

TITLE OF REPORT: Gateshead Better Care Fund 2019/20: Submission requirements and update

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update to the Health & Wellbeing Board on the Better Care Fund Plan submission requirements for 2019-20 and to set out the current position in relation to the development of the Gateshead submission.

Background

2. The Better Care Fund (BCF) was originally announced by the Government in the June 2013 spending round, with the goal to secure a transformation in integrated health and social care. The BCF created a local single pooled budget to incentivise the NHS and local government to work more closely together around the needs of people, placing their wellbeing as the focus of health and care services, and shifting resources into community and social care services for the benefit of local people, communities and the health and care economy.
3. The HWB approved the Better Care Fund (BCF) 2017-19 submission for Gateshead at its meeting on 8th September 2017, which in turn was approved by NHS England.
4. NHS England published the BCF Planning Requirements for 2019/20 in July. The guidance set out the details of national conditions to be met, metrics to be included in plans (against which the progress made by local areas will be monitored), and requirements relating to the narrative components of the Plan. Details were also provided on funding arrangements and requirements, the process for agreeing plans and providing necessary assurance to NHS England. The deadline for the submission of agreed plans to NHS England is the 27th September 2019.
5. The BCF in 2019-20 will continue to provide a mechanism for personalised, integrated approaches to health and care that support people to remain independent at home or to return to independence after an episode in hospital. The continuation of the national conditions and requirements of the BCF from 2017-19 to 2019-20 provides opportunities for health and care partners to build on their plans from 2017 to embed joint working and integrated care further.

National Conditions and Metrics

6. For 2019-20, there are four national conditions relating to the BCF, similar to those for the previous round of the BCF programme:
 - (i) Plans to be jointly agreed and signed off by the HWB and by the constituent local authorities and CCGs.
 - (ii) NHS contribution to adult social care is maintained in line with the uplift to the CCG's minimum contribution.
 - (iii) Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, which may include seven-day services and adult social care.
 - (iv) A clear plan on managing transfers of care, including the implementation of the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care. As part of this, all HWBs must adopt centrally-set expectations for reducing or managing rates of delayed transfers of care (DToC) during 2019/20 into their BCF plans.
7. The BCF Policy Framework sets out the four national metrics for the fund, which will remain as:
 - Non-elective admissions (Acute);
 - Admissions to residential and care homes;
 - Effectiveness of reablement; and
 - Delayed transfers of care (DToC).
8. All BCF plans must include ambitions for each of the four metrics and plans for achieving these are a condition of access to the fund.
9. Expectations for reducing DToC will continue to be set centrally for each HWB area – for Gateshead, the DToC target for 2019/20 will continue to be based on quarter 3 performance in 2017/18 which was one of the best performing quarters (an average of 6.5 daily delays). In setting targets for the other metrics, consideration has been given to performance against the targets set for 2018-19.
10. The main change in the BCF Planning Requirements is that separate narrative plans will be replaced with a single template that will include short narrative sections covering:
 - the local approach to integration;
 - plans to achieve metrics; and
 - plans for ongoing implementation of the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care.

BCF Schemes 2019-20

11. As for the previous BCF submission (2017-19), schemes are being grouped under five broad areas which reflect key priority areas and arrangements in place to address them:
 - Service Transformation
 - Market Shaping and Stabilisation
 - Managing discharges and admission avoidance

- Planned care
- Service pressures

BCF Funding

12. Details of the BCF financial breakdown for Gateshead for 2019/20 is set out below:

BCF Contribution	2019-20 (£)
Minimum NHS (CCG) Contribution	£16,235,688 *
Disabled Facilities Grant (capital funding for adaptations to houses)	£ 1,860,611
Improved Better Care Fund	£ 9,918,556
Winter Pressures Grant	£ 1,133,285
Total	£29,148,140

* i.e. an uplift of 4.3% on the CCG's Minimum Contribution for 2018/19

- The Improved BCF grant will be pooled into the BCF similar to 2017-19. In addition, there is a new requirement that winter pressures funding is also pooled into the BCF from 2019-20. The BCF Plan will need to set out an agreed approach to the use of the grant, including how the funding will be used to ensure capacity is available in Winter to support safe discharge and admissions avoidance.
- The BCF submission template will need to include details of scheme level expenditure plans, the metrics that schemes are intended to influence and indicative outputs.
- In advance of the submission of plans to NHS England, there is also a requirement for the CCG to submit a template by 6th September relating to the uplift to the social care element of the fund i.e. an uplift of £263,000.

Developing Gateshead's BCF Submission for 2019-20

- As in previous years, existing working arrangements in place are being used to develop our BCF submission for 2019-20. A further report will be brought to the 18th October meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board seeking retrospective approval of the BCF submission.

Approval of BCF Plans

- BCF plans will be approved by NHS England following a joint NHS and local government assurance process at regional level. In addition to the national conditions and the requirement to set the four national metrics, NHS England is also placing the following requirements for approval of BCF plans:

- That all funding agreed as part of the BCF plan must be transferred into one or more pooled funds.
- That all plans are approved by NHS England in consultation with the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG).

18. NHS England will approve plans for spend from the CCG minimum contribution in consultation with DHSC and MHCLG as part of overall approval of BCF plans.

Recommendations

19. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (i) note the key components of the national BCF planning requirements for 2019/20 and the arrangements for developing the Gateshead BCF Plan;
- (ii) receive a further report at its meeting on 18th October to formally agree the Gateshead BCF Plan retrospectively (which will need to be submitted to NHS England by 27th September).

Contact: John Costello (0191) 4332065