

## Briefing Note Planning Guidance for the Better Care Fund 2016/17

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 the Department of Health and Department for Communities and Local Government published the Better Care Fund Planning Requirements for 2016-17.

The document needs also be read alongside:

- BCF Policy Framework 2016/17 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-how-it-will-work-in-2016-to-2017>
- BCF Local Financial Allocations 2016/17 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/part-rel/transformation-fund/bcf-plan/>
- NHS Mandate for 2016/17 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/486674/nhse-mandate16-17.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486674/nhse-mandate16-17.pdf)

The BCF return template for the 2016/17 BCF plan has not yet been published, but is expected imminently.

### How will the Planning Guidance be used?

NHS England expect local authorities to use the planning guidance to structure their plans and delivery of BCF for 2016/17. Timescales for submission of plans is:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016: BCF planning return; to include agreed funding, scheme level spending plan, national metric plans and any local risk sharing agreements.
- 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016: High level narrative plan and revised BCF planning return.
- 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016: Final BCF plans submitted, having been signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The national assurance process for BCF Plans for 2016/17 has been removed. Instead regional teams will work with the Better Care Support Team to provide the assurance process.

### Key Changes in BCF for 2016/17

- The removal of the performance for pay element of the fund
- Two new national conditions:
  - (i) an “agreement to invest in NHS commissioned out of hospital services, which **may** include a wide range of services including social care”. This replaces the payment for performance element of the fund. These fund are ring-fenced in line with the specified BCF allocations amount. Local areas who did not need their emergency admission target are expected to consider putting an appropriate proportion of the ring-fenced budget into a local risk sharing agreement;
  - (ii) a new requirement for a plan, with locally determined stretch targets, for reducing delayed transfers of care (DTOC). This appears to be a broad plan, focussing on community assets, flow through the system, and emphasising the need for integrated, collaborative whole system working
- The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) will continue to be allocated through the BCF. However, the Adult Social Care Grant will be included in a single DFG payment for 2016/17. This is to strengthen the housing element of the BCF, with a new national condition that requires local housing authority representatives to be involved in developing and agreeing BCF plans.

### What stays the same?

- Existing national conditions remain (plus the two new national conditions outlined above):
  - Jointly agreed plans
  - Maintain provision of social care services
  - Better data sharing between health and social care, based on the NHS number
  - 7 Day services to support discharge
  - Joint approach to assessment and care planning, with an accountable lead professional
- Metrics remain the same (plus a local DTOC metric, as outlined above):

- Non-elective admissions
- Admissions to residential and care homes
- Effectiveness of reablement

**We await clarity on**

- The template for the BCF plan return

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