

<b>20<sup>th</sup> September 2019</b>		<b>ITEM: 7</b>
<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>		
<b>Thurrock Better Care Fund Plan 2019-20</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Non-key	
<b>Report of:</b> Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health; and Mandy Ansell, Accountable Officer NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group		
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> n/a		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Roger Harris, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health; and Mandy Ansell, Accountable Officer NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group		
<b>This report is Public</b>		

## Executive Summary

The Better Care Fund provides the mechanism for joining up health and social care planning and commissioning, bringing together budgets from Clinical Commissioning Group funding allocations, the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG), Winter Planning monies and funding paid directly to local government for adult social care services – the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF).

All local areas are required to have Better Care Fund Plans in place to set out how health and adult social care will deliver their integration agenda and how services for local people will be improved. The Plan is subject to a regional assurance process with final sign-off expected in the week commencing 18 November 2019. This will follow a submission deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Thurrock's Better Care Fund was originally focused on people aged 65 and above who are most likely to be at risk of hospital or residential home admission, with this being the cohort who will benefit most from the development and delivery of an integrated approach to health and social care. As such, the BCF encompasses all out of hospital adult social care and community health budgets for that age group. As a consequence of the opportunities provided by the Better Care Fund, Thurrock has been developing an integrated approach to redesigning the health and care system known as Better Care Together Thurrock. The approach is population-wide and focuses on ensuring that people can achieve the outcomes that matter most to them. This means a greater focus on early intervention, prevention, and the pivotal role housing and the built environment and the community plays in supporting people to stay well and stay connected. As a result, the direction of travel for the Better Care Fund has shifted from being focused solely on the over 65s, to being directed

more on the whole population within a place. It is important that the Better Care Fund Plan embodies our approach to health and care transformation.

The value of the Fund for the year 2019-20 has increased from £43.274m in 2018-19, to £48.623m.

The Fund and how it is spent is governed by a Section 75 agreement, the arrangements for which have been agreed for 2019/20 but will be updated to incorporate changes in the Fund's value and also to reflect the detail of the updates to the schemes contained within the Plan.

## **1. Recommendations**

**That the Health and Wellbeing Board:**

- 1.1 Agree Thurrock's Better Care Fund Plan for 2019-20; and**
- 1.2 Agree to delegate the approval of any minor changes made to the Plan after the 20<sup>th</sup> September Board meeting to the Board Chair, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health, and Thurrock CCG Accountable Officer.**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 The Better Care Fund requires Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities to pool their budgets and to agree an integrated spending plan for their Better Care Fund allocation.
- 2.2 Thurrock's 2017-19 Plan focused on people aged 65 and above, totalled £43.274 million and contained four key schemes:
  - 1 – Prevention and Early Intervention
  - 2 – Out of hospital community integration
  - 3 – Intermediate Care
  - 4 – Disabled Facilities Grant
- 2.3 The Better Care Fund Planning Requirements for 2019-20, published on 18 July 2019, set out the requirements for all Better Care Fund Plans. Key changes this year include:
  - A requirement to produce a 1-year plan;
  - Incorporation of all elements of the Plan into a shorter single template;
  - Removal of the requirement to submit separate plans for Winter Pressures grant;
  - Removal of separate reporting on iBCF schemes and initiatives; and
  - A single format for scheme-level planning and reporting.
- 2.4 The introduction of the Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) in 2017-18 has enabled additional investments to be made consistent with grant conditions that are: meeting adult social care needs; reducing pressures on the NHS, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they

are ready; and ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.

- 2.5 The 2019-20 Plan now incorporates Winter Pressures grant monies so that planning can take place at an earlier point in time, and schemes put in place the previous year can continue if having the desired impact on the system. It should be noted that pressures which in past years occurred during the winter period now tend to occur throughout the year.
- 2.6 The report asks the Board to approve Thurrock's Better Care Fund Plan for 2019-20, and also asks the Board to agree to delegate the approval of any minor changes to the Board's Chair, Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health, and the CCG's Accountable Officer.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

#### **Focus**

- 3.1 Since 2015-16, the focus of our Better Care Fund has been on developing an integrated approach to health and social care for people aged 65 and above. We know that frail older people and people with long-term conditions account for the majority of spend across the health and care system, and are the group that would respond best to coordinated, proactive and integrated health and social care. The Fund has been added to year on year so that in 2017-19 it contained the vast majority of the community health and adult social care budget for that cohort – this was an ambition set out in our 2016-17 Plan.
- 3.2 Whilst it was important to focus on the over 65s as a cohort, Thurrock's health and care transformation programme (Better Care Together Thurrock) aims to redesign health and social care so that it is population-wide and focused on place. The introduction of a mixed-skill primary workforce in Tilbury and Chadwell, place-based social care (Community-Led Support), and the testing of an alternative delivery model for domiciliary care alongside existing place-based schemes (e.g. Local Area Coordination) has helped to create a very different health and care model. The model has a far greater emphasis on prevention and early intervention – aiming to shift activity away from the acute sector and 'up stream' to community based settings, and provide care closer to home. Doing this involves developing an approach to well-being which includes a significant role for the community, and which also embraces healthy place making principles. As a result, the emphasis within the BCF Plan has shifted so that it has a greater focus on population and place and on prevention and early intervention. This is reflected within the narrative of the Plan.
- 3.3 The key components of the 17-19 Plan will involve whole-system change and delivery of a population-health and place-based approach which will incorporate:
  - the development of four Integrated Medical Centres inter alia honouring the commitment to relocate services provided by Orsett Hospital;

- specialised housing and a new model of residential care for older people, and the development and delivery of Better Care Together Thurrock; and
- with forthcoming organisational changes affecting commissioning within the NHS, including NHS Thurrock CCG, Thurrock's BCF Plan reflects our ambitions and plans for Thurrock's population.

### Schemes

3.4 There are four schemes contained within the 2019-20 Plan. These are:

**1 – Prevention and Early Intervention** – initiatives, such as the successful Hypertension Detection Project, which focus on preventing, reducing and delaying the need for health and social care, as well as enabling early identification and management of long-term conditions.

**2 – Out of Hospital Community Integration** – the scheme focuses on the development of locality-based integrated health and care system. The scheme for 2019-20 will focus on continuing to develop and deliver new models of care and scaling up across the rest of Thurrock, enabling a shift in investment from acute to community settings. For 2019-20, this will include the scaling up of Community-Led Support (place-based social work), the development of place-based Community Health, the continued roll-out of mixed-skills workforce for Primary Care, and developing phase II of the alternative model to domiciliary care – which will explore how Wellbeing Teams can work alongside Community and Primary Care and the community to provide a streamlined offer.

**3 – Good discharge** – A significant focus of the 2017-19 plan was on preventing and reducing delayed transfers of care – through the delivery of 'good discharge'. This Plan will continue that focus, with Thurrock performing extremely well both nationally and regionally. This includes initiatives such as investment in a Bridging Service, 7-day Hospital Social Care Team, "By Your Side" voluntary sector home service, and investment in Occupational Therapy. Some of the existing schemes will be reviewed to ensure maximal on-going impact and value for money.

**4 – Disabled Facilities Grant** – This scheme contains the funding received for the specific purpose of providing adaptations for people with disabilities and any other social care capital project jointly agreed between the Council and NHS Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group.

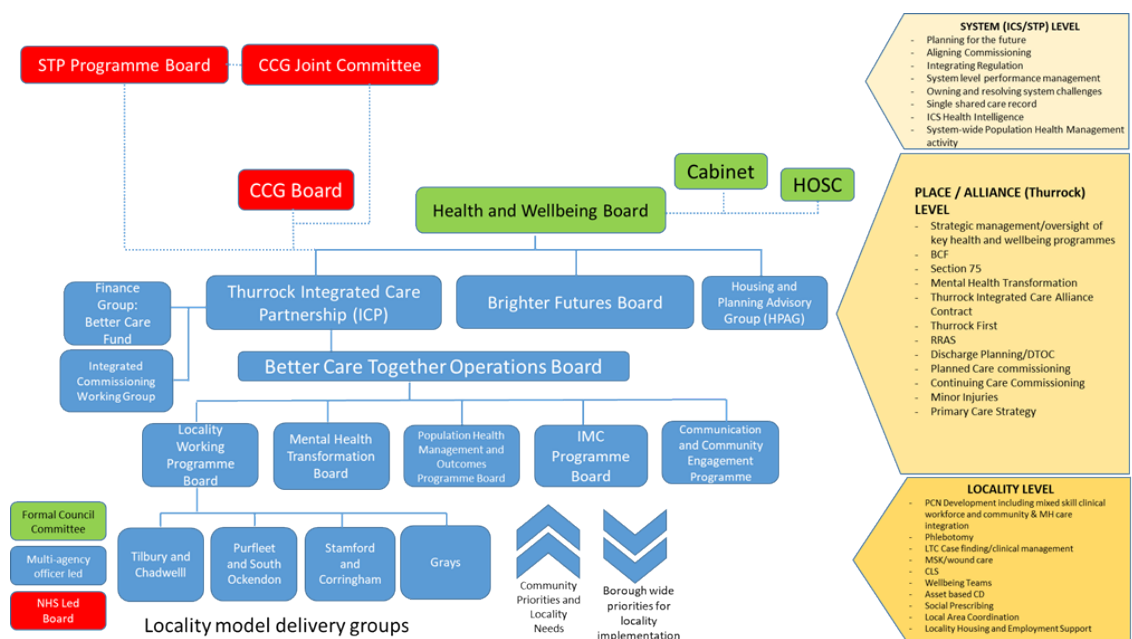
The scheme totals are detailed below:

Scheme	Scheme Name	Amount
--------	-------------	--------

Ref		£m
1	Prevention and Early Intervention	£3.910
2	Out of Hospital Community Integration	£34.154
3	Delivering Good Discharge	£8.964
4	Disabled Facilities Grant	£1.162
		£48.623

## Governance

- 3.5 A paper presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at its 28 June 2019 meeting titled 'Defining the roles, responsibilities and governance of a Thurrock Integrated Care Partnership in the context of the Mid and South Essex STP and local transformation' reviewed existing governance arrangements ensuring they remained fit for purpose and reflected local ambitions for health and care.
- 3.6 The paper stated that there were 'a number of issues with the current arrangements' which included the Integrated Commissioning Executive and Better Care Fund management sitting in parallel silos to the Integrated Commissioning Care Partnership (TICA) and Better Care Together Steering Group. The paper stated that 'moving forward, the Better Care Fund [needed] to act as the strategic financial delivery mechanism for integrated commissioning and locality budgets' and that 'current arrangements [did] not adequately support this'.
- 3.7 The paper presented to the July Board recommended some changes to existing arrangements.



- 3.8 Consequently, from the later part of 2019, governance arrangements relating to the Better Care Fund Plan 2019-20 will be via the Thurrock Integrated Care Partnership (TICP). Current responsibilities overseen by the Integrated Commissioning Executive will be subsumed within the Terms of Reference for TICP.

#### **Next Steps**

- 3.9 The deadline for the Plan to be submitted to NHS England is the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Following the submission, all plans will be subjected to a regional assurance process. Areas are expected to find out if their plans have been approved during the week commencing 18 November 2019.
- 3.10 Following approval, Thurrock's Section 75 Agreement for the Better Care Fund will be updated to reflect amounts for 2019-20 Better Care Fund and also to reflect the updated schemes. The Better Care Fund Planning Requirements published on 18 July require all Section 75 agreements to be signed and in place by 15 December 2019.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 All Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities in every single area are required to pool budgets and set out how they will use their Better Care Fund allocation.

#### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 5.1 The direction of travel for health and social care embodied within the Better Care Fund Plan reflects or takes in to account feedback received from consultation and engagement already carried out. For example via For Thurrock in Thurrock and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Specific elements of the Plan, including new services and changes to services, may be subject to further consultation and engagement as they progress.

#### **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

- 6.1 The Plan contributes to the Council's priorities for Thurrock as follows:

**People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay.

This means:

- high quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time;
- build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing; and

- communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together.

It also contributes towards the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016 – 2021.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Jo Freeman**  
**Management Accountant**

The Better Care Fund is made up of contributions from the Council and Thurrock CCG. The mandated amount is £10.833m for Thurrock CCG and £1.162m for Thurrock Council. In addition, contributions for IBCF and Winter Pressures monies equate to £5.406m. Additional contributions for 2019-20 equate to £31.222m.

The nature of the expenditure is an agreed ring-fenced fund. Financial risk is therefore minimised and governed by the terms set out in the Section 75 agreement and closely monitored through the monthly ICE committee meetings.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Lindsey Marks**  
**Principal Solicitor Safeguarding**

Entry of the Council into the Better Care Fund Agreement is governed by S75 of the NHS Act 2006. The procurement of specific services by the Council utilising the Better Care Fund is a separate process for consideration and will be the subject of a further report. Legal Services will ensure its continuing availability to support the Corporate Director of Adults, Housing and Health and appropriate colleagues.

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**  
**Strategic Lead, Community Development and Equalities**

The vision of the Better Care Fund is to improve outcomes for people through the provision of an integrated health and care system focused on population and place. The commissioning plans developed to realise this vision will be developed with due regard to equality and diversity considerations.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Better Care Fund Planning Requirements for 2019-20

9. **Appendices to the report**

- Thurrock Better Care Fund Plan 2019-20

**Report Author:**

Ceri Armstrong

Senior Health and Social Care Development Manager

Adults, Housing and Health