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08 January 2020

To: *(by email)*

Councillor Graham Cain  
David Bonson  
Jeannie Harrop  
Neil Jack

Chair, Blackpool Health and Wellbeing Board  
Clinical Commissioning Group Accountable Officer (Lead)  
Additional Clinical Commissioning Group(s) Accountable Officers  
Local Authority Chief Executive

Dear Colleagues

## **BETTER CARE FUND 2019-20**

Thank you for submitting your Better Care Fund (BCF) plan for regional assurance and approval. We recognise that the BCF has again presented challenges in preparing plans at a late stage and at pace and we are grateful for your commitment in providing your agreed plan.

I am pleased to let you know that, following the regional assurance process, your plan has been classified as '**Approved**'. The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) BCF funding can therefore now be formally released subject to the funding being used in accordance with your final approved plan, and the conditions set out in the BCF policy framework for 2019-20 and the BCF planning guidance for 2019-20, including transfer of funds into a pooling arrangement governed by a Section 75 agreement. Your Section 75 agreement should aim to be confirmed by the end of January 2020.

These conditions have been imposed through the NHS Act 2006 (as amended by the Care Act 2014). If the conditions are not complied with, NHS England is able to direct the CCG(s) in your Health and Wellbeing Board area as to the use of the funding.

The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), the improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) and the Winter Pressures grant are also pooled along-side the CCG allocations. The DFG, iBCF and Winter Pressures grants are paid directly to local authorities via a Section 31 grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. These



grants are subject to grant conditions set out in their respective grant determinations made under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, as specified in the BCF Planning Requirements.

Ongoing support and oversight will continue to be led by your local Better Care Manager (BCM). Following the assurance process, we are asking all BCMs to feedback identified areas for improvement in your plan and share where systems may benefit from conversations with other areas.

Once again, thank you for your work and best wishes with implementation and ongoing delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Permain  
Director of NHS Operations and Delivery and SRO for the Better Care Fund

### **NHS England and Improvement**

Copy (by email) to:

Karen Smith  
Jayne Bentley  
Steve Thompson

Local Authority Director of Adult Social Services (or equivalent)  
Better Care Fund Lead Official  
LA Section 151 Officer

Bill McCarthy  
Clare Duggan  
Graham Urwin

Regional Director of Delivery, NHS England North West Region  
Director of Strategy & Transformation  
Director of Performance & Improvement

Rosie Seymour  
Tim Barton

Programme Director, Better Care Support Team, NHS England  
Better Care Manager (interim), North West