

**TITLE OF REPORT: Better Care Fund: 1st 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 1st 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 which focused on the budget arrangements and national conditions relating to the BCF. It also included a narrative section to provide any additional information, including an explanation of any material variances against the plan and the performance trajectory that was approved.
5. The Board's Forward Plan for 2015/16 (agreed at its last meeting on 17 July) includes a new Performance Management section of the agenda which will be used to update the Board on progress in relation to the BCF and other key indicators linked to our health and wellbeing agenda. It was also agreed that this, in turn, would be used to inform future returns to the Department of Health.

Quarter 1 2015/16 Template Return

6. The Board also considered a Performance Review Update report at its meeting on 17 July, which included the BCF. It was noted that this would be used for inform the Quarter 1 return due for submission on 28th August.
7. A return has been submitted to the Department of Health (attached) in line with the deadline set which reflects the data trends reported to the Board at its July meeting. The return provides a progress update and sets out the current

position in relation to funding arrangements, national BCF conditions, local metrics and potential support from NHS England.

Future BCF Quarter Returns for 2015/16

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

Q2 2015/16: 27/11/2015

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 23rd October which will then inform the Q2 quarter return to the Department of Health. As part of this, any issues likely to impact upon return will be brought to the attention of the Board for consideration. Similar arrangements will apply for subsequent returns as required.

Proposal

10. The Board is asked to endorse the 1st Quarter BCF return for 2015/16.

Recommendations

11. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to endorse the Better Care Fund 1st Quarter return for 2015/16 to the Department of Health in line with the arrangements previously agreed for the submission of returns.

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