

# Report to Scrutiny Commission

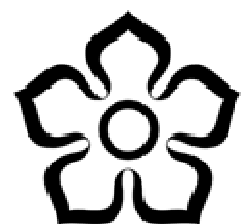
Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission  
Date of Commission meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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## **Better Care Fund**

Report of the Director of Adult Social Care and  
Safeguarding

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Leicester  
City Council

**Useful Information:**

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Ruth Lake
- Author contact details 454 5551
- Date of Exec meeting N/A

**1. Summary**

The Integration Transformation Fund was announced in June 2013 as part of the government's spending round. This has subsequently been renamed as the Better Care Fund (BCF).

The BCF will be a national pooled budget of £3.8bn from 2015 /16, in part top-sliced from NHS budgets, to be spent on health and social care. It aims to drive closer integration, efficiencies and to improve outcomes for patients and service users.

This level of national funding translates as a total of £23.261m for Leicester and consists of a combination of new and existing funding streams. This is recurrent revenue and capital funding, rather than a one off allocation.

In order to access this funding, all areas have been required to produce and agree a draft local plan by 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014, detailing how local services will change across health and social care. A condition for access to the funding is that the Clinical Commissioning Group and the Local Authority must jointly agree the plan and it must be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board supported this plan on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

The detailed draft BCF plan is attached as appendix 1 (including excel sheet, appendix 1a). The guidance notes that explain what the plan must include are attached at appendix 2.

It should be noted that the plan has been produced to a tight timescale and further work will continue, in dialogue with NHS England, to refine the detail.

A final draft will be submitted on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2014.

**2. Recommendation(s) to scrutiny**

Scrutiny is recommended to note the draft plan.

**3. Supporting Information**

Developing Plans for the Better Care Fund: Guidance annexe to the NHS planning Framework (Appendix 2)

## **4. Financial, legal and other implications**

### 4.1 Financial implications

The first full year for the Better Care Fund is 2015/16. The total value of the fund in this year will be £23.261m which is a mixture of new and existing funding. The value of the 'new' funding from the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group is £11.571m. The rest of the funding is a mix of funding streams already being received from the NHS and Disabled Facilities and Social Care Capital Grants paid to the local authority and then transferred to the BCF.

In 2014/15 Leicester will receive £1.311m, subject to the submission of a satisfactory plan, to prepare for the implementation of pooled budgets in 2015/16.

The use to which the Better Care Fund is put will have a very significant impact on the financial position of both Adult Social Care (and therefore Leicester City Council as a whole) and the NHS.

There are a number of risks around the BCF which are described in Appendix 1. Foremost amongst these is the extent to which a significant element of the funding could be dependent on performance. However, there are recent indications that ministers have re-considered their position on this.

Rod Pearson, Head of Finance, Health& Wellbeing.

### 4.2 Legal implications

The closer integration of health and social care teams may involve the making of changes to staffing conditions. These proposals will have to be developed in accordance with the Council's HR policies and procedures.

Kamal Adatia  
City Barrister & Head of Standards

### 4.3. Climate Change implications

Not applicable at this stage

#### 4.4 Equality Impact Assessment

None noted at this stage but EIAs may be developed as part of the implementation planning process

#### 4.5 Other Implications

##### **Winter Care Plan**

This report is wholly focussed on improving the experience of people using health and social care services, with a direct intention to reduce emergency admissions / acute hospital use. In this respect, the report sets out a positive opportunity to improve winter capacity and planning for vulnerable individuals.

**5. Background information and other papers:**

N/A

**6. Summary of appendices:**

**Appendix 1 and 1a** – Better Care Fund draft submission and excel finance / performance template

**Appendix 2** – Better Care Fund guidance summary

**7. Is this a private report ?**

No