

Southend Health and Wellbeing Board 03rd September 2014

Appendix 1 – Better Care Fund Update

1. Introduction

On 26th March 2014 the Health and Wellbeing Board approved the Better Care Fund plan.

Since approval the Joint Executive Group (JEG) has met regularly to review progression and direct future activity.

The overarching aim of the JEG is to ensure that Southend is the healthiest town in England by 2020 for all residents from birth to old age. We aim to do this by taking a broad spectrum approach encompassing health, social care, leisure, schools and regulatory services such as licensing for alcohol outlets.

The members of the JEG are:

Southend on Sea Borough Council
Southend Clinical Commissioning Group
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

2. Update on the Better Care Fund

The Board are requested to note the following updates;

At a national level BCF final plans were submitted in April 2014 and have subsequently been subject to an assurance process led by the NHS England Area Teams together with Local Government regional peers. Whilst the assurance process has demonstrated some improvement on the draft plans submitted in February, it has also shown that further work is required on the final plan, particularly around metrics, financial data and provider engagement.

Ministers have confirmed that no BCF plans would be signed off and that further time would be provided to CCGs and Councils, working with the Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) to refine their plans during Summer 2014.

In addition to resolving issues with the completeness and robustness of data submitted, there are a number of areas on which further information is required from the planning process in order for NHS England to be assured of a rigorous and robust process. This includes providing a more detailed breakdown of planned

investments and savings, clarification on the impact of the BCF on emergency admissions and agreement on the consequential impact on the acute sector.

Revised BCF guidance was circulated in July 2014 and resubmissions have been requested by NHS England for 19th September 2014.

The revised guidance, documents sent to HWBs on 25th July 2014, states that the BCF plans should be a balanced approach to reducing Total Emergency Admissions, out-of-hospital services and the protection of social services. As a principle to the revised guidance HWBs are asked to note, through the guidance, that a proportion of the BCF is linked to the performance and reduction in total emergency admissions.

3. Governance

Southends' Health and Wellbeing Board monitors high level progress and receives regular progress reports.

The Health and Wellbeing Board sets the strategic direction for BCF and has tasked the JEG to monitor progress. The JEG reports on progress to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Each organisation will monitor its own delivery through its internal organisational Boards.

Given the scale and complexity of change needed the partnership has adopted a structured programme approach. This includes consideration and mitigation of risks to the project to ensure progression at scale and pace.

4. Challenges to Southend following revised guidance

The Board is asked to note that the following challenges have been identified by Southend as a result of the revised BCF guidance.

The baseline of current admissions is being used to calculate the total emergency admission reduction. The baseline is being used from Q4 13/14 and Q1 – 3 14/15. To fully understand the implications of a reduction in total emergency admissions Southend would need some assurance regarding the baseline.

Detailed analysis and stakeholder engagement is required to assure the HWB that the actions planned within the BCF will have the desired impact of reducing total emergency admissions, reducing residential care home admissions and protecting social services.

Providers of services to the Southend area are required to support the BCF plans and sign up to the impacts of each action.

The BCF guidance requires areas to demonstrate to what level Social Services have been protected. Against the context of Medium Term Financial Strategy and a

budget deficit for 15/16 the protection of social services is difficult to achieve unless money is diverted from original intentions to the protection of social services.

There is a risk to Southend regarding timescales of national approval and incorporation of any changes to service delivery plans.

5. Next Steps

A process has been identified by both SCCG and SBC to resolve the challenges noted above and engage with providers so that the HWB can be provided with the appropriate assurance

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