

Better Care 2017/18 End of Year Report

Introduction to Better Care

1. What is the Better Care Plan?

National context:

It is a national policy requirement for all Local Authorities with their local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to work together to agree and deliver a shared plan “The Better Care Plan” and a Better Care Fund for joining up health and social care to deliver better outcomes for local people. The last national planning guidance for the Better Care Plan was published on 4 July 2017 by the DH and DCLG. This was for a two year plan covering the years 2017/18 and 2018/19.

Better Care plans must set out how CCGs and local authorities are working towards fuller integration and better co-ordinated care, including how the Better Care plan complements the direction set in the Next Steps of the NHS Five Year Forward View, the development of Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs), the requirements of the Care Act (2014) and wider local government transformation in the area covered by the plan. The 2017 guidance also highlighted that the Better Care Plan should set out a vision and progress towards fuller integration of health and social care by 2020.

National guidance stipulates that the Better Care Plan should be approved by the relevant Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and by the constituent Local Authorities (LAs) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) prior to submission.

Southampton:

Southampton’s latest Better Care Plan is a two year plan which was signed off by the HWBB in July 2017 and submitted to DH in September 2017. The Plan sets out 6 key priorities as below:

- Further expansion of the integration agenda across the full life-course
- Continue to strengthen prevention and early intervention
- Further shift the balance of care out of hospital and other bed based settings into the community
- Development of the community and voluntary sector
- Development of new organisational models which better support the delivery of integrated care and support
- New contractual and commissioning models which enable and incentivise the new ways of working

2. What is the Better Care Fund (BCF)?

National context:

Underpinning each local area's Better Care Plan there is a national requirement to pool funding from the CCG and Local Authority into a Better Care Fund and ensure that this is signed off under Section 75 arrangements for Pooled Budgets (ref. NHS Act 2006). To this end, each Local Authority area is expected to pool a "minimum" amount of funding, made up of ring-fenced grants (e.g. the Disabled Facilities Grant or DFG, Carers Grant) and other resources.

The national policy guidance for 2017/18 – 2018/19 sets out four conditions which each local authority area must adhere to:

- That a BCF Plan, including at least the minimum contribution to the pooled fund specified in the BCF allocations, must be signed off by the HWBB, and by the constituent LAs and CCGs;
- A demonstration of how the area will maintain in real terms the level of spending on social care services from the CCG minimum contribution to the fund in line with inflation;
- That a specific 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
- All areas to implement the High Impact Change Model for Managing Transfers of Care to support system-wide improvements in delayed transfers of care (DTC).

It should be noted that most of the funding in the BCF is not new money and will already be invested in existing services.

Southampton:

In Southampton the total value of the Better Care Fund for 2017/18 is just over £109m ((£71.5M from the CCG and £37.8M from the Council). This is far greater than the nationally set minimum requirement for the city which is £16.177M for 2017/18 and £16.484M for 2018/19 and signifies the city's ambition to integrate services at scale by bringing together budgets/resources in one place. This funding breaks down into ten specific schemes/service provision:

1. Supporting Carers
2. Cluster working
3. Integrated Rehabilitation and Reablement and Hospital Discharge
4. Promoting Care Technology
5. Prevention and Early Intervention
6. Learning Disability Integration

7. Promoting uptake of Direct Payments
8. Transforming Long Term Care
9. Integrated provision for children with SEND
10. Integrated health and social care provision for children with complex behavioural & emotional needs

Southampton's Better Care Fund spend and performance is monitored by the Joint Commissioning Board to which this responsibility has been delegated by Southampton's HWBB.

3. What is the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)?

National context:

In 2017/18 the Government announced an additional grant called the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF). This was announced in two tranches: as part of the Local Governance Finance Settlement and then additional funding announced for adult social care as part of the 2017 budget. The grant conditions attached to this funding set out that the funding should be used a) for meeting adult social care needs, b) for reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting hospital discharge and c) for supporting the local social care provider market. Local Authorities are required to pool the grant into the local BCF, work with the relevant CCG and providers and provide quarterly reports as required by the Secretary of State.

Southampton:

Southampton's iBCF grant was £4,981,651 in 2017/18.

This funding reduces over a 3 year period, so in 2018/19 the total grant is £3,161,704 and in 2019/20 the grant is £ 1,567,547.

The iBCF has been invested in the following schemes which have been included in Southampton's BCF:

- Direct Payments team to increase the uptake of Direct Payments
- Care Technology to increase uptake
- Short stay replacement care
- Expanded 7 day social care operation in the hospital discharge team
- Speeding up hospital discharges for people with complex needs (discharge to assess schemes)
- Enhanced social care out of hours service (2017/18 only)
- Additional social work capacity in new community-based social wellbeing service (2018/19 only)
- Additional social work capacity in new integrated learning disability service (2018/19 only)

- Meeting increased demand and complexity
- Stabilising the provider market
- Additional social work capacity to review care needs in accordance with the Care Act 2014 (2018/19)
- Accelerating the extra care housing programme
- Extra nursing home capacity for complex needs