

TITLE	Better Care Fund Evaluation
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Health and Wellbeing Board on 8 December 2016
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Stuart Rowbotham, Director of Health and Wellbeing

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Joined up, coherent health and social care service for vulnerable adults leading to improved outcomes and user satisfaction.

RECOMMENDATION

To note the evaluation of the Better Care Fund projects' performance.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Better Care Fund (BCF) primarily aims to improve patient user experience and outcomes by facilitating joint working between health agencies and social care. Performance is measured using nationally reported and accepted health and social care indicators, including non-elective admissions, delayed transfers of care, reductions in residential and nursing home placements and numbers re-abled.

Each BCF funded scheme has its own performance target relating to the expected BCF performance improvement. The evaluation matrix (Appendix 1) was completed by the Wokingham Integration Strategic Partnership at its meeting on 19 October 2016. The evaluation will inform the 2017-19 BCF allocations.

Background

The Better Care Fund is a nationally prescribed ring-fenced fund derived as a top slice of the Clinical Commissioning Groups Budget along with some other smaller elements of grant funding e.g. Disabled Facilities Grant, Care Act specific funding and held as a pooled budget between the CCG and the Local Authority. The deployment of the fund must meet national conditions: -

- i. That a BCF Plan, covering a minimum of the pooled Fund specified in the Spending Review, should be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board itself, and by the constituent Councils and CCGs;
- ii. A demonstration of how the area will meet the national condition to maintain provision of social care services in 2016-17;
- iii. Confirmation of agreement on how plans will support progress on meeting the 2020 standards for seven-day services, to prevent unnecessary non-elective admissions and support timely discharge;
- iv. Better data sharing between health and social care, based on the NHS number;
- v. A joint approach to assessments and care planning and ensure that, where funding is used for integrated packages of care, there will be an accountable professional;
- vi. Agreement on the consequential impact of the changes on the providers that are predicted to be substantially affected by the plans;
- vii. That a proportion of the area's allocation is invested in NHS commissioned out-of-hospital services, or retained pending release as part of a local risk sharing agreement; and
- viii. Agreement on a local action plan to reduce delayed transfers of care.

Analysis of Issues

- The acute sector (primarily the Royal Berkshire NHS Trust) is under immense pressure both in terms of admissions and delayed discharges.
- There is consequently an imperative that BCF deployment evidences its effectiveness in reducing admissions and avoiding delayed transfers of care.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A – ring-fenced budget	N/A – ring-fenced budget	
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A – ring-fenced budget	N/A – ring-fenced budget	
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A – ring-fenced budget	N/A – ring-fenced budget	

Cross-Council Implications
Interdependency with 21st Council; Adult Social Care

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
N/A

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