

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Strategic Director of Finance & Resources

to
Health and Wellbeing Board
on
20 March 2019

Report prepared by: Ian Ambrose
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Better Care Fund Pool Manager

For information only		For Discussion		Approval required	X
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Better Care Fund Pool – 2018/19

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1 Purpose of Report

To consider the operation of the Better Care Fund Pool during 2018/19.

2 Recommendation

Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- 2.1 Note the financial flows of the 2018/19 Better Care Fund; and
- 2.2 Agree the variation to the 2018/19 Better Care Fund to allow the reallocation of the funds associated with the jointly commissioned Carer's support scheme back to the respective parties for reinvestment back into their other Better Care Fund schemes;

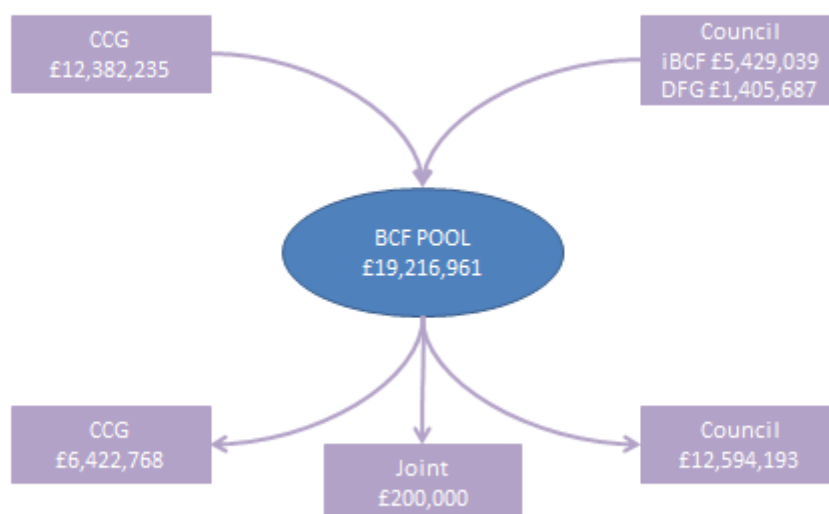
3 Background

- 3.1 The Council has responsibility for commissioning and/or providing social care services on behalf of the population of the borough of Southend-on-Sea.
- 3.2 The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has the responsibility for commissioning health services pursuant to the 2006 Act in the borough of Southend-on-Sea.
- 3.3 The Better Care Fund ("BCF") has been established by the Government to provide funds to local areas to support the integration of health and social care and to seek to achieve the National Conditions and Local Objectives. It is a requirement of the BCF that the CCG and the Council establish a pooled fund for this purpose.

- 3.4 Section 75 of the 2006 Act gives powers to local authorities and clinical commissioning groups to establish and maintain pooled funds out of which payment may be made towards expenditure incurred in the exercise of prescribed local authority functions and prescribed NHS functions, regardless of original source.
- 3.5 The purpose of the S75 Agreement is to set out the terms on which the Partners have agreed to collaborate and to establish a framework through which the Partners can secure the future position of health and social care services through lead or joint commissioning arrangements. It is also the means through which the Partners will pool funds and align budgets as agreed between the Partners.

4 Operation of the 2018/19 BCF Pool

- 4.1 The 2018/19 BCF Pool was agreed at the same time as the 2017/18 Pool under a two year arrangement. Under the 2018/19 BCF, the £17.440M pool flows to fund £6.301M CCG led schemes, £10.939M Council led schemes, and £0.200M jointly commissioned schemes around Carer's Support. The flows of money are illustrated below.



- 4.2 Under the BCF agreement for 2018/19, the funded schemes approved are:

- £6.423M CCG for Integrated Community Services
- £12.594M Council as follows
 - £4.355M Protecting Social Services
 - £1.504M Reablement, including supporting the Care Act
 - £5.329M iBCF schemes, and
 - £1.406M Disabled Facilities Grants
- £0.200M on a jointly commissioned Carer's support service.

- 4.3 Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the financial flows within the 2018/19 BCF pool.
- 4.4 Since the agreement to jointly fund carers support activity, scheme expenditure for financial year 2018/19 has been £84,000. The full budget has, during the course of 2018/19, been commissioned and the forecast expenditure for 2019/20 is £116,000.
- 4.5 The intention for the joint carers funding was to pilot an integrated budget, agree joint outcomes and jointly commission a carers support service. At the end of the pilot it was always anticipated to evaluate and review both the process and outcomes. The delay in commissioning the services at 1st April 2018 was caused as a result of the complex governance structures required to agree the commissioning process and joint outcomes and the complex mobilisation of multiple contracts with a number of different service providers. In addition, unsuitable bids were tendered by prospective providers during the first round of procurement.
- 4.6 The points noted in 4.5 will be incorporated into the evaluation of the pilot and a further report, with recommendations, will be reviewed by HWB during the course of 19/20.
- 4.7 The CCG has formally requested, as required under the S75 agreement, that their unspent contribution to this jointly funded scheme for 2018/19 be redirected towards the delivery of their integrated community services scheme. It is recommended that Health and Wellbeing Board agree to this request. In doing so, effectively Health and Wellbeing Board will also be agreeing to redirect the Council's unused contribution back to the Council's wider BCF / iBCF schemes.
- 4.8 HWB should note that both the CCG and the Council have allocated budget towards the forecast expenditure for 2019/20.
- 4.9 The carer's support jointly commissioned pilot will be fully completed by 31 March 2020.
- 4.10 It is anticipated that the 2018/19 BCF pool will be fully expended by the end of the financial year.

5 Reasons for Recommendations

Oversight of the Southend Better Care Fund and the operation of the Pool are within the remit of Health and Wellbeing Board. Under the S75 agreement that underpins the Better Care Fund, variation of the financial flows between the parties is subject to the approval of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6 Financial / Resource Implications

- 6.1 As set out in the body of the report

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 S.75 of the 2006 Act gives powers to local authorities and clinical commissioning groups to establish and maintain pooled funds out of which payment may be made towards expenditure incurred in the exercise of prescribed local authority functions and prescribed NHS functions, regardless of original source. The S.75 agreement is a legal agreement between the Council and NHS Southend CCG that provides the framework and facilitates the operation of the BCF.

8 Equality & Diversity

- 8.1 None arising from this report

9 Background Papers

None

10 Appendices

None