

Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund – Position statement August 2017

Better Care Fund

The Department of Health (DH) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) published a detailed policy framework in March for the implementation of the Better Care Fund in 2017-18 and 2018-19, followed by the publication of the BCF template in July.

There are a number of changes to the policy framework when compared to that of previous years', these include a reduction in the number of national conditions from eight to four which local areas will need to meet through the planning process in order to access the funding. The four national conditions are:

- A requirement for plans to be developed for the two-year period 2017-2019, rather than a single year and to be approved by the HWB
- Real terms maintenance of transfer of funding from health to support adult social care
- Requirement to ring-fence a portion of the CCG minimum to invest in Out of Hospital services
- A requirement to implement the High Impact Change model (HIC) for managing transfers of care – this model sets out eight broad changes to help improve patient flow and processes for discharge, the changes cover:
 - early discharge planning
 - monitoring patient flow,
 - discharge to assess,
 - trusted assessor,
 - multi-disciplinary discharge support
 - seven day services
 - focus on choice
 - enhancing health in care homes.

The BCF narrative plan will set out our joint vision and approach for integration and will encompass the direction set in the NHS Five Year Forward View along with the development of the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership and how services will be transformed to meet the Government's vision to move towards integrated health and social care services by 2020, (namely the Place Plan) the requirements of the Care Act (2014) and the wider transformation of how the plans support a shift to a more community based, preventative approach to care along with an agreed approach to performance and risk management.

Specifically the planning template will capture:

- Confirmed funding contributions from each partner organisation including arrangements in relation to funding within the BCF for specific purposes;
- A scheme-level spending plan demonstrating how the fund will be spent; and

- Quarterly plan figures for the national metrics.

The plan is underpinned by four national metrics for measuring progress of integration, in summary these are:

- Non-elective admissions (General and Acute);
- Admissions to residential and care homes
- Effectiveness of re-ablement;
- Delayed transfers of care;

Improved Better Care Fund

An additional £2 billion funding was also announced in the spring budget to support adult social care in England. This money is included in the IBCF grant to local authorities and has been included in our local BCF pooled funding and plans. This additional funding is provided for the purpose of:

- Meeting adult social care needs;
- Reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready (DToC)
- that the local social care provider market is supported

DTOC

The NHS England Mandate for 2017-18 sets a target for reducing DToC nationally to 3.5% of occupied bed days by September 2017. This equates to the NHS and Local Government working together so that, at a national level, delayed transfers of care are no more than 9.4 in every 100,000 adults, equivalent to a DToC rate of 3.5%).

DMBC and DCCG are currently working together to agree a metric that includes specific ambitions to reduce delays attributable to the NHS and to social care, details of the target and trajectory will be presented to the Board on the 7th September, the targets must be firmed up for final submission to NHS England by 11th September 2017

Government will consider a review, in November, of 2018-19 allocations of the social care funding provided at Spring Budget 2017 for areas that are poorly performing against the DToC measure.

Approval of BCF Plans

The assurance of plans will be streamlined into one stage, with an assessment of whether a plan should be approved, not approved, or approved with conditions. Plans should be submitted by 11 September 2017, having been approved or set to be approved by the relevant HWB(s). All plans will be subject to regional assurance and moderation. Judgements on potential support needs through the planning process, will be 'risk-based'.

Timeline

The table below details the timelines for reporting and submission of the BCF plan, along with timelines for assurance:

Action	Timeframe	Status
Publication of Government Policy Framework	31 March 2017	Complete
First Quarterly monitoring returns on use of IBCF funding from Local Authorities.	21 July 2017	Complete
Areas to confirm draft DToC metrics	BCST 21 July 2017	Complete
BCF Plan update submitted to Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Board	29 th August	On track
BCF plan narrative circulated to Health and Wellbeing Board members	5 th September	On track
BCF plan update considered at Doncaster Health and Wellbeing Board	7 th September 2017	On track
BCF planning submission from local Health and Wellbeing Board areas (agreed by CCGs and local authorities).	11 September 2017	On track
Scrutiny of BCF plans by regional assurers	12 – 25 September 2017	
Regional moderation	w/c 25 September 2017	
Cross regional calibration	2 nd October 2017	
Approval letters issued giving formal permission to spend	From 6 October 2017	
Escalation panels for plans rated as not approved	w/c 10 th October 2017	
All section 75 agreements to be signed and in place	30 th November 2017	
Consideration of a review of 2018/19 allocations of the social care funding provided at Spring Budget 2017 for areas that are poorly performing.	November 2017	

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