

**Health Scrutiny Committee**

**Report of the Chief Accountable Officer, Dudley CCG**

**The Better Care Fund (BCF)**

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the current position in relation to the Better Care Fund (BCF).

**2.0 Background**

- 2.1 At its last meeting the Committee received a report on the BCF. The Committee will recall that, at that time, The BCF Plan was awaiting formal sign off by the Health and Wellbeing Board and would be subject to a national assurance process.
- 2.2 The BCF Plan (a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1) was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
- 2.3 Following an assurance process, the BCF Plan has been assessed as “approved with conditions”. The main condition relates to the planned reduction in emergency admissions and whether this is achievable. Further work is now taking place to assess what the potential scenarios may be in relation to this before a resubmission is made. An action plan setting out how we will review the plan has to be submitted by 14<sup>th</sup> November and it is anticipated that a resubmission will be made by early December.
- 2.4 The Committee will note that the annexes to the BCF Plan set out the main schemes to be implemented with the intention of reducing admissions to secondary care and enabling the associated financial plan to balance. These are at varying stages of development but there is a clear imperative to implement these as rapidly as possible if the target level of admission reduction is to be achieved. Work is taking place to review current progress and ensure the appropriate programme management arrangements are in place for successful delivery.

2.5 The Committee will recall that the performance element of the BCF (£5.9m) is based purely on delivering the required reduction in emergency admissions. This requires close performance monitoring in order to manage the associated risk to both the CCG and the Council. Other performance indicators, such as the level of admissions to residential/nursing home care and delayed transfers of care, are important to the overall success of the health and social care system. Therefore, these will feature in a more comprehensive performance framework which will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **3.0 Finance**

3.1 The respective contributions to the BCF are set out in the Appendix. In particular, the issue of how risk will be managed between the CCG and the Council is addressed.

### **4.0 Law**

4.1 The pooled budget to be used to facilitate the creation of the BCF will be created using powers contained in Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006.

### **5.0 Equality Impact**

5.1 The integrated services model that underpins the BCF is designed specifically to respond to health inequalities identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the CCG's Operational Plan.

### **6.0 Recommendation**

6.1 That the position in relation to The Better Care Fund be noted

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