

**DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**Agenda Item No.10**

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>	<b>Better Care Fund</b>
<b>Organisation and Author</b>	Joint Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Chief Officer of the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To update the Board on the progress made on the Better Care Fund (BCF) in Dudley
<b>Key points to note</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the meeting of the Board On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014, approval was given to the Dudley Better Care Fund Plan.</li> <li>• Following an assurance process run by NHS England, the Dudley BCF Plan has been assessed as “approved with conditions”.</li> <li>• The prime condition relates to the level of ambition expressed for reducing emergency admissions.</li> <li>• Colleagues from the CCG and the Council have met to discuss the implications of this.</li> <li>• The required action plan setting out the process for dealing with outstanding issues has been submitted to NHS England.</li> <li>• Work is taking place to agree a revised plan for reducing emergency admissions and the associated financial implications including the impact on the protection of spending on adult social care.</li> <li>• A revised plan will be submitted by 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014 in order to allow adequate time for any further feedback from NHS England.</li> <li>• A further update will be given to the meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommendations for the Board</b>	That the Board note the current status of the BCF submission for Dudley.
<b>Item type</b>	<i>Information, discussion, strategy</i>
<b>H&amp;WB strategy priority area</b>	<i>All</i>

## **DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2014**

**REPORT OF: Joint Report of the Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services and the Chief Officer of the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group**

### **BETTER CARE FUND**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To update the Board on progress made on the Better Care Fund (BCF) in Dudley.

#### **Background**

2. The Board will recall that it received a presentation at its September meeting, setting out the work that had taken place to develop Dudley's BCF Plan, in the light of changes that had taken place to the national BCF planning requirements, which made a reduction in emergency admissions the main criteria for gaining access to the performance related element of the BCF.
3. This Plan was subsequently the subject of an assurance exercise carried out by NHS England, the result of which was that the Plan was "approved with conditions".
4. This conditional approval was based upon concerns that the planned reduction of emergency admissions, designed to save £7.5m over two years, was too ambitious. This planned pace of change was designed to ensure that the CCG would be able to free up the resources necessary to transfer into the fund and, inter alia, protect the funding of adult social care in line with the national conditions associated with the BCF.
5. A slower pace of change limits the scope for freeing up these resources to the extent required to protect spending on adult social care, thus presenting a risk to the Council.
6. Colleagues from the CCG and the Council have met to review the BCF Plan with a view to re-profiling the planned reduction in emergency admissions in a manner that would enable the conditional approval to be removed and the financial risk to the Council mitigated.
7. An outline approach has been agreed and at the time of writing this report, further work is taking place to finalise this for agreement.

- An update on the proposed way forward will be given to the Board. In the meantime, an action plan has been submitted to NHS England setting out the process that will be followed to reach a satisfactory agreement, with the aim of resubmitting the revised BCF Plan by 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2014.

### **Finance**

- Any financial implications arising from the content of this report will be met from within existing budgets between the agencies.

### **Law**

- The legal framework for the development of the BCF and the associated budgetary arrangements is set out in the Care Act 2014..

### **Equality Impact**

- The aims of the Better Care Fund are consistent with principles of health and social care to improve the health of people living in Dudley and the quality of health services which they experience. The appropriate avoidance of hospital admission is designed to benefit all sectors of the population.

### **Recommendation**

- That the position on the Dudley BCF Plan be noted.



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**Director – DACHS**



**Paul Maubach**

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Dudley CCG**

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