

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING
BOARD**

Better Care Fund (BCF) – 2017/19 Plan submission - Process and Timescales

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the process and timescales for submitting the Better Care Fund 2017/19 Plan.
- 1.2 To seeks permission from the Health and Wellbeing Board to submit a BCF plan outside of the current meeting timescales for virtual consideration and approval.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Better Care Fund (BCF) is a programme which covers both the NHS and Local Government and encourages integrated, joined-up working between health and social care to improve the health and wellbeing of local residents. CCGs and Local Authorities must enter into a pooled budget arrangement and agree an integrated spending plan for those funds.
- 2.2 These arrangements have been in place since 2013 and to date annual plans have been submitted for approval, however for 2017/18 there is a requirement to submit a two year plan, for 2017- 2019. The Integration and BCF Policy Framework for 2017-19 was released in March 2017, although the Planning Requirements and Assurance Process have still yet to be published.
- 2.3 It is known, from the published Policy framework, that there are now four national conditions for the 2017-19 plan, which are as follows:
 1. Plans to be jointly agreed.
 2. NHS contribution to adult social care is maintained in line with inflation.

3. Agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out of hospital services, which may include 7 day services and adult social care.
 4. Managing Transfers of Care.
- 2.4 The LGA have issued draft planning requirements for 2017-19 and it is clear within that that local plans must be aligned to and assessed against 36 Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs), one of which is the production of an 8 High Impact Change Model.
 - 2.5 Plans will therefore need to be jointly agreed between North Lincolnshire Council and North Lincolnshire CCG and signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board, but the announcement of the date for the first submission of that plan, along with the final guidance and assurance process, have been delayed further due to the election period. In light of this there are concerns that the submission timescales and assurance process are likely to be shorter than originally anticipated.
 - 2.6 On 26th May 2017 colleagues from the CCG attended a BCF Network meeting in which the draft KLOEs and assurance process were outlined and plans are therefore being worked up which will adhere to these, recognising that they may change in the final publication. As we are nearly at the end of Quarter 1 and there is still no announcement of the timescales for the plan submissions we are keen to ensure that an alternative sign off process is approved. The next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting is 8th September 2017, which is thought could be out of the timescales we will be required to adhere to, and as such are requesting that the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the submission of the final BCF narrative plan and planning return template being considered on a virtual basis.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To consider the suggestions outlined in paragraph 2.6

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Adopting the suggested approach allows the plan to be submitted in line with national timescales, once announced, and reduces the risk of non-adherence to the national timescales and subsequent escalation processes being actioned.

4.2 Not agreeing the suggested approach contains a risk that the escalation process will be actioned if national timescales are not met.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 As this report deals solely with the process and timescales for submitting the 2017/19 Better Care Fund Plan, there are no resource implications.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 Not applicable

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board approve submission of the final North Lincolnshire BCF narrative plan and planning return template for 2017-19 being considered on a virtual basis.

DIRECTOR: PUBLIC HEALTH

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Date: 22 June 2017

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

The Integration and BCF Policy Framework for 2017-19