



## Report of: Corporate Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Health and Wellbeing Board	12 March 2014	B1	All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt

## SUBJECT: Better Care Fund submission – sign off

### 1. Synopsis

The Better Care Fund was announced in the June spending review and is aimed at supporting integrated working across health and social care. Islington Council and Islington CCG have worked jointly to develop our bid with an emphasis on three key areas:

- To support the work of the integrated care programme
- To support the continued investment in social care services that benefit health (for example re-ablement)
- To support the changes in social care as a result of the Care Bill, for example, a new statutory duty to assess the needs of carers.

The Better Care Fund plan spans two years, 2014/15 and 2015/16. 2014/15 is a preparatory year in which an additional £200m should be invested jointly and in 2015/16 the national figure is £3.8bn. Locally this equates to £5,894,000 in 2014/15 and £18,390,000 in 2015/16.

It is a requirement of the fund that the submission is signed off by the local Health and Wellbeing Board. Two submissions are required – a draft submission on 14<sup>th</sup> February and final submission on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

The Health and Wellbeing Board have signed off the draft submission that was sent to NHS England on 14 February. It is thought there will be no material change required for final submission in April 2014. Should this be the case the amendments will be passed to the Health and Wellbeing Board to review and sign off.

## 2. Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to endorse and sign off the Better Care Fund Plan to enable submission to NHS England by 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

## 3. Background

On 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 Islington Council and Islington CCG submitted the draft Health and Social Care Integration Plan to NHS England (referred to here as the Better Care Fund Plan) following sign off by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Plan sets out how we will use the Better Care Fund to support on-going integration of services.

The draft plan will be reviewed by NHS England and the Local Government Association prior to final submission on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

The purpose of bringing the plan to the March Health and Wellbeing Board is to enable a full discussion of the plan so that any further amendments can be included.

## 1. Implications

### 1.1. Financial implications

The Spending Review 2013 announced a pooled budget of £3.8 billion for local health and care systems in 2015/16.

This pool is referred to as the Better Care Fund (BCF). The purpose of the fund is to create:  
*“a single pooled budget for health care and social care services to work more closely together in local areas, based on a plan agreed between the NHS and local authorities”*

The makeup of the national fund is:

- £1.9 billion existing funding continued from 2014/15 - this money will already have been allocated across the NHS and social care to support integration.
- £130 million Carers' Breaks Funding.
- £300 million CCG Reablement Funding.
- £350 million capital grant funding (including £220m of Disabled Facilities Grant).
- £1.1 billion existing transfer from health to social care.

It also includes funding to cover demographic pressures in adult social care and some of the costs associated with the Care Bill.

£1 billion of the total will be performance related, with half paid on 1 September 2015 (which will be based on performance in the previous year) and half paid in the second half of 2015/16 (which could be based on in year performance - it is envisaged the guidance will clarify this).

The BCF guidance that has been released by the Department of Health is not explicit as to the expected practical legal mechanisms underpinning the BCF. The inter relationship between the BCF and the Children and Families Bill and the Care Bill is not clear and it is hoped that this will be made more explicit during 2014/15.

The national figures included in the proposed pool are primarily existing NHS resources, some of which are already transferred to local authorities and a significant sum which is expected to be transferred

from the acute sector into community based services. The Local Government Settlement (released on 18 December 2013) identified the 2015/16 Islington BCF as £18.39m. An estimated breakdown of the Islington allocation is shown below.

	<b>National Total</b>	<b>Islington Total</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>	
NHS transfer from SR010 and 2012 White Paper	900	4.82	Held by NHS England, accessed by LBI via s.256 with CCG, and agreed by HWB
Additional NHS Transfer	200	1.07	Further Transfer to Social Care in 2014/15 (held by NHS England) to prepare for BCF.
Reablement Funding	300	1.20	LBI s.75 – Intermediate care pool
Disabled Facilities Grant	220	0.693	LBI capital funding
Social Care Capital Grant	134	0.716	New LBI capital in 2013/14
Carers	130	0.415	CCG
NHS Funding transfer	930	4.564	Estimated transfer from acute to LBI for the protection of social care services and community based services.
NHS Funding transfer	1,000	4.908	Estimated performance related payment
	<b>3,814</b>	<b>18.39</b>	

These changes will need to be planned in the context of significant reductions in Council funding together with increased responsibilities arising from the Care Bill.

## 1.2. Legal Implications

The recent Better Care Fund letter to the Council and CCG from NHS England and the LGA required prompt action to get initial matters in place to support the preliminary year arrangements for 2014/15. NHS England expected local agreements on a five-year strategy and a two-year operational plan in order to implement the Fund at a local level. By 15 February 2014, Health and Wellbeing Board had to submit the template setting out its proposals and have this signed off by both the Council and the CCG, and then by Health and Wellbeing Board. The scheme is required to meet obligations under Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006.

By 15 February, the Council and the CCG needed to have a project plan for the scheme and documented evidence setting out how the scheme relates to the 6 national conditions (as outlined in the Background). The Council and the CCG must also be able to demonstrate patient service user and public engagement and service provider engagement. Where this means a reduction or deletion of existing services there is a duty to consult, to have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and to consider the need for best value consultation under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 (*R v Barnet London Borough Council ex parte Maria Nash* [2013] EWHC 1067 (Admin); [2013] EWCA Civ 1004).

## 1.3. Equalities Impact Assessment

No equalities impact assessment has been undertaken with the draft plan.

## 1.4. Environmental Implications

No environmental impact assessment has been undertaken with the draft plan.

## 2. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

The Better Care Fund has been introduced in order to drive better integration between health and social care at a national level. Islington has a legacy of excellent joint working through Section 75 and Section 256 arrangements and is also a Pioneer site for Integrated Care where we hope to deliver a step change to health and care outcomes in Islington, as well as improving the patient/user experience of care.

Our plans for the Better Care Fund are therefore closely aligned to the Integrated Care programme with investments across health and social care that will support more personalised and co-ordinated approaches to care that are delivered locally. These plans also support the strategic aims of the Council in terms of delivering more personalised supports; of the CCG in terms of delivering care closer to home and of course with the four priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Background papers:** Annex to the NHS England Planning Guidance - Developing Plans for the Better Care Fund (see link below)

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/12193/Developing+plans+for+better+care+fund+guidance.pdf/734c155e-7820-4761-976a-6c56053c0e78>

**Attachments:** Appendix 1 – Better Care Fund narrative  
Appendix 2 – Better Care Fund finance and performance schedule

### Final Report Clearance

**Signed by**



Corporate Director of Housing and Adult Social Services

Date

**Received by**

.....  
Head of Democratic Services

.....  
Date

Report author: Clare Henderson, Programme Director Integrated Care  
Tel: 020 3688 2945  
Fax:  
E-mail: clare.henderson@islingtonccg.nhs.uk