

Westminster Health & Wellbeing Board

Date:	20th November 2014
Classification:	General Release
Title:	UPDATE ON THE BETTER CARE FUND
Report of:	Executive Director Adult Social Care
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	The programme of work is consistent with the stated vision and objectives of the partners within the Westminster Health & Wellbeing Board, and is a mechanism for delivering the outcomes and efficiencies required from Better City, Better Lives.
Financial Summary:	The Better Care Fund (BCF) brings together a number of existing funding sources for savings. The BCF in 2015/16 ensures that Tri-borough receives funding for the Care Act (£748k for WCC), all the investment costs of the new Community Independence Service (£856k for WCC) and should generate recurrent savings (£2.2m for WCC in 2015/16). It also protects social care by continuing to pass through the Social Care to Benefit Health funding, currently worth £4.9m in WCC.
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1. Summary

- 1.1 On 18th September Westminster Health & Wellbeing Board discussed the revised Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan which was due to be submitted the following day. The revised text was not available at the meeting but the paper presented explained the areas of change and a verbal update was provided on the negotiations being undertaken between the Local Authority and the NHS to finalise the financial arrangements of the fund. The plan was submitted late on 19th September, with the approval of the Cabinet Member, and a copy circulated to all members of the Board on 22nd September with a covering note from the Executive Director.

- 1.2 As indicated at the Board Meeting, the overall plan is the same as that submitted in April but over the summer there was a change of emphasis in relation to the national funding flows. The purpose of this was to mitigate the potential risk to hospitals of slow delivery of the proposals for out of hospital care, but it did create an increased risk to social care. This has been addressed locally through constructive negotiations between the CCGs and the local authorities ensuring that council leaders are satisfied that actual and potential social care costs arising from the BCF are adequately protected.
- 1.3 Following submission there was a period of three weeks during which NHS England reviewed the submissions and brought queries and clarifications to the partners in order to provide assurance that the BCF Plan proposed was robust and achievable. Following this exhaustive process the Tri-borough Better Care Fund Plans were given assurance without conditions and given the go ahead to proceed with implementation.
- 1.4 The Better Care Fund Steering Group has been meeting to drive forward the four workstreams and in particular progress has been made with the development of the Community Independence Service which forms a key component of the development of integrated health and social care in the borough. A specification has been agreed and providers have been invited to submit proposals to lead the CIS programme.
- 1.5 Work has also been progressing on the commissioning of additional neuro-rehabilitation beds, implementation of a 7 day social care service to facilitate discharges and prevent unnecessary admissions and developing an integrated placement team.
- 1.6 The three Cabinet Members and CCG Chairs have agreed to the establishment of a BCF Board to oversee implementation and this will ensure regular reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Boards on progress.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the
Background Papers please contact:**

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APPENDICES:

BACKGROUND PAPERS: