

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)

Date: 29 January 2014

Subject: The Better Care Fund – developing proposals in Leeds

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: 10.4.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Central government's Better Care Fund (BCF) was initially launched in October 2013 as the 'Integration Transformation Fund' and combines £3.8 billion of existing funding into a single pot aimed at transforming health and social care services. It is important to note that this is not additional funding, and that nationally the creation of the BCF will require over £2bn in savings on existing spending on acute care in order to invest more in preventive services.
2. In late December 2013, Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis and Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb issued a joint letter to all local authorities, setting out the full guidance and BCF allocations. It also set out a requirement for proposals (covering 2014/15 and 2015/16) – signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards – to be submitted by 14 February 2014
3. The attached report, due to be presented and considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 29 January 2014, provides an update on the financial position and progress towards the requirements of the Better Care Fund in Leeds since the final guidance was released on 20 December 2013.
4. A high level summary of the proposals developed to date will be circulated on 27 January 2014 (as agreed on 20 November) to enable the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to consider the proposed schemes to date. This will also be shared with members of the Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care) and feedback from the HWB will be provided at the meeting – with appropriate representatives invited to attend to assist the Scrutiny Board in its consideration of the issues presented.

5. A BCF timeline for Leeds is appended to the report to the Health and Wellbeing Board. Some of the key milestones include:
 - 27 January 2014 – High level summary of BCF schemes to Health and Wellbeing Board for discussion on 29 January 2014
 - 29 January 2014 – High level discussion at Scrutiny Board 29 January 2014
 - 14 February 2014 – Draft proposals submitted to NHS England / Local Government Association;
 - 18 March 2014 – update to Health & Wellbeing Board
 - 4 April 2014 – Final BCF plan to be submitted as part of final 2 year operational and draft 5 year strategic CCG plans
 - 20 June 2014 – Submission of final 5 year strategic CCG plan
6. Despite the tight timescales involved in developing and submitting the proposals, this provides an opportunity for the Scrutiny Board to provide comments prior to draft proposals being confirmed and 'signed-off' by the HWB at an extraordinary meeting on 12 February 2014.
7. Notwithstanding any comments the Scrutiny Board may have on the headline/ initial proposals, members might also want to consider its role in:
 - a) Monitoring future progress/ performance against the 2-year BCF proposals – including any key performance information.
 - b) The development of the 5-year BCF plans/ proposals

Recommendations

8. The Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care) is asked to:
 - a) Consider the information presented and discussed at the meeting;
 - b) Identify any specific comments it wishes to make on the draft proposals for consideration of the Health and Wellbeing Board (prior to its meeting on 12 February 2014);
 - c) Consider and agree the future role of the Scrutiny Board in:
 - i. Monitoring future progress/ performance against the 2-year Better Care Fund proposals – including any key performance information.
 - ii. The development of the 5-year Better Care Fund plans/ proposals
 - d) Determine any other specific matters that warrant further and/or more detailed scrutiny.

Background documents¹

9. None used.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.