

8 September 2017		ITEM: 5
Health and Wellbeing Board		
Thurrock Better Care Fund Plan 2017-19		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Report of: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health; and Mandy Ansell, Accountable Officer Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group		
Accountable Head of Service: n/a		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health; and Mandy Ansell, Accountable Officer Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

The Better Care Fund provides the mechanism for joining up health and social care planning and commissioning, bringing together ring-fenced budgets from Clinical Commissioning Group allocations, the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and funding paid directly to local government for adult social care services – the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF).

All local areas are required to have Better Care Fund Plans in place to outline how health and adult social care will deliver their integration agenda and how services for local people will be improved. To date the requirement has been for annual BCF plans, but from 2017-18 the requirement is that they span a two year period. The Plan is subject to a regional assurance process with final sign-off expected in October 2017. This will follow a submission deadline of 11th September 2017.

Thurrock's Better Care Fund focuses on people aged 65 and above who are most likely to be at risk of hospital or residential home admission. This is the cohort who will benefit most from the development and delivery of an integrated approach to health and social care. The Plan's four schemes describe how this is to be achieved and includes a focus on early intervention and prevention, out of hospital integration, and good discharge planning.

The value of the Fund for the year 2017-18 has increased from £27.6m in 2016-17, to £40.25m. Our aim is to have a fully integrated out of hospital budget for people aged 65 and above.

The Fund and how it is spent is governed by a Section 75 agreement, the arrangements for which have been agreed but will be updated to incorporate changes in the Fund's value and also to reflect the detail of the updated schemes.

1. Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1.1 Agree Thurrock's Better Care Fund Plan for 2017-19; and**
- 1.2 Agree to delegate the approval of any minor changes made to the Plan after the 8th September Board meeting to the Board Chair, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health, and Accountable Officer (Thurrock CCG).**

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Better Care Fund requires Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities to pool their budgets and to agree an integrated spending plan for how they will use their Better Care Fund allocation.
- 2.2 Thurrock's 2016-17 Plan focused on people aged 65 and above, totalled £27.6 million and contained four key schemes:
 - 1 – Prevention and Early Intervention
 - 2 – Out of hospital community integration
 - 3 – Intermediate Care
 - 4 – Disabled Facilities Grant
- 2.3 The Integration and Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2017-19 set out the requirements for all Better Care Fund Plans. Key changes this year include:
 - A requirement to produce 2-year plans;
 - A reduction in national conditions from seven to four (whilst still being required to demonstrate how all seven are being delivered);
 - A focus on reducing delayed transfers of care – including as a national condition and also the requirement to achieve a national target of 3.5% of occupied bed days by September 2017; and
 - A requirement to pool the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF), provided to local authorities by the DCLG, within the BCF;
- 2.4 The introduction of the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) has enabled additional investments to be made consistent with grant conditions that are: meeting adult social care needs; reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready; and ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.
- 2.5 The report asks the Board to approve Thurrock's Better Care Fund Plan for 2017-19, and also asks the Board to agree to delegate the approval of any

minor changes to the Board's Chair, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health, and Accountable Officer (Thurrock CCG).

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

Focus

- 3.1 Since 2015-16, the focus of our Better Care Fund has been on developing an integrated approach to health and social care for people aged 65 and above. We know that complex and frail people with long-term conditions account for the majority of spend across the health and care system, and are the group that would respond best to coordinated, proactive and integrated health and social care. The Fund has been added to year on year so that in 2017-19 it contains the vast majority of the community health and adult social care budget for that cohort – this was an ambition that we restated within our 2016-17 Plan.
- 3.2 The national focus in 2015-16 was for Plans to deliver a 3.5% reduction in non-elective admissions. Thurrock achieved a 3.2% reduction and as a result received £722 to invest in new initiatives consistent with our direction of travel for health and social care.
- 3.3 Our 2017-19 Plan remains consistent with the direction outlined in our 2015-16 and 2016-17 plans. It is also consistent with our integrated transformation programme (For Thurrock in Thurrock) which outlines our approach to both system change and demand management. As such, the 17-19 Plan will reflect the shift towards establishing a 'population health' approach – as reflected in the pilot work being undertaken in Tilbury and Chadwell. Additional investment through the IBCF will allow improvements and change to be accelerated – particularly in relation to reducing Delayed Transfers of Care and also the delivery of the eight High Impact Change Models.
- 3.4 The key components of the 17-19 Plan will be:
- Whole-system change – delivery of a population-health approach which will incorporate the development of Integrated Medical Centres;
 - Development of and expansion of existing schemes – consistent with For Thurrock in Thurrock; and
 - A focus on Delayed Transfers of Care and delivery of the 8 High Impact Change Models – as reflected by the delivering 'good discharge' scheme.

Schemes

- 3.5 There are four schemes contained within the 2017-19 Plans. These are:

1 – Prevention and Early Intervention – initiatives that focus on preventing, reducing and delaying the need for health and social care as well as enabling early identification and management of long-term conditions.

2 – Out of Hospital Community Integration – the scheme focuses on the development of locality-based integrated health and care system. In 2016-17,

the focus of the scheme was the development of an Older Adult Integrated Wellbeing Team. The scheme for 2017-19 expands this further by incorporating plans to develop and deliver a new models of care pilot in Tilbury and Chadwell – responding to a ‘case for change’ being prepared by the Director of Public Health. The pilot will look at a number of different areas that includes: primary care transformation; developing an integrated workforce; improved Long Term Condition identification and management. The pilot will provide the blueprint for health and social care across the Borough.

3 – Good discharge – during 2016-17, scheme 3 focused on reorganising intermediate care bed capacity to ensure that Thurrock people were able to access intermediate care beds in a Thurrock location. The project was completed during this period of time. A significant focus of the 17-19 plan is on preventing and reducing delayed transfers of care. This scheme outlines how that can be achieved through the development and delivery of ‘good discharge’.

4 – Disabled Facilities Grant – This scheme contains the funding received to support major adaptations for owner occupiers, private tenants or housing association tenants. It also contains funding previously known as the Social Care Capital Fund.

The scheme totals are detailed below:

Scheme Ref	Scheme Name	Amount £m
1	Prevention and Early Intervention	£3.235
2	Out of Hospital Community Integration	£28.211
3	Delivering Good Discharge	£7.816
4	Disabled Facilities Grant	£0.988
		£40.251

Next Steps

- 3.6 The deadline for Plan submissions is 11th September. Following the submission, all plans will be subjected to an assurance process. Areas are expected to find out if their plans have been approved during week commencing 6th October. Those areas whose plans have been approved but with conditions will be required to resubmit before the end of the month.

- 3.7 Following agreement, Thurrock's Section 75 Better Care Fund Agreement will be updated to reflect amounts for 17-18 (and indicative amounts for 18-19) and also to reflect the updated schemes. Given that the Plan spans two years, the Agreement will also span the same 2-year period.
- 3.8 With plans covering 2017-19, it is anticipated that process for reviewing plans prior to 18-19 will be very light touch with areas taking stock of progress and reviewing performance targets and also financial contributions. The Board already receives progress reports via receipt of Integrated Commissioning Executive minutes, and will be made aware of the 18-19 process when it has been confirmed.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 All Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities in every single area are required to pool budgets and set out how they will use their Better Care Fund allocation.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 The direction of travel for health and social care integrated embodied within the Better Care Fund Plan reflects or takes in to account feedback received from consultation and engagement already carried out. For example via For Thurrock in Thurrock and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Specific elements of the Plan may be subject to further consultation and engagement as they progress.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The Plan contributes to the 'Improve Health and Wellbeing Priority'. It also contributes towards the delivery of the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016 – 2021.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Jo Freeman**
Management Accountant

The Better Care Fund is made up of contributions from the Council and Thurrock CCG. The mandated amount as confirmed on the 4th July 2017 is £10,047,561 for Thurrock CCG and £988,004 for Thurrock Council. Additional contributions for 2017-18 equate to £29,215,802.

The nature of the expenditure is an agreed ring-fenced fund. Financial risk is therefore minimised and governed by the terms set out in the Section 75

agreement and closely monitored through the monthly ICE committee meetings.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**
Principal Solicitor Safeguarding

Entry of the Council into the Better Care Fund Agreement is governed by S75 of the NHS Act 2006. The procurement of specific services by the Council utilising the Better Care Fund is a separate process for consideration and will be the subject of a further report. Legal Services will ensure its continuing availability to support the Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health and appropriate colleagues.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Price**
Community Development Officer

The vision of the Better Care Fund is improve outcomes for patients, service users and carers through the provision of better co-ordinated health and social care services. The commissioning plans developed to realise this vision will be developed with due regard to equality and diversity considerations.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Integration and Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2017-19

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 - Thurrock Better Care Fund Plan 2017-19

Report Author:

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Adults, Housing and Health