

**TITLE OF REPORT: Better Care Fund: 3rd 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 3rd 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 introduced quarterly monitoring arrangements for the BCF which requires a template return to be submitted in respect of our BCF Plan.
4. The Board has previously endorsed the Quarter 4 return for 2014/2015 and Quarters 1 and 2 returns for 2015/16.
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 3 Template Return for 2015/16

6. The Board considered a Performance Review Update report at its last meeting on 15th January, which included the BCF. It was noted that this would be used for inform the Quarter 3 return - due for submission on 26th February.
7. A return has been prepared for submission to the Department of Health which reflects the data trends reported to the Board at its January meeting. The return provides a progress update and sets out the current position in relation to funding arrangements, national BCF conditions, metrics, potential support from NHS England etc.

Future BCF Quarterly Returns for 2015/16

8. The deadline for the completion of the final quarterly return for 2015/16 is the 27th May 2016.
9. As per the Forward Plan, the Board will consider a performance update (including the BCF) at its meeting on 22nd April which will inform the Q4 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 3rd Quarter BCF return for 2015/16.

Recommendations

11. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to endorse the Better Care Fund 3rd 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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