grant funding as follows:

- meeting adult social care needs;
- reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready;
- ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported; and
- supporting the local health and care system to manage demand pressures on the NHS with particular reference to seasonal winter pressures.

The DFG (capital) grant encourages areas to think strategically about the use of home adaptations, the use of technologies to support people to live independently in their own homes for longer, and to take a joined-up approach to improving outcomes across health, social care and housing.

Innovation in this area can include combining DFG and other funding sources to create fast-track delivery systems, alongside information and advice services about local housing options. During these discussions, it will be important to continue to ensure that local needs for aids and adaptations are met, while also considering how adaptation delivery systems can help meet wider objectives around integration.

Harlow Schemes

The plan for 2019-20 has been uplifted by the required inflationary amounts and will be underpinned by a section 75 agreement to enable the transfer of the funding from NHS England.

The BCF template to be submitted will detail a number of schemes within the overall scheme type and will be supported by a range of metrics. These schemes are currently being agreed.

The Q2 BCF update to be reported to the HWBB at the November meeting will provide the scheme level detail however detailed below are the anticipated overarching schemes by type:

Scheme	Body	2018-19 £000	2019-20 £000
Transformation of Community Services	CCG	7,604	7,302
Whole Systems Integrated Care	CCG	2,537	2,623
Protecting Social Care	LA	5,889	6,112
iBCF	LA	4,643	5,498
Winter Pressures	LA	970	970
Disabled Facilities Grants	LA	1,406	1,517
TOTAL BCF Plan		23,049	24,022

Funded by:	2019-20 £000
CCG Contribution	16,037
LA Grants	7,985
Total	24,022

BCF Planning & Assurance Timetable

The submission and assurance process will follow the timetable below:

Action	Date
BCF planning submission from local Health and Wellbeing Board areas (agreed by CCGs and local government). All submissions will need to be sent to the local BCM, and copied to england.bettercaresupport@nhs.net	By 27 September

Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers, assurance panel meetings, and regional moderation	By 30 October
Regionally moderated assurance outcomes sent to BCST	By 30 October
Cross regional calibration	By 5 November
Assurance recommendations considered by Departments and NHSE	5 – 15 November
Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend (CCG minimum)	W/c 18 November
All Section 75 agreements to be signed and in place	By 15 December

Further Actions

Recognising the financial challenges of the health and social care economy both organisations are committed to meeting on a bi-monthly basis to review the BCF expenditure, activity and impact on outcomes across the partnership. This will enable consideration of further investment, particularly to support patients being managed safely out of the acute hospital setting, should additional resources become available.

As a result, the revenue proposals indicate the minimum contributions for 2019-20 (uplifted in line with the planning guidance).

Ward Councillors' comments

None

Financial Implications

The national picture for public sector finances continues to remain complex and challenging. The financial settlement, received on 4 September, is a revenue settlement for 20/21 only. Whilst the additional funding for social care in 20/21 is welcome, the future funding position for local government remains uncertain.

Whilst it is too early to confirm the exact impact for Harrow (across both health & social care) the key headlines for both organisations are summarised below.

Local Government:

- £1bn new grant funding was announced for adult and children's social care (to be distributed using the adult social care relative needs formula).
- The Government intends to consult on an Adult Social Care Precept of 2% as well as main Council Tax referendum limit of 2% in 2020-21

- Public Health Grant will increase by over 3% (estimated at around £100m nationally).

Department of Health & Social Care

- The chancellor re-affirmed the NHS five-year settlement, providing an additional £33.9 billion per annum by 2023/24 compared to 2018/19. This equates to a real terms increase of 3.1% in resource budgets.
- There will be a 3.4 per cent real terms increase in the Health Education England budget, providing £150 million for professional development and an £1,000 central training budget for nurses and midwives
- There will be a £1bn increase to NHS Capital Spending and £854m of new funding for upgrading of facilities, buildings, and infrastructure in 20 hospitals.
- £250m announced for investment in AI, of which £78m available in 2020-2021

In February 2019, Council approved the 2019-20 budget, which included growth of £5.995m for Adult social care (funded by the 2% precept) to fund underlying pressures, offset by MTFS savings of £1.446m and assumed the continuation of the BCF funding for the protection of social care at the 2018-19 (of £5.889m) levels given the commitment to steady state funding. The HWBB should note that the amount of funding transferring to the Local Authority for 2019-20 is agreed at £6.112m and represents the minimum funding for the protection of social care services.

Financial models to support the development of the local and NWL STP are being jointly developed by CCG CFOs. These plans are expected to assist in contributing to and achieving financial balance for health budgets. These plans will be presented as they are developed for consideration and approval through the relevant governance processes (CCG & LA), to ensure that any proposals can be delivered within the existing MTFS and financial plans.

The CCG has an in year deficit control total of £29.4m. To deliver this plan the CCG is expected to achieve £11.35m QIPP savings (3.2% of notified allocation). A recovery plan across all NWL CCG's has been instituted but there are still significant headwinds especially in acute services, where the CCG has seen significant pressures in planned care and Non Elective activity

Legal Implications/Comments

The HWWB is required by the relevant government guidance governing the submission of the Better Care Funding application to approve the terms of the submission, and its terms of reference enable the Board to do so if satisfied. The terms include to consider how to best use the totality of resources available for health and wellbeing, and to agree health and wellbeing priorities for Harrow.

Risk Management Implications

The joint plans will be developed based on a number of principles that ensure the risks to both organisations are mitigated as far as possible. Work

continues to align the plans around the different planning timescales for both organisations.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

Council Priorities

The Better Care Fund aims, through joint working between Health, the Council and partner organisations, to make a difference both for the vulnerable and for families supporting those most in need.

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

Name: Dawn Calvert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief Financial Officer
Date: 16 th September 2019		
Name: Sharon Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 16 th September 2019		

Name: Paul Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Director
Date: 12.09.19		

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

Contact: Donna Edwards, Finance Business Partner Peoples Directorate,
Tel: 020-8420-9252 donna.edwards@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

2019-20 Better Care Fund: Policy Framework [published 10th April 2019]
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/821676/Better_Care_Fund_2019-20_Policy_Framework.pdf

NHS Operational Planning and Contracting Guidance for 2019-20 [published 10th January 2019]
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/nhs-operational-planning-and-contracting-guidance.pdf>

Better Care Fund: Planning Requirements for 2019-20 [published 18th July 2019]
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/821675/BCF_Planning_Requirements_2019-20_DHSC_1.pdf

Minimum allocations for the Better Care Fund from CCGs in 2019-20
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/minimum-allocations-for-the-better-care-fund-from-ccgs-for-2019-20/>