Introduction and update

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Better Care Fund

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Outline of the BCF

• At least £3.8bn pooled budget in 2015/16
• Extra £200m for LAs in 2014/15
• Based on joint CCG/LA plans signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards
• Plans must meet national conditions
• Element of payment for performance
• Local flexibility to go further: areas must pool their share of the £3.8bn, but can choose to include additional CCG or LA funding
The Better Care Fund

Make-up of the BCF

Better Care Fund
£3.8bn
Shared between NHS and Local Government

“Health Spending”
DH DEL of £115bn
BCF ≈ 3%

Social Care spend of £17bn
BCF ≈ 15-20%

LG Spending Power of £50bn
BCF ≈ 7.5%

The Better Care Fund

Shared between NHS and Local Government
The Better Care Fund will include the following six national conditions in which areas will need to demonstrate progress before plans can be approved:

- **Seven day health and care services** – to ensure that people can access the care they need when they need it.
- **Data sharing, including the use of digital care plans and the NHS number** – so that people don’t need to endlessly repeat their story to every professional who cares for them; and so that professionals can spend less time filling out paperwork and more time caring for patients.
- **Joint assessments** – so that services can work together to assess and meet peoples holistic needs.
- **An accountable professional** – who can join up services around individuals, act as a single point of contact, and prevent them from falling through the gaps.
- **Protecting social care** – ensuring people can still access the services they need.
- **Agreed impact on the acute care sector** – to prevent people reaching crisis point, and to reduce the pressures on A&E departments.


Mid-Sept 2014: All other plans submitted on time as expected, despite challenging timetable over the summer.

Sept / Oct 2014: Plans currently going through the Nationally Consistent Assurance Review. The fast-track areas allowed us to test this process, and we know that the methodology is tested and consistent.

End of October 2014: Results of assurance review announced. Combined with an assessment of local risks to delivery, the results place all plans into one of four categories:

- approved;
- approved with support;
- approved subject to conditions;
- not approved.
The road to the next spending review

- **Better Care Fund kicks in**
  - April 2015

- **Spending review preparation process**
  - Now – May 2015

- **General Election**
  - May 2015

- **Most likely**
  - Formal Spending Review with full 5 year settlement

- **Still possible**
  - re-opening of 2015-16 and / or a 1 year settlement

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- **National Consistent Assurance Review process**
  - October 2015

- **BCF plan resubmission deadline**
  - 19 September 2014

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**The Better Care Fund**
Emerging lessons from the BCF

The process so far has already taught us some important lessons about the challenges presented by the integration of health and social care:

- Joint working between local authorities and CCGs;
- Engaging effectively with the acute sector;
- Navigating complicated organisational structures and legal requirements.
- Alignment (or not) of other policy: payment/contracts; regulation; provider constraints; Information Governance.

However, bold catalysts can deliver big results – the overall pooled budget is £5.3 billion, which is 40% over the original £3.8 billion BCF budget.
Early findings from the five fast track areas

The five BCF fast track areas project the following improvements:

- **5,466 fewer unplanned hospital stays**
- **8229 fewer unnecessary days spent in hospital** by helping people get home without delay
- **642 older people remaining at home** at least 3 months after discharge from hospital
- **98 people supported to live independently** rather than move to a care home
- **£279.6m pooled** in the Better Care Fund across the 5 sites
- **Financial savings of c.£33m from the 5 sites** (Greenwich: £3.9m, Nottinghamshire £7.87m, Reading £1.76m, Sunderland £12.38m, Wiltshire £7.47m)
- **£154m invested in social care** through the BCF (Greenwich: £9.9m, Nottinghamshire £22.7m, Reading £4.3m, Sunderland £94.9m, Wiltshire £22.3m)