

MEETING OF THE BOARD ON 27.08.14**Update on the Better Care Fund (BCF)**

Submitted by: Ade Olarinde, Chief Finance Officer
Prepared by: Ade Olarinde
Status: For Information

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the CCG Board with an update on the progress made towards the implementation of the BCF Pooled fund arrangements and associated S75 agreement(s) which will need to commence on 1 April 2015.

2. Activity to Date

- 2.1. At the end of June there was an announcement that a resubmission of the BCF templates would be required. The Section 75 Project Group Technical Group met twice to progress the development of the S75, whilst awaiting further joint NHS England (NHSE) and Local Government Association (LGA) revised guidance.
- 2.2. The revised templates and guidance did not materialise until the 25th July 2014. The new guidance brought with it a greater expectation to deliver a reduction in emergency activity. Even then further guidance and clarification continues to be released, with latest tranche published on 20th August 2014.
- 2.3. Key officers within the CCG and the LA have met in an Essex-wide forum including all CCGs, LAs and NHSE Local Area Team on the 6th August and 12th August specifically to address the revised technical guidance that was issued and to progress activities to understand the requirements and consider any issues/decisions required.

3. Revised Template and Guidance

- 3.1. Having scrutinised the revised guidance some questions were posed to the national team to clarify the requirements of the S75 arrangements.
- 3.2. Further guidance was issued on the 20th August, providing further clarity on the extent of the emergency admission reduction that is permissible. The assurance framework was also being published, which will be used to assess the quality of the plans. This will assist in our understanding of what 'good' looks like.
- 3.3. The issue of the extent to a reduction in emergency admissions has been clarified. An ambitious (but not unrealistic) target % reduction is expected to be set to enable partner organisations assess the success of their work to transform local health and care services. The target should take account of the starting position, local

Clinical Commissioning Group

performance trends, comparison to “peers” and the rate of demographic change compared to national average.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1. Key Officers continue to meet to ensure that service functions can clearly be defined in the S75 together with the source and application of funds.
- 4.2. Work will continue to ensure that the submission for the 19th September is complete and appropriate for approval. A report will be taken to the Finance and Performance Committee (next meeting on the day before the submission deadline) with an update provided to the Board. The proposed plan will also be taken to the Health and Wellbeing board meeting arranged for mid-September and any risks and issues will be escalated as they arise to ensure they can be addressed prior to submission on 19th September.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. The Board is asked to note the progress being made to agree the BCF Plan for the Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board.