

**TITLE OF REPORT: Better Care Fund: 2nd Quarterly Return
(2015/16) to the Department of Health**

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the endorsement of the Health & Wellbeing Board to the Better Care Fund return to the Department of Health for the 2nd Quarter of 2015/16.

Background

2. The HWB approved the Gateshead Better Care Fund (BCF) submission for Gateshead at its meeting on 19 September 2014, which in turn was approved by NHS England in December 2014.
3. NHS England has introduced quarterly monitoring arrangements for the BCF which requires a template return to be submitted in respect of each BCF Plan.
4. The Board endorsed the Quarter 4 return for 2014/2015 at its meeting on 5th June 2015 and the Quarter 1 return for 2015/16 at its meeting on 11th September 2015. The returns focused on the budget arrangements and national conditions relating to the BCF and included a narrative section to provide a progress update.
5. The Board's Forward Plan for 2015/16 includes a Performance Management section of the agenda which is being used to update the Board on progress in relation to the BCF and other key indicators linked to our health and wellbeing agenda. It has previously been agreed that this, in turn, will be used to inform future returns to NHS England/ Department of Health.

Quarter 2 Template Return for 2015/16

6. The Board considered a Performance Review Update report at its last meeting on 23rd October, which included the BCF. It was noted that this would be used for inform the Quarter 2 return - due for submission on 27th November.
7. A return has been submitted to the Department of Health in line with the deadline set which reflects the data trends reported to the Board at its October meeting. The return provides a progress update and sets out the current

position in relation to funding arrangements, national BCF conditions, metrics and potential support from NHS England in preparing for BCF 2016/17.

Future BCF Quarter Returns for 2015/16

8. The deadlines for the completion of future quarterly returns for 2015/16 are as follows:

Q3 2015/16: 26/02/2016

Q4 2015/16: 27/05/2016

9. As per the Forward Plan, the Board will consider a performance update (including the BCF) at its meeting on 15th January which will then inform the Q3 quarter return to the Department of Health. As part of this, any issues likely to impact upon the return will be brought to the attention of the Board for consideration. Similar arrangements will apply for subsequent returns as required.

Proposal

10. It is proposed that the Board endorse the 2nd Quarter BCF return for 2015/16.

Recommendations

11. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to endorse the Better Care Fund 2nd Quarter return for 2015/16 (attached as an excel document) to the Department of Health in line with the arrangements previously agreed for the submission of returns.

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