

Report to:	Blackpool Health and Wellbeing Board
Item number:	6
Relevant Officer:	Dr Mark Johnston, Associate Director Acute Commissioning and Service Redesign Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group

Better Care Fund Update

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To receive an update on the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for Blackpool.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider and comment on the items covered in the update.

2.2 To identify any further actions or issues and agree next steps.

3.0 Reason for Recommendation(s):

3.1 As part of the Governments June 2013 Spending Review the £3.8bn Better Care Fund (BCF) was announced. The fund is a “single pooled budget for health and social care services to work more closely together in local areas, based on a plan agreed between the NHS and local authorities”. Health and Wellbeing Boards have a vital role to play in the implementation of the Better Care Fund (BCF) locally and are responsible for signing off the plans developed by the local authority and Clinical Commissioning Groups. In doing so Boards must be assured plans are appropriate to local needs and address specific national requirements before being taken forward for ministerial sign off.

3.2 At the time of writing this report NHS England published a holding statement, regarding the submission of Better Care Fund (final) plans in April. Whilst it acknowledged that plans had improved considerably since the draft submissions in February, it noted some areas still need further clarification and information before plans can proceed for ministerial sign off. A single statement covering the latest position, timescales and additional guidance is expected shortly.

3.2 **Alternative Options:**

There are no other suitable alternative options.

4.0 **Background Information**

4.1 Taking forward the preparatory work led by the Strategic Commissioning Group, the Better Care Fund Programme Board established in February 2014 is a multi-organisational group responsible for the co-ordination of the locality plan for Blackpool and the design and implementation of all aspects of the Better Care Fund model described in the plan.

4.2 The Programme Board has been working hard over the past three months to:

- Work up the (final) locality plan for Blackpool, applying feedback from NHS England and national partners on the draft submission. The final plan was submitted to NHS England in April 2014.
- Develop its governance and accountability arrangements (as set out in the PID attached under appendices)
- Initiate the Better Care Fund 'Programme'. This has involved the creation of five workstreams (Design, Delivery & Estates, IT, Finance, HR & Workforce and Communications). Supported by Task and Finish groups, workstreams are responsible for constructing the Better Care Fund model to ensure it will be ready to be implemented in 2015/16 and will report at regular intervals to the Programme Board on progress.
- Secure interim programme management support from Lancashire CSU to support the set up of the aforementioned workstreams.
- Integrate and align the Better Care Fund plan with the Out of Hospital Strategy and Fylde Coast 5 Year Strategic Plan.
- Source best practice and key learning from Better Care Fund pioneer sites across the Country to inform the development of the model for Blackpool (which is an ongoing area of work)

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

4.3 **List of Appendices:**

None

5.0 Legal considerations:

5.1 None

6.0 Equalities considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Financial considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Background papers:

8.1 Better Care Fund Programme Board PID
Better Care Fund Final Submission (April 2014)