

Better Care Fund 2017-19

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 24th May 2017

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Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To provide an update on the Better Care Fund planning process and resource allocation.
- 1.2 The Health & Wellbeing Board is required to sign off the Better Care Fund Plan and proposed spending.

2. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 Recommend to Cabinet that:
 - 1) The proposed spend on the additional funding of £2.914m as outlined in the Spring Budget 2017 be agreed.
 - 2) The Director of Adult Services be authorised to produce the Better Care Fund Plan, in conjunction with the Accountable Officer of the Clinical Commissioning Group, in line with statutory guidance published by NHS England with the level of adult social care spending protected in line with spent in 2016/17 plus inflation of 1.79%.
 - 3) The Director of Adult Services, the Director of Finance, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to update the National Health Services 2004 Section 75 Agreement with the Better Care Fund agreed funding.

3. Detail

Better Care Fund Planning Guidance

- 3.1 We are currently awaiting the Better Care Fund Planning guidance from NHS England. Once received there will be a time limit of six weeks in which to produce the plan.
- 3.2 The Local Government Association has published draft guidance and officers are now working with the Clinical Commissioning Group to produce the Better care Fund Plan. The plan will outline our plans for developing integrated commissioning and integrated working.

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- 3.3 In recognition of the continued demand on adult social care, the Chancellor announced additional funding for adult social care; £1bn in 2017-18, with a further £1bn over the following two years. Mr Hammond also announced £100m to help improve the flow of patients through accident and emergency departments, and £325m in capital funding to help implement plans for closer co-operation between the NHS and local authorities in some parts of England.
- 3.4 This additional funding for Swindon represents £2.914m for 2017/18, £2.4m for 2018/19, £1.2m for 2019/20. At this moment in time, the funding is non – recurring with a review into adult social care expected in the autumn of 2017.
- 3.5 The grant paid to a local authority may be used only for the purposes of 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.
- 3.6 The recipient local authority must:
 - 3.6.1 Pool the grant funding into the local Better Care Fund, unless an area has written Ministerial exemption;
 - 3.6.2 Work with the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group and providers to meet National Condition 4 (Managing Transfers of Care) in the Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework and Planning Requirements 2017-19; and 2017-19 Integration and Better Care Fund;
 - 3.6.3 Provide quarterly reports as required by the Secretary of State.
- 3.7 The government has stated that the funding is intended to support local authorities in providing stability and additional capacity within the adult social care market and can be spent as soon as local plans are agreed.
- 3.8 In response to the financial pressures on adult social services, the Council has taken a number of steps already in order to transform the adult social care system and improve outcomes for residents in Swindon.
- 3.9 The Council has increased the Adult Social Care budget from £60.4m in 2016/17 to £67.3m in 2017/18 due to the additional funded needed to support the service in 2016/17 and estimate of continued increase in demand for 2017/18.
- 3.10 The Council has embarked on a transformation programme with dedicated additional capacity to improve:
 - 3.10.1 Delivery and efficiency of the reablement services to increase capacity so that an additional 220 people will benefit from the service with an aim of become more independent.

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- 3.10.2 Re-design the way the hospital social work team works to enable timely discharge of patients and reduce delays, particularly due to social work assessment and admission to residential and nursing homes.
- 3.10.3 Re-design the 'front door' of adult social care and provide strong links to the voluntary and third sector.
- 3.10.4 Redesign the way we work including assessment and review processes in social work and occupational therapy services to that assessments are timely and promote independence.
- 3.11 The Council recognises that capacity within domiciliary care, residential and nursing care is important given that a number of providers have left the market. We are working closely with our providers to manage the capacity levels.
- 3.12 The Council proposed to invest £2.914m in 2017/18 into Older People services, recognising that funding reduces in 2018/19 in:
- 3.12.1 Funding additional capacity for care packages and fee increase in domiciliary care and care homes including national living wage pressures (£2m).
- 3.12.2 Implement a redesign programme as outlined above starting in April 2017 with reablement and hospital social work team.
- 3.12.3 Potential one off investment into social care services whilst services are re-designed.
- 3.12.4 Following outcome of re-design process consider what financial support is required to secure sustainable long term improvements in adult social care.
- 3.12.5 Contribute financially to a system wide contingency fund.
- 3.13 The majority of the funding is allocated to increasing capacity in older people care packages of £2m leaving a contingency of £900k which is planned to be allocated in the following way.

Item	£
Additional therapy staff to prevent admission to hospital	135
Additional social work and change staff for implementation of change programme	320
Reablement therapy staff	130
Winter contingency	100

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To be allocated	215
Total	900

The remainder of the contingency is held for additional pressure in older people services.

- 3.14 In addition to these investments, the Local Authority and the Clinical Commissioning Group already invest in the High Impact Changes recommended by the Local Government Association and NHS England to reduced pressure on the NHS and improve patient flow. Furthermore, the **Simpler.Stronger.Swindon** change programme has specific work streams to reduce delayed discharges of care due to social work assessment and improve capacity in reablement.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The alternative is not to allocate the funding in this way which would reduce the level of care packages and support to older people as set out in 3.12.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 The financial information is included in this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 None.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 None.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No DIA has been produced for this investment as this is not the full Better care Fund Plan.

Risk Management

- 5.5 None.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 Executive Management group of the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 6.2 The Director of Finance and the Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

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7. Background Papers

7.1 LGA publication of draft planning guidance:

<http://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2017%2004%2027%20Assurance%20slides%20and%20KLOEs%20v3%203.pdf>

8. Appendices

8.1 None.