

**North Yorkshire Health and Wellbeing Board
Better Care Fund – Update Briefing**

14 November 2014

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To report to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on the outcome of the National Consistent Assurance Review of the North Yorkshire Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan and outline the next steps.
- 1.2 To provide detail of the Implementation Plan and arrangements for the BCF, together with clarification of how these details relate to existing work such as the Governance Review

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Health & Wellbeing Board notes the progress being made, and the actions presented to finalise the Better Care Fund Plan for re-submission to NHS England.

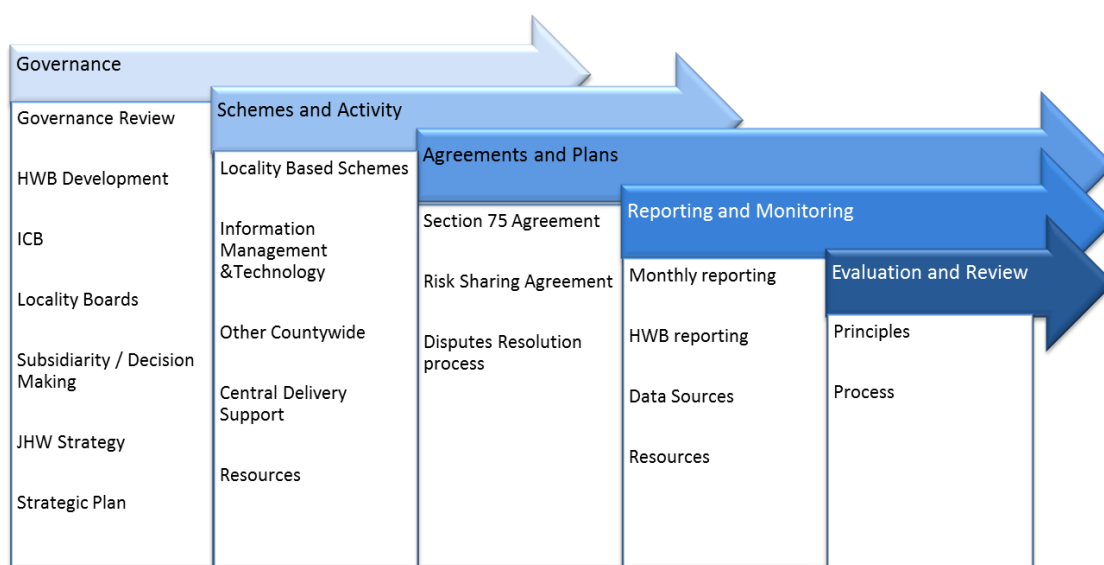
3.0 Background

- 3.1 Responding to the Government's revision of the principles of the BCF, a revised plan was submitted on 19th September 2014.
- 3.2 The substantive change in the BCF policy concerns the Payment for Performance framework, in that, of the £1.9bn additional NHS contribution to the BCF, £1bn will remain within the BCF but will now be either commissioned by the NHS on out-of-hospital services or be linked solely to a new metric covering the reduction in total non-elective admissions to acute or general beds. This one metric replaces the original metric of 'avoidable emergency admissions'.
- 3.3 All plans from Health and Wellbeing Boards from across the country were assessed under a framework described as the National Consistent Assurance Review. North Yorkshire's Plan has received a rating of 'Approved with Support'.
- 3.4 Approved with Support means:
"This local area has a reasonably strong written plan and/ or has some challenges to overcome in the local environment in which they are operating. There are a number of time-bound actions that will be set to give a high degree of confidence that the plan will be delivered, these will largely be delivered by the local area without extensive further support being required, but support will be made available where necessary. The local area has approval to go ahead and take full responsibility for the BCF budget. They will be required to confirm when the actions have been completed, and failure to complete the actions may result in a condition being imposed."

- 3.5 Following further assurance process discussions, an action plan has been submitted and a final version of the revised Better Care Fund Plan will be submitted on 28th November.
- 3.6 One area of work that remains outstanding, by agreement with the review/assurance process, is that of creating a Risk Sharing Agreement which covers the required detail of how our partnership will manage and respond to the three main categories of risk: Financial, Operational and Quality. This work is underway and is expected to complete by 31 March 2015.
- 3.7 Focus is now shifting to implementation of the plan and the following section outlines the main areas for further work to provide assurance to this Board that progress will be made, monitored and reported appropriately.

4.0 Implementation Plan

4.1 A draft Implementation Plan is described below and features 5 major components, each with further areas of work, as illustrated.



4.2 Governance Review

- 4.2.1 The Governance Review was commissioned by HWB in May 2014, to be led by the Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB) and is subject to separate reporting to this Board. It covers the structural arrangements, decision making, reporting and monitoring arrangements for all the work of the HWB, including the BCF.
- 4.2.2 This component will also cover areas such as formalising the process needed to navigate the various organisational structures and Boards in order to make and ratify decisions.
- 4.2.3 Work is being undertaken separately to review and refresh the Joint Health

and Wellbeing Strategy, which itself will form a major element in the future definition and focus of the Board's activity. It is essential that the BCF plan is aligned to and supportive of this Strategy, but also that the principles of the BCF intention to more closely integrate health and care services in North Yorkshire informs the Strategy too.

4.3 **Agreements and Plans**

4.3.1 The Finance and Reporting Sub-Group of the ICB is responsible for the production and sign-off of the Section 75 Agreement, which is the legal arrangement by which the BCF Pooled Fund operates, together with the practical description of how, for example, the provider payments process works.

4.3.2 This Sub-Group is taking a lead on the reporting and monitoring arrangements and will also lead on the Risk Sharing Agreement described in 3.6. This will need to establish how the partnership responds to new operational and financial challenges, or to any underperformance of the plans and schemes in place.

4.3.3 Finally, in the event that there are issues or disputes that are not able to be managed within the existing arrangements, it is proposed to develop a Disputes Resolution Process to clarify exactly what means and process is to be followed to reach resolution.

4.4 **Schemes and Activity**

4.4.1 The schemes and activity described in the latest iteration of the Plan are consistent with and largely unchanged from the original submission in April.

4.4.2 These schemes are each managed according to their genesis by either CCG or the Local Authority and are monitored by the respective Locality Board and by ICB.

4.4.3 Resources to support and manage the schemes have been defined within the respective scheme plans and a small central support unit has been defined although not yet in place. This unit will need to be resources in the near future.

4.4.4 Work is underway on a countywide basis to scope and plan a series of projects and tasks which will deliver the required elements of data sharing and common / shared records as prescribed by the BCF. This plan is due to be prepared and considered by Christmas 2014.

4.5 **Reporting and Monitoring**

4.5.1 As mentioned in 4.3.2, the Finance and Reporting Sub-Group are taking the lead on creating and managing the monitoring and reporting process. There has been a recruitment process to appoint a "BCF Pool Manager" whose role includes responsibility for ensuring that the BCF pooled fund operates effectively, that the payment processing and scheme accountability to ICB / HWB is reported and clear. They will also be responsible for the collation of the various performance and metrics data and the analysis of activity.

4.5.2 This role has proved difficult to recruit to and alternative temporary measures are being considered.

4.6 **Evaluation and Review**

4.6.1 Our vision for integrated services combines a county-wide vision and principles with locally tailored services and approaches. We have a county-wide commitment to ensure everyone has access to core services for prevention, reablement, integrated health and social care teams. However, we also recognise that needs differ, existing community services are variable and local teams wish to innovate and evaluate new ways of doing things.

4.6.2 During the next few months, work will be required to define and agree an evaluation approach.

5.0 **Next Steps:**

5.1 Finalise the Better Care Fund Plan for re-submission on 28 November.

5.2 Prepare scope and principles for the Risk Sharing Agreement, together with a plan for its completion.

5.3 Prepare and agree the Implementation Plan.

5.4 Ensure that all necessary resources are in place.

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